

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Thirteenth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XL contains Nos. 21 to 30)

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

Monday, May 15, 1995/Vaisakha 25, 1917 (Saka)

<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
8/25	Shri Rati Lal Verma	Shri Rati Lal Verma
50/13 (from below)	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Finance (Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara Murthy)	The Minister of State in the the Ministry of Finance (Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara Murthy)
204/12 (from below)	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Power (Shri Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel)	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Power (Shrimati Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel)
209/14 232/11 (from below) 280/1 254/12 (from below)	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Mines (Shri Balram Singh Yadav)	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Mines (Shri Balram Singh Yadava)
221/22&23	Delete Lines 22 & 23	
431/16	Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao	Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao

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LOK SABHA

Monday, May 15, 1995/ Vaisakha 25, 1917 (Saka)
(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Import of Petroleum and Lubricants

*521. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :

DR. R. MALLU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of petroleum and lubricants has declined during 1994-95 as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of these imports in the country's total imports;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target for the exports and imports for the year 1995-96 and for the turn of the century;

(d) if so, the details thereof, item-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Details of import of crude oil and petroleum products by PSUs during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as under :

(Quantity : '000' tonnes)
(Value : Rs./Crores)

Item	1993-94*		1994-95*	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
A. Crude Oil	30822	10689	27349	10316
B. Petroleum Products				
of which	12076	7041	13951	7522
LPG	410	237	592	417
SKO	3946	2371	4240	2405
HSDO	7555	4175	6837	4360
LUBES	132	188	87	139
Others	33	70	395	201
Total (A + B)	42898	17730	41300	17838

Provisional

Share, Oil Imports - 1993-94 24.35

Share, Oil Imports - 1994-95 20.22

(c) to (e). So far as petroleum sector is concerned, Oil Economy Budget (OEB) for the current year

1995-96 is yet to be finalised. Import and Export of petroleum products is organised as per the OEB only.

Export of Flower's

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

(a) whether there is a vast scope for increasing the demand of flowers to Middle East countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target for the export of flowers during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Export of flowers to the Middle East countries have increased from Rs. 37 lakhs in 1991-92 to Rs. 73 lakhs in 1993-94.

(c) Export of flowers and other floriculture products are expected to touch Rs. 3000 lakhs in 1995-96.

(d) Steps being taken by the Government to encourage export of floriculture products *inter-alia* include :

(i) Providing financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units;

(ii) Establishing five walk-in-type cold storages for export consignments awaiting clearance;

(iii) Streamlining and simplification of plant quarantine procedures for expeditious clearance of cargo;

(iv) Concessional customs duty on specified goods required for Green Houses;

(v) Making available the benefits of duty free imports under the Export Oriented Units/ Export Processing Zones Schemes to units engaged in floriculture and permitting sale of 50% of their production in the Domestic Tariff Area;

(vi) Implementation of UNDP assisted Project on floriculture for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include advising entrepreneurs on production of flowers, preparation of crop manuals, undertaking market survey and providing market information; and

(vii) Participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

[Translation]

Trade Agreement with Nepal

*523. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreement has recently been signed between India and Nepal to increase trade and provide additional transit facilities;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement with the terms and conditions thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No Sir; however, mutual understanding has been reached on measures to increase trade between the two countries and to provide additional transit facilities to Nepal.

(b) It has been agreed to make the following further improvements in the trade and transit regime :

- (i) Nepal's trade in transit to have the facility of the additional ports of Kandla and Bombay and on the same terms as are available to Indian nationals, subject to the transit of goods taking place in customs sealed containers via shortest designated railway routes;
- (ii) Provision of additional facilities for customs clearance at Raxaul for Nepal's trade in transit which is containerised under customs seal from/to Kandla, Bombay and Calcutta;
- (iii) Both countries will seek to jointly identify Nepalese products where further improvements in their preferential access to the Indian markets could be considered; and
- (iv) As regards procedures for preferential access to the Indian market, these will be reviewed by the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee on Trade and Commerce.

(c) No timeframe has been prescribed.

[English]

Software Technology Parks

*524. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under a scheme to promote export of computer software, the Government have set up 100 per cent software export complexes under the name of 'Software Technology Parks';

(b) if so, the facilities being provided for speedier customs clearance and for expediting import formalities;

(c) whether the Government propose to establish one customs office at each park for this purpose;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Imports by Software Technology Parks Units like those effected by Units working under various 100% EOU/EPZ Schemes are assessed in major Customs Houses by a separately assigned group of officers for expeditious clearance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) The present system of customs clearance has been found satisfactory.

Regional Rural Banks

*525. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHORTI :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of regional rural banks have been incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details of loss incurring and profit making regional rural banks as on date;

(c) whether a proposal to set up National Rural Bank is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the progress of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Majority of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is incurring losses continuously. The details of losses incurred by the said banks so far during the current financial year are not available as the position as on 31st March, 1995 has not yet become available. However, during the year ending March, 1994, out of 196 Regional Rural Banks only 25 had earned profits and the remaining 171 incurred losses. The extent of profits earned by the 25 banks during the year 1993-94 was Rs.23.29 crores while the extent of losses incurred by the remaining 171 banks was Rs.382.29 crores (Provisional). The aggregate accumulated losses for all RRBs stood at Rs.1302.53 crores as on 31st March, 1994.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Tobacco to Central Asian Countries

*526. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- whether the Government have made any plan for exporting tobacco to Central Asian countries;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether any trade delegation from Andhra Pradesh proposes to visit Central Asian countries to identify markets for FCV tobacco and its products; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The Tobacco Board aims to enhance exports of tobacco to all countries including those of Central Asia. The need to send a delegation to these countries will be taken into account while finalising the Board's marketing strategy for 1995-96.

Export of Textile

*527. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- whether India's growth rate in textile industry is far ahead of overall growth rate of other countries;
- whether India's share in global trade has, however, been below 2.5 per cent; and
- if so, the steps being contemplated to increase India's textile export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The growth rate in India's textile industry has been encouraging during the last few years. Comaprable figures relating to other countries are not available with the Government.

(b) and (c). As per the latest available GATT data, i.e. 1993, India's share in the global textile and clothing exports is 2.6%. In order to step up the export of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty-free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

[Translation]

N.T.C. Workers

*528. SHRI N.J. RATHVA :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- whether some of the workers in the N.T.C. mills are not getting their salaries;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for the regular payment of salaries to the workers of those mills, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have directed the management of National Textile Corporation to make payment of retirement benefits to the workers as per criterion evolved by South India Textile Research Association (S.I.T.R.A.); and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) National Textile Corporation (NTC) is paying wages and salaries to their workers/employees, by and large, regularly, though occasionally there may be some minor delay.

(b) Government releases funds to the NTC (H.C), inter alia, for payment of salaries and wages. These funds are distributed by NTC(HC) to the different subsidiaries as per their requirement. During the financial year 1994-95, an amount of Rs.123 crores was released to the NTC(HC) for payment of wages/ salaries and bonus.

(c) and (d). No criterion has been evolved by South India Textile Research Association regarding payment of retirement benefit to workers of NTC. However, persons opting for voluntary retirement are covered under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme of NTC. The Scheme provides for ex-gratia payment in addition to normal retirement benefit.

[English]

Functioning of W.T.O.

*529. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Trade Organisation has commenced functioning;

(b) if so, the apex bodies in which India is represented;

(c) the brief particulars of important decisions or recommendations made by the WTO since it became operational;

(d) whether these decisions/recommendations have been accepted by the Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The World Trade Organisation came into being on 1 January 1995. The WTO has several apex bodies such as the General Council; the Dispute Settlement Body; the Trade Policy Review Body; the Council for Trade in Goods; the Council for Trade in Services; and the Council for TRIPs. The membership of these bodies is open to all Members of the WTO. India being an original Member of the WTO is represented in all these bodies.

2. The decisions taken by the WTO since its inception are broadly of the following categories :

- (a) Selection of a new Director General of the WTO.
- (b) Establishment of the different apex bodies and their Committees and selection of chairpersons and vice chairpersons for these bodies.
- (c) Finalisation of the rules of procedure for these bodies.

3. Most of the decisions of the WTO, so far, have been of an administrative and functional nature in order to get the WTO operational. India has played an active role in arriving at these decisions which are taken on the basis of consensus.

Trade Agreement with Myanmar

*530. DR. G.L. KANAUIA :

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement has been implemented so far;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have discussed with the Government of Myanmar for opening up of the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade including the issues relating to immigration procedure, banking facilities, customs duty formalities and other matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). In terms of the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement, border trade with Myanmar was officially opened from 12.4.1995 through Moreh in Manipur.

(c) and (d). Prior to the inauguration of border trade, arrangements pertaining to banking facilities, immigration procedures, customs formalities and other related matters were finalised in consultation with the Myanmar authorities during the official-level talks held in June 1994 and again in January, 1995.

Textile Industry

*531. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new textile agreement signed with the U.S. and the European Union is likely to expose Indian industry to the threat of dumping by countries such as China, Bangladesh and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the interests of our domestic textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The Textile Agreements signed with the E.U. and the U.S., provide for a phased liberalisation of imports of textile products into India and increase in the quotas for export of textile products from India to these countries. Only fibres, yarn and industrial fabrics have been opened up for import under O.G.L. Other fabrics, made-ups and garment items have been placed under the Special Import Licence (SIL) list. These textile products can be imported only at the normal rate of import duty, which is still appreciable. Also the extent of access through the Special Import Licence (SIL) route is limited. Besides, a specific import duty, as an alternative to the ad valorem import duty, on a whichever is higher basis can be applied, should the need arise, to discourage the import of low priced textile products. Apart from import duty, an additional duty equivalent to the excise duty etc., paid by the domestic industry, can also be imposed on the imports. Because of these reasons, the import of textile and clothing items are not likely to expose Indian industry to the threat of dumping by countries such as China, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

[Translation]

Income Tax Outstanding

*532. SHRI RATILAL VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons against whom income-tax to the tune of rupees one lakh and above is outstanding as on date, Region-wise;

(b) the total realisable income-tax arrears as on date, Region-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for quick recovery of these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There were 46564 persons as on 30th September'94 against whom income tax demand amounting to Rs. 1 lakh and above was outstanding (figures are Provisional). Statement-I showing region-wise information is enclosed.

(b) The desired information is enclosed as Statement-II. (Figures are Provisional).

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

STATEMENT-I

The number of persons against whom income tax to the tune of Rs.1 lakh and above was outstanding as on 30.9.94.

CCIT Region	No. of Persons (Provisional)
Ahmedabad	5492
Bangalore	1611
Bhopal	1439
Bombay	14936
Madras	2336
Calcutta	4135
Delhi	3684
Kanpur	2259
Hyderabad	1103
Jaipur	851
Cochin	3169
Lucknow	1399
Chandigarh	1045
Patna	1540
Pune	1585

STATEMENT-II

Total Net Arrear of Income tax, as per books on 30.9.94 (Provisional)

	(Rupees in thousands)
Ahmedabad	2068084
Bangalore	1539689
Bhopal	849212
Bombay	15844548
Calcutta	3038252
Madras	2224645
Delhi	2491470
Kanpur	1136523
Chandigarh	882866
Cochin	699772
Hyderabad	830298
Jaipur	318374
Lucknow	523457
Patna	1200299
Pune	995412

[English]

Insurance of Brokers in Shares Market

*533. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for insurance of brokers in the stock market has been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which this is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the reasons for delay in implementing this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). New India Assurance Company Limited (NIAC) has since 1989 been providing insurance cover to the member Brokers of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) against financial loss arising out of liability to third parties caused by their inability to complete the transaction entered into in the course of their business as per the rules of the Stock Exchange. The Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OIC) has recently offered an insurance cover to National Stock Exchange (NSE), Bombay, known as "Trading Members Insurance Cover"; and to Delhi Stock Exchange (DSE) known as 'Stock Brokers Indemnity Insurance Cover'; to indemnify not only the liability of the Stock Brokers to the third parties, but also to provide insurance cover against physical loss of securities, loss arising on account of counterfeit securities, liability arising from the acts of employees of Stock Brokers, and in the case of NSE also against losses caused by errors and omissions, and by computer crimes. The OIC will be able to issue the policies in favour of NSE and DSE as soon as the requisite number of Brokers join the schemes, and pay up the stipulated premium.

Export of Granite

*534. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of granite and marble exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the export of granite; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total quantity and value of granite and marble exported during each of the last three years is as under :

Export of Granite and Marble

Year	Quantity	Value	Qty : in '000 MT
			Val : in Rs. crores
1992-93	818.88	522.76	
1993-94	981.16	718.92	
1994-95(E)	1217.70	913.00	(E) - Estimated

(Source : CAPEXIL)

(b) and (c). Granite is one of the items of our export basket; all measures being taken by the Government to increase exports in general are also applicable to granite.

Export of Sandalwood Items

*535. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of sandalwood, sandal-oil and other sandal products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, separately; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The relevant figures are given below :

		Value (V) in Rs. crore		
		Quantity (Q) in Metric Tonnes		
		1992-93	1993-94	April-Nov.94
Sandalwood	Q	-	-	-
	V	-	-	-
Sandal-oil	Q	41.7	27.0	20.6
	V	12.09	14.81	11.82
Sandalwood	Q	1018.4	950.5	325.9
chips & dust	V	18.33	15.57	7.83
Sandalwood works of art	Q	-	-	-
	V	2.55	7.28	2.61

Source : DGCI&S

(b) Export for sandal-oil and sandalwood finished products is promoted by the Government through the means of market development assistance, exchange of delegations, buyers-sellers meet and participation in trade fairs etc. Besides, a policy liberalisation has been effected to facilitate export of sandalwood products. No export promotion is contemplated for sandalwood which remains a restricted export item.

Production and Export of Tea

*536. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is vast scope to develop tea industry in the production and export sectors;

(b) the targets fixed for the production and export of tea and the actual achievements made so far during the Eighth Plan, year-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production and export of tea;

(d) whether the World Bank is keen to finance the tea industry in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is considerable scope for production enhancement and export of tea from India.

(b) Following is the statistics regarding achievements in production and exports of tea vis-a-vis the targets set for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 :

Year	Targets (M.KGs)		Achievements (M.KGs)	
	Production	Exports	Production	Exports
1992-93	765	210	721.09	180.69
1993-94	730	210	753.53	161.17
1994-95*	770	210	710.17**	149.76

*Estimated

(**April 94 to Feb.95)

(c) In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes. The Board has also prepared a perspective plan to increase production of tea which includes short-term measures such as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices; medium-term measures such as improvement of irrigation and drainage; rejuvenation, pruning and infilling; and long-term measures such as replanting and extension planting by bringing new areas under tea.

Steps taken to boost exports of tea include promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices abroad. It consists of (i) participation in trade fairs/exhibitions; (ii) media campaign to increase consumer awareness towards various unique characteristics of Indian teas; (iii) media campaign to popularise Indian tea through Tea Board marketing symbol; and (iv) support to various foreign brands containing Indian tea. A part of expenditure incurred by importers for promotional campaigns is met from Board's budget. Tea Board has also undertaken Darjeeling and Assam Logo campaign in U.K. and brand promotion schemes abroad to popularise classic Indian teas.

(d) and (e). A proposal had been submitted to the World Bank for financial assistance for the development of tea industry. World Bank have desired to hold further discussions with the Govt. and have requested for a comprehensive working paper on the proposed project.

White Pepper

*537. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of white pepper in the international market is higher than the domestic market;

(b) whether the Spices Board has taken various measures to increase the production of white pepper in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of assistance provided by the Board to the growers for increasing the production and to boost the export of white pepper during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The monthly average price of white pepper (Muntok) during January-April, 1995 in the Hamburg Market are given below :

Month	Price(Rs/Kg)
January	119.17
February	115.69
March	116.05
April	117.27

(Source : Market News Service, ITC, Geneva).

There is no regular trading of white pepper in the domestic market. However, as per the information collected from exporters, the FOB price of white pepper in Cochin has varied from Rs.98.00 to 110.00 per kg. during this period.

(b) and (c). The Spices Board introduced a Scheme in 1993 aimed at popularising the production and export of white pepper by giving an incentive of Rs.2 per kg of this product exported. In addition, the Board conducted 11 training programmes benefitting 550 growers which focussed on the retting method of white pepper production. The Board also printed and distributed pamphlets in English and the local languages to acquaint farmers with the method of white pepper production.

Cotton Corporation of India

*538. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India is running into losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check the losses and to improve the functioning of the Cotton Corporation of India?

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

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

Finance by Kuwait

*539. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kuwait has funded eight projects in India worth Rs. 950 crore so far;

(b) whether Kuwait has come forward to fund more projects in India in the infrastructural sector;

(c) whether Kuwaiti and Indian delegations discussed this matter in the month of April 1994.

(d) if so, whether any agreement to this effect has been reached; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir, Kuwait has provided loan of Rs. 987.61 crores for eight projects in India.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Kuwait has indicated its willingness to provide assistance for projects in infrastructural sector.

(d) and (e). No agreement has so far been finalised with them as they have not yet taken a definite view on the projects posed by India.

Revenue Loss due to VABAL Scheme

*540. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have suffered a revenue loss of crores of rupees due to concessional imports allowed under the Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(c) the main reasons for the continuous revenue loss; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to compensate this revenue loss during the current financial year?

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

(a) The Value Based Advance Licences permit duty free/concessional duty import of inputs required for export production. Any duty foregone under the Scheme therefore cannot be said to be a loss of revenue.

(b) Details of duty foregone against VABAL are as under :

Year	Revenue foregone under VABAL (Rupees in crores approx.)
1993-94	2010.00
1994-95	2225.00

(c) and (d). In view of (a) and (b) above, the question of revenue loss would not arise.

[Translation]

R&D in Pharmaceutical Sectors

*541. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pharmaceutical sector has represented for an increase in fiscal incentives for carrying out Research and Development in drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government have announced a fresh package of incentives to encourage Research and development in the pharmaceutical sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir, the pharmaceutical sector has represented for an improved package of fiscal incentives for carrying out research and development activities. Their suggestions, inter-alia, are increased deduction on R&D expenses under the Income Tax Act, Customs duty exemption on R&D related equipment, MODVAT facilities for use of R&D related equipment and interest free loan for investment in R&D facilities.

(c) to (e). The Government had constituted an inter-ministerial Committee to recommend measures to give further impetus to R&D in the Drug Sector. The Committee, after considering the various suggestions made, has submitted its recommendations which are under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Increase in Prices of Steel Products

*542. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times, the prices of steel products increased during the last three years;

(b) the extent of price rise on each occasion;

(c) the reasons for the rise in prices;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any pricing policy for steel products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (e). After deregulation of pricing and distribution of steel w.e.f. 16.1.1992, main steel producers are themselves fixing the prices of their various products, keeping in view their input costs, changes in excise duty and the prevailing market conditions. Secondary steel producers were free to fix their own prices even prior to this date. Details of movement of prices during the last three years of representative items of steel produced by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the largest steel producer in the country, are given in the enclosed statement. The major reasons for increase in prices have been escalation in input costs and increase in excise duty.

Government have taken various measures which will help in ensuring that steel products are made available to the consumers at competitive prices. Some of these measures are :

(i) Modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants has been taken up and creation of additional steel production capacities in the private sector in being encouraged and facilitated. Higher availability of steel from a larger number of steel producers is expected to have a moderating influence on steel prices.

(ii) Reduction of customs duties on import of raw materials for the steel industry and also on import of capital goods will help in reducing the production cost of steel manufacturers.

(iii) Import of steel is freely allowed. Reduction of customs duties on import of steel products has reduced the landed cost of such imports.

STATEMENT

SAIL's Ex-Works Prices for Representative items of steel (Including Excise Duty Plus other Statutory Levies like SDF, EGCAF, JPC Cess but Exclusive of Railway Freight and Stockyard Distribution Charges).

Category	(In Rupees per tonne)									
	1.3.92	19.5.92	3.2.93	1.3.93	1.1.94	1.3.94	3.6.94	1.11.94	1.1.95	
Billets : 80-100mm (IS 2830)	5579	7579	8029	8109	9033	9115	9113	9503	9903	
Bloom : 150mm (IS-2830)	5459	7359	7809	7889	8813	8862	8883	9273	9673	
SLAB : 90mm & Lower (IS-2830)	5429	7729	7829	7909	8763	8815	8813	9203	9833	
Round : 16mm (IS-2062GR.A)	7584	9384	9584	9664	10173	10433	10436	10918	11375	
Tor Steel : 8mm (IS-1785)	8029	10029	10329	10409	10923	11296	11643	12125	12870	
Wire Rods : 8mm (IS-2062 GR.A)	7809	9609	10289	10289	10763	11112	11126	11171	11570	
Angles : 65X65X6 (IS-2062 GR.A)	8174	9424	9904	9984	10493	10786	10723	11550	11605	
Channel : 100X50 (IS-2062 GR.A)	8849	10349	10549	10629	11133	11522	11528	11665	11720	
Joist : 150X75 (IS-2062 GR.A)	9139	11339	11839	11919	12623	13246	13241	13838	13892	
Plate AD 5 To 7 mm (IS-2062 GR.A)	12276	14305	14350	14481	14936	15248	15266	15311	15710	
HR Coils : 3.15 mm (IS-10748 GR.'I')	10235	12465	12576	12682	13254	13531	14066	14111	14855	
HR Sheet : 3.15 mm (IS-1079 GR.'O')	9933	12498	12498	12602	13417	13696	14231	14276	15020	
Cr Sheet : 0.63mm (IS-513 GR.'O' SK)	14171	16992	16991	17136	17472	17790	18164	18611	19126	
Cr Coil : 0.63mm (IS-513 GR.'O' SK)	13380	16200	16403	16543	16893	17199	17539	17986	18501	
GP Sheet 0.63mm (IS-277 Class VI)	15922	17761	18257	18433	20033	20388	212257	21705	21529	

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

*543. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to construct Tehri Project with the assistance of Russia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other sources from which funds have been arranged by the Government for the construction of the project alongwith the funds received therefrom, separately?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) to (c). The Tehri Hydro Power Project (2400 MW) was earlier planned for execution in three stages on a turn key basis with financial and technical assistance from the erstwhile Government of USSR. However, with the break up of the USSR no financial assistance is forthcoming from the Government of Russia for the construction of the Tehri Project. Due to financial constraints, it has been decided to complete the ongoing Tehri Hydroelectric Project (1000 MW) (Stage-I) by continuing the civil works with the available domestic resources and acquisition of machinery and equipments through external funding.

A Russian Consortium comprising manufacturers from Russia and Ukraine had also submitted a proposal for supply of electro-mechanical equipments backed by financing for the ongoing Tehri Hydroelectric Project. The proposal is being negotiated by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) who are implementing the project.

[English]

Amendments in DPCO

*544. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received any representation from th drug industry for making amendments in the Drug Price Control Order, 1995 (DPCO);
- (b) if so, the details therof; and
- (c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c). Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO) was promulgated as recently as on 6.1.95 and no amendment has been made so far. The industry associations have proposed amendments, which cover, inter-alia exclusion of certain drugs from price control, reduction in frequency of submission of information, updating of norms etc. These are being looked into.

Visit of President of Iran

*545. SHRI NURUL ISLAM :

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether President of Iran visited India recently at the invitation of Indian Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the cities visited by the President and his entourage;
- (c) the subjects discussed by him with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether any agreements/MOUs were signed between the two countries during the visit;
- (e) if so, the salient features of each agreement and its likely impact on India's relations with gulf countries, particularly Iraq;
- (f) the steps being taken to implement the agreements/MOUs;
- (g) the views expressed by the Iranian President on Kashmir issue and other related problems; and
- (h) the extent to which the mutual relations between India and Iran are likely to improve?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (h). The President of Iran, H.E. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, paid a State visit to India from 17-19 April, 1995. During his stay in India, President Rafsanjani called on President, held wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister, addressed a special meeting of Parliament, and met the External Affairs Minister. Delegation level talks were also held. The itinerary of visit included a 6-hour visit to Lucknow on 18 April 1995.

The discussions focussed on bilateral relations between India and Iran and extended to an exchange of views on the regional and international situation, especially the possibilities of enhanced cooperation in international and regional forums. The two sides agreed to work together to strengthen peace and stability in the region, and emphasised that terrorism is an impediment in the realisation of this objective.

The discussions covered the range of bilateral economic, technical and cultural cooperation. Particular attention projects as well as in the field of oil and gas. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on the setting up of a joint venture between the national oil companies of the two countries. The two sides also agreed to expand people-to-people contacts and to sustain the high-level of bilateral relations in the recent period. The two sides agreed to expand bilateral cooperation into new areas. During the visit, Memoranda of Understanding were signed on Cooperation in

Tourism; Telecommunications & Postal Services; Environment and Prevention of Drug Trafficking. A Cultural Exchange Programme was also concluded.

During the period of the Iranian President's visit, the Foreign Ministers of India, Iran and Turkmenistan met in New Delhi and discussed the issues of regional cooperation with focus on trade, transit and transport between the Central Asian region, Iran and India. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit between the Governments of India, Iran and Turkmenistan was signed. The Foreign Ministers agreed that a full-fledged agreement in this sphere will be negotiated and concluded within the next six months.

Government is taking steps to implement the proposals agreed upon in the MOUs concluded with Iran. The MOUs signed between India and Iran are bilateral in nature and will not have any adverse impact on our relations with third countries, including Iraq and the Gulf countries.

Iran has called for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir issue, through a dialogue between India and Pakistan, taking into account the wishes of the people of J&K, and has offered to be of assistance in this regard.

Government believe that the all-round cooperation and mutual understanding between India and Iran subsisting at present will be further enhanced in the period ahead.

Revival Package for IISCO

*546. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether representatives of the trade unions and management of IISCO have decided to renew efforts for a revival package;

(b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). In terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (as amended in February, 1994) Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) became a sick industrial company. Accordingly, a reference was made by the Board of Directors of IISCO to BIFR in June, 1994, as required under Section 15 of the Act, for determination of measures to be adopted with respect to the company.

The case has been registered with BIFR in terms of Section 15 of the Act. Sick companies registered with BIFR can take up revival/modernisation schemes only with the sanction/approval of BIFR.

[Translation]

Agreement with Vietnam

*547. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the terms of agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Vietnam for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral resources;

(b) the duration of the agreement/MOU; and

(c) the date from which it would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Vietnam for cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral resources identified the following areas for cooperation :

(i) Mineral Exploration : The Geological Survey of India would offer assistance in different phases of mineral exploration (geophysical and geochemical exploration and drilling) and also provide training for geologists of Vietnam in various geoscience disciplines;

(ii) Mineral Processing and Development : Indian Bureau of Mines would offer assistance in orebody modelling and assessment of ore reserves using computerised techniques;

(iii) Setting up of an Aluminium Smelter in Vietnam;

(iv) Setting up of joint venture to mine and process mineral resources in Vietnam;

(v) Setting up of a joint venture to explore and develop gold deposit at Pac Lang in Vietnam.

(b) The MOU is valid for a period of three years and is extendable.

(c) The MOU is effective from 18th April, 1995, the date on which it was signed.

[English]

FWFI Revival Plan

*548. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fertilizer Workers' Federation of India (FWFI) has urged the Government to reconsider the techno-economic revival plan it had submitted five years ago, for each of the sick units under the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c). A Techno-Economic Revival Plan (TERP) for three public sector undertakings, including Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), prepared by the Fertilizer Workers' Federation of India (FWFI) and others was submitted to the Government in April, 1992. In the TERP, revival of various units of HFC was suggested by writing off of accumulated losses, Government loans and interest thereon, derating of the capacity of the units, fresh investment for undertaking replacement/renewal of the trouble-prone equipments in the plants and providing funds for meeting the working capital requirement. Among other things, these suggestions have also been kept in view by the Government in the exercise for preparation of revival package for HFC for submission to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Any action with regard to the long term future of the various units of HFC would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

[Translation]

Self-Reliance in Fertilizers

*549. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated an Action Plan for making the country self-reliant in the Production of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b). Of the three main fertilizer nutrients required for various crops, namely, nitrogen, phosphate and potash, indigenous raw materials are available mainly for nitrogen. Government policy has been to achieve maximum possible degree of self-sufficiency in the production of nitrogenous fertilizers based on utilisation of indigenous feedstocks. At present, the country is self-sufficient to the extent of about 82% in the case of nitrogen. In the case of phosphate, the domestic raw material constraints do not permit self-sufficiency in production. Since indigenous rock phosphate supplies are only 5% of the total requirement, phosphatic fertilizers produced in the country are substantially based on imported raw materials and intermediates. Moreover, because of these inherent handicaps, the cost of production of indigenous phosphatic fertilizers is high vis-a-vis the imported finished products. There are no known and commercially exploitable reserves of potash in the country and per force the entire requirement of these fertilizers is met through imports. Apart from direct application, imported potash is used by the indigenous manufacturers for making complex fertilizers.

Under the Industrial Policy of July, 1991, the fertilizer industry has been delicensed. At present, the installed capacity in the country is 89.72 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 28.22 lakh tonnes of phosphate. Currently, a number of projects are under implementation and on completion these on-going projects will contribute an additional 14.71 lakh tonnes of nitrogen and 0.31 lakh tonnes of phosphate. A number of other projects have also been identified for implementation in due course of time. Much, however, would depend on the availability of natural gas which is the most preferred feedstock for production of nitrogenous fertilizers.

[English]

Haldia Fertilizer Project

*550. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals had expressed concern at the Government's decision not to appoint a high level independent committee to enquire into the failure of the Haldia Project;

(b) if so, the reasons for not appointing a committee;

(c) whether over fifteen hundred employees are getting their salaries since 1979, without being given any meaningful work; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by the Union Government to rectify these anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Standing Committee had been informed that the main reason for the failure of Haldia Project of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) was mismatch of various equipments and machinery as the same had been procured from various sources against credit tie-ups due to funds constraints. In the view of the Ministry, the problems of Haldia project were due to factors beyond the control of any individual. No enquiry from an independent committee was, therefore, got conducted. However, the Standing Committee was informed that the relevant old records were being looked into to examine as to how important decisions were taken during the project implementation.

As on 31.3.1995, about 1526 employees were on the rolls of Haldia project. Since HFC as a company, including its haldia Fertilizer Project, stand referred to the BIFR, any final decision on the future of the project would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Liberalisation in F.P.I.

*551. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether food processing industries in the country have made rapid strides during the last three years;

(b) whether it has attracted the maximum investments both from domestic and foreign entrepreneurs;

(c) if so, the total foreign and domestic investment proposals received for food processing industries during that period; and

(d) the details of projects approved and implemented during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). During the post liberalisation period, the Government have approved some 587 proposals till January'95 for foreign investment, export-oriented units, industrial licences etc. envisaging a total investment of Rs. 7679 crores. Of these, 195 proposals envisage foreign/NRI equity investment of Rs. 2528 crores and the total investment in those projects is to the tune of Rs. 4725 crores. The above foreign equity investment of Rs. 2528 crores is approx. 9.1% of the total foreign equity investment approved by the Government and the third highest after mineral fuels, and power. Out of these 587 proposals, 69 proposals with an investment of Rs. 1321 crores have been implemented. Apart from the above 3101 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda envisaging an investment of Rs. 39,099 crores have been filed upto March'95 in various sectors of Food Processing Industries, which is 10.5% of the total. Out of these, 403 units with a total investment of Rs. 4533 crores have reported commencement of commercial production.

[Translation]

Mineral Deposits

*552. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to make an assessment of all the mineral deposits in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India in the course of geological mapping during the last 140 years identified various minerals. The more important minerals, location-wise, are detailed below:

District	Minerals
Hazaribagh	Coal, Limestone and Mica.
Dumka	Coal, Keolin.
Singhbhum	Copper, Gold, Asbestos, Iron Ore, Keolin, Kyanite, Limestone and Fertilizer Minerals
Palamau	Coal, Bauxite, Dolomite, Graphite, Fireclay, Iron Ore, Limestone, and Rock Phosphate
Ranchi	Copper, Gold, Bauxite and Limestone
Giridih	Copper, Fireclay and Steatite
Bhagalpur	Mica and Copper
Munger	Copper, Mica, Limestone and Steatite
Rohtas	Limestone, Pyrites, Lead-zinc
Deogarh	Copper
Santhal Parganas	Limestone
Sahebganj	Silica Sand
Jharia, Bokaro	
Ramgarh, Rajmahal	Fireclay

[English]

Privatisation of Container Terminal at J.N.P.

*553. SHRI S.M. LALUAN BASHA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the privatisation of the Container Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP);

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

(c) the estimated expenditure involved therein?

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

(b) The existing Container Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port comprising 3 container berths alongwith allied equipments is proposed to be licensed to private sector for its operation and maintenance for a period of 15 years for the following reasons :

(i) Lack of expertise and trained personnel for handling sophisticated container handling equipment so as to achieve port efficiency as per international norms.

(ii) Resource constraints to acquire the container handling equipment to match the designed capacity of handling 3 lakh containers per annum.

(c) No expenditure is involved since the entire investment on the additional facilities will be made by the licensee.

Copper Mining

*554. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the locations of all the copper mines in the country, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of copper mined from these mines during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of copper mines closed during the last three years and the number of labourers retrenched;

(d) steps taken by the Government to provide alternative employment to the retrenched workers;

(e) whether the Government propose to introduce advanced technology to make Copper extraction more cost effective; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) The location of copper mines in the country, state-wise, is as under :

HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED (HCL)

1. Khetri (Jhunjhunu)	} Rajasthan
2. Kolihan (Jhunjhunu)	
3. Chandmari (Jhunjhunu)	
4. Mosaboni (Singhbhum)	} Bihar
5. Pathargora (Singhbhum)	
6. Surda (Singhbhum)	
7. Kendadih (Singhbhum)	
8. Rakha (Singhbhum)	} Madhya Pradesh
9. Malanjhand Copper Project (Balaghat)	

HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED (HGML)

10. Ingaldhal (Chitradurga)	} Karnataka
11. Kalyadi (Hassan)	

SIKKIM MINING CORPORATION (SMC)

12. Bhotang (East Sikkim)	} Sikkim
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Apart from above, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation holds mining lease over Ambamata multimetal mine in Gujarat and A.P. Mineral Development Corporation over the Mailaram mine in Andhra Pradesh but no production has been reported in these mines upto January, 1995.

Small quantities of copper ore are also mined by Hindustan Zinc Ltd. in their lead and zinc mines at Rajpura-Dariba in Rajasthan and Sargipali in Orissa.

(b) The production of refined copper (Cathodes) of HCL during the last three years is as under :

	(in tonnes)
	Cathodes
1992-93	45275
1993-94	39002
1994-95	46134

This includes copper produced out of copper concentrates received from HGML and SMC as they do not have smelting facility.

(c) Dariba Copper mine was closed down by HCL in the year 1993-94 as the reserves had been exhausted. There was no retrenchment of staff in the said mine.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The cost of copper production in HCL is comparatively higher mainly because of low grade ore, smaller scale of operation and low availability of by-products. Notwithstanding these the company is constantly making efforts for cost reduction through increase in size and operations and upgradation of copper extraction technology.

[Translation]

Supply of Fertilisers

*555. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chemicals and Fertilisers are not being supplied to the farmers as per their requirement;

(b) whether the Government have also received complaints from the farmers that spurious chemicals and fertilizers are being sold;

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

(d) the steps being taken to ensure supply of good quality of chemicals and fertilisers in adequate quantity?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d). No shortage of agro-Chemicals has been reported to this Ministry in the recent past. As regards fertilizers, with effect from 10.6.1994, urea is the only fertilizer under price, distribution and movement controls. The availability of urea in the country during the year 1994-95 was quite satisfactory with reference to the allocations made under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Temporary and localised shortages experienced during the year were met by rushing supplies from alternative sources. At present, the availability of urea in the country is comfortable. The indigenous production of urea has been optimised and the gap between

indigenous availability and demand is being met through imports. The overall availability of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has been quite satisfactory with reference to the level of demand obtaining since their decontrol in August, 1992.

In order to optimise the indigenous production of phosphatic fertilizers, a special concession on sales of indigenous phosphatic fertilizers has been provided since 1993-94. This concession is also available on potassic fertilizers which have to be imported as there are no known commercially viable resources of potash in the country.

No specific and verifiable complaints have been received regarding supply of spurious agro-chemicals to the farmers in the recent past. Some complaints have been received regarding supply of adulterated/spurious fertilizers. Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 framed under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Insecticides Act, 1968 provide the regulatory framework for quality control of fertilizers and agro-chemicals, respectively.

Passport Services

*556. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints in regard to delays, non-issuance of passports and unsatisfactory passport services;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last one year; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to improve the services being rendered by the Passport offices?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). From time to time, complaints of this nature are received by the Government.

In many cases, issue of passports is delayed for want of complete documentation and/or verification.

The details of complaints received during 1993 and 1994 are as follows :

	1993	1994
Complaints received	1240	1135
Complaints settled	578	300

Government have taken a number of steps for expeditious issue of passports such as augmentation of staff strength, upgradation of office facilities including computerisation of several passport offices; review of systems and procedures in order to reduce delays; and regular inspections of passport offices and follow up action.

[English]

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

*557. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total outlay for the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for 1995-96;

(b) the State-wise break up of central share released during the last two financial years;

(c) the names of towns/Urban areas that have been covered under the programme so far, state-wise; and

(d) the names of new towns/Urban areas proposed to be covered during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) The total outlay for the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for 1995-96 is Rs. 20.00 crores.

(b) and (c). The Statewise break up of Central Share released during the last two financial years and the names of towns covered so far under the Programme are given in the attached Statement-I and II.

(d) The new towns are to be selected by the State level Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary to the State Government in charge of Urban Water Supply. Some States have proposed new towns for coverage under the Programme, the list is enclosed in Statement-III. However, they will be covered subject to fulfilling of the prescribed conditions and availability of funds.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise Break up of Central Share Released During 1993-94 and 1994-95 Under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Central Share Released in 1993-94	Central Share Released in 1994-95
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	26.06
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00
5.	Goa	6.24	10.14
6.	Gujarat	71.08	87.24
7.	Haryana	30.25	34.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8.79	9.83
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	20.00

1	2	3	4
10.	Karnataka	85.15	105.12
11.	Kerala	28.21	37.62
12.	Madhya Pradesh	205.10	343.19
13.	Maharashtra	85.36	92.50
14.	Manipur	7.65	20.50
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00
16.	Mizoram	4.26	0.00
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00
18.	Orissa	50.23	51.13
19.	Punjab	26.73	35.64
20.	Rajasthan	81.97	177.97
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	82.24	9.59
23.	Tripura	5.16	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	327.88	586.17
25.	West Bengal	39.13	52.25
26.	A and N Islands	0.00	0.00
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00
28.	D and N Haveli	0.00	0.00
29.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00
30.	Delhi	0.00	0.00
31.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00
Total		1145.43	1699.00

STATEMENT-II

Names of the Towns Covered Under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

Sl No.	Name of the Towns
1	2
ASSAM	
1.	Namrup
GAO	
1.	Calangute
2.	Reismagos
GUJARAT	
1.	Dharampur
2.	Bantva
3.	Dhrol
4.	Okhaport
5.	Jodia
6.	Mendarda
7.	Surajkaradi
8.	Barwala

1	2
HARYANA	
1.	Narnud
2.	Sohna
3.	Pataudi
4.	Kanina
HIMACHAL PRADESH	
1.	Chowari
2.	Pandoh
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	
1.	Qazigund
KARNATAKA	
1.	Belur
2.	Saligrama
3.	Chitraguppa
4.	Kottur
5.	Kerur
6.	Mundargi
7.	Sadalaga
8.	Badami
9.	Navalgund
MADHYA PRADESH	
1.	Ahirwara
2.	Gariaband
3.	Bhatgaon
4.	Silamao
5.	Sohagpur
6.	Sultanpur
7.	Gaidai-Pandanya
8.	Gautampura
9.	Udaipur
10.	Babai
11.	Khirkya
12.	Timarani
13.	Pithora
14.	Bog Behra
15.	Karnawad
16.	Kanta Phod
17.	Khaniadhana
18.	Sahwar
19.	Badnawar
20.	Dharampur
21.	Bhabhara
22.	Dhamnood
23.	Bamnia
24.	Pansemal
25.	Dongargaon

1	2
26.	Bamorekala
27.	Hotpipliya
28.	Baroda
29.	Vijaypur
30.	Raghogarh
31.	Gairath Gunj
32.	Bagh
MAHARASHTRA	
1.	Patur
2.	Deulgaon Raja
3.	Lonar
4.	Maindargi
5.	Telhara
6.	Shendu Rajna
MANIPUR	
1.	Lilong (Imphal West)
2.	Yairipok
3.	Heirok
MIZORAM	
1.	Hanahthial
ORISSA	
1.	Balimela
2.	Pipili
3.	Kasinagara
4.	Panposh
5.	Chandabali
PUNJAB	
1.	Samrala
2.	Urmar Tanda
RAJASTHAN	
1.	Sarwar
2.	Kherli
3.	Deogarh
4.	Dharyawad
5.	Mahwa
6.	Bali
7.	Takhatgarh
8.	Galiyakot
9.	Baswa
10.	Anta
TAMIL NADU	
1.	Vengathur
2.	Harur
3.	Denkanikota
4.	Kaverypattinam

1	2
5.	Anamalai
6.	Thisayanvilai
7.	Cheyjur
8.	Padirivedu
9.	Bhuvanagiri
10.	Chithode
11.	Kuzi Thugai
12.	Kodi Valasai
13.	Ayyandettai
14.	Poovalur
15.	Elampillai
TRIPURA	
1.	Kamalpur
UTTAR PRADESH	
1.	Hastinapur
2.	Kheragarh
3.	Karhal
4.	Gola Bazar
5.	Jeanpur
6.	Azamat Garh
7.	Mehnagar
8.	Tiwa Ganj
9.	Talgram
10.	Bitoor
11.	Jhinjhak
12.	Jalali
13.	Jattari
14.	Hardau Gunj
15.	Sasni
16.	Marehra
17.	Nidhauri Kalan
18.	Tulsipur N.A.
19.	Basdeeh
20.	Sikander Pur
21.	Ishlam Nagar
22.	Nawab Ganj
23.	Mohan Tac
24.	Neotini
25.	Sandi
26.	Pali
27.	Singani Bhodora
28.	Katra
29.	Chandauli
30.	Naraini
31.	Kulphar Tac
32.	Lakhna
33.	Raya

1	2
34.	Raoti
35.	Bazpur
36.	Ghiror
37.	Umari Kalan
38.	Haldaur
39.	Ghughali
40.	Karari
41.	Achhnera
42.	Bakewar
WEST BENGAL	
1.	Khirpal
2.	Kharar
3.	Ramjibanpur

STATEMENT-III

Names of New Towns Proposed by the States for Coverage Under the Programme

Sl. No.	Name of the Towns
1	2
ASSAM	
1.	Sonari
2.	Palasbari
3.	Bilasipara
4.	Sarthebari
5.	Nazira
6.	Lala
7.	Bihpuria
8.	Maibong
9.	Donkamokam
10.	Gossaigaon
11.	lakhimpur
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	
1.	Handwara
2.	Pattan
3.	Shopian
4.	Bijbehara
MEGHALAYA	
1.	William Nagar
2.	Nongstoin
MANIPUR	
1.	Moreh
2.	Jiriban
3.	Nambol

1	2
RAJASTHAN	
1.	Chappar
2.	Pokran
3.	Viratnagar
4.	Amet
5.	Nawa
6.	Kaithoen
MADHYA PRADESH	
1.	Pachore
2.	Chanderi
3.	Banda
4.	Patan
5.	Budhni
6.	Khurd
7.	Jobat
8.	Seonda
9.	Amla
10.	Kota
11.	Pondra
12.	Barghat
13.	Mundi
14.	Chourai
15.	Amarwara
16.	Harrai
17.	Mohgaon
18.	Lodhikheda
19.	Chakghat
20.	Mauganj
21.	Baikunthpur
22.	Govindagarh
23.	Tirodi
24.	Nalkeda
25.	Kothi
26.	Kotar
27.	Niwari
28.	Prithvipur
29.	Suthaliya
UTTAR PRADESH	
1.	Dherabal
2.	Chopan
3.	Bhawanbahadur Nagar
4.	Daurala
5.	Hargaon
6.	Faridpur
7.	Osaba
8.	Sourikh

1	2
9.	Hariaya
10.	Hariharanpur
11.	Bilkyaganj
12.	Bashegaon
13.	Sisaur
14.	Ramnagar
15.	Bikapur
16.	Risiya
17.	Sarayaokil
18.	Sankargarh
19.	Tudi
20.	Pukhraya
21.	Pali
22.	Oran
23.	Narendranagar
24.	Chamba
25.	Kaladunga
26.	Purba
27.	Atsu
28.	Jhalu
29.	Aduri

Rural Electrification Corporation

*558. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has decided to support initiatives to decentralise distribution of Power through the private and joint sectors;

(b) whether R.E.C. is considering a proposal to take over Power distribution for the Tirupur export growth centre from the Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board;

(c) whether R.E.C. has also identified projects to generate power from non-conventional sources for 48 villages in the Sagar Island, West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) Government has recently permitted REC to amend its object clause to enable extension of its operation to promote, develop and finance viable decentralised distribution of power through private and joint sectors. The necessary formalities for amending the Memorandum of Association of the Company are underway.

(b) REC is not considering a proposal to take over power distribution for the Tirupur export growth centre. However, at the initiative of the Ministry of Commerce, REC has made an offer to the Tamil Nadu Government

that it could consider extending some financial assistance for providing electrical infrastructure for the centre.

(c) REC has not identified any project to generate power from non conventional sources in the Sagardeep Islands. However, West Bengal State Electricity Board has sought financial assistance from Rural Electrification Corporation for its newly constituted 'Sagardeep Rural Energy Development Cooperative Society' to cater to the power requirements of the Sagardeep Islands.

(d) As and when necessary formalities are complied with, and after the detailed project reports are received from the concerned agencies, a final decision on both the above proposals would be taken.

Revolving Fund

*559. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway Authority of India (NHA) has proposed to set up a revolving fund for meeting the expenditure to be incurred on construction land acquisition and feasibility studies for the Highway Projects being offered to the private sector on a build-operate transfer (BOT) basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The proposal is at a conceptual stage and it is too early to give the details.

National Urban Policy

*560. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to formulate a National Urban Policy;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof;

(c) whether while formulating the policy, the Government propose to keep in view the recommendations of the recently held International Seminar on 'Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development' and the recommendations of the National Commission on urbanisation;

(d) whether the Government also propose to consult the State-Governments; and

(e) the time by which the National Urban Policy is likely to be formulated, finalised and announced?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) to (b). The process of formulating a National Urban Policy has been initiated. Urbanisation patterns and problems in

India vary widely between States, being dependent on widely differing socio-economic conditions, resource endowments and historical, geographical, cultural and institutional factors. In view of this, no meaningful formulation of national urban policy is possible without a realistic appraisal of the trends and issues of urban development at State and Regional levels. Therefore, as a first step, an exercise to develop the State Urban Strategy Papers has been started. Preparation of a National Urban Policy will involve a process of consultation with the State Governments which has been started. The recommendations of various national and international seminars including the recent International Seminar on 'Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development' held in February, 1995 in New Delhi and those of the National Commission on Urbanisation will be kept in view. Since elaborate consultations/exercises will be involved in the formulation of a National Urban Policy, no specific timeframe for finalising and announcement of the National Urban Policy can be indicated at this stage. It is also not possible to indicate the features of the National Urban Policy although the Policy will cover aspects such as urbanisation, provision of urban infrastructure including water supply, transport, solid waste management etc., urban environment, urban planning, urban finance, urban land use, institutional strengthening including decentralisation, etc.

[Translation]

Tourism Projects of Rajasthan

5353. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted tourism development projects for the approval of the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the projects accorded approval alongwith financial assistance provided and pending projects with the Union Government; and

(c) the steps taken to have decision on the pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). 36 proposals which were complete in all respects, received from the State Government of Rajasthan have been sanctioned with central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 498.25 lakhs during the last three years. The tourism projects sanctioned include construction of tourist complexes, tourist bungalows, wayside facilities, tourist reception centres toilet blocks, yatrikas, tourist lodges, flood lighting of monuments, organisation of fairs and festivals etc.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Overseas Tourism Offices

5354. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of various overseas tourism offices, country-wise during the year 1994-95;

(b) whether the Government have decided to shift some of these overseas field offices in a bid to tap emerging markets; and

(c) if so, the particulars of the overseas tourism offices planned to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (c). Location of offices is reviewed whenever required.

STATEMENT

Expenditure incurred on establishment of Overseas Tourist Offices under Department of Tourism during the year 1994-95.

Sl. No.	Operation	Name of country	Location of Tourist Office	Expenditure incurred (Rupees in Lakhs)	
I. America	1. USA	New York	New York	153.46	
			Los Angeles	38.69	
		2. Canada	Toronto	33.19	
II. U.K.	1. U.K.	London	100.89		
III. Europe	1. Switzerland	Geneva	Geneva	56.71	
			2. France	Paris	134.98
			3. Germany	Frankfurt	168.63
			4. Sweden	Stockholm	49.50
			5. Spain	Madrid	18.35
			6. Italy	Milan	41.15
			7. Netherlands	Amsterdam	66.33
IV. Australasia	1. Australia	Sydney	Sydney	70.13	
			2. Signapore	Singapore	73.49
			3. Malayasia	Kuala Lumpur	21.05
V. East Asia	1. Japan	Tokyo	Tokyo	31.85	
			2. Thailand	Bangkok	17.89
VI. West Asia	1. U.A.E.	Dubai	Dubai	65.30	
			Bahrain	11.59	

Pension for Bank Employees

5355. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether bank employees who retired before January 1, 1986, have also demanded pension;

(b) whether the Government have estimated the number of such ex-employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the quantum of pension involved, if their demand is accepted; and

(e) the details of other demands made by retired employees of banks?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(e) Indian Banks' Association has reported that the Association of Retired Banks Employees has made the following demands :

1. immediate implementation of pension scheme;
2. release of pension to all retirees;
3. medical aid for all retirees and their dependants.
4. structural changes in the banking industry.
5. creation of a welfare trust of Rupees one crore for the benefit of deserving retirees.

Recruitments in RRBs

5356. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to permit the Regional Rural Banks, selected for restructuring in the first phase, to recruit personnel by way of replacement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). No such specific proposal is under consideration.

Introduction of International Flights from Bangalore

5357. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce flights to Europe, U.S. and Middle East from Bangalore;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and also not declaring Bangalore as an international airport when flights to Singapore are operating from Bangalore;

(c) whether any foreign airlines has applied to operate from there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There is no proposal at present to introduce flights to Europe, U.S. and Middle East from Bangalore.

(b) The existing five international airports are adequate to cater to the present level of international traffic to and from India. Limited international services can, however, be operated by national carriers from any domestic airport depending on traffic requirement. Air India have accordingly, introduced services on Bombay/Bangalore/ Singapore/Bangalore/Bombay sector effective from January, 1995. Effective from March '95 these services have also been extended to Perth. The Bangalore/Bombay sector of these flights offer connections at Bombay to Europe, U.S. and Middle East.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Singapore Airlines have made a request for operations from Bangalore.

Welfare Schemes for Unorganised Labour

5358. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have urged the State Governments to formulate an action plan for the welfare of the unorganised labour so that more funds could be provided in the last three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the response of State Governments thereto and the details of progress made, if any, in regard thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Money Borrowing by Enron Project

5359. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow the Enron Project, at Dabhol, Maharashtra, to borrow money internationally at interest rate of 13 per cent in dollar terms;

(b) if so, the reasons for permitting the borrowing at such a high rate; and

(c) whether any other industrial house has been so far permitted to borrow at the above rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). For its power project in Maharashtra, the Dabhol Power Company has been granted approval to raise project finance of upto USD 550 million in the international debt capital markets at a weighted average

all-in-foreign currency spread over the US 10 year Treasury rate of 2.4 per cent per annum. This is not out of line with rates prevailing internationally for the financing of infrastructure projects. Comparisons of interest rates for different projects approved by Government of India are often problematic as the financing for a project reflects the perceptions of risks of the lending associated with loan maturities, currency volatilities, power off-take risk, and fuel supply risk, among others, by different categories of lenders over time.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages

5360. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in daily 'Jansatta' dated October 26, 1994 under the caption "Rajya bhi rashtriya grameen shramaayog ke sujhav manzoor kare";

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

(c) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour has fixed the minimum wages at the rate of Rs. 20 per day;

(d) whether this rate of wage is adequate;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to revise this rate; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f). The National Commission on Rural Labour in its report submitted in July 1991 has recommended that the minimum wages for rural workers should not be fixed below Rs. 20/- per day, at the prices prevailing during 1990. It also recommended that the minimum wages should consist of a variable component linked to the Consumer Price Index Number. As the bulk of scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, falls in the State Sphere, the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations were requested to consider these recommendations while fixing the minimum rates of wages. The Central Government as well as a number of State Governments/Union Territory Administration have fixed minimum rates of wages for agricultural workers at or above Rs. 20/- per day. A Statement indicating the available information on the minimum rates of wages for agricultural workers as fixed by the different State Governments/Union Territory Administrations is enclosed. The States where the minimum wages for agricultural workers is still below the level as recommended by National Commission on Rural Labour have been requested separately in July 1994 to implement the recommendations.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Minimum wages for unskilled agricultural workers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 16.80 to Rs. 23.40 p.d. (According to Zones) (8.4.91)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 24.00 p.d. (According to Areas) (1.11.90)
3.	Assam	Rs. 1134.00 p.m. or Rs. 984.00 p.m. plus food, shelter and clothing (1.2.92)
4.	Bihar	Rs. 21.00 p.d. (19.7.93)
5.	Goa	Rs. 27.50 p.d. (5.2.92)
6.	Gujarat	Rs.15.00 p.d. (1.8.90)
7.	Haryana	Rs.42.60 p.d. with meals or Rs.46.60 p.d. without meals (1.1.95)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs.24.00 p.d. to Rs.26.00 p.d. (1.10.94)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs.15.00 p.d. (24.3.89)
10.	Karnataka	Rs.12.00 p.d. to Rs.17.65 p.d. (12.7.88)
11.	Kerala	Rs.30.00 p.d. for women Rs.40.20 p.d. for men (31.3.92)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs.30.76 p.d. (29.1.94)
13.	Maharashtra	Rs.20.00 to Rs. 29.00 p.d. (According to Zones) (26.6.94)
14.	Manipur	Rs.40.90 p.d. for Hill Areas and Rs.37.90 p.d. for other than Hill Areas (23.12.88)
15.	Meghalaya	Rs.35.00 p.d. (16.3.94)
16.	Mizoram	Rs.28.00 p.d. (1.11.87)
17.	Nagaland	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (6.7.92)
18.	Orissa	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (1.7.90)
19.	Punjab	Rs. 46.17 p.d. without meals or Rs. 42.17 p.d. with meals (1.9.94)
20.	Rajasthan	Rs. 32.00 p.d. (Jan, 95)
21.	Sikkim	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is yet to be extended.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 20.00 p.d. (6.4.93)
23.	Tripura	Rs. 23.65 p.d. (20.12.93)
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 33.00 p.d. to Rs. 35.00 p.d. (7.1.92)
25.	West Bengal	Rs. 32.72 p.d. Rs. 29.52 p.d. plus two principal meals (1.7.94)
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Rs. 27.00 p.d. (Andaman) Rs. 28.00 p.d. (Nicobar) (13.8.92)
27.	Chandigarh	Rs. 39.42 p.d. with meals or Rs. 43.25 p.d. without meals (1.3.92)

1	2	3
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Rs. 23.00 p.d. (15.12.92)
29.	Delhi	Rs. 57.50 p.d. (1.8.94)
30.	Daman and Diu	Rs. 22.00 p.d. (19.3.93)
31.	Lakshadweep	Rs. 30.00 p.d. (1.1.93)
32.	Pondicherry	
	(i) Pondicherry Region	Rs. 14.00 p.d. (15.12.89)
	(ii) Mahe Region	Rs. 12.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 15.00 p.d. for hard work (18.2.87)
	(iii) Yanam Region	Rs. 11.00 p.d. (15.3.88)
	(iv) Karaikal	Rs. 14.00 p.d. or 7 litre paddy Rs. 4.90 p.d. (31.1.90)
33.	Central Sphere	Rs. 46.62 p.d. (1.4.95)

[English]

Bank Loans for Small Tea-Growers

5361. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the small tea-growers, especially those in Southern region, are presently facing credit constraints and they have no easy access to the loans advanced by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and other nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the financial and other problem faced by the small tea-growers, was discussed at the meeting convened by the Chairman of the NABARD, Madras, during December, 1994 which was attended by the representatives of Tea Board, tea industry, tea planters and the nationalised banks;

(d) if so, the details of the matters discussed and the decisions arrived at therein;

(e) whether the NABARD and the other nationalised banks have formulated any proposal for advancing higher quantum of loan to the small tea-growers for improving quality of tea, increasing production and boosting the export of tea; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that small tea growers particularly those in Southern region are not presently facing any constraints with regard to obtaining loans from banks with NABARD refinance support.

(c) and (d). As part of the discussions NABARD has been organising with user industries in various parts of the country, the Chairman of NABARD met the representatives of the Tea Board, Tea Industry and Banks at Madras on 7th December, 1994 to sort out the problems of South Indian Tea Industry. It was decided in the meeting that the various

tea associations would indicate the date and month for annual revision of unit cost and also submit proposals for revision two months in advance thereof, and NABARD would accordingly revise the unit cost after field testing, if necessary. It was also decided that labour cost would be revised upwards, atleast for the small farmers initially. Further, NABARD was requested to take with RBI the issue of waiver of guarantee cover for loans issued to tea industry. NABARD was also requested to take up with State Governments reduction of sales tax on tea sold in the auction centres.

(e) and (f). The representatives of tea industry were requested to increase the growth rate of tea production keeping in view the present price trend. To recapture the outside market, some new and attractive packaging of tea for export were also suggested. A few schemes such as crop diversification for small growers in the area have been launched to enable the small growers to sustain themselves.

Textile City

5362. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Textile city in A.P.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The Apparel Export Promotion Council under the Ministry of Textiles has proposed to set up a textiles city in A.P. Negotiations are in progress with the Government of A.P.

Landing Charges

5363. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the private airlines that have been defaulted in payment of landing charges, aviation fuel cost and other dues to the Government; and

(b) the steps the Government propose to take to realize these dues?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) East West Airlines, Damania Airways, Jet Airways, Sahara India Airlines, MG Express, Continental Aviation, Jagson Airlines, Saraya Aviation Pvt. Ltd., India International Airways, Trans Bharat Aviation Pvt. Ltd., NEPC Airlines, Archana Airways, Delhi Gulf Airways, Cosmos Flights Ltd., Raj Aviation, Citylink Airways and Mals Deoghar Airways.

(b) Airports Authority of India has filed a civil suit on 16.8.94 in the Bombay High Court against M/s Continental Aviation for the recovery of dues. M/s East West Airlines have been served a show cause notice to clear the dues at the earliest.

In respect of other Air Taxi operators, most of the dues are current and they have been reminded to clear at the earliest.

Representation of Banking Division on Board of FIs

5364. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Banking Department have representation on the Board of Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Industrial Development Bank of India and Unit Trust of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which these representatives ensure the financial institutions in checking malpractices in companies financed by financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Government Directors from the Banking Division have been appointed on the boards of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Ltd.

(b) At present Special Secretary (Banking) is a Government Director on the Board of IDBI and the Joint Secretary (Industrial Finance) in the Banking Division is on the Board of IFCI Ltd.

(c) Financial Institutions nominate their own representatives as nominee directors on the Boards of Directors of such private sector companies in which they have substantial financial stake. These nominee directors are expected to safeguard the interest of the financial institution and report back to them whenever any action is required or warranted. Banking Division has no nominee director on the boards of such private sector companies.

National and International Flights from Tamil Nadu

5365. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the air traffic from Tamil Nadu has increased manifold since 1990 and the number of national and international flights has not been increased proportionately;

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

(c) the details of the infrastructure for air services developed in the State during the above period; and

(d) the steps the Government proposed to take for expeditious implementation of the proposals for development of infrastructure for air services in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recognised Trade Unions

5366. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'SC accords primacy to recognised TUs' appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated February 15, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court has ruled that only a representative union under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act has the right to represent employees of an industry in complaints relating to unfair labour practices.

(c) The State Government of Maharashtra has been advised to take guidance/appropriate action in the matter.

Japanese Investment

5367. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry had visited India in January and held discussions with the Ministers of the Union Government and other;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some agreements have been reached regarding Japanese investments during these discussions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. R. Hashimoto, Japanese Minister of International Trade and Industry visited India from 5th to 8th January, 1995. The Japanese Minister held discussions with Finance Minister and Commerce Minister and called on the President and the Prime Minister also.

(b) Issues on bilateral cooperation between India and Japan on trade, investment and economic cooperation were discussed in the meetings.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Export Oriented Units

5368. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received and approved for setting up cent per cent export oriented units since the liberalisation of industrial policy in July, 1991 till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of units out of them which have started functioning and the number of such units which have not yet started functioning; and

(c) the value of exports made by these units upto January 31, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). A Statement is enclosed.

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

STATEMENT

Number of 100% EOUs approved for setting-up and functioning since liberalisation of Industrial Policy in July, 1991

Sl. No.	State	No. of EOUs approved	EOUs which have started production	EOUs which are under implementation and others
1.	Andhra Pradesh	286	39	247
2.	Bihar	4	-	4
3.	Gujarat	176	37	139
4.	Haryana	121	8	113
5.	Himachal Pradesh	13	1	12
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	-	1
7.	Karnataka	203	30	173
8.	Kerala	42	19	23
9.	Madhya Pradesh	71	2	69
10.	Maharashtra	291	40	251
11.	Meghalaya	1	-	1
12.	Orissa	30	2	28
13.	Punjab	44	3	41
14.	Rajasthan	124	8	116
15.	Tamil Nadu	267	67(P)	200(P)
16.	Tripura	1	-	1
17.	Uttar Pradesh	132	11	121
18.	West Bengal	42	11	31
19.	A&N Islands	4	-	4
20.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	12	3	9
21.	Delhi	64	9	55
22.	Goa, Daman & Diu	27	4	23
23.	Pondicherry	7	-	7
24.	Indian EEZ	20	-	20

P : Provisional

Export of Processed Fruits and Vegetables

5369. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) or any other private sector organisation for joint venture with the Indian Corporation working in foreign countries to export of processed fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; *

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There is presently no proposal pending with Government from the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority or any other private sector organisation to establish an overseas joint venture to export processed fruits and vegetables.

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

Assistance from International Agricultural Organisations

5370. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether International Agricultural Organisations like Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations and Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) provide assistance to the Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance received by the Government through these organisations during last two years alongwith the details of utilisation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) provides technical assistance to its member nations including India in agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry sectors under its member nations including India in agriculture, food, fisheries and forestry sectors under its Technical Cooperation Programme. During 1993-94 and 1994-95 India has been receiving technical assistance from F.A.O. in the form of training, consultancy services, equipments etc. under its Technical Cooperation Programme for eleven projects. FAO also assists in the execution of various Regional/Government Cooperation

Programme which are implemented with assistance offered by various donor countries and in which various countries participate. During the years 1993-94 and 1994-95, India has participated in four such programmes.

Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), an International Non-Governmental Organisation, provides food assistance for supplementary nutrition for children below 6 years and pregnant/lactating mothers under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. During the year 1993-94 and 1994-95, India received and utilised 105 109 and 172,356 Metric Tonnes respectively of food commodities from CARE. Figures for commodity assistance for the year 1994-95 are provisional.

Export of Agriculture Production

5371. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in 'Jansatta' on October 26, 1994 captioned 'Krishi Utpadan Kaise Badhe';

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

(c) whether there is decline in export of agriculture products during 1994-95 in comparison to 1993-94;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of agriculture products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The New Delhi edition of 'Jansatta' on October 26, 1994 does not carry the article referred to.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (d). The export of agricultural products excluding coffee, tea and raw cotton during 1993-94 and 1994-95 (April-Jan.) were Rs. 7534.26 crores and Rs. 5608.25 crores respectively (Source : DGCI & S). The decline is mainly attributable to lower exports of rice, tobacco and soyabean extractions.

(e) Steps taken to enhance the export of agro-products, inter-alia, include simplification of inspection procedures, removal of Minimum Export Price and quantity restrictions on selected items, provision of concessional export credit, product development to meet international needs, extension of benefits available under the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/ Export Processing Zones (EPZs) to the agriculture and allied sectors and permitting 50% sale in the domestic tariff area, assistance to exporters for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control, promoting export of identified products through brand promotion campaigns, arranging buyer-seller meets and participation in international fairs/exhibitions.

[English]

Production/Export of Flowers

5372. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries with whom the agreements regarding increasing the production and export of flowers have been signed during 1994-95;

(b) the total quantity of flowers exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1994-95; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned during 1995-96 on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government have not signed agreements with any country for increasing the production and export of flowers. However, private concerns have entered into collaborations with companies mainly from the Netherlands, Israel and Thailand for setting up export oriented floriculture projects.

(b) and (c). Value of floriculture goods exported during 1994-95 (April-January, 1995) is Rs. 1950.76 lakhs while exports of this sector in 1995-96 are estimated to be Rs. 3000 lakhs.

Hosiery Units

5373. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many hosiery units in the country have been closed or on the verge of closure;

(b) whether any representations from these small scale units have been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d). Representations were received from Federation of Hosiery Manufacturer's Association of India and Others regarding the adverse impact of withdrawal of exemption from excise duty on Cotton Knitted Fabrics in the Union Budget for 1995-96. On review, the Government have restored the exemption given to this industry prior to 1995-96 Budget.

NTC Modernisation Package

5374. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 163 on March 24, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the Government have since submitted the proposal for modernisation of textile mills to the BIFR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) 8 out of the 9 subsidiaries of NTC are before the BIFR. Government has not submitted so far any proposal for modernisation of these NTC mills to the BIFR.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Turn Around Plan for the NTC Mills has been approved by the Government recently. Modalities are being worked out and it is expected that the proposals will be placed shortly before the BIFR for approval before implementation.

[Translation]

New Air-Strips in Hilly and Tribal Districts

5375. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct new air-strips in the hilly and tribal areas in the near future to attract more tourists there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade the existing airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). It is proposed to set up new airports at Kargil in Jammu & Kashmir, Lengpui in Mizoram and Tura in Meghalaya.

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

Major projects of upgradation envisaged during 8th Five Year Plan by the Airports Authority of India are as follows :

- (i) Modernisation of air traffic control services at Bombay and Delhi Airports.
- (ii) Procurement of Airport Surveillance Radars and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars.
- (iii) Procurement of Instrument Landing Systems.
- (iv) Development of Model airports.
- (v) Construction of International passenger Terminal Complex (Phase-III) at Bombay airport.

(vi) Construction of Domestic Terminal Complex (Phase-II) at Bombay airport.

[English]

ITDC Hotels

5376. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the ITDC hotels opened during the last three years, state-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open any new ITDC hotel during the year 1995-96, State-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to expand five star hotels during 1995-96; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During last three years ITDC has not opened any hotel in any State. However, they have converted an erstwhile Travellers Lodge into a three star hotel in Manali in Himachal Pradesh w.e.f. 20.5.1992.

(b) to (e). ITDC's Annual Plan for 1995-96 does not envisage any specific scheme/provision either for setting up any new hotel or expanding capacity of its existing hotels.

Bridge Loans

5377. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total exposure of Financial Institutions, including banks, in all Essar Group companies, both in terms of debt and equity;

(b) the current status of bridge loans obtained by all these companies from time to time in the past;

(c) whether all such loans have since been repaid; and

(d) if not, the institution-wise/bank-wise figures of such loans as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (d). In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

[*Translation*]**Irregularities in Providing Loans to SCs/STs**

5378. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain irregularities have come to light in providing loans to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes by the banks located particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat during the last two years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not received any report regarding the irregularities in granting loans during last two years to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in U.P. and Gujarat States by nationalised banks.

[*English*]**Setting up of New Banks in Gujarat**

5379. SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued/proposed to issue licences to set up new banks in Gujarat sponsored by the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some other State Governments have also proposed to set up new banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[*Translation*]**Construction of Hotels, Motels and Yatri Niwases**

5380. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :
DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the details of the hotels, motels and yatri niwases constructed in each State with the financial assistance provided by the Union Government during the year 1994-95 and 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : During the year 1994-95, the Department of Tourism Government of India has sanctioned 131 new projects for development of tourism infrastructure in various States/Union Territories, with a total assistance amounting to Rs. 28.42 crores. The schemes included construction of 17 Yatri Niwases/Yatrikas, 53 Tourist Complexes/Lodges, 27 projects relating to Wayside Amenities/Tourist Reception Centres and 34 projects related to Tented Accommodation, Adventure Sports equipment etc. The details of the project State-wise may be seen in the Statement enclosed.

No new projects have been sanctioned for assistance during 1995-96.

STATEMENT

Name of the State	Yatri Niwas/ Yatrikas	Tourist Bungalow/ Complex/ Lodges	Wayside Amenities/ TRC/Fast Food Cafeteria	Adventure Sports/ Tented Accommo- dation	Total No. of projects sanctioned	Sanctioned Amount	Released Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1. Andhra Pradesh	5	-	-	-	5	171.99	73.00
2. Assam	-	2	-	-	2	52.99	27.00
3. Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Bihar	-	3	1	1	5	103.16	24.00
5. Goa	-	1	-	3	4	76.74	32.65
6. Gujarat	-	1	-	1	1	14.50	7.50
7. Haryana	-	4	4	-	8	173.98	45.00
8. Himachal Pradesh	2	9	-	1	12	297.90	100.00
9. Jammu & Kashmir	-	4	-	3	7	143.47	61.25
10. Karnataka	2	5	-	-	7	229.96	104.50

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
11. Kerala	4	2	1	2	9	287.05	113.75
12. Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Maharashtra	-	4	1	6	11	207.39	52.19
14. Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Mizoram	-	2	-	8	5	56.49	28.50
17. Nagaland	-	1	1	-	2	23.08	11.00
18. Orissa	-	4	-	1	5	164.60	30.00
19. Punjab	-	4	1	2	7	113.93	45.50
20. Rajasthan	2	2	2	-	6	94.86	38.30
21. Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu	1	1	3	-	5	132.45	36.50
23. Tripura	-	1	1	3	5	46.61	11.72
24. Uttar Pradesh	-	-	6	1	7	149.62	107.75
25. West Bengal	1	2	4	-	7	164.87	42.00
26. Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Chandigarh	-	1	1	-	2	21.38	8.11
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	1	-	-	1	23.62	4.00
29. Delhi	-	-	-	4	4	44.29	11.45
30. Daman & Diu	-	-	1	2	3	37.41	19.00
31. Lakshadweep	-	-	-	1	1	19.95	10.00
32. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	17	53	27	34	131	2842.29	1054

Sick Textile Mills

5381. KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the textile mills running under public sector and private sector in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of mills among them running in losses and the number of mills on the verge of closure, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to revive those mills;

(d) whether the Government propose to take over the private mills which are running in losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Statement-I, indicating details of mills in public sector and private sector is enclosed.

(b) As on 13.2.95, there were 167 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills registered with Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as sick. Statement-II indicating details of mills registered with BIFR as sick and winding up issued/being issued is enclosed.

(c) Government has established BIFR to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages in respect of viable sick/closed mills.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT-I

Category and Management-wise number of cotton/manmade fibre textile mills as on 28.2.95

State/ Union Territory	Number of Textile Mills				
	TOTAL				
	Public	Co-op	PVT	Total	
	Central	State			
1	2	3	4	6	7
State					
Andhra Pradesh	6	0	10	65	81
Assam	1	2	1	1	5
Bihar	2	1	3	3	9
Delhi	1	0	0	2	2
Goa	0	0	0	1	1

1	2	3	4	6	7
Gujarat	11	16	5	92	124
Haryana	0	0	1	31	32
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	8	8
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	2	2
Karnataka	4	1	9	33	47
Kerala	5	9	4	15	33
Madhya Pradesh	7	4	2	32	45
Maharashtra	35	9	42	68	154
Manipur	0	1	0	0	1
Orissa	1	4	6	3	14
Punjab	5	0	7	20	32
Rajasthan	4	0	3	31	38
Tamil Nadu	13	2	19	529	563
Uttar Pradesh	15	13	11	17	56
West Bengal	12	3	2	23	40
<i>Union Territory :</i>					
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	1	1
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	1	1
Pondicherry	3	1	1	4	9
Grand Total	125	66	126	982	1299

STATEMENT-II

Cotton/manmade fibre textile mills registered with BIFR as sick and winding up issued/being issued to mills by BIFR as on 13.2.95

State	Public Sector		Private Sector	
	No. of mills	Winding up issued/being issued	No. of mills	Winding up issued/being issued
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	9	3
Assam	1	-	-	-
Bihar	1	-	-	-
Gujarat	2	-	40	17
Haryana	-	-	4	-
Karnataka	1	-	8	4
Kerala	2	-	2	-
Madhya Pradesh	3	2	4	3
Maharashtra	9	3	16	2
Orissa	1	-	1	-
Punjab	-	-	3	-
Rajasthan	-	-	5	2
Tamil Nadu	1	-	28	2

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	9	4	9	4
West Bengal	2	-	5	2
Delhi	1	-	-	-
Total	33	9	134	39

*[English]***Scheme to Develop Tourism in Tamil Nadu**

5382. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government has submitted various projects/schemes for the development of Tourism in the Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the projects sanctioned/pending for clearance and allocation made by the Union Government for the year 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The State Government of Tamil Nadu submitted nine projects/schemes seeking central assistance during 1994-95.

(b) The details of the projects/schemes sanctioned during the year 1994-95 with amount are given hereunder :

Sl. No.	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Tourist Lodge at Pudukotai	18.78
2.	Tourist Reception Centre at Thanjavur	26.30
3.	Yatri Niwas at Thiruvanamalai	39.10
4.	Tourist Reception Centre at Tranquebar	29.49
5.	Tourist Lodge at Villupuram	18.78
6.	Chittarai Festival	3.83
7.	Natayanjali Festival	1.74
8.	Mamallapuram Dance Festival	2.70
9.	Assistance for production of publicity literature	5.00
Total		145.72

(c) The Central Government have not received any proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu seeking financial assistance for the year 1995-96.

Bad Debts of Public Sector Banks

5383. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector banks have made full provisions for all bad and doubtful debts; and

(b) the amount of debts considered bad and doubtful due from large, medium and small scale sectors, agriculture and trade, in case of each of the public sector banks and provisions held by banks for each sector as on March 31, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Provisions against Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) are made by banks in accordance with the norms prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India. While prescribing the new provisioning norms in 1992-93, Reserve Bank of India had allowed the banks to phase their provisioning against NPAs over a period of two years i.e. 1992-93 and 1993-94. Accordingly, necessary provisions under the new norms of Reserve Bank of India were required to be made by banks by the year 1993-94.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that its data maintenance system does not generate information in the manner asked for.

[Translation]

Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985

5384. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the liquidator is essentially appointed by the High Court as per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and after the opinion given by the B.I.F.R./A.A.I.F.R. for liquidation;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the above Act by including the process of liquidation in this Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is empowered to forward its opinion to the concerned High Court for winding up non-viable sick industrial companies and the High Court may proceed with the winding up of such companies in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act. BIFR is also empowered to cause the assets of such companies to be sold and forward the sale proceeds to the High Court for distribution in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

SEBI Concessions to M.S. Shoes East

5385. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) :
SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI PREM CHAND RAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Securities and Exchange Board of India follows some specific guidelines in giving permission for floating the rights and public issues by the same company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some specific concessions were given while allowing the rights issue of M.S. Shoes East recently;

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

(e) whether SEBI propose to make some changes to improve the accountability of market intermediaries involved in public/rights issues; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). SEBI has indicated that in case of a composite rights and public issue by the same company, the draft prospectus for the public issue and the letter of offer for the rights issue are vetted by SEBI as any other prospectus or letter of offer to ensure adequate disclosures for the public and the existing shareholders respectively. The SEBI guidelines prescribe that the gap between the rights and the public issue shall not exceed 30 days.

(c) and (d). The SBI Capital Market, the lead managers to the M.S. Shoes issue sought a waiver from the SEBI guidelines relating to the maximum gap between the rights and the public issue of a composite issue on the following grounds :

(a) Technically, the company was debarred from making the rights offer to the debenture holders before conversion into equity issue. Therefore, only on conversion into equity of the subsisting debentures issued earlier by the company, the holders thereof could be made the rights offer.

(b) The company wanted to avoid the administrative problem of fixing two separate record dates for the rights issue consecutively, one for the shareholders (in February/March, 1995) and the other immediately thereafter for the holders of the subsisting debentures after the conversion date which was 1.4.1995.

SEBI acceded to the request of the company subject to the following conditions :

- (i) The lead manager confirming commitment by financial institutions for monitoring the deployment of issue proceeds; and
- (ii) An undertaking from the promoters that standby underwriting arrangements would be made for the non promoters' portion of the rights issue and that the promoters would take up their entire rights entitlement in full as well as shortfall, if any, in the said rights issue.

(e) and (f). SEBI is making continuous efforts to make the intermediaries handling public/rights issues increasingly accountable for their decisions. In the case of M.S. Shoes, inspections/inquiries have already been initiated against the intermediaries. SEBI has also set up a committee to review and strengthen the existing disclosure norms.

Committee to Review Export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zones Scheme

5386. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have constituted a Committee to review the functioning of Export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Government had constituted a Committee to review the policy and procedures applicable to Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units set up in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs). The Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary incharge of EOUs/EPZs and in addition consisted of representatives of trade associations and concerned Ministries/Department.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Most of the recommendations of this Committee have been implemented which include simplification of Customs procedures, higher access to the local market, flexible value addition norms, inter-scheme mobility, facility to move excess capital goods into the DTA through partial de-bonding and broadening the area of activity to include trading, re-export after re-packing/labelling, repairs, re-conditioning and re-engineering.

National Action Plan on Tourism

5387. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the objectives laid down in the National Action Plan on Tourism have been fulfilled;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed and achieved;

(c) the amount spent so far to achieve the targets; and

(d) the details of the incentives and facilities provided for attracting private investments in the field of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). The National Action Plan for Tourism has stipulated the strategy for achieving targets for tourist arrivals, foreign exchange earnings and employment through tourism. The terminal year target for tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings from tourism for Eighth Five Year plan are 2.57 million tourists and Rs. 7,000 crores of foreign exchange earnings respectively.

The tourist arrivals and foreign exchange earnings for the first three years of the Eighth Five Year Plan are as follows :

Year	Tourist	
	Arrivals (million)	Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	1.82	6060
1993-94	1.87	6509 (Provisional)
1994-95	1.90	7365 (Provisional)

(d) The Central Government offers fiscal as well as monetary incentives in order to attract private investments in the field of tourism. Interest-subsidy is available in case of 1, 2 and 3 Star Hotels @ 3%. The rate of interest subsidy is 3% to 5% in case the unit is located in travel circuits-cum-destinations identified for intensive development under the National Action Plan.

In addition to this, 5% interest subsidy is also available for heritage category of hotels. Under this scheme a capital subsidy of Rs. 5.00 lakhs for 10% of the cost whichever is less is available for development of any monument structure over 75 years into a heritage hotel.

Investment by UTI and FI

5388. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has laid down any norms to be followed by Unit Trust of India and other financial institutions for investing their investible funds in the equity of private and public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of investment of funds made by UTI in various private and public sector companies during the last three years; and

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct a special audit of the U.T.I. accounts?

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

(a) No Sir. Investment decisions of the financial institutions including the Unit Trust of India are left to the commercial perceptions of the respective organisations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The details of major investments by UTI as on 30.6.1993, 30.6.1994 and 31.12.1994 are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) No Sir.

STATEMENT

UNIT TRUST OF INDIA

Top 25 companies exposure as on 30.06.93

Company Name	Amount (Rs. crore)
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam	1952.84
ICICI	1219.45
Tata Iron and Steel Co.	1022.90
Grasim Industries Ltd.	886.98
IDBI	857.75
Steel Authority of India	824.57
Reliance Industries Ltd.	770.95
TELCO Ltd.	762.47
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	687.50
Industrial Finance Corpn.	644.87
Hindustan Petroleum Corpn.	557.90
Hindalco Ltd.	513.97
Bharat Petroleum Corpn Ltd.	448.73
National Thermal Power Co.	414.00
Tata Chemicals Ltd.	410.11
I.T.C. Ltd.	395.10
GSFC Ltd.	374.36
Century Textiles & Indust.	317.38
HDFC Ltd.	312.10
Essar Gujarat Ltd.	302.47
National Hydro-Electric	293.47
Nuclear Power Corpn Ltd.	288.18
Ballarpur Industries Ltd.	275.45
Indian Petro Chemicals Ltd.	270.20
Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertili.	268.13

Top 25 companies exposure as on 30.06.94

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	3677.67
ICICI Ltd.	1670.08

1	2
Reliance Industries Ltd.	1336.26
Steel Authority of India Ltd.	1144.31
Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	1025.57
Grasim Industries Ltd.	1012.42
Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	997.51
IDBI	906.97
Industrial Finance Corpn of India	662.97
TELCO Ltd.	655.07
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	605.00
National Hydro-Electric P	539.47
Hindalco Industries Ltd.	532.82
National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd.	505.69
Bharat Petroleum Corpn Ltd.	502.67
Tata Chemicals Ltd.	488.91
ITC Ltd.	440.35
GSFC Ltd.	434.34
Century Textiles & Industries Ltd.	415.61
Essar Gujarat Ltd.	378.40
Housing and Urban Development Corpn.	366.50
Indian Petro Chemicals Corpn. Ltd.	362.23
Nuclear Power Corpn. Ltd.	349.85
Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	341.21
HDFC Ltd.	309.15

Top 25 companies exposure as on 31.12.94

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	3678.62
Reliance Industries Ltd.	2113.69
ICICI Ltd.	1768.98
Grasim Industries Ltd.	1053.05
Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	1046.33
Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	1037.72
IDBI	790.17
TELCO Ltd.	665.57
Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	649.57
Indian Organic Chemicals Ltd.	619.15
Essar Gujarat Ltd.	604.70
Tata Chemicals Ltd.	587.07
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	572.83
Hindalco Industries Ltd.	568.60
HDFC Ltd.	527.89
National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd.	522.01
Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	519.41
ITC Ltd.	513.66
National Hydro-Electric P	513.05
Century Textiles & Industries Ltd.	447.51
GSFC Ltd.	438.98

1	2
Industrial Finance Corpn. of India	392.71
Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	369.88
Indian Rayon & Industries Ltd.	365.64

Smuggling of Goods

5389. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of smuggled goods seized at Bombay and Delhi airports during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons apprehended in this connection including the employees of Air India/Indian Airlines; and

(c) the details of the action taken against them?

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

(a) and (b). Value of smuggled goods seized and no. of persons arrested (including Indian Airlines/Air India employees) at Bombay and Delhi Airports during each of the last three years is as under :

	Delhi		Bombay	
	Value of goods seized	No. of persons arrested	Value of goods seized	No. of persons arrested
	(Rs. in Lacs)		(Rs. in Lacs)	
1992-93	2304.51	76	5749.31	400
1993-94	929.52	79	4609.00	201
1994-95	1533.35	86	4540.89	172

(c) Persons arrested are prosecuted and detained under Cofeposa wheresoever warranted besides being penalised under departmental adjudication proceedings.

[Translation]

Restoration of Vayudoot Service to Bilaspur

5390. SHRI BHAWANI LAL VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot service to Bilaspur town in Madhya Pradesh was inaugurated in 1987-88 by the then Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the closure of this service?

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

(b) Due to operational and commercial constraints Vayudoot services to/from Bilaspur were withdrawn.

[English]

Loans to Small/Medium Industrialists and Unemployed Youth

5391. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the bank-wise details of loans granted to small/medium industrialists and unemployed youth by the banks for setting up of industries in Gujarat during the 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) whether these banks have formulated any scheme for women and youth entrepreneurs during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of women and youths benefited therefrom so far?

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

(a) to (d). The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial Assistance to States for Tourism

5392. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourist centres functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether some States have submitted projects for seeking financial assistance for construction of dormitories, public conveniences, tourists complex, yatri niwases, cafeterias and tourists reception centres to attract more tourists in the select tourists places;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the project sanctioned or likely to be sanctioned by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A place, automatically becomes a tourist centre by virtue of its potential. Identification and development of tourist centres is the responsibility of the State Governments.

(b) Twenty States and Five Union Territories sought central financial assistance from the Union Government during 1994-95 for augmentation of tourist accommodation facilities like construction of Yatri Niwases, Tourist Complexes, Cafeterias and Tourist Reception Centres etc.

(c) and (d). The details of the central assistance sanctioned Statewise and projectwise are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes sanctioned for Development of Tourism for various States/Union Territories during 1994-95

State	Yatri Niwas/ Yatrika	Tourist Bungalow/ Complex/ Lodges	Wayside Amenities TRC/Fast Food Cafeteria	Adventure Sports/Tented Accommodation SEL	Total No. of projects sanctioned	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Andhra Pradesh	5	-	-	-	5	171.99
2. Assam	-	2	-	-	2	52.99
3. Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Bihar	-	3	1	1	5	103.16
5. Goa	-	1	-	3	4	76.74
6. Gujarat	-	1	-	-	1	14.50
7. Haryana	-	4	4	-	8	173.98
8. Himachal Pradesh	2	9	-	1	12	297.90
9. Jammu & Kashmir	-	4	-	3	7	143.47
10. Karnataka	2	5	-	-	7	229.96
11. Kerala	4	2	1	2	9	287.05
12. Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Maharashtra	-	4	1	6	11	207.39
14. Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Mizoram	-	2	-	3	5	56.49
17. Nagaland	-	1	1	-	2	23.08
18. Orissa	-	4	-	1	5	164.60
19. Punjab	-	4	1	2	7	113.93
20. Rajasthan	2	2	2	-	6	94.86
21. Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. Tamil Nadu	1	1	3	-	5	132.45
23. Tripura	-	1	1	3	5	46.61
24. Uttar Pradesh	-	-	6	1	7	149.62
25. West Bengal	1	2	4	-	7	164.87
26. Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Chandigarh	-	-	1	1	2	21.38
28. Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	1	-	-	1	23.62
29. Delhi	-	-	-	4	4	44.29
30. Daman & Diu	-	-	1	2	3	37.41
31. Lakshadweep	-	-	-	1	1	19.95
32. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	17	53	27	34	131	2842.29

EDI System for Exports

5393. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the U.S. authorities switching over to customs clearance of goods entering that country through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI);

(b) if so, the likely effect of the new system on Indian exports to USA; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote EDI in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). U.S. Customs is in the process of modernisation

including technical upgradation but there are no plans at present to insist that all imports into the U.S. will be subject to clearance through EDI.

(c) To promote EDI in the country, institutional set up in the form of EDI Council, India EDIFACT Committee and EDI working Group have been constituted by the Ministry of Commerce. Initiatives have already been taken by Customs, Ports and other key Govt. Departments for implementation of EDI.

Export of Computer Software

5394. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan has opened up avenues for the export of Indian computer software; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Japan is the second biggest market for computer software after USA. However, Indian companies have been only moderately successful in entering the Japanese market because of certain constraints. The Electronics & computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) initiated steps to explore the Japanese market in cooperation with Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO). As a result of this focussed activity, an interest has been created amongst Japanese organisations. As a follow-up, there has been exchange of business delegations between the two countries.

[Translation]

Handloom Exhibitions

5395. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether fairs are being organized in foreign countries for increasing the popularity of handloom products;

(b) if so, the number of fairs organized in foreign countries indicating the names of the countries during the last three years;

(c) the profits accrued from those fairs; and

(d) the orders received during the said years and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). While there are no specific textile fairs in foreign countries for handloom products alone, general fairs dealing with all textile items and fairs dealing with specialized textile products including handloom products are being organized by various trade promotion organizations. Textile exporters, including handloom exporters, participate in these fairs, some of which are sponsored by the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).

(c) and (d). The handloom exporters participate in fairs abroad either directly or through Handloom Export Promotion Council or through ITPO. The exact figures of the actual orders and profits received by all the handloom exporters in each fair are not available. However, the overall export figures for cotton handloom fabrics and made-ups during the last three years are given below :

Year	Exports (in million US\$)
1992-93	356.89
1993-94	413.66
1994-95	479.19

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

5396. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN :
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO
GUNDEWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the contribution of foreign exchange reserves at present on existing inflation;

(b) the steps being taken to consolidate the foreign exchange in addition to temporary measures like frozen or regulated G.D.R. etc.;

(c) whether the foreign exchange reserves are actual direct investments;

(d) if so, the details of indirect capital inflows; and

(e) the steps being taken to guard the economy against the investment of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Increase in foreign exchange reserves contributes to the creation of primary money and thereby to the increase in the overall money supply. Any excessive supply of money in relation to demand exacerbates inflationary pressures.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to moderate the monetary impact of the increase in foreign exchange reserves on inflationary potential over the medium term include :

- (i) Reduction in the interest rate on Non-Resident External (Rupee) Accounts;
- (ii) Elimination in a phased manner, of Foreign Currency (Non-Resident) Accounts;
- (iii) Freedom to repatriate interest accruing on Non-Resident Non-Repatriable Deposits and on Foreign Currency Ordinary Non-Repatriable Deposits;

- (iv) Discontinuation of new deposits under FCON;
- (v) New and tighten guidelines for Euro issues by Indian firms;
- (vi) Encouragement to corporate sector to repay expensive external debt; and
- (vii) Liberalisation of limits and procedures for Indian investment abroad, to facilitate productive use of foreign exchange and encourage formation of export linkages.

(c) and (d). The stock of foreign exchange reserves at any point of time is the result of transactions of both current and capital nature over the years. Foreign investment inflows were, however, the major factor behind the surge in capital inflows to the country from 1993-94. The details are as follows :

(US \$ million)

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1. Direct Investment	341	620	1311
2. Portfolio Investment	92	3493	3367
Total	433	4113	4678

(e) Indirect investment of foreign capital in the form of portfolio investments during the post-liberalisation period have been large but still account for only around 30 per cent of our gross reserves. Instead of using much capital in financing the imbalances in the external transactions, these have been largely absorbed in the form of increasing the reserves of the country.

Assistance to North-Eastern States for Civil Aviation

5397. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount allocated to the Government of North-Eastern States State-wise including Assam for the development of Civil Aviation during the Eighth Five Year Plan, till-date, scheme-wise and State-wise; and
- (b) the details of development works undertaken in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Airports Authority of India has undertaken development of Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Lilabari, Imphal, Dimapur and Agartala airports in the North Eastern States.

The total allocation made during the VIII Plan is Rs. 122 crores for development of airports in North Eastern States.

In addition, Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 7 crores and Rs. 10 crores to the respective State Plans for construction of new airports at Tura in Meghalaya and Lengpui in Mizoram.

Import of Scientific Instruments

5398. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the duty free import of certain types of scientific instruments, which are not manufactured in the country are allowed to the Governments research and education institutions;

(b) if so, the incentives given for the development of the same indigenously;

(c) whether duty free import of components is allowed to the indigenous manufacturers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the rate of customs duty is higher on imported raw materials and components than the duty leviable on finished products like scientific instruments;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to provide special incentives to the manufacturers of scientific instruments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (g). The current Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, as amended, permits import of all capital goods and instruments freely. As regards exemption of Customs duty, this is decided by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue, on the recommendation of the Administrative Ministry.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance

5399. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO

GUNDEWAR :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries which provided funds to our country as assistance/grant during the last year alongwith the amount given, separately and the amount paid by the Union Government as interest thereon;

(b) the names of the countries to which India has given funds in the form of help/assistance/grant during the last three years and the amount of assistance provided, separately; and

(c) the amount of interest recovered therefrom during above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Information is given in the attached statement.

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

STATEMENT

Statement showing receipts (Loans and Grants) on government account and non-Government account and the payment of interest during 1994-95

(Rupees in Crores at current rate)

Sl. No.	Name of the Country/ Institution	Receipt	Interest Payments
		(Provisional)	
MULTILATERAL			
1.	A.D.B.	1531.40	301.26
2.	I.B.R.D.	2286.44	2302.50
3.	I.D.A.	3099.53	382.64
4.	I.F.A.D.	27.33	6.33
5.	O P E C	2.62	3.16
Total (Multilateral)		6947.33	2995.89
BILATERAL			
6.	Abu Dhabi	0.00	0.27
7.	Austria	0.00	3.90
8.	Belgium	4.11	1.54
9.	Canada	3.38	0.02
10.	Dep. of Czech & Slovak	0.00	0.59
11.	Denmark	40.10	0.00
12.	E.E.C.	115.50	0.00
13.	E.E.C. (SAC)	0.00	0.50
14.	Germany	439.92	221.45
15.	France	51.78	164.69
16.	IMF Trust Fund	0.00	0.00
17.	Iran	0.00	8.74
18.	Italy	0.00	11.87
19.	Japan	2225.26	627.03
20.	Kuwait Fund	3.92	16.97
21.	Neitherlands	130.46	67.35
22.	Norway	11.65	0.00
23.	Saudi Fund	1.31	6.61
24.	Spain	0.00	2.90
25.	Sweden	177.73	19.08
26.	Switzerland	66.50	13.11
27.	U.A.E.	0.00	0.52
28.	U.K.	169.59	0.00
29.	U.S.A.	35.22	181.59
30.	U.S.S.R.	0.00	41.59
31.	Australia	15.94	0.21
32.	Others (UNICEF, UNFPA)	36.06	0.00
Total (Bilateral)		3528.43	1390.52
Grand Total		10475.75	4386.41

Non-banking Financial Institutions

5400. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the non-banking financial institutions permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to operate in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government are aware that these institutions have cheated the people at large scale in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to impose a ban on these institutions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the other remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

[English]

Assistance for Revival of Sick Industrial Units

5401. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide financial assistance and working capital through banks in accordance with the advice of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to revive the sick industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report which appeared in "Times of India", New Delhi dated November 14, 1994 under the caption "BIFR chief assails banks";

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether there has been a change in the Government policy regarding the role of banks and financial institutions particularly in assisting revival of sick units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a), (b) and (d). 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. Where a scheme for rehabilitation of a company is sanctioned by the BIFR under section 17(2)/18(4) SICA, banks provide facilities in terms of the sanctioned scheme. In

other cases banks extend need based support and allow 'holding-on' operations on a case to case basis. It may be added that Reserve Bank of India has laid down broad parameters for provision of reliefs/ concessions by banks under rehabilitation packages evolved for sick industrial companies considered as potentially viable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that its parameters on interest rates for various facilities under rehabilitation packages in respect of non small scale industrial (SSI) sick/weak industrial units were last revised in December 1991. These rates were prescribed at fixed percentage points below the prevailing minimum lending rate for banks, obviating the need for changing the parameters whenever there was a revision in lending rate on advances. Subsequent to issue of circular in this regard on 06.12.1991, significant developments had taken place. These inter alia included lowering of the minimum lending rate of banks, reduction in period of identifying sickness, revision in the definition of weak non SSI unit, abolition of minimum lending rate and introduction of prime lending rates by banks. Keeping in view these developments, RBI has recently made changes in the requirements of promoters contribution and in its parameters on interest rates for various facilities under rehabilitation packages, inter alia including working capital advances, funded interest term loan, working capital term loan and fresh rehabilitation term loan.

[Translation]

Increase in Capacity of Private Airlines

5402. SHRI KESRI LAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow increase in the sitting capacity of private airlines operating in domestic sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the likely impact on the public sector airlines due to the above increase?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). In order to ensure safety, security and orderly growth of air transport operations, at present, acquisition of aircraft leading to increase in seating capacity by Air Taxi operators and scheduled operators is considered on merits on a case to case basis.

(c) Growth in domestic air traffic capacity has provided better choice to the passengers. Indian Airlines has taken steps to improve its product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers.

[English]

Dues against NTC

5403. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has to pay outstanding dues to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Federation for purchase of Cotton from time to time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early payment of outstanding dues to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Federation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). As on 31.3.95, NTC had to pay a sum of Rs. 76.29 crores to the Maharashtra State Coop. Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation towards purchase of cotton.

(c) Since cotton is purchased by the NTC mills on credit terms, there are always bound to be certain outstanding dues at any given point of time. NTC is unable to clear all the outstanding dues due to acute working capital shortage. NTC is expected to clear the dues depending upon the availability of working capital.

Runway in Sikkim

5404. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Airports Authority conducted any survey for constructing runway in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the Government propose to construct the same; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A survey was conducted by Airports Authority of India in 1991 for preparing a preliminary feasibility report for construction of an airport at Panthong suitable for 50 seater aircraft. The preliminary cost estimate was Rs. 45 crores. Due to financial constraints it is not possible for AAI to take up this project.

Kanpur Mills

5405. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 90 lakhs worth of cotton and 20 lakhs worth of cloth are lying in the Urthan Mill and the New Victoria Mills of Kanpur; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to sell such cotton and cloth?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY) : (a) At present, cotton and cloth worth about Rs. 33 lakhs and Rs. 22 lakhs respectively are lying in New Victoria Mills and Atherton Mills, Kanpur.

(b) Since the cotton and the cloth are old and in a damaged condition, no offers have been received from the agents and dealer of NTC mills against the quotation invited. NTC will continue to make efforts to clear them.

[Translation]

Branches of Bank of Maharashtra

5406. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of the Bank of Maharashtra functioning of all over the country;

(b) the extent of profit earned or loss suffered by these branches during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to wind up the branches running in losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) As on 31.12.1994 (latest available) 1132 branches of Bank of Maharashtra are functioning in the country.

(b) Bank of Maharashtra has reported that the bank had suffered loss amounting to Rs. 19651 lakhs during the period ending 31.3.1993 and Rs. 29693 lakhs during the period ending 31.3.1994.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that in terms of their extant policy with regard to closure of bank branches in the country, banks' proposals for closing of loss making branches located at well banked urban/metropolitan centres are considered by them on merits of each case. At rural centres served by two commercial bank branches (excluding branches of Regional Rural Banks), the decision for closure of one of the branches may be taken by the concerned banks by mutual consultation.

Financial Assistance for Hospitals

5407. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted a proposal for seeking financial assistance from Housing and Urban Development Corporation and National Housing Bank to improve the conditions of hospitals in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided so far by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that it has not received any proposal for financial assistance from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to improve the conditions of the hospitals in the State in the recent past. The information from Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Publicity of Public Sector Banks in Rural Areas

5408. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by the public sector banks on publicity in the rural areas during the each of the last three years, bank-wise, together with the nature of publicity;

(b) the extent to which the saving schemes became popular as a result thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken to popularise and encourage the saving schemes in rural areas;

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

Reduction in Rate of Bank Loan

5409. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently reduced the rate of bank loan for financial companies and restricted the facility of bridge loan for public issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any memoranda from the various financial institutions against the introduction of this policy; and

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

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

Bank Branches Engaged in Government Transaction

5410. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the bank branches engaged in Government transaction in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the State Government has made a request to the Reserve Bank of India to transfer the Government transaction at some other places from sub-treasury to the bank branch; and

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

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

(a) The branches of the State Bank of India (SBI) and State Bank of Indore are conducting cash business of the State Government in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c). The State Government has furnished a list of non-banking sub-treasuries of Reserve Bank of India expressing their willingness to transfer the cash transactions of these sub-treasuries to the concerned branches of the public sector banks. The RBI has forwarded this list to the Head Offices of the State Bank of India, State Bank of Indore and Central Bank of India, for initial feasibility studies and willingness to take over cash business of the concerned sub-treasuries. State Bank of India has indicated their willingness to take over State Government cash business at two centres and permission has been granted to them for the purpose.

[English]

Child Labour

5411. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments and Union Territory administrations have been drawn up any plan for elimination and rehabilitation of child labour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
(a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Jute Industry

5412. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Concord Mission led by the British Commerce Minister offered for the investment in the jute industry in the country for its resurgence;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the offer;

(c) whether any project has since been chalked out of the offer; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) and (b). The Chief Executive of Mackie International Limited, Belfast (UK) came to India with the British Trade Minister on an official visit and met senior representatives of the India Jute Mills Association (IOMA) on 14th November, 1994 at Calcutta. The Mackie International Limited, proposed machinery development for the Indian jute industry involving Lagan Jute Engineering Works as the base.

(c) and (d). A proposal for joint venture between the Mackie International Limited and the Lagan Jute Engineering Works is under consideration of the Department of Heavy Industry.

Tax Laws

5413. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to examine the tax laws in a dispassionate manner to give a fillip to the capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the government thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The chamber have made several suggestions including raising of exemption limit to Rs. 50,000, allowance of five year tax holiday within a block of 10 years to enterprises engaged in infrastructure development, continuance of tax incentive to new industrial undertakings, retention of depreciation to minor items of plant and machinery.

(c) All the post-budget memoranda are examined as part of the exercise taken up after presentation of the Union Budget.

Subsidised Air Service

5414. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain institutions are organising subsidised air services for tourist spots in the country;

(b) whether Indian Airlines too is offering such subsidised air services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) Does not arise.

Business Pacts with USA

5415. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has signed another eight business pacts worth \$260 billion with the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these pacts are likely to come into force;

(d) whether another high level U.S. delegation visited India during April, 1995; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the visit?

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

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

(d) The US Treasury Secretary, Mr. Robert Rubin visited India from 17th to 20th April, 1995.

(e) During discussions with Mr. Rubin, it was agreed that India and the USA would continue to work closely to strengthen bilateral economic and commercial relations.

Code of Conduct for Financial Institutions

5416. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the code of conduct for financial institutions like UTI, IDBI, IFCI and other such institutions to move resolutions of confidence in the managements of various private sector companies where these institutions have their nomination in the management of their respective companies;

(b) whether the permission to move such resolutions from the Government is necessary;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of such instances where financial institutions under Banking Department moved such resolutions during 1994-95, institution-wise and company-wise?

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

(a) and (d). All India financial institutions (AIFIs) have evolved guidelines in respect of nominee directors appointed by them on the Boards of assisted companies. These guidelines, inter alia, deal with appointment/ withdrawal of nominee directors, role of nominee directors, their participation in Board meetings of assisted companies and reporting by nominee directors. The nominee directors are expected to act in the best interest of the company and also safeguard the interest

of the AIFI concerned. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) in which Government holds cent percent equity at present, have reported that there has been no instance upto 1994-95 where a nominee director of IDBI and IRBI moved a resolution of confidence in the management of any assisted company.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Decentralisation of BIFR

5417. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to decentralise the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the proposal stands at present?

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

(a) No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Loan to SSIs in Gujarat

5418. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of loan applications received from small scale industries by the public sector banks in Gujarat during the last three years and the amount sanctioned thereof till date; and

(b) the steps taken to provide timely financial assistance to applicants/small scale units for avoiding industrial sickness?

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

(a) The data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, according to the latest available data furnished by RBI, loans disbursed by scheduled commercial banks to small scale industrial (SSI) units in the State of Gujarat as at the end of June 1991, June 1992 and June 1993 were as under :

(Rs. crores)

Year ending	No. of Account	Amount disbursed
June 1991	36466	248.15
June 1992	39697	241.34
June 1993	15230	233.16

(b) RBI has issued instructions to all scheduled commercial banks that applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- should be disposed of within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25,000/- within 8-9 weeks from the date of receipt of applications. Banks have also been advised that request for increase in credit limits should be considered expeditiously and decision taken promptly and in any case within six weeks.

Tax Exemption to Sikkim

5419. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations for exemption of residents of Sikkim from direct taxes including income tax; and

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

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

(b) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

Air-Strip Miyorpur

5420. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether air-strip in Miyorpur, U.P. is lying unused for the last few decades;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to make use of the air-strip?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Miyorpur airstrip is an airstrip belonging to Rahand Dam Authority of State Government of U.P. Airports Authority of India has no plan at present to operationalise this airstrip though private scheduled/non scheduled airlines are free to use it in their best commercial judgements.

Economic Relations with U.S.A.

5421. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposals to establish and expand economic relations with United States of America;

(b) if so, whether any agenda has been prepared by either or both countries for constructive economic cooperation and action plan; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to execute the agenda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). It is the endeavour of Governments of India and United States of America to further strengthen their bilateral economic and commercial relations. During recent visits to India of US Under Secretary of State for Economics, Business and Agriculture and US Treasury Secretary, bilateral issues of mutual interest were further discussed and it was decided that both Governments would take further steps to develop their economic and commercial relationship. As a step in this regard, both Governments have since revived the Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission which provides a forum to deliberate on measures to facilitate stronger and closer economic and commercial relationship between two countries.

Child Labour

5422. SHRI M.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Child Labour-Authority adopted a programme of identification, release and rehabilitation of child labour in hazardous industries;

(b) if so, whether under the chairmanship of Labour Minister it has been emphasised that a survey should be conducted under the overall supervision of the district magistrate in the districts where child labour is prevalent to identify the phenomenon;

(c) if so, whether in addition to the survey, inspection and investigations were intensified to locate the children and file prosecutions against employers under the existing laws;

(d) the extent to which the rehabilitation plan as adopted has been implemented; and

(e) the number of children who have been rehabilitated so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour has adopted the Plan of Action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" on 16th January, 1995. It, inter alia, calls for surveys to identify child labour and states that launching of prosecutions on employers of child labour should be a pre-condition for taking up rehabilitation of workers. This plan of action also calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level - the district to effectively handle the identification of child labour, the economic rehabilitation of the family with child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. This plan of action has been sent to all the States/UTs for adoption.

Hike in Taxes and its Impact on International Flights

5423. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase landing charges, airport terminal taxes and air-field take off charges by the Government on every international flights at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Ahmedabad and Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, whether all these charges will be included in every international passenger-ticket;

(c) whether this will have adverse impact on international flights from tourists point of view; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

[Translation]

Export of Handloom/Handicraft items

5424. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA :
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for export of handloom and handicraft items during the Eighth Five Year Plan alongwith the achievements made so far; and

(b) the incentives being given to State Governments to boost the export of such items?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) Export targets are fixed on a year to year basis. The annual export targets, and the achievements against them, in respect of cotton handloom products and handicraft items from 1992-93 onwards are given below :

(In million US \$)

Year	Cotton handloom fabrics/made ups		Handicraft Items	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1992-93	316.00	356.89	839.00	830.04
1993-94	410.56	413.66	946.83	1071.30
1994-95	476.00	479.19	1234.00	1419.59
1995-96	500.00	N.A.	1542.00	N.A.

N.A. : Not available

(b) Export incentives are not provided to State Governments. However, in order to step up exports of handloom and handicrafts items. Government have been taking a number of steps which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and

exhibitions; special arrangements for duty-free imports of raw materials for export production; product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

[English]

Loan Facility to Foreign Investors

5425. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign companies have requested the Government to provide soft loans through Development Import Finance Facility to foreign investors in selected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The establishment of a Development Import Finance Facility to provide soft loans to foreign investors in selected areas is not currently under consideration of Government of India.

Funding of K.V.I.C.

5426. SHRI RAJ NARAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has introduced new guidelines for the nationalised banks to grant credit to the large borrowers during April, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some new schemes have also been announced for funding of Khadi and Village Industries Commission and Primary Weaver's Cooperative Society for the year 1995-96;

(d) if so, the details thereof together with the funds allocated therefor;

(e) whether the loaning to the village industry is proposed to be made directly by the KVICs State Khadi Boards; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. With a view to bringing about discipline in the utilisation of bank credit and gain better control over the credit flow, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the monetary and credit policy for the first half of 1995-96 announced on April 17, 1995 has introduced a 'Loan System' for delivery of bank credit. For borrowers with assessed Maximum Permissible Bank Finance (MPBF) of Rs. 20 crores or above, it will henceforth be mandatory for banks/consortia/ syndicates to restrict the cash

credit component to 75% of the MPBF. The balance of 25% of the MPBF, or any part thereof may be sanctioned by way of a short term loan for working capital purposes by the banks/consortia/syndicates, in conformity with the existing lending discipline/guidelines for appraisal and monitoring, availability of security/drawing power, etc. Banks will have the freedom to charge interest rate on the "cash credit component" and the "loan component" subject to the observance of the prime lending rate fixed by the banks.

(c) to (f). In the monetary and credit policy, RBI announced the formation of a consortium of select public sector banks, with State Bank of India as the leader, to provide Rs. 1000 crores to Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for onlending to viable khadi and village industrial units either directly or through State Level Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs). These loans will be provided at 1.5 per cent below the average prime lending rates of five major banks in the consortium.

RBI has also announced in its monetary and credit policy that in order to increase the flow of credit to the large number of weavers employed in the handloom sector, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) will make available a line of credit to commercial banks at 9.5 per cent per annum. Banks will use these funds to make available credit to the handloom cooperatives at the same rate provided a subsidy of 2.5 per cent is received from the State Government.

Investment by Institutions in Small Savings

5427. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the investment provision for institutions in National Savings Schemes;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes in which the institutions cannot invest now; and

(c) the reasons for this decision?

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

(b) Investments by the institutions in Kisan Vikas Patras, Post Office Time Deposit Accounts and National Savings Certificates have been discontinued with effect from 1.4.95. However, investment by Trusts, Charitable Endowments, Regimental Funds and Welfare funds will continue.

(c) Small Savings Schemes are essentially meant to mobilise savings of individuals and encourage a habit of thrift among them. Recently, there had been increasing recourse to these schemes by institutions for whom these schemes were not originally intended.

Export of Fishes

5428. SHRI PROBEN DEKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether various types of ornamental fishes are available in the rivers, lakes and ponds in Assam which has got a good export market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). yes, Sir. There are nearly 32 varieties of ornamental fishes available in Assam and Meghalaya waters, which have a potential for export;

(c) Some steps taken for enhancing the export of ornamental fishes include :

(i) Launching of the Ornamental Fish Export Project under the Indo-Dutch Bilateral Programme for surveying fresh water ornamental fishes in the North Eastern States.

(ii) Conducting 3 workshops at Gauhati, Agartala and Manipur for imparting knowledge in collection, acclimatization, packing and transportation of ornamental fishes.

(iii) Organising an Ornamental Fish Show in Japan for popularising Indian ornamental fishes.

Financial Assistance to SSIs by SIDBI

5429. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India propose to provide financial assistance to small scale units to strengthen their export capabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the criteria laid down in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide similar assistance to the small scale units of Kerala; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has in April, 1995 introduced a Technology Development and Modernisation Fund Scheme for providing direct financial assistance to small scale industrial (SSI) units in order to strengthen their export capabilities. The eligibility criteria for assistance under the Scheme inter alia include :

(i) SSI units including ancillary units which go in for modernisation/technology upgradation,

the outlay in land and building should not exceed 25% of the outlay on modernisation/technology upgradation programme.

- (ii) The units should be in operation atleast for a period of three years.
- (iii) Units which are already exporting their products or have the potential to export atleast 25% of their output by adopting the modernisation scheme; and
- (iv) Units which are not in default to institutions or banks.

SIDBI had also introduced in September 1994 a scheme for direct financial assistance to SSI units for acquisition of ISO 9000 series certificates in order to help SSI units to compete in the international market and increase their exports.

(c) and (d). SIDBI, an all India financial institution, provides financial assistance to units in the small scale sector all over the country.

Remunerative Prices to Tobacco Growers

5430. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total quantity of tobacco grown in Karnataka during 1994-95;
- (b) whether a large quantity of tobacco are lying with farmers in Karnataka without being lifted by the Tobacco Board;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the tobacco growers of Karnataka have demanded remunerative prices for their crops;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken to lift the entire stock of tobacco grown in Karnataka and to provide remunerative prices to growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The total quantity of Virginia Tobacco grown in Karnataka during 1994-95 is about 25 million kgs (M. Kgs) of which 22.15 M. Kgs was marketed in the 1994 auction season. It is estimated that the balance consisting mainly of scrap, bits and low grades was disposed off by growers outside the Board's auction platforms.

(d) to (f). Tobacco growers of Karnataka had represented for remunerative prices on the auction floors. Against a minimum support price of Rs. 21 per Kg, trade had declared a minimum guaranteed price of Rs. 25 per Kg whereas the average price realisation in the 1994 season has been Rs. 25.32 per Kg.

Although the Tobacco Board had only authorised production of 20.01 M. Kgs of Virginia Tobacco in Karnataka, both registered and unregistered growers were permitted to sell excess tobacco resulting in total auction platform sales of 22.15 M. Kgs.

Pension to Air India Staff

5431. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

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

(a) whether the Government have given the benefit of pension to Air India staff after retirement; and

(b) if so, since when the pension scheme has been implemented and financial implication involved?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Approval of the Government has been given to the introduction of a Self-contributory and Self-supporting superannuation pension scheme from 1.4.1994. Air India's contribution to this scheme for all the employees together would be restricted to Rs. 100/- only per year. No additional financial commitment will be made by Air India.

Flying Returns Programme

5432. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced "Flying Returns Programme" in Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response to this programme;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more facilities to encourage the programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). Air India and Indian Airlines have jointly launched the Frequent Flier Programme w.e.f. 1st June, 1994. Under the Programme members can collect mileage points on both International and domestic flights, which they can redeem for free tickets on either Air India and Indian Airlines. Members will be provided additional facilities after tie-ups with hotels/credit card companies and car rental services are negotiated. At present, about twenty thousand persons are enrolled as members under the scheme.

[Translation]

Infrastructure and Modern Facilities at Airports

5433. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have formulated any new scheme to provide basic infrastructure and other modern facilities at various airports of the country;

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

(c) the names of the airports which have been included in the first phase of this scheme alongwith the names of the States where these airports are located; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the said scheme and the time by which the work on the said scheme is likely to be started?

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

In the 8th Five Year Plan, Airports Authority of India has proposed an outlay of Rs. 1950 crores. Major projects envisaged by the Authority include the following:

- (i) Modernisation of air traffic control services at Bombay and Delhi Airports.
- (ii) Procurement of Airport Surveillance Radars and Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars.
- (iii) Procurement of Instrument Landing Systems.
- (iv) Development of Model airports.
- (v) Construction of International Passenger Terminal Complex (Phase-III) at Bombay airport.
- (vi) Construction of Domestic Terminal Complex (Phase-II) at Bombay airport.

Air Crash and Loss Suffered

5434. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :
SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS :

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

(a) the details of the air crashes occurred during the last two years;

(b) the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof;

(c) the number of the air crashes in which black boxes of the aircraft were located and the nature of defects in the aircraft came to light through these black boxes; and

(d) the steps taken to remedy the situation and to ensure that such defects do not occur again?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). During the last two years, there have been 24 accidents to civil registered aircraft in India. 91 persons received fatal injuries, 6 aircrafts were destroyed, 16 aircrafts were substantially damaged and two aircraft suffered minor damage.

(c) Out of 24 aircraft which were involved in air crashes, 5 were fitted with black boxes. No defect in aircraft came to light during replay of these black boxes.

(d) Efforts are constantly made to upgrade the level of air safety in the operation of all types of aircraft by upgrading the facilities at the airports, monitoring of flight recorders, safety audit of airlines, adherence to laid down procedures and weather minima, dissemination of safety information, carrying out periodic inspection of aerodromes, conducting safety seminars, and implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents.

Export of Consultancy Services

5435. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign exchange through export of consultancy services during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the consultancy services operating under public and private sectors in the country are facing crisis due to the role of foreign consultants in each of the foreign aided projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from Indian Export Organisation Committee in regard to consultancy services;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether a conference on the development of consultancy trade in the developing countries was organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation in Geneva;

(g) if so, the details of main recommendations made; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Foreign Exchange earnings from export of consultancy services including computer software during the last three years have been as under :

(In Rs. Crores)	
Year	Foreign Exchange earned
1992-93	831
1993-94	1369
1994-95	1700 (Estimated)

(Source : FIEO)

The above figures indicate a steady rise in export of consultancy services.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g). A Global Preparatory Meeting for the Consultation on Consultancy Engineering Services was organised by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) at Geneva from June 20-22, 1994. The meeting recommended measures to ameliorate constraints in the development of consulting engineering services in developing countries, through national governments, national consultancy promotion agencies, and international bodies. The recommendations included regulation of consulting engineering services at national level, skill upgradation of consultants, acceptance of local consultants as lead consultants and their greater participation in multilateral funded projects, and encouraging local consultants in technology transfer as well as their interaction with R&D organisations.

(h) The recommendations of the meeting appear to be relevant and useful for the development of consultancy capabilities at national level for domestic as well as export markets, and will be implemented to the extent possible by the Government. Strong consultancy capabilities will help in accelerating our technological and industrial development.

Revenue Loss due to Prohibition

5436. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the States which have declared prohibition in their respective States are suffering revenue receipt losses upto a great extent;

(b) if so, whether some States have requested for financial assistance to compensate the revenue losses in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) in its report (for 1995-2000) submitted to the Govt. of India in November, 1994 has indicated that it has taken note of the prohibition policy by certain States like Gujarat and Tamil Nadu and more recently by Andhra Pradesh and Orissa apart from some of the North-Eastern States. The States concerned had impressed upon the TFC the need for compensating them for the losses on this account as they had taken these measures in furtherance of the Directive Principles of the State Policy. The TFC has adjusted the base year estimates of States' revenues taking into account the effect of the prohibition policy of the State on its excise revenues and made projections on that basis. The recommendations of the TFC have been accepted by the Govt. of India.

Recently, Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Government of India for 100%

compensation to the State for the loss of excise revenues on account of full prohibition, which was stated to be between Rs. 1250 crores and Rs. 1300 crores per annum.

The Annual Plan of the State for 1995-96 has been finalised between Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh at Rs. 3159 crores with State's own resources of Rs. 91.09 crores and Central support of Rs. 3067.91 crores.

There is no commitment to provide any further Central support for implementing total prohibition in Andhra Pradesh at present.

[English]

Foreign Tourists visited Goa

5437. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign tourists visited Goa during each of the last three years and the amount earned from them;

(b) the quantum of income shared with the State Government to upgrade and modernise tourist infrastructure in Goa during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government also propose to provide special and liberal financial assistance to Goa for strengthening and modernising tourist facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). The income from tourism is received by the providers of tourist service who are mainly in the private sector and not by the Government. However, financial assistance is provided by the Department of Tourism, Government of India to upgrade and modernise tourist infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from State Government within the guidelines.

The quantum of Central Assistance to Goa during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 and the number of foreign tourists who visited during the last three years were as follows :

Year	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	42.71
1993-94	78.82
1994-95	109.15

Number of foreign tourists visited Goa :

Year	Number of foreign tourists
1992	1,21,442
1993	1,70,658
1994	2,10,191

Funds for Handloom Sector

5438. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU :
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for increasing the allocation of funds for development of handloom sector in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) to (c). The allocation of fund by the Government is made Scheme-wise and not statewide for the development of handloom sector all over the country. On the basis of proposals received from the state Government of Andhra Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 2177.99 lakhs was sanctioned during 1992-93; Rs. 3063.13 lakhs during 1993-94; and Rs. 2732.43 lakhs during 1994-95.

Export of Cotton Yarn

5439. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the ceiling fixed for export of cotton yarn for the year 1995 and the domestic demand against that figure;

(b) the quantity of cotton yarn exported from Gujarat and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the export of cotton yarn in order to control the price of yarn in the domestic market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) to (d). After careful consideration of all relevant factors such as production and domestic demand in respect of raw cotton, production and prices of cotton yarn, requirement of yarn for decentralised handloom sector etc., the Government has taken a decision to reduce the ceiling for cotton yarn exports for the year 1995. Against a final ceiling of 130 million kgs., for all counts, released during 1994, the ceiling for 1995 has been reduced to 75 million kgs. The reduced ceiling of 75 million kgs. would, however, be applicable only for exports of cotton yarn in count group 1-40s. It has further been decided that out of the ceiling of 75 million kgs., a quantity of 23 million kgs. shall be set apart for exports to quota countries and the balance ceiling of 52 million kgs. shall be distributed bi-annually in two installments of 26 million kgs. each.

The statewide export figures are not maintained.

Bank Branches in Hilly Areas

5440. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have framed any policy for opening public sector bank branches in under developed hilly areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any consideration and relaxation has been given for opening such banks in the hills of Uttar Pradesh where a large number of pension drawing ex-servicemen live;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (e). The aim of the Branch Licensing Policy 1985-90 was to achieve a population coverage of 17,000 (as per 1981 census) per branch office in rural/semi-urban areas of each block in the country as also to eliminate wide spatial gaps in the availability of banking facilities so that a bank branch was available generally within a distance of 10 kms. Considering the peculiar features in hilly/tribal areas and sparsely populated regions, the population criterion was relaxed to 10,000 per branch office to ensure that branch expansion in such areas did not lag behind. It was decided in September, 1990 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for branch expansion for the period 1990-95 that there was no need for evolving any branch expansion programme as such for any specific period with targets like population coverage per bank office as was being done in the past. However, it was felt that there may still be need for a moderate number of additional bank branches in rural areas for more effective administration of the Scheme of Service Area Approach and/or catering to increase in business of some of the existing rural branches. It was also reckoned that additional bank branches may have to be opened in hilly/tribal areas in sparsely populated regions to cater to the banking needs of such areas. In the light of the above reasonings, it was proposed to leave it to the judgement of the individual banks to assess the need on the above basis for additional branches in the respective service areas of their rural branches. Accordingly, banks were advised to make an exercise and submit applications for opening additional branches. While doing so, the banks were advised to give due weightage to the special needs of hilly/tribal areas. The proposals of the banks which conform to the above norms and which are recommended by the concerned State Governments are considered by RBI on merits of each case.

[Translation]

Agreement with Iran on Tourism

5441. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with Iran to boost tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be derived by India as a result of this agreement; and

(d) the details of the discussions held and agreement signed with various countries regarding civil aviation and tourism during the year 1994 till April 30, 1995; and

(e) the details of agreements implemented and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Iran on cooperation in the field of tourism in April, 1995.

(b) Both sides have agreed to cooperate in the areas of exchange of information and technical expertise in respect of tourism promotion and publicity, tourism industries, tourism development projects and such other areas of mutual interest.

(c) The MOU on Tourism Cooperation between India and Iran will promote understanding and friendship and facilitate tourism between the two countries.

(d) and (e). (i) *Tourism* : Bilateral Tourism Cooperation Agreement/MOU have been signed with the following countries during the period 1.1.1994 to 30.4.1995 :

1. Singapore
2. Bulgaria
3. Romania
4. Russian Federation
5. Turkey
6. Iran

The implementation of these tourism related agreements/MOU is an on-going process which helps in strengthening the existing links of friendship and facilitates tourism between the two countries.

(ii) *Civil Aviation* : During the period 1.1.94 to 30.4.95 bilateral civil aviation discussions were held with the following countries :

(1) Kuwait (2) Russia (3) Finland (4) Germany (5) Qatar (6) Israel (7) France (8) Yemen (9) Scandinavian countries (Norway, Sweden and Denmark) (10) Ukraine (11) Oman (12) Malaysia (13) Myanmar (14) Sri Lanka (15) Hong Kong (16) Bangladesh (17) Maldives (18) Brunei (19) Yemen (20) Indonesia and (21) Sudan.

As a result of these discussions, texts of Air Services Agreement were finalised with Ukraine, Scandinavian

countries (Norway, Sweden and Denmark) Finland and Brunei and traffic rights were exchanged as per the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Country	Rights	Exchanged
	Points of call	Addl. frequency
1	2	3
Finland	Granted: Delhi, Bombay and Madras. Obtained : Helsinki & two other points to be specified later	3 frequencies 3 frequencies
Germany	Granted : Madras Calcutta, Combining of Delhi with Calcutta and Calcutta with Madras. Obtained : Berlin and one point in FRG. Combining of 2 points in FRG on 4 frequencies.	3 frequencies for both sides.
France	Granted : Madras (Bombay and Madras may be served on the same flight) Obtained : A third point in France	6 Terminator instead of 7 Transit 7 Terminators instead of 3 Terminators and 4 Transits
Ukraine	Granted : Delhi Obtained : Kiev	2 frequencies (350 seats) 2 frequencies (350 seats)
Israel	Granted: No new points Obtained of call	1 service per week 1 service per week
Mauritius	Granted: No new points Obtained: of call	1 A-340 instead of 1-B-767
Dubai (Emirates)	Granted: No new points obtained: of call	650 seats/week 650 seats/week
Qatar	Granted : Bombay, Madras Obtained : Doha	300 seats/week (Granted till) 300 seats/ weeks (31.5.95)
Sri Lanka	Granted: No new points Obtained: of call	350 seats/week w.e.f June 94 and further 300 seats/week w.e.f. from 1.4.95

1	2	3
Brunei	Granted : Calcutta Obtained : Bander Seri Begawan	2 frequency/ week (capacity limited to 450 seats/week) for both sides
Yemen	Granted : 5th freedom traffic rights between Sharjah and Bombay (For one year only) Obtained	

[English]

Indian Insurance Companies in Foreign Countries

5442. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 161 on March 24, 1995 and state :

(a) whether the Indian Insurance Companies are permitted to operate freely in the USA, UK and other western countries on their own or in partnership with the local companies;

(b) if so, the quantum of foreign business generated by them during 1994-95;

(c) whether the Government have given any assurance to the International Insurance Council mission about opening of Indian insurance market for direct operation by foreign companies or by permitting them to buy the equity of the Indian companies; and

(d) whether the Government have decided to maintain major control over the existing insurance companies in the public sector in the event of partial privatisation?

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

(a) Foreign insurance companies are permitted to operate in the United States (USA), United Kingdom (UK) and other western countries. However, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and one of the subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) viz. New India Assurance Company Limited operate only in the U.K. through their respective branch offices.

(b) The requisite information for the year 1994-95 is as under :

LIC	(i) Sum Assured	£4.02 million*
	(ii) First Premium Income	£0.256 million*
GIC	Premium Income	£5.74 million*

*The figures are tentative.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government has yet not taken a final view on the recommendations of Malhotra Committee Report, which has recommended opening the industry to the private sector.

[Translation]

Debt Burden

5443. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the share of total loan liability on the part of the Central Government and all the State Governments as on December 31, 1994;

(b) the percentage share of debt burden in the gross national income;

(c) whether the total debt burden as percentage of gross national income has been increasing for the last several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps that are being taken to reduce the debt burden?

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

(a) and (b). The total public debt and other liabilities of the Central and State Governments as on 31st March, 1995 (provisional) is Rs. 657835 crore which works out to 72.4% of the GDP.

(c) and (d). The total debt burden as a percentage of GDP was 77.1%, 80.9% and 72.4% at the end of 31st March, 1993, 1994 and 1995 respectively.

(e) Efforts are being made to contain the fiscal deficit during the current year through maximising revenues and limiting the expenditure to the budgeted level.

[English]

Inter Corporate Deposits Markets

5444. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any guidelines have been laid down for regulating the inter-corporate deposits (ICD) market and deployment of its proceeds by the corporates for booking huge borrowing at exorbitant rates in the ICD markets, using the short term funds for acquisitions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and whether its misuse is posing a great threat to the integrity of the financial system;

(c) whether several prominent companies have recently defaulted on their corporate deposits/commercial paper (CP) obligations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to check the misuse of the system and strictly enforce the rules?

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

Loans to SCs/STs in Madhya Pradesh

5445. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loans disbursed by the various nationalised and other banks to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections during the last three years in various State particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) The total amount of the loan recovered till March 31, 1995?

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

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to States for Tourism

5446. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister for CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the financial assistance provided to the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh for promotion of tourism during the last three years; and

(b) the manner in which this amount was utilised by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). On the basis of complete proposals received from the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh during the last three years financial assistance has been sanctioned as detailed below :

Name of State	Amount sanctioned during 1992-95 (Rs. in lakhs)
Uttar Pradesh	431.44
Bihar	211.20
Himachal Pradesh	750.29
Madhya Pradesh	75.54
Total	1468.47

The above amount has been sanctioned for construction of tourist complexes, tourist reception centres, meditation centre, yatri niwases, purchase of adventure sports equipment and organisation of fairs and festivals etc.

Frauds in Cooperative and Nationalised Banks in Gujarat

5447. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of embezzlement in the cooperative and nationalised banks in Gujarat, especially in tribal areas, have come to the notice of the Union Government during April, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount involved in these embezzlements during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Modernisation of Bangalore Airport

5448. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the Bangalore Airport till a new Airport is constructed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and amount allocated for the purpose?

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

(b) The Airports Authority of India has plans to undertake the following works at Bangalore airport :

- (i) Remodelling and expansion of existing terminal building at a cost of Rs. 504 lakhs.
- (ii) Construction of new arrival hall and International block at a cost of Rs. 1370 lakhs.
- (iii) Installation of various Aeronautical Communication Equipments at a cost of Rs. 155 lakhs.
- (iv) Installation of various Ground and Safety equipments at a cost of Rs. 172 lakhs.

Voluntary Income Tax Disclosure Scheme

5449. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the response of the people to the recent Voluntary Income Tax Disclosure Scheme after its declaration;

(b) whether the response to this scheme is not very encouraging;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have made any inquiry into this matter; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make the Scheme successful?

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

(a) The Government has not recently declared any Voluntary Disclosure Scheme for income tax payers. The government had declared the Voluntary Disclosure of Income and Wealth Scheme in 1975. The government had also declared the Amnesty Scheme in 1985 for the income tax payers.

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

Jute Exports

5450. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in its latest study on India's jute exports, the Export-Import Bank has voiced its concern over steady decline of India's jute goods in the world market and suggested measures including identification and development of technology for new value-Added products; and

(b) the steps which his Ministry is taking to spur jute exports to Europe, which is the largest market for jute products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). Exports of jute goods have shown an increasing trend during the last three years.

Government have undertaken a number of measures to boost the export of jute and jute goods to various markets including Europe, viz; participating in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets, liaising with importers and end users, funding R and D activities to develop a new range of diversified jute products to suit consumer preferences, External Market Assistance scheme, setting up of a National Centre for Jute Diversification, launching of a UNDP assisted National Jute Development Programme proportionately funded by the Government of India.

Purchase of New Aircraft

5451. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India propose to purchase some more aircraft;

(b) if so, the number and types of aircraft proposed to be purchased;

(c) the areas in which these new aircraft are likely to be utilised;

(d) the passenger capacity of these aircraft; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent on the purchase of these aircraft and by when the delivery of the new aircraft is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e). Government has not received any proposal from Indian Airlines for acquisition of new aircraft.

Government has already approved the proposal of Air India for the acquisition of two Boeing-747-400 aircraft, to be delivered in July/August, 1996. These aircraft will be deployed on the long haul routes. The seating capacity of each aircraft is 417; the total project cost of these two aircraft with spare engines, spares etc. is Rs. 1137.70 crores.

Grievances of Erstwhile Employees of New Bank of India

5452. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the merger of the New Bank of India (NBI) with the Punjab National Bank (PNB) in September, 1993, employees of the erstwhile New Bank of India had launched a series of agitations to ventilate their grievances;

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

(c) the details of the Memoranda submitted by Members of Parliament in this regard since the merger;

(d) whether the erstwhile employees of NBI have also approached the Courts for redressal of their grievances and discrimination meted out to them by the authorities of the PNB in regard to fixing their seniority and transfer policy vis-a-vis the employees of PNB; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to remove the grievances of the erstwhile employees of NBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Employees of the erstwhile New Bank of India (ENBI) individually and through their unions/associations and Members of Parliament have represented to the Punjab National Bank (PNB) and the Government for redressal of their alleged grievances arising out of merger of the bank with Punjab National Bank. The major grievances are against :

(i) redeployment of surplus staff of ENBI;

(ii) reckoning of service in the scale/grade at the time of merger for the purpose of further promotion of the employees of ENBI, after amalgamation, in the ratio of 2:1;

- (iii) fixation of age of retirement of the officers of ENBI who were recruited as officer or as award staff, between 19.7.1969 and 14.4.1980 at 58 years;
- (iv) calculation of gratuity in respect of workmen staff on basic pay instead of basic pay plus D.A.;
- (v) reduction in perks/certain other facilities.

These issues are also among the subject matter of the petitions filed by the ENBI employees before several Courts of Law. While some Courts have since disposed off the petitions in favour of the PNB and against the petitioners, the petitions in some other Courts are still pending. The matter is, therefore, presently subjudice.

Landing Slots

5453. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to get tough over landing slots in seven tourist airports in Europe, East Asia and the U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have decided to stop granting any new slots in Bombay and Delhi to officially designated airlines of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Air India have been facing difficulties in obtaining commercially viable slots at some of the busy airports abroad. It has, therefore, been decided that availability of viable slots on reciprocal basis will be an important factor for grant of traffic rights keeping in mind also the commercial strategic and national interests.

Promotion of Domestic Tourism

5454. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

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

(a) whether adequate attention is paid for promoting domestic tourism;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the air taxi services introduced for promoting tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Promotion of domestic tourism is a continuous activity. Department of Tourism in the Central Government has inter-alia taken steps to suggest accommodation for domestic tourists by promoting budget accommodation,

camping sites, paying guest accommodation, affordable accommodation at pilgrim centres. Promotion of handicrafts and folk centre has been promoted through financial assistance to craft melas, fairs and festivals.

(c) The scheme of air taxi operation which was introduced by the Government in 1986 has now been converted into regular scheduled service by repealing the Air Corporation Act and allowing these Airlines to print regular schedules for operation within India.

Customs Duty Dues

5455. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of companies, firms and others against whom customs dues and arrears to the tune of Rs. ten crore and above were outstanding as on April 1, 1994 and March 31, 1995, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for such heavy accumulation of dues and arrears; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to recover the dues and arrears?

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

Hongkong Trade Council

5456. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hongkong Trade Council has decided to open its offices in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which these offices are likely start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). During the recent visit of a high level delegation from the Hongkong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) led by its Chairman, it was indicated that HKTDC would soon open its Offices in Delhi and Bombay. No precise time frame for setting up these offices has been indicated by them. Government of India welcomes the decision.

White Paper on Foreign Loan

5457. DR. K.D. JESWANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions for issuance of a detailed "White Paper" on foreign loans borrowed from I.M.F. World Bank, etc., totalling about rupees three lakhs of crores by close of the year 1994;

(b) if so, whether the suggestions have been accepted by the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). External loans are being repaid on due dates according to the terms and conditions of each loan agreement. Government is conscious about the country's external debt liability and keeps a constant watch on the level of country's indebtedness and likely burden of debt servicing. The Government has already taken a number of steps to bring about improvements in revenue receipts, to eliminate inessential and low priority expenditure, to boost export, to increase invisible earnings to ensure efficient import substitution, to increase non-debt creating inflow of foreign funds and to reduce dependence on borrowed funds for financing expenditure.

Both the Houses of Parliament are kept informed of the latest position of the country's external debt and debt service payment in the form of Government of India's publications such as Economic Surveys, External Assistance Brochures and Central Government Budgets. Both the Houses of Parliament are also kept informed of country's external debt in reply to a number of questions. Since the information on external debt is available in these published documents, copies of the which are placed in the library of the House, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for issuance of the detailed white paper on foreign loans borrowed from various sources.

Commercial Loan

5458. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Union Government seeking clearance for external commercial loans during the last three years till date particularly from the State of Maharashtra;

(b) the total number of such applications cleared during the above period;

(c) the total amount of commercial loans cleared during the current years; and

(d) the action taken by the Government for early disposal of the remaining applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be submitted as soon as it is available.

Stake of FIs in I.T.C. Limited

5459. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial institutions having a stake in the equity participation in I.T.C. Limited have ordered a special audit on various financial matters recently;

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

(c) the composition of the special audit team and its terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). ITC Limited is a private sector company and the Board of Directors of the company deals with issues raised in the Board regarding its operations. The nominee directors of Financial Institutions (FIs) on the Board of an assisted company are expected to act in the best interest of the company and also safeguard the interest of the FI concerned. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and FIs as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

Assistance Sanctioned by FIs

5460. DR. G.L. KANAUIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the press report appeared in 'Hindustan Times' dated January 25, 1995 under the caption 'F.I. sanctions up 26% to over Rs. 42,000 cr.'; and

(b) if so, the details of the break-up of the sanction in regard to small, Khadi, tiny and cottage industries?

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

(b) The financial assistance sanctioned by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to small, Khadi, tiny and cottage sector during 1993-94 aggregated to Rs. 3354.1 crores. This included refinance assistance of Rs. 1088.9 crores to State Financial Corporations (SFCs). The assistance sanctioned by SFCs to small sector during 1993-94 was Rs. 1525.1 crores.

[Translation]

Investment in Hongkong

5461. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Hongkong authorities for making Indian investment in their country;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions for such investments; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

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

Resumption of Flights of Vayudoot

5462. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to resume the flights operated by Vayudoot;

(b) if so, the reasons for suspending these flights and also the reasons for their resumption;

(c) whether the Government propose to include new planes in Vayudoot fleet to provide air link to small cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor? —

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e). Due to economic and operational reasons, Vayudoot presently operates to stations in West Bengal and North Eastern States only. With the existing operational fleet Vayudoot is not in a position to expand its services to any more areas. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for acquisition of more aircraft by Vayudoot.

[English]

Misuse of Value Based Advance Licencing Scheme by Exporters

5463. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Value Based Advance Licences are given to export any specific products;

(b) whether a number of exporters are increasing their exports through over-invoicing in order to get high quantum of such licences;

(c) whether the operation of Value Based Advance Licencing Scheme has resulted in huge revenue loss;

(d) whether the M/s. M.S. Shoes Limited scandal has disclosed the specific misuse of these licences by the exporters;

(e) whether the scheme is being abused by exporters in collusion with officials; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government to prevent such misuses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f).
1. Value Based Advance Licences are granted in cases where input-output and value addition norms have been standardised.

2. While some complaints have been received alleging, inter-alia, over-invoicing and mis-declaration, investigations have not revealed general misuse of the Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme. The Scheme envisages duty free imports of inputs required for export production. There is also flexibility built into the scheme. Hence, it would not be correct to presume that there is a loss of revenue.

3. No case about alleged misuse of Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme against M/s. M.S. Shoes Ltd. has been reported.

4. The Scheme is continuously monitored with a view to taking remedial measures whenever found necessary.

ESI Hospitals

5464. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries in Gujarat and locations thereof;

(b) whether the Government propose to upgrade some ESI hospitals and dispensaries in the North Gujarat; and

(c) if so, details of ESI hospitals and dispensaries in that area indentified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):
(a) A Statement showing the requisite information is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

ESI Hospitals and dispensaries in Gujarat

A. HOSTIPTALS		Number
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	3
2.	Kalol (North Gujarat)	1
3.	Baroda	2
4.	Surat	1
5.	Rajkot	1
6.	Bhavnagar	1
B. DISPENSARIES		
1.	Ahmedabad	49
2.	Kalol (Mehsana) (North Gujarat)	3

1	2	3
3.	Cambay	1
4.	Nadiad	2
5.	Himatnagar (PT)	1
6.	Mehsana (North Gujarat)	1
7.	Visnagar (-do-)	1
8.	Viramgam	1
9.	Kadi (North Gujarat)	1
10.	Utilisation Dispensary (Digvijay Cement Co.)	1
11.	Mobile Dispensary, A' bad	1
12.	Baroda	19
13.	Halol	1
14.	Surat	10
15.	Navsari	1
16.	Vapi	2
17.	Kalol	1
18.	Godhra (P.T.)	1
19.	Ankleshwar	2
20.	Bharuch	1
21.	Mobile Dispy. (Halol-Kalol)	1
22.	Rojkot	4
23.	Vankaner	1
24.	Morbi	2
25.	Junagadh	1
26.	Thangadh	1
27.	Surendranagar	2
28.	Dhrangadhra	1
29.	Bhavnagar	4
30.	Jamnagar	3

[Translation]

Rewards to Informers

5465. SHRI KUNJEE LAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain guidelines and time limit has been fixed for payment of reward to informants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are several cases pending for a long time before customs department and various courts waiting for final rewards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for delay in payment of reward to the informants; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for quick disposal of such cases and payment of reward to informants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Guidelines for sanction of reward to informers in the detection of smuggling cases stipulate grant of reward in stages i.e. Advance reward and final reward. Final reward is admissible to informer after conclusion of adjudication proceedings in the case of gold, silver, arms, ammunition and explosives, foreign exchange, narcotics and undeclared goods. For other cases, final reward is admissible after conclusion of appeal proceedings only.

(c) to (f). Sanction of final reward takes sometime to ensure completion of adjudication and appeal proceedings, as laid down in reward instructions. A few cases are pending for grant of reward to informers for more than one year. All cases pending for grant of final reward to informer are closely monitored and the representations received in this regard are promptly attended to.

Loans for Installing Tubewells

5466. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers in Uttar Pradesh who have been given loans by the Cooperative, Commercial and Regional Rural Banks to instal tubewells during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints of irregularities in the disbursement of this financial assistance during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to put a check on such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excise Duty Dues

5467. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the companies, firms and other bodies against whom the excise duty amounting to Rs. ten crores or more was outstanding as on January 31, 1995;

(b) the reasons for such a heavy accumulation of the excise duty; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for recovery of the outstanding amount?

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

[English]

Export of Tender Coconuts

5468. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted any survey to find out the demand for coconuts in the internal market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

Economic Reforms

5469. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to reorient the economic reforms for the benefit of common man;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes chalked out in this regard; and

(c) the new programmes being undertaken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). The basic objective of the economic reforms is to bring about rapid and sustained improvement in the quality of life of the people. Keeping this in view, the Government has accorded the highest priority to promoting sustainable, employment intensive growth in its economic reform policies. This has not only improved the overall economic growth in terms of GDP at constant factor cost from 0.9 per cent in 1991-92 to an estimated 5.3 per cent in 1994-95, but also raised the total employment from only 3 million in 1991-92 to about 6 million in each of the years of 1992-93 and 1993-94. The acceleration of growth along with increase in employment is expected to benefit the common man in the country.

Changes in programmes/policies are a continuous process.

Financial Position of Andhra Bank

5470. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen a critical analysis and action plan on the financial position of the Andhra Bank prepared by the All India Andhra Bank Officers Federation;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

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

Merger of IFCI and IDBI

5471. DR. R. MALLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to merge the IFCI and IDBI;

(b) whether there is a duplication of functions between IFCI and IDBI;

(c) the details of large investments made by IFCI in the equity of blue chip companies;

(d) the details of such investments, company-wise, as on date; and

(e) the efforts made to improve the functioning of IFCI?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Over the years, an integrated structure of development financial institutions both at all-India level and State level has emerged to serve the needs of large, medium and small sector. All India Development Banks such as Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) provide financial assistance to medium and large industries. It may be added that IDBI also serves as the principal financial institution for co-ordinating, in conformity with national priorities, the working of institutions engaged in financing, promoting or developing industry.

(c) As on March 31, 1995, IFCI's total investment in equity portfolio aggregated Rs. 321.35 crores in the shares of 723 companies.

(d) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(e) IFCI has reported that it has streamlined its sanction procedure by setting up a Top Management Committee, consisting of senior executives to grant 'in principle clearance' to every proposal within a time-frame. A monthly review meeting of Heads of all regional/branch offices is also held by IFCI to monitor the progress of sanctions, disbursements and recovery of dues from the assisted concerns. Prompt attention is given to complaints received from entrepreneurs.

[*Translation*]**Lending System of LIC**

5472. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the lending by LIC for water supply/ sewage schemes is only upto 50 per cent of the total cost of such projects;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India provides any loan for the cost escalation;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

PATTERN OF FINANCING

Cost of Scheme	Present Pattern	
	Urban	Rural
Where the cost does not exceed Rs. 1.00 crore	2/3rd of the cost	50% of the cost
Where the cost exceeds Rs. 1.00 crore but does not exceed Rs. 5.00 crores	Rs. 0.67 crore plus 50% of the cost exceeding Rs. 1.00 crore	Rs. 0.50 crore plus 50% of the cost exceeding Rs. 1.00 crore
Where the cost exceeds Rs. 5.00 crore but does not exceed Rs. 10.00 crores	Rs. 2.67 crore plus 40% of the cost exceeding Rs. 5.00 crore	Rs. 2.50 crore plus 40% of the cost exceeding Rs. 5.00 crores
Where the cost exceeds Rs. 10.00 crores	Rs. 4.67 crore plus 25% of the cost exceeding Rs. 10.00 crores	Rs. 4.5 crore plus 25% of the cost exceeding Rs. 10.00 crores

LIC have reported that they consider financing overrun to the extent of 25% of the difference between the revised estimated cost and the original estimated cost, only once for any ongoing scheme. This is subject to administrative approval being accorded for the revised estimated cost and an undertaking being furnished by the State Government for providing necessary funds for meeting the balance cost of the scheme. LIC have reported that this financing pattern has been prescribed to enable them to fund a large number of small schemes for the local bodies. Cities with a population of more than 20,000 will be covered under the urban pattern of financing. There is no separate proposal under consideration of LIC at present to provide loans to the extent of 70% of the approved cost for potable water/ sewage disposal schemes in such cities.

[*English*]**Foreign Tourists**

5473. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of foreign tourists visited during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by each State during the above period; and

(c) the reasons for decline in visit of foreign tourists and earning of foreign exchange and remedial steps taken?

(e) the steps taken by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to provide 70 per cent loan out of the total cost approved for the drinking water/sewage schemes in the cities having a population of more than 20,000 and also sanction loan on revised scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that they grant loans to Water Supply and Sewerage Boards/Municipalities/State Governments every year for financing water supply/sewage schemes on the basis of allocation made by the Planning Commission. The present pattern of financing water supply and sewerage schemes is as under :

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Information available from the state Governments on the number of foreign tourists who visited various states during the years 1992, 1993 and 1994 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Estimated foreign exchange earnings through tourism during 1992, 1993 and 1994 were Rs. 5886.95 crores, Rs. 6141.81 crores and Rs. 7103.53 crores respectively. There is, however, no system to assess the foreign exchange earnings state-wise from foreign tourists visiting various states within the country.

(c) There has been no decline in foreign tourists and foreign exchange earnings during 1994 as compared to 1993.

STATEMENT

<i>Estimated State-wise Foreign -Tourist Visits</i>				
S.No.	States	1992	1993	1994
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39665	31327	48720
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	26	0	N.A.
3.	Assam	431	436	N.A.

1	2	3	4	5
4. Bihar	66002	68444	N.A.	
5. Goa	121442	170658	210191	
6. Gujarat	2329	2948	6001	
7. Haryana	887	1246	1284	
8. Himachal Pradesh	17775	12194	N.A.	
9. Jammu & Kashmir	9149	8026	N.A.	
10. Karnataka	48717	45818	N.A.	
11. Kerala	200106	204319	N.A.	
12. Madhya Pradesh	37500	37875	N.A.	
13. Maharashtra	708300	715383	N.A.	
14. Manipur	405	194	N.A.	
15. Meghalaya	252	408	N.A.	
16. Mizoram	8	15	715	
17. Nagaland	69	64	N.A.	
18. Orissa	26639	24856	26024	
19. Punjab	226	600	N.A.	
20. Rajasthan	547802	540738	436801	
21. Sikkim	6763	7132	N.A.	
22. Tamil Nadu	414424	450373	496721	
23. Tripura	700	2	N.A.	
24. Uttar Pradesh	102004	82456	N.A.	
25. West Bengal	132240	125674	163208	
26. Arunachal Pradesh	1632	1308	N.A.	
27. Chandigarh	6786	6782	N.A.	
28. Daman and Diu	N.A.	N.A.	3341 (Diu)	
29. Delhi	587534	627558	N.A.	
30. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	
31. Lakshadweep	1726	1743	N.A.	
32. Pondicherry	10744	10851	N.A.	

Indo-Japanese Conference

5474. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian delegation attended Indo-Japanese Conference held in Tokyo in April, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed at the Conference;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed by the said delegation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) An Indian delegation sponsored by the Joint Business Councils, participated in the 26th Joint Meeting of India-Japan Business Cooperation Committees held in Tokyo in April 6-7, 1995.

(b) The issues discussed during the meeting included economic situation in each of the countries, expansion of bilateral trade, Japanese investment in India, bilateral cooperation in tourism sector etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Black Money in Film Industry

5475. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment about the role of black money in film industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the use of black money in film industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). Although the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in its report (made in 1983-84) titled 'Aspects of Black Economy in India' identified Film industry as one of the important sectors generating black money, no assessment about the role of black money in film industry has been made and, therefore, it is not possible to furnish details in this regard.

(c) As and when specific instances of tax evasion are observed or any information relating thereto received/gathered, appropriate action is taken as per the Income Tax Act to bring to tax such tax evaded income.

[Translation]

Direct Flight from India to Myanmar

5476. SHRI MANJAY LAL :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

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

(a) whether the air passengers are compelled to pay fare manifold to go to Myanmar via Dhaka and Thailand due to non-availability of direct flight to Myanmar from India;

(b) whether the Government propose to link India and Myanmar with direct air service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). At present there is no direct air service between India and Myanmar. Indian Airlines has no immediate proposal to introduce a direct service on the route.

*[English]***Tax Outstanding**

5477. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of outstanding Central taxes at present including corporate tax together with outstanding amount due to levy of penalties, attachments and sale of property;

(b) the number of cases pending in different courts, tribunals and arbitration, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to collect the outstanding demands?

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

(a) The amounts of outstanding Central Taxes are as under :

Name of Tax	Amount outstanding (Rs. in crores)
1. Income Tax (including Corpn. Tax)	12,724.00 (as on 28.2.95)
2. Central Excise	2597.38 (as on 31.12.94)
3. Customs	110.06 (as on 31.12.94)

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

(c) All administrative and legal steps are taken to collect the outstanding demands.

Restriction on Import of CFC Gases

5478. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed restrictions on the import of Chloro Fluoro Carbons (C.F.C.) gases in the revised Export Policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Indian manufacturers of C.F.C. gases are operating as a cartel and have been raising prices excessively to the detriment of large number of units in the small and medium sectors of industry inspite of reduction in import duty on raw materials and excise duty; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). No change has been made in the policy for import of Chloro Fluoro Hydro Carbons (CFCs) in the Revised Edition of the Export and Import Policy as on 31.3.1995. Import of Chloro Fluoro Hydro Carbons (Freon Gases) continues to be in the Negative List of Import on account of "Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer". Applications for import of Chloro Fluoro Hydro Carbons (Freon Gases), as and when received, are considered on merits and import licences for the import of the same are issued.

**Grievances of SC/ST Employees
Association of A.I.U.B.**

5479. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Union Bank's (AIUB) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Employees Association has ventilated their grievances to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof since July 1994; and

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

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

(a) to (c). All India Union Bank SC/ST Employees Association had represented and agitated for restoration of 370 vacancies in recruitment to the Officers Cadre of the Bank which were lapsed by it during the period 1972-82 owing to non-availability of suitable SC/ST candidates. Later in February 1994 it was decided in consultation with the Association to refer the matter to the Department of Personnel and Training and the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SC/ST.

The Hon'ble Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of SC/ST in a representation to it in terms of the above understanding advised that necessary action, in terms of the relevant conduct rules, may be taken in the matter as deemed fit for not following proper procedures before dereserving the lapsed vacancies. The bank has been advised accordingly.

Loss/Profits by Indian Banks in Foreign Countries

5480. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the net profits or losses made by each Indian nationalised banks operating abroad during each of the last three years;

(b) the net profits or losses made by each of the foreign banks operating in India during the same years;

(c) the profits or losses made by all the nationalised banks in India during the same period;

(d) whether there is a considerable fall in the performance of Indian banks vis-a-vis the foreign banks in view of (a), (b), and (c) above; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

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

Reservation Policy in Nationalised Banks

5481. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the nationalised banks wherein Reservation Policy is being followed;

(b) the reasons for not following the Reservation Policy in some other banks; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that all nationalised banks implement the reservation policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) All the nationalised banks are following the reservation policy in favour of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, physically handicapped and Ex-servicemen in terms of Government's guidelines/instructions applicable to them.

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

Five Star and Three Star Hotels

5482. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

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

(a) the names of the places, State-wise, where five star and three star hotels are being run by the Union Government and private sector, separately, at present;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to open more such hotels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the income and expenditure of hotels run by Union Government during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The information in respect of the ITDC hotels is given in the enclosed statement-I. The information in respect of the private sector hotels is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c). The Annual Plan, 1995-96 of ITDC does not envisage any specific plan/scheme/provision for setting up any new hotel.

(d) The details of the income and expenditure of the hotels run by ITDC during the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise List of 5 Star Hotels and 3 Star Hotels Being Run by ITDC at Present

S. No.	Name of the State	Name of City/Place	No. and Name of 5 Star hotels	No. and Name of 3 Star hotels
1.	Delhi	Delhi	1. Ashok Hotel	1. Lodhi Hotel
		Delhi	2. Samrat Hotel	2. Ranjit Hotel
		Delhi	3. Qutab Hotel	
2.	Bihar	Bodhgaya		1. Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok
		Patna		2. Hotel Pataliputra Ashok
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Manali		1. Hotel Manali Ashok
4.	Kerala	Kovalam	1. Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort	
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore	1. Hotel Ashok	
		Mysore	2. Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel	
6.	Madhya Pradesh	Khajuraho		1. Hotel Khajuraho Ashok
7.	Tamil Nadu	Mamallapuram		1. Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort
		Madurai		2. Hotel Madurai Ashok
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	1. Hotel Agra Ashok	
9.	West Bengal	Calcutta	1. Hotel Airport Ashok	
			8 Hotels	8 Hotels

STATEMENT-II

INDIA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

Statement showing Turnover, Total Expenditure and Net Profit/Loss for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 in respect of Hotels

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Unit	1993-94			1994-95		
	Turnover	Total Exp.	Net Profit/Loss	Turnover	Total Exp.	Net Profit/Loss
Agra Ashok Agra	177.60	174.85	2.75	132.19	171.65	-39.46
Airport Calcutta	736.00	797.38	-61.38	813.16	858.58	-45.42
Ashok Bangalore	816.24	816.70	-0.46	1000.72	956.30	44.42
Ashok New Delhi	2866.35	2418.23	448.12	4092.00	2981.99	1110.01
AYN, New Delhi	459.67	547.07	-87.40	521.17	519.27	1.90
Aurangabad Ashok	82.26	94.32	-12.06	68.67	86.54	-17.87
Bodhgaya Ashok	81.96	72.58	9.38	75.70	67.74	7.96
Hassan Ashok	81.97	67.45	14.52	95.00	77.89	17.11
Jaipur Ashok	165.95	157.63	8.32	150.51	157.60	-7.09
Jammu Ashok	57.84	71.00	-13.16	51.08	73.41	-22.33
Janpath Hotel	780.98	648.66	132.32	862.38	692.33	170.05
Klinga Ashok	90.80	128.56	-37.76	116.06	147.47	-31.41
Kanishka Hotel	1380.68	1187.67	193.01	1456.36	1188.08	268.28
Khajuraho Ashok	59.47	63.00	-3.53	35.51	58.61	-23.10
KABR, Kovalam	551.88	471.49	80.39	686.00	567.28	118.72
LMPH Mysore	301.13	193.33	107.80	319.62	209.81	109.81
LVPD Udaipur	220.03	124.69	95.34	216.94	139.13	77.81
Lodhi Hotel	416.20	365.79	50.41	460.50	395.86	64.64
Madurai Ashok	102.02	104.70	-2.68	104.70	101.29	3.41
Manali Ashok	42.32	46.32	-4.00	52.08	39.72	12.36
Pataliputra Ashok	118.38	127.32	-8.94	101.41	126.41	-25.00
Qutab Hotel	368.89	332.74	36.15	453.28	322.44	130.84
Ranjit Hotel	185.01	257.08	-72.17	225.67	292.01	-66.34
Samrat Hotel	1033.73	1055.65	-21.92	1161.14	1043.27	117.87
TABR, Mamallapuram	73.02	83.86	-10.84	107.76	86.66	21.10
Varanasi Ashok	194.82	209.62	-14.80	143.54	185.63	-42.09
Total	11445.20	10617.69	827.51	13503.51	11546.97	1956.18

[Translation]

Trade Bloc of Coastal Countries of Indian Ocean

5483. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of South-Africa has suggested to set-up a Trade Block of the Coastal Countries of Indian Ocean during his visit in January, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c). The Government is favourably inclined to the suggestion for cooperation among the Indian Ocean Rim countries.

India recently participated in an expert level meeting of 7 Indian Ocean Rim countries (viz ; Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman Singapore and South Africa) convened by Mauritius at Port Louis on March 29-31, 1995. The meeting agreed on the principles, objectives and future action programmes of an Indian Ocean Rim initiatives beginning with these countries to promote cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology, Tourism and Human Resource Development.

[English]

New Airports in North Eastern States

5484. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct new airports in the North Eastern States and provide more facilities in the existing parts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to upgrade the existing airports of these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to set up new airports at Lengpui in Mizoram and Tura in Meghalaya.

(c) to (e). Upgradation of airports is a continuing process and is taken up in phased manner depending upon projected requirement and availability of resources. Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade the airports at Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, North Lakhimpur, Imphal, Dimapur and Agartala in North Eastern States.

Drug Menace

5485. SHRI TARA SINGH :
SHRI N. DENNIS :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "India, Pakistan to fight drug menace along Sind border" appeared in 'Statesman' dated April 8, 1995;

(b) if so, whether India and Pakistan have jointly agreed to launch exercise to combat trafficking of heroin;

(c) if so, the number of arrests made at Sind border on charges of smuggling of drugs; and

(d) the extent to which the joint exercise are going to check the smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). yes, Sir. In the second Secretary-level bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan, which was held at Islamabad, Pakistan in April, 1995, it was decided to launch controlled delivery operations to unearth acetic anhydride smugglers from India to Pakistan and heroin smugglers from Pakistan to India. It was also decided that, to start with, these operations would be planned across the Sind-Rajasthan border.

(c) During the year 1994, 23 persons were reported to have been arrested in districts which border on Sind.

(d) Controlled deliveries can help enforcement agencies to take action big traffickers.

Export Promotion Industrial Parks

5486. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR :
SHRI N.J. RATHVA :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for setting up of Export Promotion Industrial Parks from the State Governments during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

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

(c) whether the Government have cleared all these proposals;

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

(e) if not, the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Government had received 11 proposals in 1994-95 from the State Governments for setting up of Export Promotion Industrial Parks. Another 3 proposals were received during 1995-96. Details of these proposals are enclosed as Statement.

All 14 proposals have been cleared.

STATEMENT*Export Promotion Industrial Parks*

S. No.	Name of State Govt.	Location of EPIP	Project Cost excluding cost of land
1	2	3	4
PROPOSALS RECEIVED IN 1994-95			
1.	Punjab	Dhandari Kalan Distt. Ludhiana.	Rs. 18.51 Crores
2.	Maharashtra	Ambarnath, Distt. Thane.	Rs. 14.82 Crores
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Baddi, Distt. Solan.	Rs. 9.99 Crores
4.	Rajasthan	Sitapura, Distt. Jaipur.	Rs. 16.62 Crores
5.	Karnataka	Hoodi, Distt. Bangalore.	Rs. 15.01 Crores
6.	Kerala	Kakkanad Distt. Ernakulam.	Rs. 19.57 Crores

1	2	3	4
7.	Haryana	Kundli, Distt. Sonapat.	Rs. 14.85 Crores
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Surajpur, Distt. Ghaziabad.	Rs. 18.50 Crores
9.	Tamil Nadu	Gummidi- poondi Distt. Chengai-MGR	Rs. 14.62 Crores
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Pashamylaram, Distt. Medak.	Rs. 13.95 Crores
11.	Gujarat	Savli, Distt. Baroda.	Rs. 16.00 Crores
PROPOSALS RECEIVED IN 1995-96			
12.	Bihar	Hajipur, Distt. Vaishali.	Rs. 14.11 Crores
13.	West Bengal	Durgapur, Distt. Burdwan.	Rs. 13.12 Crores
14.	Meghalaya	Byrnihat, Distt. Ribhoi.	Rs. 13.00 Crores

Import of Consumer Goods

5487. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA :
SHRI LALL BABU RAI :
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :
SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any rational policy of the Government regarding import of consumer goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to solve inter-ministerial controversies in the matter;

(d) whether the Government have taken some steps to contain the unnecessary and rampant import of such goods in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the steps being taken to plug the loopholes in the existing system; and

(g) the details of future plan fixed in this regard?

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

(a) and (b). Under the current Export and Import Policy 1992-97, as amended import of all consumer goods, howsoever described, of industrial, agricultural, mineral or animal origin whether in SKD/CKD condition or ready to assemble sets or in finished forms is not permitted to be imported except against a license or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf. However, 75

items of consumer nature are freely importable. In addition, a variety of items of consumer nature are permitted to be imported under Special Import Licences. The permissible imports are however subject to the applicable tariffs. Rationalisation of Customs duties and import policies for consumer goods with a view to a suitable tariff-cum-OGL import regime has been incorporated in a Discussion Paper.

(c) to (g). The Policy changes in the Export Import Policy including that for consumer goods are formulated after inter-ministerial consultations. Implementation is monitored by concerned Government agencies and individual application for import of consumer goods, which are subject to licensing procedure, are also considered in an Inter-ministerial Committee which recommends issue of import licences on the merit of each case, keeping in view various factors like indigenous availability and the necessity of imports.

[English]

Insurance Claims of Car Theft/Accidents

5488. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of insurance claims arising out of car theft and car accidents cases pending with the different insurance companies as on date;

(b) whether the procedural delays in setting the claims are against the interest of insured persons;

(c) whether the Government contemplate any reforms to ensure time-bound settlement of these claims;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):
(a) 68,087, as on 31.3.1994.

(b) Insurance companies have laid down the minimum procedure require for safeguarding the interests of the insurers and the insured.

(c) to (e). The Malhotra Committee Report on Reforms in the Insurance Sector contains certain recommendations for expediting settlement of claims. These recommendations are under active consideration of the Government.

New Cooperative Spinning Mills

5489. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new cooperative spinning mills proposed to be set up in Maharashtra during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the project cost of a mill with 25,000 spindles;

(c) whether the textile mills are required to approach central financial institutions like IDBI, IFCI and ICICI for sanction of long term loan for financing their projects;

(d) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that these financial institutions are not willing to finance new mills;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to persuade the Central financial institutions to agree to sanction term loan assistance to new cooperative spinning mills; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The Government of India does not propose to set up mills in cooperative sector. However, the State Government of Maharashtra has informed of their decision to establish 50 new cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra during VIII Five Year Plan.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra has estimated the cost of a mill with 25,000 spindles to be about Rs. 35 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per information furnished by State Government of Maharashtra, the Central Financial Institutions like IFCI, IDBI and ICICI are not eager to finance new cooperative spinning mills as some of the cooperative spinning mills under production have defaulted the amounts of the financial institutions due to financial difficulties.

(e) and (f). The State Government of Maharashtra have requested Central Financial Institutions to consider proposals of the cooperative spinning mills approaching them for term loan for their projects.

[Translation]

Salt Workers

5490. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the salt workers of Maharashtra are living in extreme poverty;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any scheme for the improvement of their condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which such scheme is likely to be implemented?

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

[English]

Shrimp Farming

5491. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority has encouraged shrimp farming in coastal Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MPEDA has also provided financial incentives to entrepreneurs engaged in shrimp farming;

(d) whether the MPEDA has formulated any guidelines in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). MPEDA have established a regional centre at Vijayawada to promote shrimp farming. In addition it has taken up promotional measures for the development of shrimp farming which include :

(i) Extending subsidy assistance for new farm development and establishment of hatcheries.

(ii) Participating in the equity of aquaculture projects.

(iii) Bringing out a detailed handbook on shrimp farming.

(d) and (e). MPEDA have framed guidelines for extending financial assistance to shrimp farmers under which proposals are first examined by its Field level/ Regional officers and then cleared either by Committees set up under the MPEDA Act or by the Authority. These guidelines inter-alia indicate the rates, maximum level of assistance and conditions under which subsidy is to be provided under different schemes. In the case of equity participation, the guidelines lay down the procedure, percentage of participation and other conditions of assistance.

[Translation]

Deposits in Public Sector Banks

5492. DR. LAL BHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of deposits mobilised by the public sector banks during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the public sector banks in Uttar Pradesh have mobilised more deposits in comparison to the other States;

(c) if so, whether the investment in Uttar Pradesh is less as compared to the deposits mobilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and corrective steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). Deposits, Credit and Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) of Scheduled Commercial Banks in each of the States as at the end of March, 1992, March 1993 and March, 1994 are given in the enclosed statement. Though the credit extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks in relation to deposits mobilised in States as reflected in the CDR vary from States to States. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised the banks that they should achieve a CDR of 60 per cent in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches separately on an all India basis. Banks have also been advised that while it is not necessary that this ratio should be achieved

separately branch-wise, District-wise or Region-wise the banks should nevertheless ensure that wide disparity in the ratios between different state/Regions is avoided in order to minimise imbalances in credit deployment. However, the CDR in a particular State or Region depends upon the credit absorption capacity of the State/Region which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as development of infrastructural facilities like irrigation, power, rail, road, transport, basic and technical education, entrepreneurship and availability of required inputs and marketing outlets for agricultural industrial production etc.

In some of the States having low CDR, RBI have constituted Task Forces to look into the problems and to suggest remedial measures. In others, where CDR is poor and no Task Forces have been constituted, RBI have advised convenor banks of State Level Bankers' Committee of the State to discuss the issue and to take suitable measures for improving the low CDR.

STATEMENT

State-Wise Deposits Credit and Credit Deposit Ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks as at the end of March 1992, March 1993 & March 1994.

States/Union Territories	on the last Friday of March 1992			on the last Friday of March 1993			amount in lakhs		
	Bank Deposits	Bank Credit	Credit Deposit Ratio (Percent)	Bank Deposits	Bank Credit	Credit Deposit Ratio (Percent)	Deposits	Credit	C&D Ratio
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I. Northern Region	47603.18	28217.71	59.3	5460729	3573107	65.4	67765.87	40227.55	59.4
Haryana	4342.48	2455.01	56.5	506399	280980	55.5	5948.21	2990.88	50.3
Himachal Pradesh	1590.86	530.11	33.3	185569	58941	31.8	2187.55	624.58	28.6
Jammu & Kashmir	2011.94	864.32	43.0	223339	99386	44.5	2724.47	1245.04	45.7
Punjab	11063.84	4668.77	42.4	126611	538309	42.5	14852.89	6244.76	42.0
Rajasthan	6150.38	3426.26	55.6	725610	400352	55.2	8630.20	4246.71	49.2
Chandigarh	1590.84	1035.74	65.1	197761	100124	50.6	2251.04	1885.87	83.8
Delhi	20843.83	15237.50	73.1	2355926	2095012	88.9	31171.48	22938.72	73.8
II. North-Eastern Region	3729.20	1656.77	44.4	412324	181184	43.9	4662.33	1834.51	39.3
Arunachal Pradesh	174.00	25.06	14.4	20050	2758	13.8	225.59	29.60	13.1
Assam	2424.02	1190.64	49.1	266785	130058	48.8	3065.88	1311.03	42.8
Manipur	109.16	79.26	72.6	10511	8865	84.3	126.12	90.97	72.1
Meghalaya	382.33	77.12	20.2	45776	7717	16.9	534.85	83.95	15.7
Mizoram	106.54	23.10	21.7	11300	2359	20.9	117.58	24.11	20.5
Nagaland	226.90	88.89	39.2	24170	9761	40.4	235.17	97.62	41.5
Tripura	306.25	172.70	56.4	33726	19665	58.3	357.11	197.19	55.2
III. Eastern Region	33966.69	17146.30	50.5	3877711	1922737	49.6	44646.56	19977.72	44.7
Bihar	9959.63	3936.23	39.5	1110872	431201	38.8	12564.45	4534.50	36.1
Orissa	3022.53	2182.67	72.2	359109	239404	66.7	3995.44	2436.18	61.0
Sikkim	104.52	28.42	27.2	12186	2958	24.3	127.27	27.98	22.0
West Bengal	20815.03	10977.93	52.7	2387625	1246869	52.2	27864.49	1296136	46.5
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	64.97	21.05	32.4	7917	2303	29.1	94.89	17.69	13.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
IV. Central Region	31030,94	15467,35	49.8	3487531	1665882	47.8	40583,88	17175,36	42.3
Madhya Pradesh	8491,56	5411,15	63.7	944403	588581	62.3	10964,41	6162,29	56.0
Uttar Pradesh	22539,38	10056,21	44.6	2543128	1077300	42.4	29619,46	11033,07	37.2
V. Western Region	68453,06	40947,67	59.8	8350329	4902064	58.7	92200,73	53194,68	57.7
Goa	1660,02	512,48	30.9	198785	60761	30.6	2341,56	597,59	25.5
Gujarat	13716,87	7345,19	53.5	1614534	846121	52.4	19157,16	8867,92	46.3
Maharashtra	52987,07	33067,45	62.4	6527720	3992857	61.2	70557,66	43704,91	61.9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	19,11	8,81	46.1	2879	835	29.1	38,33	7,87	20.5
Daman & Diu	69,98	13,75	19.6	8419	1488	17.7	106,01	16,36	15.4
VI Southern Region	48302,63	38775,12	80.3	5818166	43386	74.6	68058,12	47606,76	70.0
Andhra Pradesh	12167,02	9816,21	80.7	1389578	1111736	80.0	16580,27	11853,70	71.5
Karnataka	11216,62	8793,19	78.4	1336673	1003196	75.1	15298,08	10728,11	70.1
Kerala	9386,43	4867,56	51.9	1172671	570667	48.9	14461,38	6412,87	43.3
Tamil Nadu	15153,36	15121,06	99.8	1874515	1633465	87.1	21187,26	18393,12	86.8
Lakshadweep	11,52	1,47	12.8	1361	135	9.9	15,30	1,43	9.3
Pondicherry	367.68	175,63	47.8	43366	19444	44.8	515,81	217,50	42.2
VII All India	233085,69	142210,93	61.0	27406793	16583621	60.5	317917,50	1800016,59	56.6

[English]

Capital for Aviation Industry

5493. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to mobilise private capital for aviation industry;

(b) whether the Government also propose to generate Rs. 1500 crores from Public Sector undertakings;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the other sources from where the Government propose to mobilise the requisite amount?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). To meet the increasing demand of the funds for the Civil Aviation industry, mainly for infrastructural development, Government has conveyed its 'no objection' to proposals for construction of airports of international standard by funds generated by private parties/ public, at Bangalore and Cochin.

(d) Government budgetary support is also being given wherever necessary to meet the funds requirement of Public Sector Undertakings.

[Translation]

Loan to Unemployed Youth under PMRY

5494. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed youths to whom loans were sanctioned under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during 1994-95; and

(b) the total amount disbursed by the banks for this purpose during the above period?

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

(a) As per data made available by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) Ministry of Industry, the number of unemployed youths to whom loans were sanctioned by banks under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the year 1994-95 is 183889 (provisional).

(b) As per the data provided by Reserve Bank of India, the total amount disbursed under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the year 1994-95 is Rs. 324.19 crores (provisional).

[English]

Export of Silk

5495. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the effect of GATT agreement on silk industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the negative effect of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). In the bilateral textile agreements with the major importing countries signed under the MFA, there was no restriction on export of pure silk textile and garment products. The status-quo has been maintained in the 'Agreement on Textiles and Clothing' (ATC) included in the Final Act of Uruguay Round/GATT. As a result of the market access agreements with the U.S. and the E.U. certain items of silk made ups and garments have been placed under Special Import Licence

(SIL) list. These items can be imported only at the normal rate of import duty, which is still appreciable. Also the extent of access through the SIL route is limited. Besides, a specific import duty, as an alternative to the ad valorem import duty, on a whichever is higher basis can be applied, should the need arise, to discourage the import of low priced textile products. Apart from import duty, an additional duty equivalent to the excise duty etc., paid by the domestic industry, can also be imposed on the imports. Because of these reasons, the import of silk made-ups and garment items are not likely to affect this silk industry adversely.

Wool and Woollen Export Promotion Council

5496. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from Wool and Woollen Export Promotion Council in respect of the liberalised EXIM policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). W&WEPC has raised certain issues relating to the EXIM policy covering, inter alia, the matter relating to additional customs duty and the quota policy.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade have informed that before the announcement of the revised edition of EXIM Policy on 30th March 1995, the exporters were facing hardship and were not eligible for transferability of Advance Licences where export obligation was discharged by exporting the goods in respect of which the benefits of Rule 191A and 191B of the Central Excise Rules, 1944 or input stage credit under Rules 56A or 57A of Central Excise Rules, 1944 has been availed of in respect of the inputs used in the manufacture of an export product. Moreover, there was possibility of bestowing double benefits to the exporters, i.e. availing of such benefits as well as of duty free inputs. To avoid this possibility and to simplify procedures, it has been laid down in the new Policy that the material imported under the Duty Exemption Scheme shall be subject to the payment of additional customs duty equal to the excise duty at the time of import and the said additional customs duty shall be adjusted in the prescribed manner.

As regards the problems pertaining to quota the Council has been advised to send a self-contained proposal with full justification.

Amount Released by NABARD

5497. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a considerable amount is yet to be released by the NABARD to various States in respect

of amounts paid by them, under Agriculture and Rural Debt Relief Scheme of 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details of amount to be released; state-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in release of these dues; and

(d) the time by which all overdue amounts are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (d). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that full and final settlement of claims under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (AADR) Scheme, 1990 of most of the co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have already been made except in the case of Jammu & Kashmir State Cooperative Bank, Kamraz Rural Bank, Ellaqui Dehati Bank and Gurgaon Gramin Bank. As on 31.3.1995, NABARD has released an amount of Rs. 3959.390 crores to Cooperative banks by way of grant and loan under the ARDR Scheme. Similarly an amount of Rs. 718.741 crores has been released by NABARD to RRBs by way of grant against the claims preferred by them under the ARDR Scheme, 1990.

Security Agents under ITPO

5498. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has been charging an amount of rupees ten thousand per year towards enlisting security agents;

(b) whether the amount is charged as security deposit or earnest money;

(c) whether the Government provide any facility to these security agents at Pragati Maidan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The amount is being charged as non-refundable registration fee for empanelment of security agencies for rendering security services to private participants inside halls/pavilions/stalls during fairs/exhibitions held in Pragati Maidan.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Government do not provide any facility. However, ITPO provides entry passes to the personnel engaged for security duty, parking facility for vehicles and bare space for camping of security personnel in parking area.

Joint Ventures with Iran

5499. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which Indo-Iran joint ventures have been established;

(b) whether Iran is keen to set up more joint ventures with India;

(c) if so, the details of the proposals submitted by Iran in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Indo-Iran Joint ventures are established in shipping and oil refining sectors.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir; Iran has indicated interest to set up joint ventures with India in the following areas:

- (i) Agricultural convertible industries;
- (ii) Manufacturing of agricultural equipments such as combines with capacity of 1000 units per year;
- (iii) Manufacturing of paper, sugar, animal food, tea, machineries and machine tools;
- (iv) Air Craft Industry;
- (v) Vacuum casting and heavy casting;
- (vi) Textiles including artificial fibres and strings, polyester, acrylic, etc.
- (vii) Textiles machinery manufacturing;
- (viii) Pharmaceuticals including manufacturing of penicillin and cephalosporin.

(d) The Government welcomes the promotion of Indo-Iran economic cooperation through joint ventures.

Indian Tourism Abroad

5500. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to embark upon an aggressive marketing for Indian tourism abroad in order to compete with other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Promotion and Marketing of Indian Tourism Abroad has always been done in a spirit of competition. Steps taken to promote and market India in Overseas Markets include advertising through print and electronic media, printing and distribution of publicity material, extending support to tour operators and travel agents, promote Air Charters for tourists, participation in Fairs and Festivals, promotion through direct mail and highlighting the tourist attractions of the country through films, Audio Visuals, posters, multi-vision presentations and through P.R. and personal contacts. Financial outlays have been substantially stepped up in recent years.

Places of Tourist Interest

5501. SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the places of tourist interest in Gujarat which are on national and international tourist map; and

(b) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of these spots during 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Ahmedabad, Baroda, Junagarh, Palitana, Porbunder, Sasangir and Somnath are among the better known tourist destinations of Gujarat.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

<u>1993-94</u>		
S.No.	Scheme/Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Tourist Complex at Nalsarovar	Rs. 19.68
2.	Cafeteria at Porbunder	Rs. 14.60
3.	Floodlighting of Somnath Temple	Rs. 17.46
4.	Tarnetar Fair	Rs. 2.69
5.	Two units of sprit type sailing yacht	Rs. 4.48
6.	Navratri Festival	Rs. 1.85
		Rs. 60.76
<u>1994-95</u>		
1.	Tourist lodge at Kuda	Rs. 14.50
2.	Assistance for Royal Orient Express	Rs. 5.00
3.	Tarnetar Fair	Rs. 1.69

New Runway at Trivandrum

5502. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the runway of different airports in India are certified by D.G.C.A. (Director General Civil Aviation) or any other authority;

(b) if so, the guidelines thereof;

(c) the time taken to certify the runway after it is made ready;

(d) whether the new runway at Trivandrum airport is ready for certification;

(e) if so, since when;

(f) whether there is any delay in issuing the necessary certificate; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (g). According to the existing guideline, private airports use for commercial flying are licenced by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGACA). Airports belonging to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are not required to obtain licence from DGCA. Trivandrum airport belongs to AAI.

Subsidy for Air Travel for Portblair and Cooch Behar

5503. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide subsidy for air travel for destinations at Portblair and Cooch Behar as is available for destinations in North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). While fares in the North Eastern States and Leh have been fixed at a lower amount by Indian Airlines in comparison to that on routes of similar length in the rest of the country, the Government has not provided any subsidy to Indian Airlines on this account. There is no proposal to reduce air fares in other parts of the country including Portblair and Cooch Behar.

Modernisation of Rajahmundry Airport

5504. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Rajahmundry airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely expenditure to be incurred?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Development of Rubber Plantation

5505. DR. SAKSHIJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rubber Board has conducted any survey for the development of Rubber plantation in Mathura area of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the development of Rubber plantation in the State?

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

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

(c) According to information on climatic conditions available with the Rubber Board, economic raising of rubber plantations may not be feasible in Uttar Pradesh.

Bonded Labour

5506. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a protest demonstration organised at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on January 24, 1995 to focus attention to the rampant practice of employment of bonded labour in various industries and house-holds, including bonded child labour;

(b) if so, the specific issues brought to the notice of the Government; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Some media reports to this effect have come to the notice of the Government in which the organisers claimed that there are 15 crores bonded labourers in the country, out of which, 6 crores are children.

(c) According to the reports made available by the State Governments based upon detailed household surveys which were required to be conducted, 2,51,424 bonded labourers have been identified and released till 31.3.94. This includes child bonded labourers also.

Financial Relief to Sick PSUs

5507. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA
KHANDURI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) has asked the Government to over-ride cuts suggested by the Reserve Bank of India in financial relief to sick Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of these financial cuts; and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the suggestions made by INTUC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Government has received a communication from Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) in which they have sought for the continuation of reliefs and concessions available under the guidelines on parameters for provision of reliefs/concessions by banks under rehabilitation packages evolved for non-SSI sick/weak industrial units considered as potentially viable issued in December 1991 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

RBI has reported that its parameters on interest rates for various facilities under rehabilitation packages in respect of non small scale industrial (SSI) sick/weak industrial units were last revised in December 1991. These rates were prescribed at fixed percentage points below the prevailing minimum lending rate for banks, obviating the need for changing the parameter whenever there was revision in lending rate on advances. Subsequent to issue of circular in this regard on 06.12.1991, significant developments had taken place. These, inter alia, included lowering of the minimum lending rate of banks, reduction in period of indentifying sickness, revision in the definition of weak non SSI unit, abolition of minimum lending rate and introduction of prime lending rates by banks. Keeping in view the developments RBI has made changes in the requirements of promoters contribution and in its parameters on interest rates for various facilities under rehabilitation packages, inter alia including working capital advances, funded interest term loan, working capital term loan and fresh rehabilitation term loan.

Jute Growers

5508. SHRI SHOBHANADREESWARA RAO
VADDE :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- whether the Union Government have announced the minimum support price of raw jute for 1995-96;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the economic condition of the jute growers is pitiable; and
- if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the economic conditions of the jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). On the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) the Government have fixed Minimum Support price (MSP) of TD-5 grade raw jute grown in Assam at Rs. 490 a quintal for 1995-96 jute season. Corresponding MSP for all grades and varieties of jute for various up country markets in different jute growing states are to be fixed by the Jute Commissioner.

(c) and (d). The jute growers have generally obtained remunerative Prices for their produce since market prices are ruling above MSP. However, the Government have taken various steps to protect the interests of farmers which inter-alia included announcement of MSP for raw jute, advising JCI to undertake price support operation if necessary, Implementation of Special Jute Development Programme to provide farmers with essential inputs, development of improved farm equipments and retting techniques as well as retting tanks in addition to carrying out demonstration and training of farmers in improved agricultural practices.

Operation by Foreign Airlines

5509. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

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

- the criteria being adopted by the Government to permit foreign airlines for operating flights in the country;
- the names of the airlines which are operating national/ international flights and the number of flights operated by them in a week;
- the number of places amongst them where flights by Air India and Indian Airlines are also being operated;
- whether Indian air services are not taking full benefit of their share;
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government would permit Indian Airlines to operate overseas flights involving short distances to cover up this loss;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Traffic rights to foreign airlines for international operations are granted on the basis of reciprocity, keeping in view the demands of tourism, travel and international trade.

(b) and (c). Foreign Airlines are not granted traffic rights on domestic sectors. the requisite information in regard to international operations is given in the attached statement.

(d) and (e). Due to constraints of aircraft capacity and operating crew as well as lack of adequate traffic potential on certain routes, the Indian carriers are presently, not utilising their full entitlements.

(f) to (h). Indian Airlines is already operating services to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Oman, U A. E., Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

STATEMENT

Foreign Carriers Operation to India-frequency per week in each direction

S.No.	Airlines	Country	No.of Frequency/ Week	Whether AI is Optg. to these Countries	Whether IC is Optg. to these Countries
1.	Aeroflot	Russia	7	Yes	No
2.	Air Canada	Canada	5	Yes	No
3.	Air France	France	6	Yes	No
4.	Air Lanka	Sri Lanka	22	No	No
5.	Air Maldives	Maldives	2	No	No
6.	Air Mauritius	Mauritius	3	JV Partner	No
7.	Air Ukraine	Ukraine	2	No	No
8.	Alitalia	Italy	3	Yes	No
9.	Ariana Afghan	Afghanistan	8	No	No
10.	Biman Bangladesh	Bangladesh	28	No	Yes
11.	British Airways	U.K.	14	Yes	No
12.	Cathay Pacific	Hong Kong	4	Yes	No
13.	Delta	U.S.A	7	Yes	No
	Tower Air	-	2	Yes	No
14.	Druk Air	Bhutan	4	No	No
15.	Egypt Air	Egypt	1	No	No
16.	El Al	Israel	3	No	No
17.	Emirates	Dubai	22	Yes	No
18.	Ethiopian Airlines	Ethiopia	3	No	No
19.	Gulf Air	Gulf	41	Yes	Yes
20.	Iran Air	Iran	1	No	No
21.	Kazakhstan Airlines	Kazakhstan	2	No	No
22.	Kenya Airways	Kenya	3	No	No
23.	Korean Air	Korea	7	No	No
24.	K.L.M.	Netherlands	7	No	No
25.	Kuwait Airways	Kuwait	10	Yes	Yes
26.	Lufthansa	Germany	13	Yes	No
27.	Malaysian Airlines	Malaysia	8	Yes	Yes
28.	Oman Air	Oman	5	Yes	Yes
29.	Pakistan Airlines	Pakistan	12	No	Yes
30.	Qatar Airways	Qatar	3	Yes	No
31.	Royal Jordanian	Jordan	4	No	No
32.	Royal Nepal A/L	Nepal	17	No	Yes
33.	Saudia	Saudi Arabia	18	Yes	No
34.	S.I.A.	Singapore	17	Yes	Yes
35.	South African A/W	South Africa	2	Yes	No
36.	Swiss Air	Switzerland	7	Yes	No
37.	Syrian Air	Syria	2	No	No
38.	Tajikistan Int'l	Tajikistan	2	No	No
39.	Tarom	Romania	2	No	No
40.	Thai Airways	thailand	8	Yes	Yes
41.	Turkmenistan A/L	Turkmenistan	1	No	No
42.	Uzbekistan A/W	Uzbekistan	5	No	No
43.	Yemenia	Yemen	2	No	No
	AlYemda	-	2	No	No

Export and Imports through Ports

5510. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the volume of exports and imports through Cochin Port during 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the imports and exports through Ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The amounts of exports and imports through Cochin Sea during 1993-94 and 1994-95 are given below :

	US \$ Million	
	1993-94	1994-95(P)
Exports	784.6	1052.9
Imports	210.7	335.7

P - Provisional

Source - DGCI&S, Calcutta

(b) Continuous efforts are made to improve the operations and provide efficient services to the port users. Chairman of all Major Port Trusts have been requested to maintain a close liaison with the trade for facilitating imports and exports through ports.

Export of Cotton

5511. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

SHRI DHARHANNA MONDAYYA SADUL

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations suggesting expansion of export of cotton and cotton yarn; and

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

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

(b) Government have curtailed the export of cotton in 1994-95 by releasing only 1 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi and 0.65 lakhs bales of Assam Comilla varieties of cotton against the announced export quota of 5 lakh bales. Selling limit of 75 million kilograms has been prescribed for the year 1995 on export of cotton yarn of amount ? 1 to 40s. as against 130 million kilogram during 1994.

Seizure of Gold and Silver

5512. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and the value of smuggled gold and silver seized at sea ports in Gujarat State during the financial year 1994-95;

(b) the number of persons arrested and action taken against them; and

(c) the concrete measures adopted by the Government to check the smuggling of gold and silver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No seizure of gold and silver has been affected at sea ports in the State of Gujarat during financial year 1994-95.

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

(c) Field formations are alert to detect and prevent smuggling including smuggling of gold and silver. Close coordination is being maintained amongst all agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages

5513. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) number of workers working in organised and unorganised sectors, State-wise;

(b) the details of minimum wages fixed for various categories of organised and unorganised labourers, State-wise;

(c) the date on which the rates of wages revised last;

(d) whether the Government propose to issue guidelines to the States for laying down criteria for fixing minimum wages at national level;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Statement-I indicating the state-wise details of the total workers and the workers in the organised sector is enclosed.

(b) and (c). The wages for the workers in organised sectors are fixed through bipartite wage negotiations and settlements. In the unorganised sector, the wages of the workers are fixed/revised under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under the Act, the Central Government as well as the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are the appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum wages for the scheduled employments falling under their respective jurisdictions. Statement-II indicating the minimum rates of wages and the dates of last revision of minimum wages for the unskilled categories of workers in different States/Union Territories is enclosed.

(d) and (e). There are no uniform criteria for the fixation of minimum wages adopted by the respective

appropriate Governments. The appropriate Governments take into account the local conditions and other factors while deciding the minimum rates of wages to be fixed. However, the five norms recommended by the Indian Labour Conference in its session held in 1957 are generally adopted for fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages. They are based on three consumption units per family, minimum food requirement of 2700 calories per person, clothing requirement of 72 yards per annum per family, rent corresponding to the Central Government Industrial Housing Scheme and fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items of expenditure constituting 20% of the total minimum wage.

STATEMENT-I

*Statewise Details of Total Number of Workers and the Workers in the Organised Sector During 1991.
(In thousands)*

S. No.	Name of State	Total* Worker	Workers in organised sector
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29,963.6	1763.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	399.8	NA
3.	Assam	8,088.9	1050.8
4.	Bihar	27,777.0	1663.0
5.	Goa, Daman & Diu	412.7 38.2 450.9	98.5
6.	Gujarat	16,620.51	1660.4
7.	Haryana	5,103.4	601.8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2,214.3	266.3
9.	Kanataka	18,886.7	1447.3
10.	Kerala	9,146.11	1143.2
11.	Madhya Pradesh	28,340.4	1669.2
12.	Maharashtra	33,910.3	3647.5
13.	Manipur	774.9	55.6
14.	Meghalaya	757.3	68.9
15.	Mizoram	337.3	34.5
16.	Nagaland	516.2	65.4
17.	Orissa	11,882.7	773.7
18.	Punjab	6,261.9	791.3
19.	Rajasthan	17,104.3	1183.9
20.	Sikkim	168.7	NA
21.	Tamil Nadu	24,194.3	2289.3
22.	Tripura	858.5	98.4
23.	Uttar Pradesh	44,799.2	2676.9
24.	West Bengal	21,914.7	2465.3

1	2	3	4
UNION TERRITORIES			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	98.9	36.3
2.	Chandigarh	224.2	75.2
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	73.7	NA
4.	Delhi	2,980.4	839.2
5.	Lakshadweep	13.6	NA
6.	Pondicherry	267.2	53.1

N.A. : Information not available.

* : Information based on Population Census, 1991

STATEMENT-II

Minimum Rates of wages for the unskilled workers in different States/Union Territories Administration.

S. No.	Name of State U.T. Administration Govt.	Minimum rate of wages & date of revision	Remarks
1	2	3	4
I. STATE			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs.11.00 to* Rs.40.00 p.d. (11.10.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs.21.00 to Rs.24.00 p.d. (1.11.90)	Rates vary from employment to employment and area to area.
3.	Assam	Rs.25.30 to* Rs.32.00 p.d. 10.2.92	Rates vary from Employment to employment.
4.	Bihar	Rs.21.00 to Rs.34.00 p.d.	Rates vary from employment to employment.
5.	Goa	Rs.14.00 to Rs.27.00 p.d. (7.2.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
6.	Gujarat	Rs.15.00 to* Rs.37.50 p.d. (1.4.94.)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)
7.	Haryana	Rs.1189.30 p.m. (1.7.91)	Single rates for all Employments.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs.24.00 to Rs.26.00 p.d. (14.11.93.)	Duble rates for all Duble rate for all employments.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs.15.00 p.d. (24.3.89)	Single rate for all employments.
10.	Karnataka	Rs.23.44 to* Rs.32.53 p.d. (22.7.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)
11.	Kerala	Rs.19.50 to* Rs.76.40 p.d. (31.3.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs.30.36 to* Rs.33.92 p.d. (29.1.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
13.	Maharashtra	Rs.8.00 to* Rs.69.10 p.d. (29.6.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment (According to Zones)

1	2	3	4
14. Manipur	Rs.37.90 p.d.* (for plain) Rs.40.90 p.d. (for Hill areas) (1.6.90)	Double rate for all employment.	
15. Meghalaya	Rs.35.00 p.d. (16.3.94)	Single rate for all employment.	
16. Mizoram	Rs.28.00 p.d. (6.7.92)	Single rate for all employment.	
17. Nagaland	Rs.25.00 p.d. (6.7.92)	Single rate for all employment.	
18. Orissa	Rs.25.00 p.d. (1.7.92)	Single rate for all employment.	
19. Punjab	Rs.40.52 p.d.* (1.3.93)	Single rate for all employment.	
20. Rajasthan	Rs.32.00 p.d. (Jan.95)	Single rate for all Employment.	
21. Sikkim	NIL	Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is yet to be extended and enforced.	
22. Tamil Nadu	Rs.10.00 to* Rs.56.25 p.d. (27.1.93)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)	
23. Tripura	Rs.11.80 to Rs.23.65 p.d. (1.1.90)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)	
24. Uttar Pradesh	Rs.468.00 to* Rs.1038.00p.m. (3.1.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)	
25. West Bengal	Rs.17.40 to* Rs.45.16 p.d. (1.12.93)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)	
26. Andaman & Nicobar	Rs.27.00 to Rs.28.00 p.d. (13.8.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)	
27. Chandigarh	Rs.1013.50p.m. (22.2.90)	Single rate for all employment.	
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Rs.19.50 to Rs.29.65 p.d. (15.12.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to Zones)	
29. Daman & Diu	Rs.22.00 to Rs. 27.00 p.d. (19.3.93)	Single rate for all employment.	
30. Delhi	Rs.57.50 p.d.* (1.2.95)	Single rate for all employment.	
31. Lakshdweep	Rs.30 p.d. (1.1.93)	Single rate for all employment.	
32. Pondicherry	Rs. 8.00 to Rs.14.00 p.d. (5.12.89)	Rates for agricultural workers.	
II. Central Government	Rs.31.02 to Rs.46.42 p.d. (1.4.95)	Rates vary from employment to employment. (According to areas)	

Note : * Indicates the provision of Variable Dearness Allowance alongwith minimum rates of wages.

[English]

Bilateral Traffic Rights

5514. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to offer bilateral traffic rights to private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such an offer of the Government to private airlines is going to affect the functioning of Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There is no proposal at present to permit scheduled domestic private airlines to operate on international sectors.

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

[Translation]

Investment in Turkey

5515. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Turkey has offered the Indian entrepreneurs investment opportunities in their country;

(b) if so, the details of areas in which the Indian entrepreneurs propose to invest in that country; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Turkey offers equal opportunities to foreign investors including Indian entrepreneurs. In addition, it has undertaken a programme to privatise some of its State enterprises where bids can be offered by all potential investors. Indian entrepreneurs have shown preliminary interest in the privatization of State enterprises in the sectors of iron/steel and petro-chemicals.

(c) An estimate of the foreign exchange flows is possible only after the size of investments and the conditionalities attached thereto are finalised.

[English]

Exodus of Pilots

5516. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exodus of trained and experienced pilots continues unabated in Indian Airlines/Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government have identified the reasons for such exodus and formulated an effective action plan to stop pilot exodus;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of package finalised/under consideration to improve the service conditions of pilots and other staff on Indian Airlines and Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d). Air India has not experienced any large scale exodus of its pilots. 91 pilots resigned from Indian Airlines during the years 1993 and 1994 and 11 pilots who had earlier resigned joined back. No pilot had left in 1995, so far. The following steps have been taken to check exodus of pilots of Indian Airlines :

- (i) Private airlines/air taxi operators have been directed not to employ any employee of the national carriers without a 'No Objection Certificate' from the previous employer.
- (ii) Notice period for resigning from the service of Indian Airlines has been increased to six months.
- (iii) Bond amount for pilots has been increased.
- (e) Two settlements on flight duty time limitations and productivity linked payments have been signed with the Indian Commercial Pilots Association representing pilots of Indian Airlines.

Regarding improvement of the service conditions of other staff of the two airlines, continuous efforts are being made to arrive at mutually acceptable wage increases linked to productivity.

[Translation]

Export of Soyabean

5517. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : 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 being taken by the Government to boost the export of Soyabean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). There has been no export of soyabean seeds in 1992-93 and 1993-94 and 1994-95 (April-November). In view of domestic demand and the need for exporting value added products, Exim Policy provides for the export of soyabean seeds only against a license.

Flying Training School in Gujarat

5518. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal has been submitted by Gujarat Government for seeking approval and financial assistance for opening flying training school in the State to promote aviation awareness in the youths;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the decision taken on the proposal and the amount earmarked for the purpose?

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

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

[English]

Import of Textiles

5519. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the import of textile items during the last three years alongwith the foreign exchange involved therein;
- (b) the reasons for import of such items; and
- (c) the quantity of imported textiles supplied to Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The import of principal textile commodities viz. textile yarns, fabrics and made-ups during the past three years have been as under :

Year	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1992-93	430.71
1993-94	722.46
1994-95 (April-Jan.)	845.34

Source : Directorate General of commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta.

(b) and (c). Most of the imports of yarn and fabrics are made under Advance licensing Scheme for being used in export production. These products are imported by the parties located all over the country including Sikkim, as per their individual requirements, in accordance with the policy in force.

Excise Duty on Paper

5520. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the policy being followed by the Government for rationalisation of excise duty on paper;
- (b) whether the Government consider the size of the paper mill also for this purpose; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) Generally, paper attracts 20% excise duty. However, to promote the use of unconventional raw materials in the manufacture of paper, paper manufactured from such materials is charged to duty at concessional rates of 5%, 10% or 15% ad valorem depending upon the extent of unconventional raw materials used. The benefit of general scheme of concession for small scale units is also applicable to paper. The two schemes described aforesaid are however mutually exclusive.

(b) and (c). The size of the paper mill has been considered a relevant criterion for mills using unconventional raw materials to the extent criterion for mills using unconventional raw materials to the extent of at least 50% but less than 75% by weight of pulp. In this case the concessional rate of duty of 10% ad valorem applies only when the paper manufacturing factory does not have a bamboo/wood pulp making plant and clearances of all paper and board do not exceed 33,000 MT in a financial year.

GNP of Asian States

5521. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has published data relating to the change in the GNP of various Asian States between 1989 and 1992 in terms of US dollars; and

(b) if so, the inter-annual change relating to India and China separately, with the rate of inter-annual change in the World economy as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). As per the various issue of World Bank Atlas (viz.1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994) published by the World Bank, the Gross National Product (GNP) figures for India and China for the years 1989 through 1992 are as under. However, for the World economy as a whole the Atlas does not indicate GNP figures.

Year	GNP in million of US Dollar	
	India	China
1989	289109	396551
1990	294816 (2.0)	415884 (4.9)
1991	284668 (-3.4)	424012 (2.0)
1992	271638 (-4.6)	442346 (4.3)

World Bank uses Atlas Method of Conversion to smooth Fluctuations in prices and exchange rates to arrive at GNP figures.

It may be noted that the Central Statistical Organisation Prepares and publishes GNP figures on a financial year basis in Rupees only for India. The latest available figures on GNP at factor cost at 1980-81 prices are as under and show a sustained increase.

Years	GNP (Rs.Crore)	
	1	2
1989-90		198082
1990-91		208504 (5.3)

1	2
1991-92	209794 (0.6)
1992-93	218698 (4.2)
1993-94	228671 (4.6)

Note : Figures within brackets are percentage change over the preceding year.

[Translation]

Strike by Employees of Regional Rural Banks

5522. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Regional Rural banks went on a nation-wide strike on March 31,1995;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the main demands put forth by them; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to each of the demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The All India Gramin Bank Workers Organisation had given a notice inter-alia to observe a nation-wide strike on 31st March, 1995. Their main demands included constitution of a National Rural Bank of India (NRBI), to implement certain provisions of settlement held in banking industry, to implement new service regulations and promotion rules and payment of National Industrial Tribunal arrears. As regards constitution of NRBI, after examining all aspects, Government have initiated steps for comprehensive restructuring of 49 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) initially which includes cleansing of balance sheets and infusion of fresh capital. Experience with these 49 RRBs will guide the approach in later years with regard to other RRBs. As regards recruitment and promotion policy, the draft rules are under examination in consultation with Ministry of Law. With regard to payment of National Industrial Tribunal arrears the matter is pending before the Supreme Court. The other demands having financial implications require to be examined taking into account all the relevant aspects.

Hospitals and Dispensaries for Beedi Workers

5523. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Gujarat particularly in tribal areas, where hospitals and dispensaries are being run with the assistance of Beedi Workers Welfare Fund as on April,1995;

(b) the names of the places where the Government propose to provide additional facilities during the current year; and

(c) the number of beedi workers likely to benefit from these medical facilities?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) There are 6 dispensaries functioning in Gujarat State for Beedi Workers. A Statement showing the places at which these dispensaries have been set up in Gujarat is enclosed.

(b) There is no proposal for setting up additional dispensaries in Gujarat under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

BHILWARA REGION GUJARAT

1. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Patan Distt. Patan.
2. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Vadnagar Disst. Mehasana.
3. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Sarsa Disst. Kheda.
4. Static Dispensary, Ahmedabad.
5. Static Dispensary, Borsad Distt. Kaira.
6. Ayurvedic Dispensary, Palanpur Distt. Mehasana.

Bridge Loans by IDBI

5524. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any check on the grant of bridge loans by IDBI to controversial companies going in for public issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any losses to the public is compensated by IDBI as a result thereof;

(d) whether such bridge loans by IDBI increase the attractiveness of public issues; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to enquire into the role of IDBI in the matter of disputes and frauds in various associated companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it follows the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for grant of bridge loans. RBI has recently banned saction of brige loans against public issues by banks and financial institutions (Fis).

(c) and (d). IDBI has reported that the intention behind extending bridge loans was to enable the borrowers to implement their projects pending raising

of money from the Public issue and avoid time and cost overruns. The loans were repayable out of proceeds of the public issue. As there was no loss to the public due to grant of bridge loans, the question of any compensation to the public by IDBI does not, therefore, arise.

(e) RBI has reported that a sample scrutiny of bridge loans of Rs 5 crore and above sanctioned by banks during the period 01.12.1993 to 31.03.1994 did not reveal any specific misuse of bridge loans by the borrowers. But it was, inter alia, found that banks were not ensuring end-use of funds lent.

[English]

Closure of Coffee Buffets and Retail Outlets

5525. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coffee buffets/retail outlets being run by Coffee Board in the country, particularly in Karnataka, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have decided to wind up the coffee buffets/retail outlets being run by the Coffee Board;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and out of which how many of them have been closed so far;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to absorb these workers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the total amount of compensation that will be due to such retrenched employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are 62 retails outlets run by the promotion departments of the Coffee Board comprising of 15 Coffee Houses 5 Coffee Vans and 42 Coffee Depots situated throughout the Country. The statewide location of the above outlets are given below :

State	India Coffee House	India Coffee Vans	India Coffee Depots	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	2	2	9	13
Tamil Nadu	1	-	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	3	1	5	9
Kerala	1	-	6	7
Goa	-	-	1	1
Orissa	-	-	2	2
Maharashtra	-	-	4	4
Gujarat	-	-	1	1
Bihar	-	-	2	2
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	2	2

1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	1	1
West Bengal	1	-	-	1
Delhi	6	2	2	10
Jammu & Kashmir	1	-	-	1
Assam	-	-	1	1
Total	15	5	42	62

(b) No Sir, Only one outlet at Vizag currently is non-functional due to administrative reasons.

(c) to (f). Does not arise.

Infrastructural Facilities to Exporters

5526. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study team headed by Joint Director-General of Foreign Trade, after a visit to Petrapole, on the border with Bangladesh, through which almost 80% of India's exports is routed, has called for urgent steps by the various Central and State agencies to sort out the problems faced by exporters for the total lack of infrastructure facilities; and

(b) if so, the details of recommendations thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The Study Team suggested improvement in the existing infrastructure facilities at the Indo-Bangla Border at Petrapole including upgradation of bridges repairs and widening of approach roads to Petrapole Border Checkpost, and provision of an alternative route to exporters for sending export cargo to Bangladesh.

It has been decided in consultation with Customs and the concerned exporting Organizations that some cargo origination from the States North of river Ganga could be exported through land customs station of Mohadipur in district Malda, West Bengal w.e.f. 1.6.1995. The State Govt. have also submitted proposals for improving surface transport infrastructures to the Ministry of Surface Transport and have taken up repairs of the existing infrastructure.

Loans to Priority Sector in Tamil Nadu

5527. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of beneficiaries of loans advanced by the public sector banks to priority sector in Tamil Nadu during 1994-95, Scheme-wise;

(b) whether these banks achieved the targets fixed under each of these schemes in the State during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) As per the available information, Scheme-wise number of beneficiaries of loans advanced by the public sector banks in Tamil Nadu during 1994-95 is given as under :

Name of the Scheme	No. of beneficiaries
(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	2,01,221
(ii) Bio Gas Scheme	8,005
(iii) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY)	14,527
(iv) Scheme for Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS)	4,987
(v) Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME)	70,622
	(Cumulative)

(b) to (d). The details of targets and achievements of the above schemes are given as under :-

Scheme	Target (Physical units)	Achievement of	% of Achievement
(i) IRDP	1,50,860	2,01,221	133%
(ii) BIOGAS	8,000	8,005	100%
(iii) PMRY	17,400	14,527	83.5%
(iv) SLR	14,630	4,987	34%

No physical target has been envisaged under SUME. Target have been achieved under IRDP and BIOGAS Schemes.

The reasons for shortfall in achieving the target is given below :

- More number of applications sponsored for same type of activities;
- applications Sponsored for non-potential activities;
- Non-viable activities and lack of aptitude among the applicants;
- Marketing and infrastructure inadequacies;
- Number of application recommended in some districts not adequate to cover the target;
- Unwillingness of the beneficiaries to leave the existing avenues of private employment where no investment is required mainly for SLRs.

The following action has been initiated to achieve the targets :

- (i) Members banks have been requested to ensure 100% achievement under all the Government Sponsored schemes by conducting special meetings, workshops etc.
- (ii) The banks and sponsoring agencies have been requested to provide necessary guidelines and support to applicants for taking up viable activities.
- (iii) Sponsoring agencies have been requested to involve bankers in selection of beneficiaries for smooth implementation of schemes.
- (iv) Sponsoring agencies have been requested to organise awareness camps at block level to motivate the beneficiaries on the various schemes available for their upliftment.
- (v) Streamlining and strengthening of sponsoring agencies/Task Force Committee for proper selection of eligible beneficiaries.

Shah Commission

5528. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether all the non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) have since got registered themselves;
- (b) if so, the details of NBFCs registered as on February 28, 1995, state-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the recommendations of the Shah Commission relating to NBFCs and reaction of the Government on each of the recommendations;
- (e) whether the Finance Companies Associations in some of the States have expressed their resentment over implementation of some of these recommendations;
- (f) if so, the details thereof indicating their view-point thereon;
- (g) whether the Government propose to review their decision in this regard;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Residuary Non-Banking Companies (RNBCs) having net owned fund of Rs.50 lakhs and over were advised to submit their applications for registration with RBI. The other NBFCs/RNBCs will not be registered.

(b) and (c). The number of NBFCs registered as on 28.2.95 statewise were as under :

Name of the State/UT	No. of companies
1. Delhi	131
2. Jammu & Kashmir	2
3. Punjab	7
4. Rajasthan	6
5. Uttar Pradesh	5
6. Chandigarh	1
7. West Bengal	85
8. Orissa	1
9. Andhra Pradesh	17
10. Karnataka	20
11. Kerala	5
12. Tamil Nadu	86
13. Pondicherry	1
14. Maharashtra	178
15. Gujarat	19
16. Goa	1
17. Madhya Pradesh	4
569	

(d) The major recommendations of the Working Group on Financial Companies, headed by Dr. A.C. Shah are given in the Statement-I enclosed. The recommendations, have, in principle, been accepted by RBI. The Shah Committee Report lays down agenda of the reforms needed for Non-Banking Financial Companies Sector. The recommendations which have already been implemented by the RBI are given in the Statement-II enclosed. In respect of other recommendations, RBI has been implementing the recommendations with suitable modifications in stages.

(e) and (f). RBI has reported that some of the associations of the financial companies have represented against inclusion of inter-corporate deposits, deposits accepted from share holders/directors by private limited NBFCs in the regulated category. Representations were also received against maintenance of liquid assets against inter corporate deposits and debentures. An Association of financial compaines has requested postponement of the effective date of the prudential norms from March 31, 1995. The associations of financial companies have also sought some relaxation of the other prudential norms. RBI, after having considered these representations, made certain relaxations in regard to inter-corporate deposits. However, other representations were not found to have any merit.

(g) to (i). RBI has reported that it has no specific proposal to review the decisions so far taken.

STATEMENT-I

Major Recommendations of the Working Group on Financial Companies

The major recommendations of the Group are given below :

- (i) Categorywise classification of financial companies may be abolished and uniform regulations may be applied to all financial companies.
- (ii) Regulatory attention by the Reserve Bank may be confined to companies with net owned fund of Rs. 50 lakhs and above.
- (iii) As regards new financial companies, entry norms viz. minimum net owned fund of Rs. 50 lakhs and a cooling period before accepting deposits, have been proposed by the Group.
- (iv) The regulations may be directed to the asset side such as limit on credit concentration, prohibiting investments in undesirable activities, etc.
- (v) Capital adequacy standards may be laid down based on risk assessment of assets and credit conversion factors for off-balance sheet items.
- (vi) The 'exempted' category of deposits should be removed and all deposits should be treated alike. Inter-corporate deposits should constitute a part of deposits. A clear distinction should be made between deposits and borrowings from banks/institutions.
- (vii) Net owned fund of a financial company should be redefined to exclude investments in other non-banking financial companies and subsidiaries as also loans and advances to subsidiaries to the extent the aggregate of such investments, loans and advances exceed 10 per cent of the amount of the paid-up capital and free reserves of the company as reduced by the amount of accumulated balance of losses deferred revenue expenditure and other intangible assets.
- (viii) Aggregate amount of funds under portfolio management scheme may be related to the net owned fund of the company.
- (ix) Non-banking financial companies may be allowed to accept deposits for a period ranging between 12 months and 84 months. Furthermore, so long as interest rates on bank deposit are regulated, interest rates on deposits accepted by non-banking financial companies should be 1, 2 or 3 percentage points more than those offered by commercial banks.

- (x) Prudential norms for income recognition, transparency of accounts and provisions for bad and doubtful debts, may be prescribed.
- (xi) Auditors may be assigned more responsibilities with regard to compliance of regulations.

STATEMENT-II

IMMEDIATE CHANGES IN THE DIRECTIONS

The Bank has introduced the following changes in the directions with effect from April 12, 1993.

- (i) As part of a gradual move to bring into alignment the maturity range of deposits of different types of companies, the minimum period of deposits for all financial companies has been prescribed at 'over 12 month' instead of 'over 24 months' at present. The maximum maturity period will be brought down from 120 months to 84 months for residuary non-banking companies. This change is effective for new endowment/fresh lumpsum deposits taken from April 12, 1993 onwards. For other categories of financial companies, the existing maximum period viz., 60 months, will remain unchanged.
- (ii) Inter-corporate deposits/borrowings and monies received from directors/shareholders of private limited companies will henceforth be treated as deposits and as such these deposits will no longer be in the exempted category. Money raised through issue of debentures or bonds secured by mortgage of immovable properties will also not be in exempted category.
- (iii) Liquid assets to be maintained by equipment leasing and hire purchase companies is being stipulated at 10 per cent of their deposits as against 15 per cent at present, though the definition of deposits would be wider to cover items referred to in paragraph 6 (ii) above. At least one half of these liquid assets i.e., 5 per cent of the deposits, will have to be maintained in the form of Central and/or State Government securities or Government guaranteed bonds. Other non-banking financial companies, such as loan and investment companies, will, effective July 12, 1993 be required to maintain liquid assets to the extent of per cent of their deposits. At least one-half of these liquid assets i.e. 2½ per cent of the deposits, should be in the form of Central and or State-Government securities or Government guaranteed bonds. In the case of residuary non-banking companies, which are required

to invest at least 70 per cent of their deposit liabilities in approved securities, a minimum investment in Government securities is being prescribed. Effective October 12, 1993, these companies will be required to invest at least 10 per cent of their aggregate liabilities to depositors in Government securities and/or Government guaranteed bonds.

- (iv) All financial companies, including residuary non-banking companies, with net owned fund of Rs. 50 lakhs and over will be required to register with the Reserve Bank of India. They should furnish necessary details in the prescribed proforma before the end July 1993. This registration would, in due course, be vital for companies expanding their operations.

Ban on Import of Chemical Dues

5529. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY :
SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH :
SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the production and import of certain chemical dye-stuffs which are carcinogenic and are generally used in textile industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of those dye-stuffs?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). In India, there is already a ban on the use of benzidine based dyes and salts. However, in the context of the German Government's legislation to ban import of textiles involving the use of specified azo dyes (including the benzidine based dyes), the Government of India has initiated steps to review the usage of various dyes in textile products with the objective of identifying dyes whose production/imports need to be curtailed and to encourage use of alternate permissible dyes for promotion of internationally acceptable eco-friendly textiles.

Child Labour

5530. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI :
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the extent of child labour engaged in carpet industry;

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

(c) whether the Government have freed some of the child labour from the carpet industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some countries have taken a decision to boycott the import of carpets from India unless this industry is freed of child labours; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for total eradication of child labour in the carpet industry?

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

Passenger Services at Airports

5531. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

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

(a) whether duty officers have been posted at all airports under the control of IAAI and NAA;

(b) whether the Government propose to enlarge and upgrade passenger services at airports;

(c) whether the 'Suggestion' boxes at Delhi Airport do not have requisite paper for the last four months; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Schemes have been formulated to upgrade the passengers facilities at selected airports based on the density of passenger traffic and availability of resources.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Papers for the 'Suggestion Boxes' are replenished regularly.

World Bank Report regarding Economic Reforms

5532. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 19, 1995 about the views of the World Bank on the issues of privatisation and labour market reforms in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) The news report in question is based on the World Bank report titled "Global Economic Prospects and the Developing countries". While discussing regional economic prospects in South Asia, the report highlights

the successful stabilisation measures in India, the surge in private capital flows and the productivity gains associated with India's reforms since 1991. The report also briefly refers to the need to step up the reform process in public enterprise reforms, privatisation and the labour market.

(b) Government is already aware of the need to restructure the public sector and to allow greater flexibility in the deployment of labour. Our reform policy from the outset has been based on the strategy of consensus. Reforms in the area of taxation, trade and industrial policy have yielded good results. Broadening the reform process to cover the areas of public enterprises, privatisation and labour markets would further enhance the efficiency of the economy.

Jute Corporation of India

5533. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Employees Union of National Jute Corporation of India has submitted a proposal for restructuring and diversification of their unit;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The management of the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has not received any proposal for restructuring and diversification of the Corporation from employees' Union of JCI.

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

Loans to Farmers by Banks

5534. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan provided by public sector banks to the farmers during the last three years and the current year so far, State-wise, year-wise and bank-wise; and

(b) the number of farmers benefited therefrom, State-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Incentive to IA Pilots

5535. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give some additional incentives to the pilots of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date from which the additional incentives are effective?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). A settlement has been signed with Indian Commercial Pilots Association on 11.11.1993 under which certain variable allowances like flying allowance, special allowance, experience allowance have been linked to the hours of flying done in each month. The pilots can earn more by flying more. For international flights, hourly rate of payment has been fixed with effect from 15.10.1994.

Places of Tourist Interest in Andhra Pradesh

5536. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM :

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

(a) the names of places of tourist interest in Andhra Pradesh prioritised in consultation with the State Government for promoting as tourist centres during the year 1994-95; and

(b) the financial assistance sanctioned and released, separately, so far, in respect of each of these centres?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) On the basis of the proposals submitted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government sanctioned five projects amounting to Rs. 171.99 lakhs during the year 1994-95.

(b) The details of the projects with places, amount sanctioned and released for each of these places are given below :

S. No.	Name of the project/scheme	(Rs. in lakhs)	
		Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	Yatri Niwas at Arakku (Vizad dist.)	29.91	10.00
2.	Yatrika at Basara (Adilabad dist.)	16.63	8.00
3.	Yatri Niwas at Tirupati	39.86	20.00
4.	Yatri Niwas at Vishakhapatnam	45.75	20.00
5.	Yatri Niwas at Yadagirigutta	39.84	15.00
Total		171.99	78.00

*[Translation]***Private Banks**

5537. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of private banks in the country at present and the places where their branches and head offices are located?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Information regarding the number of Private Sector Banks and places of their Head Offices is given in the Statement enclosed. Since the number of branches of these banks is more than 3,000, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Name of the Bank	Place of Head Office
1	2
1. Bank of Madura Ltd.	Madras
2. Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	Jaipur
3. Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.	Bareilly
4. Benares State Bank Ltd	Varanasi
5. Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	Madras
6. Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	Trichur
7. Dhanalakshimi Bank Ltd.	Trichur
8. Federal Bank Ltd.	Alwaye
9. Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.	Bombay
10. Karnataka Bank Ltd.	Mangalore
11. Karur Vysya Bank Bank Ltd.	Karur
12. City Union Bank Ltd.	Kumbakonam
13. Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	Karur
14. Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	Kodungallur
15. Nainital Bank Ltd.	Nainital
16. Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	Calicut
17. Punjab Cooperative Bank Ltd.	New Delhi
18. Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	Kolhapur
19. Sangli Bank Ltd.	Sangli
20. South Indian Bank Ltd.	Trichur
21. SBI Commercial and International Bank Ltd.	Bombay
22. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	Tuticorin
23. United Western Bank Ltd.	Satara
24. Vysya Bank Ltd.	Bangalore
25. Sikkim Bank Ltd.	Gangtok

1	2
26. Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.	Kurunwad (Maharashtra)
27. UTI Bank Ltd.	Bombay
28. ICICI Banking Corpn. Ltd.	Bombay
29. Indusind Bank Ltd.	Bombay
30. HDFC Bank Ltd.	Bombay
31. Centurion Bank Ltd.	Bombay
32. Bank of Punjab Ltd.	Chandigarh
33. Global Trust Bank Ltd.	Secunderabad
34. Times Bank Ltd.	Bombay
FUNCTIONING OF NON-SCHEDULED BANKS	
Bari Doab Bank Ltd.	Hoshiarpur (Punjab)
Kashi Nath Seth Bank Ltd.	Shahjahanpur (U.P.)

*[English]***Foreign Banks in India**

5538. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign banks functioning in the country as on date and the figures of profits earned and losses suffered by each of them, separately, during 1994-95;

(b) the norms and procedure being followed by the RBI in granting permission for setting up foreign bank branches in the country;

(c) the number of proposals received and approved during the last one year till date;

(d) whether several countries including Japan have asked for relaxation in banking regulations so that they can set up branches without the RBI's permission;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Names of the foreign banks operating in India as on date are given in the enclosed Statement. Since they have not yet finalised their accounts for year 1994-95, information regarding profits earned and losses suffered by them are not available. However, during 1993-94, 23 foreign banks then operating in India, earned a net profit of Rs. 503.97 crores.

(b) While considering requests from foreign banks for setting up a presence in India, the principles of reciprocity, financial position and soundness of the bank, its branch network across the globe, capital and assets

size, international standing of the bank as well as its standing in the country of its incorporation, national advantage and economic and financial/trade relations between two countries, etc. are taken into consideration.

(c) RBI has intimated that during 1994-95, it had received 9 proposals from new foreign banks for setting up their maiden branches in India. These proposals are under process in RBI. However, during the year RBI had given approval to 8 foreign banks who had applied in the earlier years for setting up their branches in India.

(d) RBI has intimated that no country, including Japan, has asked for relaxation in banking regulation so as to set up branches without RBI's permission.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Bank
1.	American Express Bank Limited
2.	Bank of America NT and SA
3.	Citibank N.A.
4.	British Bank of Middle East
5.	Standard Chartered Bank
6.	Barclays Bank
7.	Banque Nationale de Paris
8.	Banque Indosuez
9.	Societe Generale
10.	Credit Lyonnais
11.	Bank of Tolyo Limited
12.	The Sakura Bank Ltd.
13.	The Sanwa Bank Limited
14.	Deutsche Bank
15.	ANZ Grindlays Bank
16.	Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Coporation
17.	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank Limited
18.	Mashreq Bank
19.	Oman International SAO
20.	Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait B.S.C.
21.	Bank of Nova Scotia
22.	ABN Amro Bank N.V.
23.	Sonali Bank
24.	ING Bank
25.	Chase Manhattan Bank
26.	State Bank of Mauritius
27.	Development Bank of Singapore.

[Translation]

Study into Sickness of H.F.C.

5539. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FALMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has conducted any study into the sickness of Haldia Fertilizer project of the Haldia Fertilizer Corporation; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that it has taken up an inquiry under section 16 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 in respect of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL). This company operates, inter alia, the Haldia Fertilizer Project.

(b) The case of HFCL was last heard by BIFR on 19.01.1995 when the request of the promoter for extension of time for submission of a revival proposal was granted.

[English]

Training Programme for Craftsmen

5540. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have initiated a training programme for craftsmen in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States where this programme is being implemented at present?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b). The Government is operating the following training schemes in the handicrafts sector for upgradation of skills of existing craftspersons and imparting skills to new craftsmen.

1. DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING SCHEME.

Training is imparted in Carpet weaving, cane and bamboo, art metalware, lacquaware, wood and textile crafts through the departmentally run training centres.

2. TRAINING THROUGH OTHER ORGANISATION.

Financial assistance is provided to Central/State Corporations, apex societies and voluntary organisations engaged in the development and marketing of handicrafts for imparting training in various crafts.

3. APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING SCHEME.

On the patterns of the traditional "guru-shishya parampara", assistance is given to highly skilled master

craftspersons to impart training to young persons in his neighbourhood/community at his own work premises.

At present there are 516 departmental training centres for various crafts located in different parts of the country. Moreover, the Bomboo and Cane Development Institute (BCDI), Agartala, Metal Handicrafts Service Centre, Moradabad and National Craft Institute for Hand Printed Textiles, Jaipur are also imparting training to craftspersons in cane and bamboo, art metalware and textiles crafts respectively.

Besides, 477 centres are being run through other organisations and master craftsmen.

(c) All the States/Union Territories of the country are covered under these training programmes.

Meeting of SAARC Countries

5541. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian delegation visited Dhaka to participate in the meeting of Commerce Secretaries of SAARC countries;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in pursuance thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) An Indian delegation visited Dhaka to participate in the 5th Meeting of the Commerce Secretary level Committee on Economic Cooperation of SAARC, held from April 8-9, 1995.

(b) to (d). No agreement as such was signed during the meeting. The issues discussed at the meeting, and the conclusions and recommendations thereon, reflected in the Committee's agreed report, pertained to the progress achieved in the negotiations for trade liberalisation among SAARC member countries and the steps to operationalise SAPTA within 1995; cooperation in the fields of handicrafts and cottage industries; transport infrastructure and transit facilities; promotion of intra-SAARC trade; standardization; visa exemptions; customs tariff nomenclatures harmonization; SAARC trade fairs; and the activities of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

[Translation]

Katihar Jute Mill

5542. SHRI MANJAY LAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) since when the jute mill of Katihar is lying closed;

(b) the period from which the payments of the workers have been stopped by the said jute mill and the steps being taken by the Government to make their payments released;

(c) whether the provident fund is yet to be released by the said jute mill to the dependents of deceased workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is taking any initiative to reopen the said mill;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

Upgradation of Bhubaneshwar Airport

5543. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade Bhubaneshwar Airport and to construct air strips at Sambalpur or Bolingir districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Airports Authority of India (AAI) is undertaking work relating to construction of new Terminal Building at Bhubaneshwar airport. There is also a proposal to extend the present runway length to 9000 feet.

All has no plans to construct an airstrip at Sambalpur or Bolingir districts.

Loans to SSIs in Assam

5544. SHRI NURUL ISLAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications received by public sector banks in Assam from small scale industries during the last three years and the number of cases in which the loan was sanctioned;

(b) whether complaints against non-grant of loan in time have been received therefrom; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Round-the-Clock Service by Banks

5545. SHRI TARA SINGH:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the foreign banks operating in the country have started providing round-the-clock services;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce similar services in the public sector banks in the country; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons thereof?

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

(a) and (b). Presumably, the reference to round-the-clock service is to electronic banking service. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has therefore intimated that a few foreign banks have started providing electronic banking services. RBI have further intimated that Citibank has introduced telephonic banking with primary purpose of making use of modern telephonic networks to improve customer service under which except cash deposits and cash withdrawals, the customers can conduct their banking business by use of telephone.

(c) and (d). As a sequel to the recommendations of the Committee on Computerisation in banks, RBI had been permitting commercial banks to instal ATMs in their branches at different centres as and when banks approached for the same.

One of the recommendations of the committee on computerisation in banks was that a small network of ATMs, as proposed by Indian Banks Association, can be tried out to begin with in Bombay by installing ATMs/Cash Dispensers at strategic locations, such as, airports, railway stations and hospitals as the same would be more economical than individual banks acquiring ATMs on their own. The proposal for setting up a share ATMs by IBA is in advanced stage of finalisation.

[Translation]

Assistance for Garden Tourism in Maharashtra

5546. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance for promoting Garden tourism in Maharashtra during each of the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Shrimp Farming

5547. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that shrimp farmers have suffered badly during 1994-95 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps be taken by MPEDA to provide financial assistance to those farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). It is estimated that shrimp farmers of Andhra Pradesh suffered a loss of production in 1994-95 of 11,400 tons owing to disease which affected some 22,600 hectares in the coastal districts of the State.

(c) In order to avoid recurrence of the disease, MPEDA have suggested precautionary measures including designs for environment management in aqua-farms and effluent treatment system.

[Translation]

Janata Cloth

5548. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ :

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agencies which are manufacturing Janata Cloth in various States, State-wise;

(b) the targets fixed for the manufacture of Janata Cloth during the year 1993-94 along with the targets achieved State-wise; and

(c) the targets fixed for the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c). Statement-II showing the target and achievement for the year 1993-94 and the target for the year 1994-95 is enclosed.

STATEMENT-I

List of All Implementing Agencies of Janata Cloth Scheme

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. A.P. State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Hyderabad-29.
2. A.P. State Textile Development Corporation Ltd., Hyderabad-1.

ASSAM

3. Assam Apex Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Federation Ltd., Guwahati-1.
4. Assam Government Marketing Corporation Ltd., Guwahati-21.
5. Brahmaputra Valley Regional Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Guwahati-1.
6. Barak Valley Weavers and Artisans Cooperative Ltd., Silchar-3.
7. N.C. Hillis Tribal Regional Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Halflong (Assam).
8. Karimganj District Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Ltd., Karimganj-11.

BIHAR

9. Bihar State Handloom and Handicrafts Corporation Ltd., Patna-4.
10. Bihar State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Union Ltd., Patna-16
11. Chottanagpur Regional Handloom Weavers Cooperative Union Ltd., Ranchi.

GUJARAT

12. Gujarat State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad-9.
13. Gujarat State Handloom and Industrial Cooperative Federation Ltd., Ahmedabad-1.
14. Utkarsh Regional Handloom Development Cooperative Society Ltd., Ahmedabad-1.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

15. J. and K. State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Jammu Tawi-1.

KARNATAKA

16. Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Bangalore-46.
17. Karnataka Cooperative Handloom Weavers Federation Ltd., Bangalore.

MAHARASHTRA

18. Maharashtra State Handloom Corporation Ltd., Nagpur.
19. Vidarbha Weavers Central Cooperative Society Ltd., Nagpur.
20. Western Maharashtra Weavers Central Cooperative Association Ltd., Solapur.

MADHYA PRADESH

21. M.P. State Textile Corporation Ltd., Bhopal.

ORISSA

22. Orissa State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneswar-7.
23. Orissa State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Bhubaneswar-1.

PUNJAB

24. Punjab State Handloom Weavers Apex Cooperative Society Ltd., Chandigarh.

RAJASTHAN

25. Rajasthan Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Jaipur-1.
26. Rajasthan Rajya Bunkar Sahakari Sangh Ltd., Jaipur-1.

TAMIL NADU

27. Tamil Nadu Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Madras-8.

TRIPURA

28. Tripura Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., Agartala-1.
29. Tripura Apex Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Agartala-1.

UTTAR PRADESH

30. U.P. State Handloom Corporation Ltd., Kanpur-5.
31. U.P. Industrial Cooperative Association Ltd., Kanpur-5.

WEST BENGAL

32. West Bengal Handloom and Powerloom Development Corporation Ltd., Calcutta-13.
33. West Bengal State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society Ltd., Calcutta-64.

STATEMENT-II

Statewise target and achievement for the year 1993-94 and the target for the year 1994-95

(in Million Square Metres)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1993-94		1994-95
		Target	Achievement	Target
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47.00	37.16	41.00
2.	Assam	31.00	25.90	27.00
3.	Bihar	19.00	7.14	16.00
4.	Gujarat	7.50	3.92	6.50
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.50	0.40	0.50
6.	Karnataka	30.00	22.86	26.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	15.00	14.43	13.00
8.	Maharashtra	28.00	20.02	24.00
9.	Orissa	27.00	10.09	23.50
10.	Punjab	2.00	1.80	1.00
11.	Rajasthan	8.00	5.35	7.00
12.	Tamil Nadu	40.00	39.89	34.00

1	2	3	4	5
13. Tripura		3.00	1.18	2.50
14. Uttar Pradesh		80.00	42.65	70.00
15. West Bengal		30.00	16.28	26.00
Total		368.00	249.07	318.00
				2.00*
				320.00

* Kept in reserve.

Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme

5549. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adopt Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme throughout the country on the lines of Maharashtra;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to strengthen Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in Maharashtra; and

(c) the measures taken to protect the interests of cotton growers in the facts of growing use of artificial fibres?

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

(b) The Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme is the concern of State Government of Maharashtra.

(c) Sufficient measures are taken to protect the interests of the Cotton growers. Cotton is commanding a good price in the domestic market and prices are prevailing well above the MSP which is also revised upward every year on the recommendation of the Agricultural Price Commission. They do not face any threat from use of artificial fibres as cotton continues to be the dominant fibre in use by the textile industry. Moreover, policies of import of artificial fibres are so designed (including duty structure of domestic artificial fibres) that cotton growers interests are not affected.

[English]

National Commission for Bonded Labour

5550. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Commission on bonded labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). A Committee of 13 State Labour Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Labour Minister of Maharashtra has been appointed to examine *inter alia* the proposal for setting up of National Commission on Bonded Labour.

Indian Tariffs

5551. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. has shown great concern over high Indian tariffs;

(b) if so, whether India's ban on import of consumer goods have affected U.S. Trade despite recent tariff restrictions and liberalisation of quantitative restrictions;

(c) whether the Government have discussed the issue with the U.S. Government; and

(d) if so, to what extent India has agreed to further liberalise the tariffs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Reduction in tariffs has been referred to be the US side in the context of bilateral economic and commercial relations and the ongoing reforms in India. India's exports to USA during the period April '94 — January '95 have increased by about 27% over its exports during the corresponding period of the previous year. During the same period, India's imports from USA have increased by about 24%.

(d) Determination of tariff levels is an autonomous decision taken by Government based on its perceptions of the needs of the economy.

Study on Indian Banking System

5552. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sponsored a study on the Indian Banking System through Shri Deena Khatkate;

(b) whether the above study report has since been submitted to the Government;

(c) if so, when and the salient features of its recommendations; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to examine the report and implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not sponsored any such study. However, Finance Ministry had invited Shri D. Khatkate to submit a report which is currently under examination.

Economic Reforms

5553. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has cautioned India against slowing down its economic reforms due to administrative bottlenecks;

(b) if so, whether in its report it has been pointed out that East Asian Countries like South Korea and Taiwan had worked towards effective coordination between the public and private sector for achieving economic growth;

(c) if so, whether Indian Government has slowed down its reforms for the past 3 to 4 months; and

(d) if so, the main reasons and the steps being taken for early reforms?

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

Forward Trading

5554. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recognised the speculative misadventures of Badla with revival of forward trading in stock market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken by the Government to stop such misadventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the possibilities of unhealthy market practices arising out of forward trading in securities in stock exchanges without adequate and effective safeguards for protecting the interests of small investors.

(c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been established, *inter alia*, for effectively regulating the stock market and stock brokers, and for protecting the interests of the investors. SEBI is also keeping a constant watch on the trading in Stock Exchanges for ensuring the safety of the market.

[Translations]

Pilgrims from Buddhist Countries

5555. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilgrims coming from Buddhist countries such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Japan, Korea

and Cambodia cannot travel to places of Buddhist pilgrimage in India due to lack of adequate facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce any specific scheme for pilgrims coming from the aforesaid countries and also with a view to promote religious tourism;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir, Many tourists/pilgrims from Buddhist countries are visiting places of Buddhist pilgrimage in India.

(b) to (d). The Government of India, alongwith the concerned State Governments are endeavouring to improve and provide additional facilities at the places of Buddhist pilgrimage in the country. On receipt of complete proposals from the State Governments, central financial assistance has been released for construction of Tourist Complexes, Meditation Centres, Wayside Amenities, Tourist Reception Centres, etc. at the various Buddhist centres. In addition, two projects with OECF loan assistance is under way for the development of infrastructure in the Buddhist circuits in U.P. and Bihar and in Ajanta Ellora (Maharashtra). The components of these projects include improvement of roads, provision of electricity, landscaping around monuments, provision of water supply etc.

The Department of Tourism, through its overseas offices located at Tokyo, Singapore and Bangkok seeks to increase the number of Buddhist pilgrims/tourists from the Buddhist countries visiting India.

[English]

S.T.D. Scam in Bank of Baroda

5556. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :

SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scandal involving Rupees seventy crores of short term deposits has been unearthed recently by the Central Bureau of Investigation at the Walkeshwar (Maharashtra) Branch of the Bank of Baroda;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the audit of the bank could not detect the fraud;

(d) if so, the reasons and the factors responsible therefor; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in Walkeshwar Branch of Bank of Baroda, a fraud was detected on 17.1.94 in which premature payments of certain short term deposits in the name of various companies and individuals without obtaining deposit receipts from the original beneficiaries was allowed. The proceeds of these premature withdrawals were credited in the account of another constituent of the branch and his associate concerns. The total amount involved in such irregular transactions aggregated to approximately Rs. 59 crores out of which Rs. 44 crores worth of short term deposit receipts surrendered are in the bank's possession. Thus, the bank is exposed to a liability of Rs. 15.2 crores. The case has been handed over to CBI who have registered two cases.

(c) and (d). The bank has reported that the fraud was perpetrated between two annual inspections carried out in January, 1993 and January, 1994 respectively. On detection of the fraud, a detailed investigation was carried out alongwith annual inspection and a report was submitted by the bank to its Board.

(e) The bank has reported the matter to CBI who have registered two cases against two Chief Managers of the bank and a private person on the allegation of defrauding the bank.

Six officers of the bank have been suspended. An amount of Rs. 391 lakhs has been recovered and shares worth Rs. 900 lakhs were lodged by the party with the bank which are in possession of CBI.

Trivandrum-Singapore Flight

5557. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from Government of Kerala to introduce direct flight between Trivandrum and Singapore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

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

(b) Air India has introduced a twice weekly service on Bombay/Trivandrum/Singapore sector and vice versa in January, 1995.

Seat Adjustment by ASEAN Airlines

5558. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether airlines of ASEAN countries are likely to be allowed to have additional seat adjustments with Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions of agreements signed/likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Commercial arrangements between India and other countries — including ASEAN — are negotiated and approved from time to time in respect of bilateral air transport services. Terms and conditions vary depending on commercial strategic and national considerations.

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

Posting of Couples at one Station

5559. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Government policy both husband and wife are to be posted at the same station;

(b) if so, whether this policy is being implemented in Air India and Indian Airlines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Government have issued guidelines that, as far as possible, within the constraints of administrative convenience, both husband and wife should be posted at the same station. These guidelines are followed by Air India and Indian Airlines. The postings are however, subject to availability of a post at the Station and the person being suitable and due for such posting.

[Translation]

Income Tax and Wealth Tax Arrears

5560. SHRI LALL BABU RAI :
SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of individuals, families and firms against whom arrears of income tax and wealth tax of over one crore and above were outstanding as on April 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, October 1, 1994 and January 31, 1995;

(b) the reasons for such high accumulation of arrears; and

(c) the steps being taken to recover the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) There were 1023 names as on 31.3.94, 1076 as on 30.6.94, 1025 as on 30.9.94 and 845 as on 31.12.1994 against whom income-tax and wealth-tax demands amounting to rupees one crore and above were

outstanding. The list of these names would be quite bulky and the time and labour involved in its collection may not be commensurate with the objectives sought to be achieved.

(b) The main reasons for high accumulation of arrears are as follows :

- (i) the tax demands are disputed in appeals;
- (ii) stays are granted by the Courts, the tribunals and the departmental authorities.

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

Closure/Shifting of Bank Branches

5561. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of various nationalised banks opened in Gujarat and Maharashtra separately during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to close down or shift certain branches/offices of these banks in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any such branches/offices have been closed/shifted during 1994-95; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The total number of branches of various nationalised banks opened in Gujarat and Maharashtra during the year 1992, 1993 and 1994 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that eight nationalised banks have agreed that some of their chronically loss making branches will be closed/merged. The break-up of branches closed/merged and proposed to be closed/merged for the State of Maharashtra and Gujarat is given below:

	No. of branches	
	Maharashtra	Gujarat
1. Andhra Bank	1	-
2. Bank of India	4	1
3. Bank of Maharashtra	7	1
4. Central Bank of India	4	1
5. Indian Overseas Bank	1	-
6. Syndicate Bank	3	1
7. United Bank of India	-	1
8. UCO Bank	9	3
Total	29	8

(d) and (e). Two branches viz. Delhi Darwaja and Sarangpur of UCO Bank in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) have been closed during the year 1994-95 as they had become unviable.

STATEMENT

Total Number of Branches Opened by Nationalised Banks During 1992, 1993 and 1994 in Maharashtra and Gujarat

Name of the Bank		Maharashtra			Gujarat		
		1992	1993	1994	1992	1993	1994
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Allahabad Bank	1	-	-	5	-	-
2.	Andhra Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Bank of Baroda	1	4	2	8	13	3
4.	Bank of India	1	9	3	1	-	-
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	4	5	-	-	-	-
6.	Canara Bank	1	2	2	-	-	-
7.	Central Bank of India	5	5	1	2	2	-
8.	Corporation Bank	3	-	2	-	-	4
9.	Dena Bank	2	2	-	-	1	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Indian Bank	-	-	2	-	1	4
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	-	3	-	-	2	2
13.	Punjab National Bank	-	2	-	-	-	-
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Syndicate Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	Union Bank of India	-	4	3	-	-	-
17.	United Bank of India	1	-	-	-	-	-
18.	UCO Bank	2	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Vijaya Bank	1	6	4	1	3	1
Total		23	42	19	19	22	11

[English]

Plight of Indian Banks in London

5562. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bank of England fails to save Indian Bank" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 5, 1995;

(b) if so, the whether the Indian banks in London have been closed down on flimsy grounds to save other banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). Reserve Bank of India has intimated that the banks referred to in the news item are not Indian banks. These banks were UK incorporated banks promoted primarily by Indians of East African origin.

[Translation]

Tourists Visiting Kashmir Valley

5563. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether there is steep decline in the number of tourists visiting Kashmir valley during the year 1994;

(b) if so, the extent of decline recorded therein in comparison to 1992 and 1993;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to rehabilitate those persons and families who are dependent on tourism in the valley; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). There has been no decline in tourists visiting Kashmir Valley during the year 1994 as compared to 1993. The number of tourists who visited Kashmir Valley and the extent of growth/decline during the year 1992, 1993 and 1994 were as follows :

Year	1992	1993	1994	%Change	
				1993/92	1994/93
Number of tourists	10324	8026	9814	(-)22.26	(+) 22.28

(c) and (d). No scheme has been formulated by the Central Government for rehabilitation of those persons/families dependent on tourism in the valley. However, the State Government has formulated certain measures such as waiving of interest and penal interest on Bank loans taken by the persons connected with tourism, grant of subsidy and interest free loans for setting up of alternate trades.

[English]

Diversion of Funds by Companies

5564. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE :
SHRI RAM KAPSE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the vibrant position in stock market and a great spurt in primary issues during the last three years, the Government have formulated any comprehensive action plan to check diversion of public funds to activities other than those for which funds are raised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) details of complaints received by SEBI regarding diversion of funds by the companies and action taken thereon;

(d) the action taken to prevent misuse of funds raised through primary issues/Euro issues and major instances brought to the notice of SEBI and action taken thereon; and

(e) other steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure transparency in raising of public funds by Public Limited Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). According to SEBI guidelines, companies are required to disclose in their offer documents where they are likely to deploy the funds till their utilisation for the projects for which the funds are mobilised. In case of issues where on application and allotment an amount exceeding Rs. 500 crores is raised, the issuer will voluntarily disclose and make arrangements for the use of proceeds of the issue to be monitored by one of the financial institutions. A copy of the monitoring report is required to be filed with SEBI by the institution and by the company for the purpose of record. SEBI has advised the stock exchanges in September, 1994 to add a new clause 43 which would require companies to furnish on a yearly basis a statement to the exchange showing the variations between projected and actual utilisation of funds raised from the public.

(c) and (d). SEBI has received a few complaints on the utilisation of funds for purpose other than the ones mentioned in the prospectus. These have been forwarded to Government in the Department of Company Affairs by SEBI.

(e) SEBI has constituted a 12 Member committee to review the existing disclosure requirements in offer documents and to recommend additional requirements so that the disclosures assists in achieving investor protection and also promote the orderly development of the capital market.

Branches of Nationalised Banks in Andhra Pradesh

5565. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks opened in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether a number of posts reserved for SCs and STs in class III and IV categories are lying vacant in these Banks; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to fill up these vacancies?

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

(a) The number of branches of Nationalised Banks opened in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is given below :

Year	No of branches opened
1992	23
1993	40
1994	12

(b) and (c). State-wise backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not maintained as per the present data reporting system. However, the details of backlog of unfilled reserve vacancies for the year 1993 (latest available) in public sector banks is given below :

(i) Direct Recruitment

Officers		Clerks		Sub-staff	
SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
156	90	806	689	280	659

(ii) Promotion from

Within Officers Cadre		Clerical to Officers Cadre		Sub-Staff to Clerical Cadre	
SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
12	5	575	812	21	84

The Government have taken the following steps to ensure proper implementation of reservation policy for SCs/STs :

- (1) Public Sector Banks have been advised to appoint Senior Level Officers of the Bank to function as a liaison Officer and set up SCs STs Cells in their respective Central Offices to ensure proper implementation of reservation policy.
- (2) The Public Sector Banks are required to place before their respective Boards of Director, Annual review reports in the prescribed Proforma, on the progress made in the implementation of the reservation policies.
- (3) Government reviews the Annual Review Reports of the banks for shortcomings, if any, in the implementation of the reservation policies.
- (4) The Liaison Officer in the Banking Division of the Government conducts in depth examination on implementation of reservation policy in one bank every quarter.

- (5) the banks have been advised to conduct pre-recruitment and pre-promotion training programme.
- (6) The SC and ST candidates are adjudged on relaxed standards both in the written tests and interviews.
- (7) Banks have been advised to include one member belonging to SC and ST in the selection committees/DPCs.
- (8) The banks have been advised to accord informal recognition to SC/ST Welfare associations to enable them to protect their interests for redressal of their grievances, if any.
- (9) The CMDs of all banks have been advised to meet once in a quarter the representations of SC and ST associations and hear their grievances relating to reservation policy.

Capital inflow

5566. SHRI SANT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Bank study on India has suggested that the Government could consider some appropriate form of taxation of foreign capital inflows if other measures to regulate them prove insufficient;

(b) whether on the bases of the experience of other countries, the World Bank has suggested various methods by which capital inflows can be slowed down; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon and the measures the Government propose to take to regulate the surge in capital inflows?

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

(a) and (b). The World Bank in its Country Economic Memorandum, 1994 has underlined the measures taken by the Latin American and East Asian countries to slow down the foreign capital inflows such as ceilings on foreign borrowings, minimum reserve requirements on foreign loans, interest rate equilisation taxes etc. The Bank has also indicated that the Government of India could consider some appropriate form of taxation on foreign capital inflows if other measures to regulate them prove insufficient.

(c) Government of India is already aware of the likely inflationary potential of the recent large capital inflow. A number of steps have already been taken or contemplated by the Government and RBI to moderate the likely inflationary impact including steps to limit the fiscal deficit to 5.5% of GDP in 1995-96; as well as tighter monetary controls.

Portfolio investment by Foreign Institutional Investors are subject to ceilings of 5% holding by

individual FII and overall 24% holding limit for all FIIs/NRIs/OCBs in a single company. In order to moderate capital inflows, effective from 28th October, 1994, companies issuing GDRs are required mandatorily to retain issue proceeds abroad and repatriate the proceeds as and when expenditure are actually incurred on the approved and uses.

Wages to the Employees of BIC

5567. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister OF LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether British India Corporation Limited, a Government of India Undertaking, has been violating labour laws by not adhering to the stipulated date of payment of wages to the employees of the Corporation as well as those in its subsidiary or associated companies;

(b) whether the Undertaking is also not depositing the amount of CPF contributions of the employees regularly;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) According to available information, payment of wages to the employees has been made in time by British India Corporation (BIC) and its two subsidiaries, namely Cawnpore Textile and Elgin Mills Limited. As regards the third subsidiary, namely Brushware Limited, payment of wages has not been made after December, 1994. Among the Associate companies of BIC, Champaran Sugar Company Limited has not paid wages to its factory workers from April, 1994. This company is under liquidation since 5.9.94. The main reason for non payment of wages is the constraint of funds faced by the company.

(b) and (c). It is reported that the following companies/subsidiaries have defaulted in depositing P.F. dues of employees:

- (i) BIC Limited
- (ii) Elgin Mills Limited (Subsidiary of BIC)
- (iii) Brushware Limited (Subsidiary of BIC)
- (iv) Champaran Sugar Company Limited (Associate Company of BIC)
- (v) Saran Engineering Company Limited (Associate Company of BIC)

(d) Ministry of Labour has taken up the matter with Ministry of Textiles for securing adequate resources to keep wage payments upto-date in all the units under their administrative control. Details of default in depositing P.F. contributions on the part of individual companies is being collected.

Bank Robberies

5568. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank dacoities committed in the country during the last three years and current year till March 1995, State-wise;

(b) the measures taken to prevent the Bank dacoities;

(c) the compensation given to the victim employees or those who were killed or injured in the above incidents, State-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps taken to ensure security to the Bank customers during the business hours?

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

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

[Translation]

Agricultural Labour

5569. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the welfare scheme approved by the Central Government for the agriculture labourers in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the extent to which benefits have been derived by agriculture labourers so far on account of these schemes;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey at district level after the implementation of these schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to take any further steps in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (f). Some of the major schemes undertaken for the welfare of the rural workers including agricultural workers in the State of Gujarat.

(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided for acquiring income generating assets, comprising of a varying mix of subsidies and term credit at differential rates for small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans with special provision for SCs/STs and women. The number of families assisted under this Scheme during

1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (upto Feb., 95) in the State of Gujarat are 61,842, 79,725 and 61,444 respectively.

(ii) Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (JRY)

The Scheme aims at generation of additional gainful employment and creation of productive community assets. Employment generation under this scheme in the State of Gujarat during the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is 235.03, 210.55 and 195.68 lakh mandays respectively. This scheme has been intensified in 120 backward districts of the country where there is concentration of unemployment and under-employment. In Gujarat 62.80 lakh mandays were generated under Intensified Jawahar Rojgar Yojana (IJRY).

(iii) Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) The scheme aims at skill upgradation of rural youth for self-employment.

(iv) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

On 2nd October, 1993, a new scheme known as 'Employment Assurance Scheme' has been launched in 1752 identified backward blocks throughout the country and seeks to provide assured wage employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work in lean agricultural season. The scheme will mainly benefit agricultural. During 1994-95 physical achievement under this scheme was 20.25 lakh mandays.

Besides, there is a scheme known as Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) which was launched in 1982-83 for bringing about economic and social upliftment of rural women belonging to families below the poverty line using a group approach for taking up income generating activities suited to their skills and aptitude. The Scheme operates in conjunction with TRYSEM and IRDP.

(v) Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Workers

With effect from 1.4.87 the State Government have launched a Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Workers covering nearly 23 lakh Agricultural Workers between the age group of 18-60 years. Under this Scheme compensation for natural and accidental death and for full and partial disability is given. Full premium is borne by the State Government and the LIC. Nearly 17,000 claims amounting to Rs. 2 crores annually are reportedly settled.

To assess the overall impact of various rural development programmes, concurrent evaluation of IRDP (4th round), JRY (2nd round) as well as Quick Evaluation of TRYSEM were launched during 1993-94. An Evaluation study on the Group Insurance Scheme was conducted by the Director of Evaluation, Government of Gujarat. A detailed analysis about Socio-Economic characteristics was also conducted for 383 sample beneficiaries from 24 sample villages.

[English]

Private Sector Banks

5570. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether private sector banks have been permitted to operate in Sikkim during 1995-96; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). As per available information, no new private sector bank has been permitted so far during 1995-96 to operate in Sikkim. However, Sikkim Bank Limited, a private sector bank, is already operating in Sikkim.

Indian Exporters

5571. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some Non-Resident Indian (NRIs) allegedly cheated small and medium Indian exporters to the tune of Rs. 20 crores in connivance with some German banks;
(b) whether the exporter's grievances redressal cell working under the office of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has taken up the matter; and
(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Three complaints of Indian exporters have been received through the Delhi Exporters Association, alleging non-payment by a German firm owned by Non-Resident Indians against export contracts backed by Letters of Credit issued by their German banks. The total value involved as alleged in the complaints is US\$ 147019.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Embassy of India, Bonn had been requested to pursue the matter with the Non-Resident Indian importers for immediate settlement of bills against the exports made. Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi has been informed to alert other Readymade garment exporters against dealings with such buyers. The Delhi Exporters Association has also been requested to advise their member exporters to ensure complete documentation in order to prevent such recurrences.

Cultivation of Single and Double Barns of Tobacco

5572. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total quantum of tobacco allocated for single and double barns in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the cultivation of exportable quality of tobacco in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the farmers have demanded an additional allocation of 500 kgs. and 1000 kg. for single and double barns respectively;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the quantum of tobacco likely to be cultivated in the country, particularly in the tribal areas of Gujarat, during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Tobacco Board has authorised 1050 kgs and 2100 kgs of Virginia tobacco per simplex and duplex barn respectively in Karnataka in the 1995-96 season, while the quantity in the case of Andhra Pradesh is yet to be decided. No allocation has been made for Gujarat on account of the insignificant cultivation of Virginia tobacco in the State.

(d) and (e). The Karnataka State Tobacco Growers Forum have represented that the production quota for simplex and duplex barns be raised to 2,000 and 4,000 kgs per barn respectively. It is only possible to consider such increases when there is a greater demand for the crop.

(f) The Tobacco Board only registers growers of Virginia tobacco for which the Karnataka crop size fixed in 1995-96 is 25.24 million kgs while that for Andhra Pradesh is yet to be determined.

Public Issues

5573. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to lay down certain basic guidelines to check the public issues of companies with bad financial track record; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) The vetting of offer documents of companies intending to raise funds from the public by SEBI already ensures that adequate disclosures are made by companies so that investors can take informed decisions. Besides, the lead managers to an issue while forwarding offer documents to SEBI are also required to submit due diligence certificates confirming the correctness and adequacy of the contents of the offer documents. SEBI has also constituted a 12 member committee to review and strengthen the existing disclosure requirements.

Hotels and Restaurants of ITDC

5574. SHRI R. ANBARASU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of hotels and restaurants managed by ITDC alongwith their assets value, profits and losses of each unit during the last three years; and

(b) the reasons for the losses and the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The requisite information in respect of Hotels and Restaurants as are

owned as well as managed by ITDC is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Hotels Division of ITDC is making a net profit. Losses in certain hotels is attributed mainly to natural calamities, adverse tourism scenario caused by internal and external factors.

Steps taken by ITDC to improve the performance of hotels include aggressive marketing efforts, introduction of special tariff/packages, upgradation/improvement/restructuring of hotel properties, monitoring and control of operating costs, development of human resources by imparting suitable training etc.

STATEMENT

Net Profit/Loss and Assets Value of ITDC Owned and Managed Hotels/Restaurants for the year 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (Provisional)

Name of the Unit	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Net value of fixed Assets as on 31.3.94
	Net Profit/Loss	Net Profit/Loss	(Prov.) Net Profit/Loss	
1	2	3	4	5
(Rs. in lakhs)				
A. HOTELS				
Agra Ashok	-6.58	2.75	-39.46	291.34
Airport Calcutta	-16.18	-61.38	-45.42	311.96
Ashok Bangalore	16.62	-0.46	44.42	323.60
Ashok, New Delhi	-11.33	448.12	1110.01	1098.76
AYN, New Delhi	-60.87	-87.40	1.90	360.07
Aurangabad Ashok	0.28	-12.06	-17.87	74.62
Bodhgaya Ashok	9.93	9.38	7.96	109.96
Hassan Ashok	22.21	14.52	17.11	44.82
Jaipur Ashok	11.01	8.32	-7.09	221.36
Jammu Ashok	-23.24	-13.16	-22.33	64.81
Janpath Hotel	-31.92	132.32	170.05	186.12
Kalinga Ashok	-42.59	-37.76	-31.41	167.54
Kanishka Hotel	85.87	193.01	268.28	529.43
Khajuraho Ashok	1.05	-3.53	-23.10	19.63
KABR, Kovalam	0.37	80.39	118.72	183.08
LMPH, Mysore	65.58	107.80	109.81	77.80
LVPH, Udaipur	71.69	95.34	77.81	107.75
Lodhi Hotel	-21.33	50.41	64.64	35.17
Madurai Ashok	0.42	-2.68	3.41	70.11
Manali Ashok	-24.30	-4.00	12.36	161.69
Pataliputra Ashok	-32.65	-8.94	-25.00	106.66
Qutab Hotel	-2.65	36.15	130.84	118.45
Ranjit Hotel	-115.95	-72.07	-66.34	29.06
Samrat Hotel	-98.80	-21.92	117.87	1127.94
TABR, Mamallapuram	-12.89	-10.84	21.10	45.26
Varanasi Ashok	-14.81	-14.80	-42.09	115.61
Sub-Total	-231.06	827.51	1956.18	5982.60

1	2	3	4	5
B. RESTAURANTS				
Taj Restt., Afra	-11.44	-6.13	-3.87	12.10
Vigyan Bhavan	-13.80	12.27	61.48	21.68
I.G.I.A. New Delhi	-3.78	-0.66	9.17	10.78
Sub-Total	-29.02	5.48	66.78	44.56
Total (A+B)	-260.08	832.99	2022.96	6027.16

R.B.I. Guidelines on Preferential Shares

5575. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently issued fresh guidelines with regard to the preferential allotment of shares by the companies to foreign institutional investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the need and the reasons for issuing fresh guidelines by RBI in addition to the existing guidelines issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a Press Note on pricing of preferential allotment of shares by Indian companies to foreign investors. The Press Note indicates that the RBI guidelines have now been harmonised with guidelines dated 4.8.1994 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Motor Accident Claims

5576. SHRI PRABHUADYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Motor accident claims pending with the National Insurance Company Limited since 1989 in West Bengal, and the number out of them which have been settled so far;

(b) the number of complaints regarding non-payment of such claims received by National Insurance Company Limited since September 1989 in West Bengal indicating the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) actions proposed to be taken against the persons found responsible?

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

*[Translation]***Loans in Agricultural and Industrial Sector**

5577. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any imbalance in the distribution of loans to industrial and agricultural sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). As per the information made available by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the performance of Public Sector Banks in lending to agriculture and small scale industry as on the last Friday of March 1992, 1993, 1994 as also December, 1994 is as under:

	(Rs. crores)	
As on the last Friday of	Lending to Agriculture	Lending to Small Scale Industries
March, 1992	18264.72	17398.42
March, 1993	20020.33	19388.09
March, 1994	21204.26	21581.12
December, 1994	22199.15	23352.02

It will be observed from the above data that advances to both agriculture and small scale industries has been showing a rising trend. Further, it may be stated that credit is made available to agriculture and industrial sectors as per the requirement of individual activities which are otherwise found to be financially and technically viable.

*[English]***Commission to Mahila Pradhan Agents**

5578. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has brought to the notice of the Union Government the delay in disbursing commissions to Mahila Pradhan Agents; and

(b) if so, the action taken to remedy the situation?

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

(b) National Savings Commissioner, Nagpur has been advised to ensure that the commission claims of Mahila Pradhan Agents are settled expeditiously.

Central Aid to Tamil Nadu

5579. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has requested the Central Government to provide Central aid for Noon Meal Scheme, Prohibition, Preventing Female Infanticide and Crade Baby Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide the assistance for these programmes;

(c) if so, the total amount likely to be provided to the State in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir, his Ministry has not received request from Government of Tamil Nadu for Central aid for Noon Meal Scheme, Prohibition, Preventing Female Infanticide and Crade Baby Scheme.

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

Flying Operation from Keshod, Porbandar, Kandla

5580. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether flight operation from Keshod, Porbandar, Kandla Airports has been stopped for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the losses incurred by the Government due to close-down of air-services from the Saurashtra region;

(d) whether the Government propose to resume flights from these airports; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Due to financial and operational reasons Vayudoot has withdrawn its services from Keshod, Porbandar and Kandla.

(c) The cost of operations of each flight of Vayudoot was more than the revenue earned and as such closing down of air services did not increase the losses of the Company.

(d) and (e). Due to financial reasons Vayudoot is not in a position to add any more stations than it is operating to, at present. However, private operators are free to operate to any of the 93 listed airports including Keshod, Porbandar and Kandla.

Loans to Tamil Nadu by NABARD

5581. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan given by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to Tamil Nadu for the all-round development of its villages through electrification and construction of roads during each of the last three years; and

(b) terms and conditions for repayment of this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has extended refinance support for REC-SPA programmes through commercial banks meant for energisation of pumpsets for increasing agricultural production. Details of the refinance assistance provided by NABARD during the last three years for Tamil Nadu are as under:

Year	Amount of refinance (Rs. lakhs)
1992-93	1354
1993-94	1340
1994-95	2200

NABARD provides refinance assistance to various financing banks in respect of loans advanced by them for technically feasible and financially viable schemes. Construction of roads is not an eligible activity for bank finance.

(b) The terms and conditions for the repayment of the loan for electrification purposes are as under:

(i) Period of repayment is subject to the income generation under individual schemes with a ceiling of ten years as proposed by Rural Electrification Corporation.

(ii) The interest on refinance is atleast 4% below the rate charged by commercial banks.

ESI Exemption

5582. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Insecticide Limited (HIL) Eloor, Cochin has requested to exempt this unit from ESI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Import of Tyres by NMDC

5583. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI TARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NMDC Limited has been importing heavy duty tyres without proper evaluation of tenders;

(b) whether such tyres are also available in domestic markets;

(c) whether any objection have been raised by the Finance Wing of the company; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):(a) and (b). The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has reported that it has been procuring tyres required at its iron ore mining projects both from indigenous and foreign manufacturers. However, the company has found the performance of imported tyres to be markedly superior to the indigenous ones resulting in longer life, saving in fuel consumption, etc.

(c) and (d). NMDC has reported that the views of its Finance, Operations and Materials Departments were taken into consideration before arriving at the purchase decision.

[Translation]

Mining in Ajmer

5584. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major portion of Quartz and Felspar produced in the country is mined from the Ajmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of the industries based on these minerals that are likely to be set-up in Ajmer, location-wise;

(c) whether steps are being taken for exploiting the deposits of copper and zinc in Ajmer district; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when mining of these metals will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV):(a) Yes, Sir. Major portion of the quartz and felspar found in the country produced from Ajmer district, Rajasthan. Production felspar and quartz minerals in Ajmer district with

respect to all India production from 1991-92 to 1993-94 is as under :

Year	Unit in tonnes			
	Felspar		Quartz	
	All India	Ajmer Dist.	All India	Ajmer Dist.
1991-92	69,420	25,339	192,394	31,463
1992-93	74,086	33,562	204,754	42,000
1993-94	71,199	32,013	160,316	44,150

(b) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Housing Projects in Bihar

5585. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some housing projects have been started in Bihar with foreign assistance; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which this assistance is being utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Power Projects in Karnataka

5586. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any power projects submitted by Karnataka are pending for clearance with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c). The following proposals have been received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance:

S.No.	Name of Project	Capacity
1.	Yelahanka Diesel Power Station Extn. (KEB)	2 x 23.4 MW
2.	Mangalore TPS (Private)	4 x 250 MW
3.	Raichur TPS Unit - 5 and 6 (Private)	2 x 210 MW
4.	Toranagallu TPS (Private)	2 x 120 MW

The project authorities have been requested to obtain all clearances and establish the requisite inputs and linkages for consideration of the projects by CEA for accord of techno-economic clearance.

Ginger based Units in Jalpaiguri

5587. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that ginger is produced in Jalpaiguri in abundance;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to set up a ginger based unit in Jalpaiguri; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES SHRI TARUN GOGOI:

(a) While Jalpaiguri District produces some quantity of Ginger, it is mainly a market centre for the Ginger produced in Sikkim and Mizoram.

(b) and (c). The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up the food processing industries directly in any State.

[English]

Diesel Power Plants in Gujarat

5588. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government to set up diesel based power plants in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (d) the time by which the work is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) No proposal has been received in the Central Electricity Authority for a diesel-based power plant in Gujarat.

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

Plantation along National Highways

5589. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to plant trees on both sides of National Highways by the Private Sector; and
- (b) if so, the manner in which it is proposed to be done?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Basic Services Resources Programmes for Cities in U.P.

5590. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any representation to include some cities of Uttar Pradesh in "Basic Services Resources Programme"; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). No such representation to include some cities of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme of Urban Basic Services for Poor (UBSP) has been received during the current financial year. However, at present, 25 towns are covered under the UBSP scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Bridge on N.H.-17

5591. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Moidu Bridge on NH-17 between Cannanore and Tellichery in Kerala has been damaged badly; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to repair the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Formation of some cracks in the deckslab of Moidu Bridge has been reported by Kerala P.W.D.

(b) Urgent action by State P.W.D. to rectify defects to restore traffic are being taken. Further steps can be specified only after necessary reports from them are available.

Bhopal Gas Disaster

5592. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 287 on April 4, 1995 and state:

- (a) the number of compensation claims registered in connection with Bhopal gas disaster;
- (b) the number of such claims pending on 1.4.93, 1.4.94 and 1.4.95;

(c) the number of such claims disposed of during 1993-94 and 1994-95, the number of those accepted and of those rejected; and

(d) the total and average compensation paid during these two years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):(a) The number of compensation claims registered under the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Registration and Processing of Claims) Scheme, 1985, upto 31.1.1995 was 5,06,864.

(b) and (c). According to the information received from the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, the position of claims pending was as follows:

as on 1.4.1993	—	12,380
as on 1.4.1994	—	3,67,201
as on 1.4.1995	—	3,27,773

The information regarding disposal of cases is as follows:

Year	Claims Disposed of	Claims Accepted	Claims Rejected
1993-94	43,436	40,507	2929
1994-95	1,29,439	1,28,350	1089

The disposal of cases indicated above includes disposal of pending as well as fresh cases registered during the respective years.

(d) Amount of compensation awarded upto 31.3.1995 was about Rs. 500 crores, of which the payment during 1993-94 and 1994-95 was as follows:

	Total Compensation paid (Rs./crores)	Average of Compensation paid (Rs.)
1993-94		
Injury cases	12.26	28,455
Death cases	35.75	1,05,275
1994-95		
Injury cases	2,97.46	26,377
Death cases	23.44	94,818

Construction of Bridge Across Hindon Canal

5593. SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be please to refer to Unstarred Question No. 2160 on December 21, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the planning stage for construction of bridge across Hindon Canal near Chilla regulator is complete by now;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the target date by which the planning is likely to be completed;

(c) the details of the next step to be taken towards construction of the bridge and the time-frame fixed for the construction;

(d) whether the land in possession of the UP Irrigation Department has been acquired to construct a bridge on Hindon Cut Canal in Ghazipur drain to connect Vasundhara Enclave with NH-24 through Trilokpuri; and

(e) the progress of work on other aspects other than land acquisition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. As reported by the PWD, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi the concurrence of UP Government to construct the bridge over Hindon Cut Canal is still awaited. The planning is expected to be completed by December, 1995.

(c) On receiving concurrence and handing over of land by UP Government., tenders for the construction will be invited by December, 1995 for commencing work by March, 1996 and its completion by September, 1997.

(d) Not Yet.

(e) The preparatory work for commencing planning work has been done.

[Translation]

Sea Training Institute in Maharashtra

5594. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a new sea training institute in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Expansion Programme

5595. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) propose to start new projects as part of its expansion programme;

(b) if so, the expenditure involved, the source and method of financing, the likely increase in production and other details thereof;

(c) the present status of the expansion programme; and

(d) the time by when this programme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d). National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) had proposed the simultaneous expansion of Bauxite Mine from 2.4 MTPY to 4.8 MTPY, Alumina Refinery from 0.8 MTPY to 1.35 MTPY and Aluminium Smelter from 2.18 lakh TPY to 3.45 lakh TPY Captive Power Plant from 6x120 MW to 8 x 120 MW. The proposal was considered by the Public Investment Board (PIB) and it was decided that the project be considered in two phases. For the first phase of expansion of capacity of Bauxite Mines and Alumina Refinery, NALCO had submitted the proposal at a cost of Rs. 1056.95 crores at Oct. 1993 prices to be financed from the internal resources etc. with no budgetary support. NALCO have been asked to update the cost estimates.

[Translation]

Persons of Indian Origin in Afghanistan

5596. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians and persons of Indian origin in Afghanistan; and

(b) the number of Afghanis settled in India, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) As on January, 1994 there were no Indian nationals. However, there were 200 persons of Indian Origin in Afghanistan.

(b) There are 24,662 Afghanis settled in India. Statewise figures in this regard is not available.

[English]

Land Slides

5597. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the steps taken to prevent land slides during monsoon months between Shillong and Badarpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Preventive measures in the form of construction of breast walls have been taken to check recurrence of land slides.

Attack on Indian Students in US

5598. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a growing number of Indian American students are falling victims to attacks by fellow students in New York;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken-up/ propose to take-up the issue with the Government of the U.S.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to save the Indian American students from such attacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) No, Sir. No such case has come to the attention of our Missions in Washington and New York.

(b) to (d). If any case of attack on Indian nationals is brought to the attention of our Missions in US, the matter would be taken up with the concerned local authorities. However, with regard to American citizens of Indian origin they have other recourse facilities available to seek redressal.

[Translation]

Operation of Terrorism from England

5599. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that British citizens of Kashmiri origin are operating a network of terrorism from England;

(b) if so, whether specific instances have come to the notice of the Government in this regard;

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

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Government of U.K.;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to contain the militant activities for spreading violence in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Government are aware that individuals and groups of Kashmiri origin in the UK are engaged in encouraging anti-India activities and propoganda as well militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Specific instances of such activities relate to demonstrations, rallies and conferences organised by these elements at which propoganda material is disseminated and support voices for militant activities in J & K.

(c) to (e). Through the High Commission of India in London as well as the British High Commission in New Delhi, Government keep the concerned authorities of the British Government informed on a continuing basis about the activities of anti-India groups operating in the UK.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Cost of DAP

5600. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is more than that of imported DAP;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a representation from the Fertilizer Association of India to remove this handicap;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) in its representation dated 5.1.95, had pointed out that the indigenous phosphatic fertilizer industry was handicapped inasmuch as the cost of indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) based on imported raw materials was more than the imported DAP. To remove this handicap, FAI has suggested the following three alternatives:

(i) To continue the adhoc concession on sales of indigenous DAP; or

(ii) Levy of customs duty on imported DAP at an appropriate level to provide a reasonable protection to the domestic industry; or

(iii) Canalisation of imported DAP through manufacturers of DAP and complex fertilizers.

(d) During the year 1995-96, the Government has continued the scheme of special concession on the sale of indigenous phosphatic fertilizers, including DAP.

Damodar Valley Corporation

5601. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Demodar Valley Corporation continues to sustain annual loss even though there are potentials for earning good profits;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the revised tariff;

(d) whether it is a fact that BSEB and WBSEB have refused to accept the revised tariff; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir. On the contrary, DVC earned a net profit of Rs. 107 crores during the year 1993-94 and it is expected that DVC would earn a similar level of profit during the year 1994-95 as well.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) and (e). The West Bengal State Electricity Board and Bihar State Electricity Board have not accepted DVC's last two tariff revisions effective from April, 1993 and May, 1994 on grounds of Non-clearance of the revised tariff by the respective State Governments.

STATEMENT

Electricity Tariff for H.T. Supply from DVC Power System (Effective from 1st May, 1994)

1. 33 KV Tariff

1.1 **Tariff A** : For contract demand below 125 MVA

(a) Energy Charge (on monthly consumption subject to minimum guaranteed energy charges)	89.90 Paise Per KWH
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PLUS

(b) **Demand Charge**

(i) On whole of maximum demand when the drawal does not exceed the contract demand (for unrestricted Supply) and/or the restricted allocation.	Rs. 182.00 Per KVA Per month
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(ii) *Penal Demand Charge*

On whole of maximum demand when the drawal exceeds the contract demand (for unrestricted supply) and/or the restricted allocation.	Rs. 187.00 Per KVA Per month
--	------------------------------------

PLUS

(c) *Fuel Cost Surcharge***1.2 Tariff B** : For contract demands of 125 MVA and above

(a) <i>Energy charge</i> (on monthly consumption subject to minimum guaranteed energy charges)	84.55 Paise Per KWH
--	---------------------------

PLUS

(b) *Demand Charge*

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| (i) On whole of maximum demand when the drawal does not exceed the contract demand (for unrestricted supply) and/or the restricted allocation. | Rs. 228.00
Per KVA
Per month |
| (ii) <i>Penal Demand Charge</i> On whole of maximum demand when drawal exceeds the contract demand (for unrestricted supply) and/or the restricted allocation. | Rs. 233.00
Per KVA
Per month |

PLUS

(c) *Fuel Cost Surcharge***2. Fuel Cost Surcharge**

- (a) (i) The rate of fuel cost surcharge per Kwh sold, shall be varied according to the average fuel surcharge to be determined according to the formula.

$$\frac{A1 \times B1 + A2 \times B2}{[(B1+B2+B3) + (C1+C2+\dots+Cn)] \times 0.98}$$

Where A1 = fuel cost surcharge per Kwh. at the Corporation's Thermal Generating Stations.

A2 = fuel cost surcharge per Kwh. at the Corporation's Gas Turbine Generating Stations.

B1 = Kwh sent out from the Corporation's Thermal Generating Stations.

B2 = Kwh sent out from the Corporation's Turbine Generating Stations.

B3 = Kwh sent out from the Corporation's Hydrel Generating Stations.

C1, C2, Cn = no. of units purchased form NTPC, Powergrid, WBSEB, BSEB, OSEB etc.

- (ii) At the end of six calender month ending 30th September and 31st March every year the Corporation shall prepare statements for actual fuel cost surcharge, during such period of six calender months in respect of Corporation's own Thermal Generating Stations and Gas Turbine Generating Stations at Maithon as certified by the Chief Accounts Officer, DVC, and in accordance with the following clauses :

Thermal Generating Stations

The rate per Kwh shall be deemed to be based on average cost of Rs. 152.00 per 1,000,000 Kilo-Calories of fuel delivered at the bunkers of the Corporation's Generating Stations. In the event of actual fuel cost reckoned on half yearly basis during the continuance of agreement being at variance with the aforesaid basic cost of fuel, the rate per Kwh shall be increased or decreased as the case may be, by an element of Fuel Cost Surcharge calculated at 0.61 paise for each one percent variation with respect to their basic cost of fuel (percentage variation of 0.5 and above will be treated as next higher percentage and that below 0.5 will be ignored).

Gas Turbine Generating Station at Maithon

"The rate per Kwh shall be deemed to be based on cost of Rs. 724.50 per 1,000,000 kilo-calories of fuel delivered into nozzle heads of the combustors of the Gas Turbine at the Maithon Gas Turbine Station. In the event of rise or fall in the aforesaid cost, rate per Kwh will be increased or decreased as the case may be, by 3.41 paise for each 1% variation in case of fuel per 1,000,000 kilo-calories. Percentage variation of 0.5% and above will be ignored".

- (b) Fuel cost surcharge as estimated by the Corporation shall be realised through the monthly energy bills. Final adjustment shall be made on the basis of the actual fuel cost surcharge to be determined according to Cl.2 (a) (i) above for the period of six calender months ending 30th September and 31st March each year.

3. Tariff for Supply at 132 KV/22 KV

33 kv tariff as stated hereinbefore, with a rebate of 5% on Energy Charge and Demand Charges.

4. Tariff for 25 KV Railway Traction Supply

132 kv tariff as shown above, plus a standing charge (recoverable on monthly basis), the

amount per annum being 20% or such other percentage as may be fixed from time to time, of the capital cost of the DVC's step-down substation and/or equipments installed/used for transferring the supply from 132 kv to 25 kv.

5. Tariff for Supply at 11 KV

(Under spl. arrangement)

33 kv tariff as shown above, with additional 5% on Energy charge and Demand Charge.

6. The above Tariff will be applicable to all Consumers without prejudice to payment of minimum demand charge/charges and the minimum guaranteed energy charges.

7. Rebate to **SEB's** A rebate of 10% on Demand Charges and Energy Charge is allowed for supply of power to West Bengal State

Electricity Board and Bihar State Electricity Board as per directive issued by the Government of India dated 12.5.1975.

Production of Granites

5602. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) The total production of granites in the country, particularly in Karnataka over the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) The details of types of granites produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b). Total production and types of granites produced in the country is given in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

Production of Granites (Qty. and Value) 1989-90 to 1993-94 (To the Available Extent) (By States and By Varieties)

State	Variety	Unit of Qty.	1989-90		1990-91			
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value		
1. Andhra Pradesh	Total of A.P.	Cu.mt.	105,258	5,109,90	26,563	1,087,52		
	Black Granite	-do-	97,027	4,851,35	11,566	578,30		
	Grey Granite	-do-	4,669	140,07	4,862	194,48		
	Multi Colour	-do-	1,100	38,50	7,779	311,16		
	Pink Granite	-do-	159	5,57	55	2,20		
	Coloured Granite	-do-	927	32,44	-	-		
	Granite	-do-	1,376	41,97	2,301	1,38		
	Granite Black	-do-	-	-	-	-		
	Basalt/Granite	-do-	48,917	48,92	-	-		
	Basalt Metal	-do-	-	-	112,280	39,30		
3. Gujarat	Granite	M.T.	12,304	2,37	7,864	1,62		
	Granite	M.T.	250	25	265	27		
5. Karnataka	Ornamental Stones	M.T.	139,161	1,000,61	466,983	N.A.		
	-do-	Cu.mt.	-	-	26,658	N.A.		
6. Kerala	Granite (Total)	M.T.	210,328	120,48	272,836	166,89		
	Dimension Stone	M.T.	-	-	-	-		
	Building Stone	T.T.	-	-	-	-		
7. Madhya Pradesh	Granite	M.T.	300*	8	722*	52		
	Decorative Stones	M.T.	2,000	15,18	6,858	68,58		
9. Rajasthan	Granite	M.T.	5,382*	10,47	28,100	34,84		
	-do-	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		
10. Tamil Nadu						(value in Rs. '000)		
State	Variety	Unit of Qty.	1991-92		1992-93		1993-94	
			Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1. Andhra Pradesh	Total A.P.	Cu.mt.	29,504	1,633,80	64,348	3,438,36	70,250	4,177,53
	Black Granite	-do-	15,860	951,60	22,096	1,325,76	28,481	1,879,74
	Grey Granite	-do-	868	43,40	-	-	-	-
	Multi Colour	-do-	3,933	196,65	42,252	2,112,60	41,778	2,297,79
	Pink Granite	-do-	2,216	110,80	-	-	-	-
	Coloured Granite	-do-	6,210	310,50	-	-	-	-
	Granite	-do-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Granite Black	417	20,85	-	-	-	-	-
	Basalt/Granite	Cu.mt.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Basalt	Cu.mt.	161,276	96,77	145,910	116,73	131,319	105,05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3. Gujarat	Granite	M.T.	7,748	1,56	18,332(p)	3,85 (p)	214,67(p)	537 (p)
4. Haryana	Granite	M.T.	15,735	1,57	4,500	45	N.A.	N.A.
5. Karnataka	Ornament Stone	M.T.	-	-	-	-	-	-
	"	Cu.mt.	76,132	N.A.	20,711	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
6. Kerala	Granite (total)	M.T.	525,186	240,71	308,825	260,27	436,491	641,05
	Dimension stone	M.T.	3,228	147,54	3,593	178,52	2,075	109,69
	Building Stone	M.T.	521,958	93,17	305,232	81,75	434,416	531,36
7. Madhya Pradesh	Granite	M.T.	600*	60	1,958	1,97	4,765	9,13
8. Orissa	Decorative Stone	M.T.	17,338	199,39	17,709	231,91	N.A.	N.A.
9. Rajasthan	Granite	M.T.	31,700	63,74	44,700	89,89	39,610	220,56
10. Tamil Nadu					N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	

Source : Respective States Government * : Relates to Calander Year N.A. : Date not received (P) : Provisional

Note : Estimated Average Sale values of Granite in Karnataka for 1992-93 as quoted by Government of Karnataka below:

- (1) Gray Granite (a) Rs. 1,500 to 4,000 per Cu.mt. for ordinary, (b) Rs. 10,000/- per Cu.mt for Siya Grey
- (2) Pink Granite (a) Rs. 2,500/- to Rs. 3,500/- per Cu.mt. for ordinary, (b) Rs. 15,000/- per cu.mt. for Ipkal Red.
- (3) Black Granite Dyke Rs. 3,000/- to 12,000/- per cu.mt.

Steel Plants in Orissa by Private Sector

5603. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private sector companies have sought approval of the Union Government to set up steel plants in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). According to the new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, "Iron and Steel" industry has been removed from the list of units reserved for Public Sector and has also been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. No industrial licence is, therefore, required to set up steel plant except for certain locational restrictions. The Iron and Steel industry has also been included in the list of high priority industries which are eligible for automatic approval for foreign equity investment upto 51% and also for foreign technology agreements, subject to certain standard conditions failing which Government approvals are required. However, proposals under 100% EOU scheme which do not conform to the parameters for automatic approval, require Central Government's approval for grant of permission and foreign collaboration.

The Central Government have so far approved the following proposals for grant of permission, foreign equity investment and/or foreign technology agreements for setting up of iron and steel plants in Orissa:

Sl. No. & Location	Name of the Unit Item & Capacity	Remarks
1.	M/s Mideast Integrated Steel Ltd., Daitari Pig Iron - 0.5 MTPA (100% EOU)	Already under implementation
2.	M/s. Mideast Integrated Steel Ltd., Daitari Steel Bars & Rods light structurals - 0.41 MTPA (Under forward integration) (100% EOU)	Project parameters have however been changed and revised application has been submitted by the company.
3.	M/s. Orind Steels Limited, Daitari Cold Rolling Mill Complex - 0.7 MTPA Phase-I : Phase-II : Additional machinery for secondary refining continuous casting etc. for achieving capacity of 1 MTPA	
4.	M/s. Mesco Kalinga Steel Limited, Daitari HR Coils - 1.3 MTPA Pig Iron - 0.5 MTPA (100% EOU)	

Trilateral Agreement with Iran and Turkmenistan

5604. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has signed any Tri-lateral Agreement with Iran and Turkmenistan recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement and the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether any investment proposals are also involved in the agreement; and

(d) if so, the contribution of investment by each country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). A Memorandum of Understanding on International Road and Rail Transport and Transit was signed on 18 April, 1995 by the Foreign Ministers of India, Iran and Turkmenistan, which envisages increased flows of traffic in transit between the three countries with a view to improving trade and economic cooperation. The MOU provides for the international carriage of goods by road and rail from the Central Asian region to Iran and in transit through Iran to India, apart from authorising the carriers of the three countries to establish offices and to appoint representatives and agencies in their territories. The Foreign Ministers of India, Iran and Turkmenistan agreed at their meeting in New Delhi on 18 April, 1995 that a full-fledged agreement relating to this area of cooperation will be negotiated and concluded within the next 6 months.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of National Highways

5605. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the work undertaken for development and repair of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the amount spent thereon, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The details are as under :

Year	No. of development Works sanctioned	No. of repair works sanctioned
1993-94	30	7
1994-95	48	19

(b) Allocation for development and repair works is made for the State as a whole and not project-wise. The allocations/during last 2 years were as under:

Year	Development	(Rs. lakh) Repair
1993-94	4524.00	1716.42
1994-95	5194.00	2146.64

[Translation]

Housing Schemes of Uttar Pradesh Government

5606. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted certain housing schemes to Union Government for their approval and financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have accorded approval to all those schemes; and

(c) if so, the financial assistance proposed to be provided to each of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Union Government do not extend direct financial assistance to the Government for urban housing. Further, no urban housing schemes had been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh seeking financial assistance.

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

[English]

Hooghly Dock and Ports Engineers Limited

5607. PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the Hooghly Dock and Ports Engineers Limited has suggested an action plan to render the company viable;

(b) if so, whether the said action plan has been examined; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon and by when the proposed action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). The company has suggested an action plan containing certain short-term measures to improve the performance of the company so as to render it viable. The process to examine proposed measures has since been initiated.

DDA Shopping Centres

5608. SHRI SURAJ MANDAL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the shopping centres constructed by DDA are not functioning;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to make them functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). DDA has reported that some shopping centres are not functional due to non-opening of shops by the concerned allottees and also due to non-disposal of shops. The details of such shopping centres are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) For non-opening of shops, DDA has initiated action to issue show cause notices as per terms & conditions of allotment. Steps have also been taken to dispose of the vacant shops through allotment or by conducting auction every month.

STATEMENT

List of the Non-Functioning Markets

S.No.	Name of the Market
1	2

EAST ZONE

1. CSE at Block -D Dilshed Garden.
2. CSC at Saini Enclave
3. CSC at Suraj Mal Vihar (Delhi School Teachers Society)
4. CSC at Bhatnagar Enclave
5. CSC at Yojana Vihar
6. CSC at Jagrity Enclave
7. CSC at Priya Darshani Vihar
8. CSC at Dayanand Vihar
9. CSC at Yamuna Vihar C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4 and B-5

SOUTH ZONE

1. CSC at East of Kailash (Mini Market)
2. CSC at New Friends Colony Site No.5
3. LSC at Site No.37 & 38 (MCR) land Kalkaji
4. LSC at Site No. 42 (MCR) land Kalkaji
5. CSC at Pocket-M Sarita Vihar
6. CSC at Pocket-N Sarita Vihar
7. CSC at Pocket-K & L Sarita Vihar
8. CSC at Pocket-B Sidhartha Extension
9. CSC at Saria Julaina CHBS
10. CSC at New Friends Colony Site No.4

1	2
NORTH ZONE	
1.	CSC at K(U) Pitampura
2.	CSC at H(U) Pitampura
3.	CSC at T(P) Pitampura
4.	CSC at V(P) Pitampura
5.	CSC at W(P) Pitampura
6.	CSC at Q(D) Pitampura
7.	CSC at S(D) Pitampura
8.	CSC at F(D) Pitampura
9.	CSC at R(U) Pitampura
10.	CSC at Lok Vihar Block-A Pitampura
11.	CSC at Saraswati Vihar Block-A
12.	LSC at Samrat Enclave
13.	CSC at Sanik Vihar Pitampura
14.	CSC at B(H) Shalimar Bagh
15.	CSC at B(T) Shalimar Bagh
16.	LSC at B(Q) Shalimar Bagh
17.	CSC at B(S) Shalimar Bagh
18.	CSC at Block-C, Pocket-C, Shalimar Bagh
19.	CSC No. 5 Sector-3 Rohini
20.	CSC No. 10 Sector-3 Rohini
21.	CSC No. 1 Sector-4, Rohini
22.	CSC No. 1 Sector-7, Rohini
23.	CSC No. 3 Sector-2, Rohini
24.	CSC No. 15 Sector-7, Rohini
25.	CSC No. 2 Sector-5, Rohini
26.	CSC No. 3 Sector-4, Rohini
27.	CSC No. 8 Sector-7, Rohini
28.	CSC No. 2 Sector-2, Rohini
29.	CSC No. 4 Sector-2, Rohini
30.	CSC No. 5 Sector-5, Rohini
31.	CSC No. 4 Sector-5, Rohini
32.	CSC No. 12 Sector-3, Rohini
33.	CSC No. 4 Sector-8, Rohini
34.	CSC No. 1 Sector-8, Rohini
35.	CSC No. 11 Sector-3, Rohini
36.	CSC No. 4 Sector-4, Rohini
37.	CSC No. 4 Sector-7, Rohini
38.	CSC No. 9 Sector-13, Rohini
39.	CSC No. 7 Sector-16, Rohini
40.	CSC No. 13 Sector-16, Rohini
41.	CSC No. 9 Sector-16, Rohini
WEST ZONE	
42.	CSC at A-4 Paschimpuri S.B. Mills
43.	CSC at A-4 near University Teachers Society
44.	CSC at A-2 Paschimpuri
45.	CSC at C-A Apartment A-6 Paschimpuri

1	2
46.	LSC at A-6 Paschimpuri
47.	CSC at A-1/B Paschimpuri
48.	CSC at A-5/B Paschimpuri
49.	CSC at BG-3/BG-5 Paschimpuri
50.	LSC at GH-9 Paschimpuri
51.	CSC at RBI Colony Paschimpuri
52.	CSC at GH-13/G-17 Paschimpuri
53.	CSC at GH-14 Paschimpuri
54.	CSC at BH-6 Paschimpuri
55.	CSC at Block-B Vikaspuri
56.	CSC at AG-1 Vikaspuri
57.	LSC at Block-H Vikaspuri
58.	LSC at Block-E Vikaspuri
59.	LSC at Block-C Vikaspuri
60.	C:C at Janak Cinema Block-C
61.	CSC at Janakpuri A-2.
62.	District Centre at Janakpuri
63.	Shopping Centre at Nangal Rai
64.	C:C at Mayapuri
65.	CSC at GOI Press Mayapuri
66.	Shopping Centre at Mayapuri
SOUTH WEST ZONE	
1.	CSC at Sector-C Pocket-9 Vasant Kunj
2.	LSC at Sector-C Pocket-9 Vasant Kunj
3.	CSC at Munirka Vihar
4.	CSC at Saiduljaib Opposite Saket
5.	CSC at Vijay Mandal Enclave
6.	CSC at Pocket B-I Vasant Kunj

Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka

5609. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA :

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka;

(b) if not, whether the Union Government have given clearance to private companies to set up steel plant in Vijayanagar area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The Central Government do not propose to set up the Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka.

(b) and (c). According to the new Industrial policy announced in July, 1991 "Iron & Steel Industry" has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the Public Sector and also exempted from the purview

of compulsory licensing. No Industrial Licence is, therefore, required from the Central Government to set up Iron and Steel Plants, except for certain locational restrictions. The Iron & Steel industry has also been included in the list of high priority industries which are eligible for automatic approval for foreign equity investment upto 51% and also for foreign technology agreement subject to certain standard conditions, failing which Government approval is required. So far, one unit viz. M/s. Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd. had applied for approval for grant of foreign technology agreements for setting up an integrated steel plant at Toranagallu, District Belary in Karnataka to manufacture 1.25 million tpa Hot Rolled Steel Plot products, which have since been approved by the Government. The State Government have informed that the project implementation has already commenced at the site.

[Translation]

Assistance to Maharashtra for Construction of Houses

5610. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR :
SHRI ANNA JOSHI :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for providing assistance for Construction of Houses for middle and lower income people;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this context and the status of the proposal as on date;

(c) the Central assistance so far sanctioned/provided to State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON):(a) Union Government do not provide financial assistance directly to the State Governments for urban housing. Further, no urban housing scheme seeking assistance has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

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

Reconstruction of National Highways in West Bengal

5611. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways in West Bengal;

(b) the expenditure incurred on the re-construction of National Highways during 1993-94 and 1994-95 in the State; and

(c) other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Total length of National Highways in West Bengal is 1676.026 kms.

(b) and (c). Amount allocated yearwise for Maintenance and Repairs and Original works are as per details below:

Year	Maintenance & Repairs (Rs. in lakhs)	Original works (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	Rs.1760.40	Rs. 3500.00
1994-95	Rs.1744.02	Rs. 3987.00

[English]

US Role as Mediator

5612. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :
SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US has made any offer to play mediator's role in resolving Kashmir issue during the recent visit of Pak Prime Minister to the US;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Pakistan Prime Minister, during her recent visit to the US, invited American or other international mediatory efforts on Kashmir. The US Government reiterated its known position that the US would be willing to assist, but only if both India and Pakistan sought it. President Clinton and other US officials clarified that India did not want this and, therefore, there was little that the US could do.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bridges in U.P.

5613. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN :
DR. SAKSHIJI :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges on National Highways in Uttar Pradesh repaired/being repaired during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent thereon, during the above period;

(c) the number of bridges constructed and repaired in the State during 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the length of National Highways expanded; and

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 199.50 lakhs has been spent on repairs of 14 Nos. of bridges on National Highways in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years.

(c) and (d). 3 bridges were repaired and one bridge was constructed during this period at an estimated expenditure of Rs.426.94 lakhs. No addition to the National Highway network has been made during this period.

[English]

Eviction of Public Premises

5614. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain guidelines have been issued to various Ministries while initiating action under the Public Premises Act, 1971;

(b) if so, whether the said guidelines are also applicable to other property owned and controlled by the Central Government as in the case of public sector undertakings;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c). Guidelines have been issued to all administrative Ministries Departments asking them to issue suitable directions to the Public Sector undertakings under their control so as to prevent arbitrary use of the provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 to evict genuine tenants and to limit the use of the summary powers primarily to evict unauthorised occupants and retired employees of the enterprises. These guidelines apply to Central Government properties as well. An extract of the guidelines is enclosed as Statement.

(d) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT

Extracted Version of Guidelines for Public Premises Act

(i) The Provisions of the P.P. Act should be used primarily to evict totally illegal occupants of the premises of public authorities or unauthorised

sublettees, or employees who have ceased to be in their service and thus ineligible for occupation of the premises. The proceedings should be initiated in accordance with the provisions of the Act only in cases where the occupation becomes unauthorised on genuine grounds of law.

(ii) The provisions of the Act should not be resorted to either with a commercial motives or to secure vacant possession of the premises in order to accommodate their own employees, where the premises were in occupation of the original tenants to whom the premises were let either by the public authorities or the persons from whom the premises were acquired.

(iii) A person in lawful occupation of any premises should not be treated or declared to be an unauthorised occupant merely on service of notice of termination of tenancy, nor should any contractual agreement be wound up by taking advantage of the provisions of the Act. At the same time, it will be open to the public authority to secure periodic revision of rent in terms of the provisions of the Rent Control Act in each State, or to move under genuine grounds under the Rent Control Act for resuming possession. In other words, the public authorities would have rights similar to private landlords under the Rent Control Act in dealing with genuine legal tenants;

(iv) It is necessary to give no room for allegations that evictions were selectively resorted to for the purpose of securing an unwarranted increase in rent, or that a change in tenancy was permitted in order to benefit particular individual of institutions in order to avoid such imputations or abuses of discretionary powers. The release of premises or change of tenancy should be decided at the level of Board of Directors of the Public Undertaking.

(v) All the Public Undertakings should immediately review all pending cases before the Estate Officer of Courts with reference to these guidelines, and withdraw evictions proceedings against genuine tenants on grounds otherwise than as provided under these guidelines. The Provisions under the P.P. Act should be used henceforth only in accordance with these guidelines.

[Translation]

New Visa Procedure of US

5615. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) :
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by Indian businessmen in

obtaining US visa due to new visa procedures of that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken-up the matter with the US; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the US thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) According to information available with Government no new visa procedures have been instituted by the US Embassy for Indian businessmen.

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

[English]

Export of Project Management and Consultancy

5616. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA :
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited propose to enter into collaboration with some international company for export of project management and consultancy;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and

(c) the projected profit to be earned by the SAIL by this collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). SAIL has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) for cooperation for third party assignments with Voest Alpine Industrial Services GmbH, Austria, GIPROMEZ, Russia, Hoogovens Technical Services BV, Netherlands. These are basically meant for exploring the possibilities of cooperation for taking up third party assignments jointly. However, till date no such assignment has been taken up.

(c) Estimated profit cannot be ascertained as of now.

Flyovers on National Highways

5617. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has worked out a project to construct flyovers over railway crossings on National Highways;

(b) if so, whether the private sector would fund the entire construction cost; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). There are proposals for construction of Road Over Bridge (ROBs) on various National Highways at a number of locations during the VIII Five Year Plan. It is proposed to invite private sector participation also for construction of ROBs.

(c) Pending amendment to the National Highways Act, 1956, it is too early to give more details with regard to the private sector participation.

[Translation]

Amendment in Rent Policy.

5618. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Model Rent Control Legislation; and

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

GSI Survey in U.P.

5619. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted a detailed survey to explore the Minerals and metals deposits in the District of Sonbhadra, U.P.;

(b) if so, the details of the survey report;

(c) whether the Government is mining all the minerals and metals listed as commercially profitable in the surveys; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted detailed survey for minerals and metals in Sonbhadra district and established following reserves :

(i) Limestone	- 271.30 million tonnes of cement and blast furnace grade limestone.
(ii) Coal	- 1000 million tonnes.
(iii) Andalusite	- 13.5 million tonnes.

- (iv) Marble - 7 million tonnes.
 (v) Iron Ore - 5.9 million tonnes.
 (vi) Calcite - 5000 tonnes.
 (vii) Clay - 3.219 million tonnes.

In addition to this, investigations for Gold, Tin-Tungsten, Platinoid Group of Minerals (PGM), Rare Earth Elements (REE) and Granite are in progress.

(c) and (d). The findings of the Geological Survey of India are made available to the State Government in various meetings for the purpose of exploitation by the State Governments and private parties.

Allotment of Land to Gas Agency Owners

5620. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has recommended to D.D.A. for allotment of land to SCs/STs in whose favour letters of intent for LPG distributorship have been issued in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of incumbents to whom gas agencies have been allotted by I.O.C. in Delhi and those who are awaiting allocation of land and the procedure followed in this regard;

(d) the reasons for delay in allocation of land to them; and

(e) the time by which the waitlisted incumbents are likely to be allotted the proposed lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, The Indian Oil Corporation has recommended to D.D.A. for allotment of land to SCs/STs for LPG distributorship during the last three years, as per details given below :

Year	No. of persons recommended allotment of land
1992	Nil
1993	Nil
1994	6

These persons are awaiting allotment of land which is done as per seniority of the letter of Intent Holders.

(d) Non-availability of gas godown sites is the reason for delay.

(e) The waitlisted incumbents will get their allotment as per seniority as and when sites are available. It is difficult to specify the time schedule in this regard.

Regularisation of Activities of Builders and Property Dealers

5621. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to regularise the activities of builders, promoters and property dealers involved in the construction, sale, management and transfer of plots and flats in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) and (b). With a view to regulate the promotion, construction, sale, transfer and management of apartments in Delhi, a proposal for a legislation which would, *inter-alia*, provide for granting membership to persons for carrying on the business of promoters or estate agents has been prepared. It is not possible to predict the time frame of nature of final decision in this regard.

[Translation]

Construction of Houses in Gujarat

5622. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
 SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted Housing schemes and sought assistance for construction of houses for slums dwellers, retired Government employees and widows of retired Government employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Power Overdrawal by A.P.

5623. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is over-drawing power from Central Power Installations;

(b) whether any complaint has been received from Karnataka in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Andhra Pradesh, as well as other constituents of Southern Region, have been directed to draw power strictly according to their respective shares and maintain strict grid discipline. SREB and Powergrid are continuously monitoring implementation of the directions and are taking appropriate remedial measures. To avoid obviate need for overdrawl, assistance has also been arranged for Andhra Pradesh from Western and Eastern Regions.

Relations with Vietnam

5624. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to strengthen further bilateral relations with Vietnam including fiscal ties;

(b) the areas chosen for cooperation and joint ventures between the two countries; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA):(a) High level delegations are being exchanged. In September, 1994 Prime Minister visited Vietnam and held fruitful discussions with Vietnamese leaders to further strengthen bilateral relations. Commercial delegations are also being encouraged to visit Vietnam.

(b) Areas identified for cooperation and joint ventures include sugarcane cultivation and processing, cultivation of cotton, diary farming, rubber plantation and manufacture, tea plantation and processing, vegetable oil extraction, leather processing and power.

(c) A Joint Working Group has been set up by India and Vietnam to promote bilateral co-operation. The first meeting of the group was held in January, 1995. A memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of India and Vietnam has already been signed on 18th April, 1995 for cooperation in the Mining Sector. A delegation visited Vietnam earlier this year and had discussions for setting up a power plant there.

Food Processing Schemes in Tamil Nadu

5625. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes in the Food processing sector implement in Tamil Nadu during 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(b) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI):

(a) and (b). Most of the food processing Industries are delicensed except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale industries. Since Liberalisation, till March, 1995, 113 Industrial Entrepenurs Memoranda, for setting up of food processing industries, envisaging an investment of Rs.741 Crores and a direct employment of 12, 604 persons, have been filed in respect of the State of Tamil Nadu. As against of commercial production have been filed involving an investment of Rs. 83 crores and direct employment of 1468 persons. Besides, 41 approvals for setting up Joint Ventures, 100% Export Oriented Units, etc., have also been granted, for the State of Tamil Nadu, out of which 2 are reported to have been implemented.

During 1993-94 and 1994-95, financial assistance of Rs. 173 lakhs has been provided, under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry of Food processing Industries, in respect of proposals received from the State of Tamil Nadu. These are under various stages of implementation.

Ship Repair Complex at Haldia

5626. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Asian Development Bank study has identified haldia as a suitable location for a ship repair complex;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of other recommendations of the study ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Asian Development Bank (ADB) study has identified Haldia as one of the suitable location for a ship repair complex in their Report submitted in May, 1992.

The ship repair complex at Haldia is proposed in a new basin to be developed on the west of the existing turning basin of Haldia Dock system. The facilities have been selected for repair of vessels from 6,000 DWT to 50,000 DWT. A layout with two floating docks is recommended from the point of view of cost consideration, quick acquisition process, flexibility available in relocation of the docks in the event of changing circumstances and suitability of phased development by utilising one dock immediately and installation of second dock later.

The capital cost for the new facilities at Haldia has been estimated by ADB in their Report as Rs. 316.10 crores, including a foreign exchange component of US Dollars 69 million.

(c) The details of other recommendations of the study are as follows :

Recommendations

- (a) The Dry Docks of Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) and Bombay Port Trust (BPT), along with 4 Nos. Wet Berths, two on each Port, could be transferred to a private commercial entrepreneur.
- (b) The Repair Complex of Cochin Shipyard be delinked from the Shipbuilding Complex and the ownership transferred to a commercial entrepreneur.
- (c) A new exclusive shiprepair facility, comprising of 2 Nos. of Dry Docks to cater vessels upto 40,000 DWT and 4 Nos. Wet Berths with associated workshop facilities, be developed on the East Coast (preferred location being Haldia).
- (d) The existing repair facilities for smaller crafts at Calcutta, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Madras, Tuticorin and Cochin be improved.
- (e) In addition to existing concessions available to Shiprepair Units, other benefits available in different countries relating to equity ratio, tax concessions, availability of free foreign exchanges bank interest rates etc.
- (f) In addition to above, it has also been recommended that all the existing public owned and the proposed new shiprepair units in India be commercialised to improve their quality of service, time, management and customer satisfactory performance. This will help the industry to regain the reputation in the International market. In this regard, participation of private sector/foreign entrepreneurship need to be encouraged.

[*Translation*]

Fertilizer Units in Gujarat

5627. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of fertilizer units set-up in Gujarat during the last two years;
- (b) the number of units out of them that have started functioning; and
- (c) the number of such units in which production is likely to start during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). No new fertilizer unit has been set up or commissioned during the last two years in Gujarat.

[*English*]

Expansion of Roads and Bridges in Rajasthan

5628. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of some roads and bridges in Rajasthan with Central assistance and also with external assistance during Eighth Plan Period;
- (b) if so, the roads and bridges identified in that State for this purpose;
- (c) the estimated cost of these projects; and
- (d) the details of fund provision made for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Central Govt. is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of roads declared as National Highways. One work on NH 8 (S.No. 1 of the enclosed statement) has been undertaken with external assistance during 8th Plan. Central Govt. also provides assistance to the State Govt. for roads of interstate and economic importance. Three works (S.No. 2, 3, & 4 of enclosed statement) have been approved during the 8th Plan.

(c) and (d). Details are in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the Work	Scheme under which approved	Estimated Cost. (Rs. in lakhs)		
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	Widening to 4 lanes including strengthening of existing 2 lane pavement of Haryana/Rajasthan Border to Kotputli on NH 8. (Km. 107.18 to Km. 162.50)	Asian Development Bank Loan Assistance	12064.00		

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Improvements to Kotputli-Sikar Road	StateRoads of Inter-State/Economic Importance	500.00	Central Govt. share is 100% of cost
3.	Construction of submersible bridge over Sanwan river on Bandikui-Badiyal Road.	-do-	142.00	-do- 50% of cost
4.	Construction of submersible bridge over Sanwan river on Kundal Gudha-Bandikui Road.	-do-	106.10	-do- 50% of cost

[Translation]

Assistance to Housing Agencies in Bihar

5629. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount of loan being provided to the Housing Agencies of Bihar by HUDCO has been decreasing year by year;

(b) if so, the details of the amount of loan sanctioned and disbursed by the HUDCO to various housing agencies of Bihar during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for reducing the amount of loan to the housing agencies;

(d) whether the HUDCO propose to enhance the amount of loan being provided by it to housing agencies of Bihar;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

HUDCO's Housing Activity

5630. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Housing and Urban Development Corporation has taken up the scheme to encourage House Building activity in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial allocations made to each of the State, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). The Housing and Urban Development Corporation do not undertake any housing project directly, but have been extending financial assistance to various Housing Boards, Development Authorities, Improvement Trusts, etc. for construction of houses, development of plots, etc. The main mission of HUDCO is to finance and undertake housing and urban development programmes in the country with prime focus on the housing needs of economically weaker section and low income groups. Accordingly, 55% of loanable funds of HUDCO is earmarked for economically weaker sections and low income categories. For schemes for the benefit of these categories, HUDCO is extending financial assistance at subsidised rates of interest ranging between 9% to 13%. The schemes financed by HUDCO for house construction are given below :

- (1) Urban housing;
- (2) Rural housing;
- (3) Environmental Improvement of Slums;
- (4) Staff housing;
- (5) Cooperative housing;
- (6) Repairs and renewal scheme;
- (7) Urban employment through housing and shelter upgradation under Nehru Rozgar Yojana;
- (8) Night Shelter Scheme for urban footpath dwellers;
- (9) Working Women Ownership Condominium Scheme;
- (10) Land acquisition and development of new human settlements;
- (11) Scheme for Shelterless Service population;
- (12) Grant of loans to NGOs for Undertaking housing projects for the poor;
- (13) Grant of loans to private builders for land acquisition.

In addition, HUDCO also finance building material manufacturing schemes and also assist setting up of building centres with a view to increase the availability of low cost building materials and for training artisans etc. in the use of low cost and innovative building material and techniques.

(c) The Statewise details of loan sanctions made by HUDCO since inception and upto 31.3.1995 for various housing and urban development schemes are given in the statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

Loan Sanctions made by HUDCO as on 31.3.95

S. No.	Name of State/UTs	No. of Schemes sanctioned	Loan sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1530	785.82
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2.61
3.	Assam	115	153.21
4.	Bihar	157	181.19
5.	Goa	17	17.75
6.	Gujarat	973	667.56
7.	Himachal Pradesh	106	46.60
8.	Haryana	304	197.87
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	70	60.70
10.	Kerala	637	884.30
11.	Karnataka	825	962.44
12.	Meghalaya	17	37.24
13.	Maharashtra	985	973.53
14.	Manipur	20	34.20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	704	451.77
16.	Mizoram	8	14.83
17.	Nagaland	8	33.51
18.	Orissa	347	369.30
19.	Punjab	459	357.88
20.	Rajasthan	796	620.53
21.	Sikkim	35	39.09
22.	Tamil Nadu	1398	1221.37
23.	Tripura	17	12.86
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1153	1506.07
25.	West Bengal	201	349.74
UNION TERRITORIES			
26.	Andaman Nicobar	10	3.72
27.	Chandigarh	75	78.28
28.	Delhi	48	39.02
29.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	2	0.25
30.	Pondicherry	22	13.26
All States/UTs		11041	10116.47

Tramway Project for Delhi

5631. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Transport Minister had convened a meeting of the Central and Delhi Government Officials as well as private companies in February 1995 to discuss tramways project for Delhi; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) No, Sir. However a pre bid meeting was held on 6.2.95 for the proposed High Speed Trams System in Delhi.

(b) In consultation with Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Government has decided to provide High Speed Tram System on nine important corridors of Delhi.

Necessary tenders have already been received and from among 9 bidders, five bids have been found to be technically acceptable. The scrutiny/evaluation of commercial bids is in progress.

Membership of APEC

5632. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by India for the membership of Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC);

(b) whether several member countries of APEC have indicated their willingness to support India for the membership;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of APEC thereto in regard to India's membership?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) India has formally conveyed to members of APEC its interest in associating with APEC and participating in its activities.

(b) to (d). The APEC Ministerial Meeting held in Seattle in November 1993 took a decision to impose a moratorium for three years on admission of additional members into APEC. In view of this decision, the question of admission of India and other new members will be considered only in 1997.

By-product in SAIL

5633. SHRIMATI BHAVANA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the by-products in the Steel Authority of India Limited, its subsidiaries and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the norms/criteria laid down for their marketing and distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The details of the By-products being produced by SAIL and its subsidiaries are given in the Statment-I enclosed.

Production of various By-products by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited during the last three years is given in Statement-II enclosed.

(b) STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED (SAIL)

Fertilizers and Coal Chemicals are sold through the Central Marketing Organisation of SAIL. The distribution Policy followed in SAIL is as under:

Coal Chemicals

Coal Chemicals are sold by SAIL either through Long Term Contracts or through ad-hoc sales based on the availability.

However, Coal Chemicals like Dephenolised Oil, Drained Napthalene Oil, Heavy Benzol produced by Bhilai Steel Plant are being distributed to 14 industries located at Bhilai as per the directive of the Hon'ble High Court, Jabalpur.

Fertilizers

Distribution of Fertilizers is as per the Government directives. SAIL is supplying fertilizers as per the Department of Fertilizer's (Ministry of Agriculture) six monthly allocation (April-September and October - March) on the account of different States. Fertilizers produced by SAIL are marketed through a distribution net-work comprising:

- (i) Institutional Agencies/Cooperatives bodies promoted by State Government.
- (ii) Private wholesales dealers.

Granulated Slag

This item is exclusively being purchased by the cement Manufacturers, ex-plant.

RESHTRIYA ISPAT NIGAM LIMITED (RINL)

The Norms/Criteria laid down by RINL for Marketing and Distribution are as follows :

- (i) Coal Chemicals are sold either on Fixed prices, determined from time to time or depending on the market conditions.
- (ii) Certain quantity of materials are reserved for down stream units which are set up based on VSP/s products.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Production of By-Products

(Qty. '000 Tonnes)

Item	Year	B.S.P.	D.S.P.	R.S.P.	B.S.L.	IISCO	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
COAL CHEMICALS							
Tar Products	92-93	129.06	41.82	51.40	80.45	44.27	347.00
	93-94	133.77	33.74	49.76	80.59	41.21	339.08
	94-95	138.26	36.61	44.29	87.29	43.21	349.66
Benzol Products	92-93	22.06	3.12	2.93	8.51	1.41	38.03
	93-94	21.97	2.97	3.95	14.26	1.03	44.18
	94-95	22.27	4.11	3.59	15.18	1.58	46.74
FERTILISERS							
Ammonium Sulphate	92-93	43.04	8.71	9.96	30.64	8.79	101.13
	93-94	43.92	7.77	10.36	23.59	7.90	93.53
	94-95	43.93	9.70	10.49	22.70	9.50	96.31
Can (25%)	92-93			218.98			218.98
	93-94			239.54			239.54
	94-95			221.39			221.39
Granulated Slag	92-93	1171.46	197.23	164.23	170.08	208.85	1911.84
	93-94	895.64	185.18	264.08	204.42	144.33	1693.66
	94-95	1081.33	273.64	217.20	207.24	127.68	1907.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total By Products	92-93	1365.61	250.88	447.50	289.68	263.31	2616.97
	93-94	1095.30	229.66	567.69	322.86	194.47	2409.99
	94-95	1285.79	324.06	496.96	332.41	181.98	2621.20

Tar Products : Crude Tar, Extra Hard Pitch, Soft Pitch, Napthalene, Dephenolised Oil, Sodium Phenolate, Light Oil, Creosote Oil, Phenol, Wash Oil, Neutral Oil, Anthragene Oil, Etc.

Benzol Products : Heavy Crude Benzol, Light Crude Benzol, Benzene, Toluene, Xylene, Solvent Oil, Still Bottom Oil, Light/Heavy Solveni Naptha, etc.

B.S.P. : Bhilai Steel Plant

D.S.P. : Durgapur Steel Plant

R.S.P. : Rourkela Steel plant

B.S.L. : Bokaro Steel Plant

IISCO : Indian Iron & Steel Company

STATEMENT-II

Production of various By-products by Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. during the last three years is as follows

(Unit : Tonnes)

S.No.	Item	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
(i)	Amonium Sulphate	26,834	31,157	34,308
(ii)	Tar Products :			
	(a) Medium Hard Pitch	15,526	20,060	25,946
	(b) Soft Pitch	15,422	20,996	24,274
	(c) Anthracene Oil	10,247	11,792	15,286
	(d) Wash Oil	3,751	7,462	9,540
	(e) HP Napthalene	772	1,586	2,731
	(f) DNO	1,353	2,162	2,032
	(g) Phenol	1,278	1,646	873
(iii)	Benzol Products*			
	(a) Benzene	-	207	4,325
	(b) Toluene	-	80	778
	(c) Xyluene	-	-	18
	(d) Solvent Naptha	-	31	221
(iv)	Granulated Slag	6,84,874	7,97,364	10,45,379

* Hydro Refining and Extractive Distillation Unit (HRED) commissioned on 18.12.1993.

Transit Facility to Nepal

5634. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have relaxed transit trade access for Nepal by opening up of Ports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). The Government have further improved transit facilities and agreed to provide the facility of additional ports of Kandla and Bombay on the same terms as are available to Indian nationals subject to the transit of goods taking place in customs sealed containerd via shortest designated railway routes.

Regional Commissioners of Road Safety

5635. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish Regional Commissioners of Road Safety; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mini Steel Plants in U.P.

5636. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received fresh proposals from private sector for setting up mini steel plants in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount likely to be invested in this project; and

(c) the total additional capacity of Steel production to be generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. An entrepreneur wishing to set up an iron or steel unit does not require approval of Government for industrial licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 kms. from the periphery of the standard urban area limits of a city have a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 census.

The term 'mini steel plant' generally refers to units of relatively smaller capacities manufacturing steel through the electric arc furnace route. As per the information available, no proposal is pending for grant of an industrial licence for setting up a mini steel plant in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Visa Facility by EU

5637. DR. G.L. KANAUIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated April 5, 1995 under the caption "Bharat Aur Europiya Sangh Me Vaarta Guruvaar Ko"

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the European Union has made any proposal for providing visa facility to the Indian citizens; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Ministerial level talks between India and the European Union (EU) Troika were held in Paris on 6 April 1995. During the talks, views were exchanged on the further development of political and economic relations between India and the EU. The EU has not made any proposal for providing visa facilities for Indian citizens.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

National Urban Transport Policy

5638. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a 'National Urban Transport Policy';

(b) if so, whether a contract has been given to RITES for the same;

(c) if so, whether the policy paper for the same is ready; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d). A study for the analysis of transport situation in 21 cities of different sizes in India was entrusted to M/s. Rail India Technical & Economic Services Limited (RITES) in March/April, 1993. The study, inter-alia, includes the making of recommendations to facilitate possible formulation of a National Urban Transport Policy. The Study report of M/s. RITES has not yet been received. The need for the formulation or otherwise of an Urban Transport Policy can be examined only after the RITES Study Report is received.

Funds for Road Projects

5639. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between requirement and availability of funds for road projects;

(b) if so, the estimated gap;

(c) the manner in which the gap is proposed to be bridged; and

(d) the estimated private investment likely to be mobilised therefor?

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

(b) to (d). Central Govt. is primarily responsible for development of National Highways. For the 8th Plan, a minimum requirement of Rs. 7730 crores was projected for the development of national Highways but only a sum of Rs. 2460 crores has been allocated by the Planning Commission. This Gap is partly proposed to be bridged by private sector participation in the road sector. Pending amendment to the National Highways Act, 1956, it is too early to indicate the likely investment from the private sector.

[Translation]

Deep Sea Fishing in Maharashtra

5640. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up of Deep Sea Fishing Industries in Maharashtra is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely date by when the proposal will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) No Sir.

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

[English]

House of Rabindra Nath Tagore

5641. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any initiative to acquire the house where Rabindra Nath Tagore lived in London;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the administrator of the Asian Music Society and Resources Center, London, has also approached the Indian Government in this regard and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some parties have made informal contact in this regard with the High Commission of India, London, but Government have received no proposal from any quarter for acquisition of the House.

(d) Does not arise.

Rangit Hydel Project in Sikkim

5642. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NHPC has been entrusted with the task of execution of Rangit Hydel Project in Sikkim;

(b) whether NHPC is engaging local contractors for construction works;

(c) whether the Government are aware that a few influential contractors have formed an association for distribution of such works and they manage to secure fake tenders and distribute works among their benefactors incurring loss to the public exchequer;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and whether the Government have means and ways to check such malpractices;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAJ PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major work packages like Dam, Head Race Tunnel and Power House work are being executed through major contractors like M/s. Hydel Construction Co., M/s. Gammon India Ltd. and M/s. Rashtriya Pariyojana Nirman Nigam Ltd. Recently, a part of the work of Head Race Tunnel has been taken up by NHPC departmentally. Some small infrastructural works like houses and roads were executed through local contractors.

(c) to (f). A proper procedure has been laid down by NHPC for issue of tenders and award of work contracts. The Corporation has an internal audit system and a vigilance set up to look into irregularities/ Malpractices, if any, in the observance of this procedure. In addition, the working of the NHPC is subject to scrutiny by external auditors as well as from the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

[*Translation*]

Encroachment of Indian Territory by Nepalese Nationals

5643. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding encroachment of thousands of acres of Indian territory in Bihar by Nepalese Nationals;

(b) if so, the details and the result thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government on the basis of the above results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). There is a long-standing problem of border demarcation with Nepal in

the West Champaran District of Bihar involving Susta and Narasahi villages. This area has been surveyed on a number of occasions- in 1817, 1886-88, 1895-99, 1902 and finally in 1930-31. This longstanding matter has been discussed on a number of occasions with the Government of Nepal at various levels. It is intended to take up this matter along with other aspects of the boundary demarcation work during the forthcoming Working Group meeting of the Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee, with Nepal later this month.

[*English*]

Bombay Urban Infrastructure Project

5644. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to obtain World Bank assistance for Bombay Urban Infrastructure Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c). The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for seeking World Bank assistance for the Bombay Urban Infrastructure Project in November, 1993. The estimated cost of the Project is Rs. 2608 crores. The proposal includes component such as Institutional Development Urban Infrastructure Development, Energy Distribution and Environmental Protection. The proposal was recommended to the World Bank through the Deptt. of Economic Affairs. Since the Bank is having a rethinking in their policy regarding financing of Urban Development Projects in India, no decision regarding appraisal of the Project has been communicated by the Bank till now.

Smuggling of Precious Stones from Tamil Nadu

5645. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether large scale smuggling of precious and semi-precious stones has been reported from various districts in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government regulates the mining of these precious stones in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fertilizer Subsidy

5646. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a substantial drop in the use of phosphatic, potassic and complex fertilizers has resulted in a sharp decrease in soil fertility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Farmers Parliamentary Forum has demanded for an increase in the quantum of subsidy provided to these fertilizers in the budget; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, who are concerned with the subject, have informed that after the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers w.e.f. 25.8.1992, there has been a decline in the consumption of these fertilizers. However, foodgrains production has not been affected; rather, it has been increasing.

In order to encourage the farmers to use these fertilizers in desired quantities so as to maintain the balance of nutrients, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a scheme of special concessions on the sale of imported Muriate of Potash (MOP) and indigenous phosphatic fertilizers. Of late, the consumption of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has started looking up.

(c) and (d). The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has further informed that Chairman, Farmers' Parliamentary Forum, in his letter dated 21.4.1995 addressed to the Union Agriculture Minister, has referred to the meeting of the Farmers' Parliamentary Forum held on 27.3.1995 and has requested for increase in current year's provision for *ad hoc* subsidy on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers from Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 1500 crores.

Development of Ports

5647. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from Kerala Government for the development of Ports and Beypore, Azhikkal and Vizhinjam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these ports will be developed with assistance from the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which the approval is likely to be given for starting developmental work at these ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal for development of Ports of Beypore and Azhikkal under the centrally sponsored scheme was received from the Chief Minister of Kerala in September, 1994. In the 8th Five Year Plan there is no provision under the Central Sector Schemes to fund the development projects of Minor Ports which are under the jurisdiction of State Governments. Kerala Government was therefore informed to approach the Planning Commission for providing funds in the State Sector for undertaking development of these Ports.

Allotment of Land for Schools by DDA

5648. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether DDA is yet to allot lands to civic bodies for new schools;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken for early allotment of the above mentioned lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b). Delhi Development Authority has reported that 26 requests for allotment of land for schools have been received from M.C.D. The Planning Department of D.D.A. is in the process of identifying the land.

(c) D.D.A. processes cases for allotment of land to civic bodies for schools as and when requests are received.

Implementation of C.R.F.

5649. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether under a Parliament Resolution, 5 per cent of basic price of diesel and petrol is earmarked for the Central Road Fund from 13.5.1988;

(b) if so, whether the above Resolution is yet to be implemented;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time bound programme to implement the above Resolution?

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

(c) and (d). It has not been possible to implement the Resolution due to budgetary constraints. It is difficult to indicate a time frame to implement the above Resolution.

Sea Weeds

5650. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that sea weeds are rich in proteins and can be utilised as human food;
- (b) whether any investigation has been made in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) Sea Weeds with protein contents ranging from 9.92% to 17.1% are utilised for human consumption largely in South East Asia, China and Japan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Technologies have been developed to exploit sea weeds available in nature as well as to culture several important species to promote their utilisation for food and for industrial use in India. It has also been established that sea weeds could be utilised not only as food but also for extracting various chemicals, drugs and nutrients for commercial use in the industry.

Maritime Environment

5651. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a meeting of plenipotentiaries of the South Asian maritime countries was held in New Delhi recently to discuss and finalise a regional action plan for the protection of marine environment in the region;
- (b) if so, names of the countries who took part in the meeting;
- (c) the broad features of the action plan drawn up and the funds contributed by the participating countries; and
- (d) the role India is likely to play in the promotion of regional, sub regional and international cooperation for peaceful use of oceans and protection of the marine environment in the South Asian region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A meeting of the plenipotentiaries of the Maritime States of South Asia-India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives - was held in New Delhi on March 24, 1995 to finalise the Action Plan of the South Asian Seas Regional Programme. An Action Plan for the protection and management of the marine and coastal environment of the South Asian Seas Region was adopted.

(c) and (d). The objective of the Action Plan is to protect and manage the marine environment and related coastal eco-systems of the region. It will promote

sustainable development and sound management of regional marine and coastal resources by :

- (i) establishing and enhancing consultations and technical cooperation among States of the region;
- (ii) emphasising the economic and social importance of the resources of the marine and coastal environment; and
- (iii) establishing a regional cooperative network of activities concerning concrete subjects/projects of mutual interest for the whole region.

The institutional (Secretariat) expenditure is to be shared by the participating countries, according to the formula established for contribution to the SAARC Secretariat. Funding proposals for individual projects undertaken in the context of the Action Plan, would be based on the benefits that each country would derive.

India believes that a framework of regional, subregional and international cooperation intended to promote the peaceful use of the oceans and the scientific, equitable and sustainable utilisation of their resources, while protecting and preserving the marine environment, is necessary, and will play a leading role in its implementation.

Iron Ore in Andhra Pradesh

5652. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Mining Development Corporation has located low grade iron ore on the out-skirts of Ongole town in Prakasham district;
- (b) if so, whether any private firms has applied for mining lease, for that area;
- (c) the projected total production of concentrated iron ore from that site;
- (d) whether the Corporation have plan to set up a Granite cutting and polishing unit there; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Labour Unrest in Paradeep Phosphates Limited

5653. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons for the growing labour unrest in the Paradeep Phosphates Limited; and
- (b) the steps being taken to resolve the difference and increase production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). There is no major labour unrest in Paradeep Phosphates Limited. Sometimes back there was some problem relating to contract labour. However, things have improved considerably through dialogue with the contractor and the labour unions.

[Translation]

Ultra Modern Technology Based Power Projects

5654. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up power projects with ultra modern technology in Bihar during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c). The following power projects in the State Sector are scheduled to yield benefit in the State of Bihar during the 8th Plan period (1992-97) :

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
THERMAL		
1.	Tenughat Unit 1 and 2	2 x 210
HYDRO		
2.	Eastern Gandak Canal	3 x 5
3.	Sone Western	4 x 1.65
4.	Sone Eastern	2 x 1.65
5.	North Koel	2 x 12
6.	Chandil	2 x 4

In addition, Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project Stage I (4x210) of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), is being implemented in the Central Sector.

Fruit and Vegetable based Industries in U.P.

5655. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provide assistance to the fruit and vegetable based industries in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance given during the last two years alongwith the provision made during the current financial year for that purpose;

(c) whether certain scheme regarding fruit and vegetable based industries are pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOL) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various developmental plan schemes which seek to provide assistance for setting up/enlarging/upgradation of fruit and vegetable based industries in the countries including Uttar Pradesh. An outlay of Rs. 13.50 crores has been earmarked for 1995-96 for development of fruit and vegetable processing sector in the country as a whole. No separate outlay has been earmarked for the State of Uttar Pradesh. During the years 1993-94 and 1994-95, the following assistance has been provided for development of Fruit and vegetable processing industries in Uttar Pradesh :

(Rs. in lakhs)	
1993-94	1994-95
19.79	119.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Freight Traffic

5656. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for freight traffic by the Shipping Corporation of India during 1995-96;

(b) the actual revenue earned during 1993-94 against the targets fixed and how it compares to the corresponding period of 1994-95;

(c) whether SCI has revised the target for the freight transport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Rs. 1789.55 crores.

(b) The details are as under :

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Target Freight	Actual Freight
1993-94	1266.60	1480.31
1994-95	1604.04	1309.55
		(upto 31-12-1994)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

HUDCO Loans for Development of Calicut Airport

5657. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether HUDCO has given any loan/financial assistance for the development of Calicut Airport in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rate of interest charged on such loan/funds and term for which the same is advanced; and

(d) to which body/authority has this fund been extended and the terms thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir, HUDCO has recently sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs. 60 crores to the Malabar International Airport Development Society of Kerala (MIADS) for expansion and development of Calicut Airport facilities for international flight operations, at a project cost of Rs. 110.86 crores. The project will be operated and maintained by National Airport Authority of India. Duration of the project is three years. The loan has been advanced at a gross interest rate of 17.5 % per annum with a repayment period of 7 years including construction period.

[*Translation*]

Encroachment on DDA Land

5658. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total area and value of land belonging to DDA encroached upon illegally and the persons/agencies involved therein;

(b) whether the connivance of DDA employees have been unearthed in such encroachments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to get the encroached land free from encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) DDA has reported that about 4372 acres of Nazul-I land is under encroachment. Though no comprehensive survey has been conducted regarding encroachment of Nazul-II land, about 1329

acres of Nazul-II land is reported to be under encroachment as detailed below :

(i) Jhuggies	459.00 Acres
(ii) Religious Institutions	84.51 Acres
(iii) Commercial	67.00 Acres
(iv) Under litigation/stay orders	278.70 Acres
(v) Others	439.79 Acres

No assessment about the value of the land under encroachment has been made by DDA.

(b) and (c). It is reported that cases of involvement of DDA officials in the encroachment/unauthorised constructions have come to notice. During the period 1992-95, major penalty proceedings against 5 officials in 2 cases and minor penalty proceedings against 5 officials in 3 cases have been ordered by the competent authority. 7 cases have been ordered to be investigated. Instructions/warnings have been issued from time to time by DDA to its field staff to take effective measures to stop encroachment/unauthorised construction. To prevent encroachment, DDA has deployed adequate field staff. As soon as any encroachment is noticed removal action is taken with the help of Police. During the last three years, DDA, in the process of removal of encroachment, has reclaimed the following land :

Year	Land reclaimed
1992-93	284 Acres
1993-94	859 Acres
1994-95	352 Acres

[*English*]

Hurriyat Conference

5659. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the leaders of all-Party Hurriyat Conference who were permitted to participate in the OIC meet at Casablanca;

(b) whether they have also visited any other countries on their way back to India;

(c) if so, the particulars of the activities undertaken by them in support of their cause;

(d) whether some Governments and/or OIC have promised official support for the rehabilitation of the persons who have suffered in the course of the current spell of insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(e) whether the Government have agreed to such contracts and assistance?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c). The All Party Hurriyat Conference leaders, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Maulana Abbas Ansari, had travelled out of the country in their individual capacities during the months from December 1994 to February 1995. These two individuals visited Morocco reportedly at the invitation of the OIC. They subsequently travelled to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UK.

Government have reports to the effect that they expressed views, during their visit, on Jammu and Kashmir which have no relation to the ground reality, and that they have raised some funds.

(d) Government do not have any authentic information regarding this.

(e) Does not arise.

Power Generation Capacity of DVC

5660. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to further expand the power generation capacity of the DVC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign or Indian private company has since offered for investing in the project; and

(d) if so, the details of these offers and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. To further expand the power generation capacity of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic clearance to proposals of DVC for the installation of Maithon Right Bank Thermal Power Project (4 x 210 MW) in Bihar and for the rehabilitation of two fire-damaged units (2 x 75 MW) of Durgapur Thermal Power Station in West Bengal. In addition, Mejia Thermal Power Station (3 x 210 MW) is under construction and the first unit is scheduled for commissioning in 1995-96.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-Pak talks on Nuclear Facilities

5661. SHRI RABI RAY :
DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI :
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Pak for talks with

India on N-inspection', appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated April 18, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any official communication from the Government of Pakistan expressing her willingness to discuss the matter relating the opening nuclear facilities for international inspection with India on reciprocal basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Defective Buildings

5662. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has demolished some flats constructed by the DDA itself;

(b) if so, the number of such flats demolished during the last three years, year-wise and the flats proposed to be demolished during 1995-96;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether these flats had already been allotted and possession given to the allottees;

(e) whether the said allottees have been given alternate allotments;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the loss suffered by the DDA on account of this;

(h) whether the DDA has taken some action against some officers/Engineers of DDA in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) DDA has reported that the following flats have been demolished during the last three years :

Year	No. of flats	Details of flats	Name of Scheme
1992-93	6 Nos	Flat No. 30 A,B,C, and 67 A,B,C	282 MIG flats at A/10, Kalkaji Extn.
1993-94	- Nil		
1994-95	- Nil		

The details of flats, which are proposed to be demolished are as under :

- (i) 163 flats (out of 265 flats) at Mayur Vihar Phase-I.
- (ii) 220 flats (out of 300 flats) at Mayur Vihar Phase-I.
- (iii) 140 EWS flats at Prashant Vihar, Haider Puri Sector-14, Rohini.
- (iv) 56 MIG flats at Jahangirpuri (partially built)

(c) Reasons for demolition of the above mentioned flats are as under :

- (i) 6 flats at Kalkaji Extension have to be demolished because of subsidence of foundation on account of leaching of fine soil under it due to development of under current water etc.
- (ii) Flats at Mayur Vihar, Prashant Vihar and Jahangirpuri are to be demolished due to poor/sub-standard quality of construction.

(d) Only 6 flats at Kalkaji Extension have been allotted and possession given to the allottees.

(e) and (f). While allottees of 5 flats were provided with alternative accommodation, 6th allottee is being paid rent in lieu of alternative accommodation. Details of the allottees are given in the enclosed Statement.

(g) The details of loss suffered by DDA on account of demolition of these flats are as under :

(i) 6 flats at Kalkaji Extension	- Rs. 11.04 lakhs.
(ii) 163 flats at Mayur Vihar Phase-I	- Rs. 77.70
(iii) 222 flats at Mayur Vihar Phase-I	- Rs. 125.00 lakhs (Approx.)
(iv) 140 EWS flats at Prashant Vihar Haiderpuri	- Rs. 4.46 lakhs (Approx.)
(v) 56 MIG flats at Jahangirpuri	- Rs. 27.50 lakhs (Approx.)

(h) and (i). Action taken against the concerned officers/engineers is as under :

- (i) 6 flats at Kalkaji Extension - major penalty proceedings have been initiated against one Superintending Engineer, one Executive Engineer and three Assistant Engineers.
- (ii) 163 flats at Mayur Vihar Phase-I One Executive Engineer and two Assistant Engineers have been removed from service on 7.4.92 and pay of 3 Junior engineers has been reduced to the minimum of the scale for a period of years.
- (iii) 220 flats at Mayur Vihar Phase-I—Major penalty proceedings have been initiated

against one Executive Engineer and one Junior Engineer. In respect of one Assistant Engineer, the case has been referred to his parent department for major penalty proceedings.

- (iv) 140 EWS flats at Prashant Vihar - One Executive Engineer and one Assistant Engineer who were on deputation from C.P.W.D. had retired from service and minor penalty proceedings have been initiated against one Junior Engineer.
- (v) 56 MIG flats at Jahangirpuri - major penalty proceedings have been initiated against one Executive Engineer, one Assistant Engineer and one Junior Engineer. The case for minor penalty proceedings against an Accountant, who was on deputation to DDA, has been sent to his parent department.

STATEMENT

(i) List of allottees to whom alternative accommodation has been provided		
30-B	Mr. R.J.S. Ahluwalia	Shifted to 45-A, Sheikh Sarai Ph.I
30-C	Mr. S.P.S. Gujral	Shifted to 37-C -do-
67-A	Mr. J.N. Yadav	Shifted to 28-A, Pkt. A-10, Kalkaji Extension
67-B	Mr. P.K. Madan	Shifted to 53-C, A-13, Kalkaji Extension
67-C	Mr. Anil Jolly	Permanent allotment made by Housing Department in Sheikh Sarai
(ii) Allottee who is being paid rent in lieu of alternative accommodation		
30-A	Mr. Kailash Bajaj	

Bridges on National Highways in M.P.

5663. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct bridges on National Highways in Madhya Pradesh during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on the construction of these bridges; and

(d) the number of bridges on National Highways which are under repair at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Construction of bridges on National Highways, including those in Madhya Pradesh, is a continuous activity. As the Demands for Grants for 1995-96 are yet to be passed by Parliament, it is too early to indicate details of proposed construction and expenditure on bridges in Madhya Pradesh during this year.

(d) Carrying our repairs to bridges is a continuous activity. Repair works are undertaken within the funds available as and when the need arises. However, no bridge on National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is under major repair at present.

[*Translation*]

Oil Seeds Processing

5664. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Oil seeds processing sector faced with idle capacity" appearing in *Daily Observer* dated April 4, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the installed crushing capacity of oil seeds is not being fully utilised in the country;

(c) if so, the percentage of the total annual capacity of crushing oilseeds utilised during the last three years;

(d) reasons of low utilisation of crushing capacity; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure maximum utilisation of the crushing capacity of oil seeds sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Gold Reserves in Tribal Gujarat

5665. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has located new reserves of Gold and other valuable minerals in the tribal districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has recommended the setting up of industrial projects in tribal areas of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has found reserves in Gujarat as follows :

(i) Gold in Alech hills Jamnagar district. The results obtained were not encouraging to merit further detailed work.

(ii) Copper investigations in Khandia area, Vadodra district.

(iii) Strategic minerals in Banashantha district.

(iv) Cement grade limestone in Jamnagar, Junagarh and Amreli districts.

(v) Lignite in Bharuch, Raj-pardi and Vastan areas. A total reserve of 40 million tonnes of lignite has been estimated.

(vi) Investigation for tungsten around Atal village Banas-Kantha district indicated reserves ranging from 0.07 to 1.6% tungsen.

(vii) Wollastonite in Ghode and Dhanpura area, Banaskantha distt.

(viii) Dimensional stones in Sabarkantha and Banaskantha distts.

(c) No Projects in respect of the findings indicated in reply to (a) and (b) have been recommended by the Planning Commission to be set up.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

National Land Use Policy

5666. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a national land use policy for optimum utilisation and management of land resources; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) be pleased to state :

(a) and (b). Based on the information furnished by the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Land Use Conservations Board, in the Ministry of Agriculture has prepared a national land use policy outline and action points for optimum utilisation and management of land resources of the country. Some of the important steps recommended are :

(i) to slow down the rate at which we are losing soil due to water and wind erosion;

(ii) introduction of scientific irrigation management;

- (iii) investments for treating the catchments to prevent the collapse of irrigation system due to premature siltation; and
- (iv) Propagation of dry farming technologies so that in-situ moisture conservation practices are adopted.

Salaries to Indian Employees in Dubai

5667. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian employees of major construction firms and companies in Dubai very often approach Indian Consulate for help in getting their salaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof during last three years upto March 31, 1995, firm-wise; and

(c) the assistance provided/being provided to the workers in Dubai by the Indian Consulate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are as per enclosed Statement.

(c) As and when the complaint is received by the Consulate the matter is taken up with the employer/ sponsor promptly for an amicable settlement of the dispute. Whenever required, the Consulate approaches Ministry of Labour and Labour Courts for the redressal of the grievances of the employees.

STATEMENT

Nos. of cases of complaints Regarding Payment of Salaries to our Consulate at Dubai

Year	No of Cases	Name of Company
1	2	3
1992	14	M/s. Al Taawon Transport Co. Dubai
	14	M/s. Al Ghurair Group of Companies, Dubai.
	68	M/s. Deeb Cont. Co., Dubai.
	1	M/s. A.C. Arif Cont. Co., Dubai.
	1	M/s. Mohd. Bin Ghalib Enterprises, Dubai.
1993	102	Miscellaneous complaints
	15	M/s. Lubna Int. Manpower Consultancy
1994	135	Miscellaneous complaints
	18	M/s. House of Travels, Dubai and Sharjah
	45	M/s. Team engineers Co., Khorfakkan.

1	2	3
	34	M/s. Shattaf Anadn Steel Rolling Mills, Sharjah.
	16	M/s. Khaleej Sugar, Dabui.
	125	Miscellaneous complaints.
1995	11	M/s. Gem Readymade Garments Factory, Sharjah
	13	M/s. Middle East Metal Industries Co., Ajman.
	13	Miscellaneous complaints received
2000		M/s. Bartawi Group of Companies, Dubai

Fruits and Vegetables

5668. SHRI NURUL ISLAM :

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India produces the largest quantity of fruits in the world;

(b) if not, the factual position/comparative data in this regard and the total installed capacity of Food Processing Industries and capacity utilisation thereof;

(c) whether a major part of production of fruits goes wasted in the country due to non-utilisation thereof;

(d) if so, the annual average of percentage of fruits that get wasted and the part of remaining fruit production being exported;

(e) the percentage of fruits processed and utilised in the country; and

(f) the details of various plans/schemes prepared by the Government to ensure full utilisation of fruit and vegetable produce by developing necessary processing facilities and the incentives proposed to be provided to the private entrepreneurs in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, as per FAO information India produced 32.9 million tonnes of fruits followed by Brazil with a production of 32.64 million tonnes. The total installed capacity of fruit and vegetable processing industries, excluding fried and sun-dried products, is estimated to be 14.02 lakh metric tonnes, capable of processing approximately 2.85 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables, and its utilisation is 48%.

(c) to (e). Although no survey has been conducted to assess the perishing and non-utilization of fruits and vegetables, it is estimated that quality deterioration and losses in value that take place is about 25 to 30% of some fruits and vegetables due to inadequacy of post harvest infrastructure, processing facilities and

perishability of the produce. However, since substantial quantities of fruits and vegetables are utilised in household and un-organised exceed 5%. About 4.4% of the fruits and vegetables produced were exported in the fresh form during 1993-94. The percentage of fruits and vegetables utilised by the processing industries is estimated to be 1.3% and remaining above 89.3% is utilised in the country.

(f) With a view to utilise the maximum possible quantity of fruits and vegetables produced in the country larger capacity creation is being encouraged. The Government have declared most food processing industries, as a high priority area and have allowed automatic approval for foreign investment of 51% to bring in attendant benefits of technology, market access etc. The Government have also abolished excise duties on all processed fruits and vegetable products and have provided several fiscal reliefs on the capital goods used in this industry. In addition, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries have been implementing various development Plan Schemes for promotion of fruit and vegetable processing industry.

US Report on Pak's Nuclear Programme

5669. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recent report of the US House of Representatives Congressional Research Committee regarding Pakistan's nuclear programme and its effects on India;

(b) if so, the details of the report;

(c) whether the Government have examined the report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report titled "Pakistan's Nuclear Brinkmanship" released by the Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare of the House Republican Research Committee on August 24, 1994 drew attention, *inter alia*, the former Pak Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharief's confirmation that Pakistan possesses the atomic bomb. The report stated that Pakistan had been pursuing the acquisition of nuclear weapons since early 1960s. In 1976, the then Pak Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto secured the PRC's agreement to support the Pakistani military nuclear programme with expertise ranging from scientific and technological assistance to actual weapons-designs know-how. In the 1990s, nuclear weapons became a key to Islamabad's assertive strategy in Kashmir under a nuclear umbrella. The

Report concluded that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was personally leading Pakistan into becoming a key and active component in a major global axis aimed at confronting the US.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have consistently held the view that Pakistan is pursuing a clandestine weapons-oriented nuclear programme. Government have called on the international community to act concertedly to ensure that Pakistan should be forthwith compelled to abandon its nuclear weapons programme.

[Translation]

Allocation out of CRF

5670. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the State-wise details of the revised estimates sent by State Governments to seek funds under Central Road Fund for 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) State-wise details of revised estimates received seeking funds under Central Road Fund for 1993-94 are given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

S.No	Name of States/UTs	Revised estimates 1993-94 sent by the State Government
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	151.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28.00
3.	Assam	78.362
4.	Bihar	60.00
5.	Chandigarh	Nil
6.	Delhi	Nil
7.	Goa	Nil
8.	Gujarat	67.55
9.	Haryana	165.30
10.	Himachal Pradesh	35.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	50.00
12.	Karnataka	224.81
13.	Kerala	429.74
14.	Madhya Pradesh	133.75
15.	Maharashtra	320.57
16.	Manipur	20.00
17.	Meghalaya	45.00
18.	Mizoram	11.29
19.	Nagaland	15.00

1	2	3
20.	Orissa	108.71
21.	Pondicherry	Nil
22.	Punjab	100.00
23.	Rajasthan	248.00
24.	Sikkim	120.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	252.84
26.	Tripura	10.30
27.	Uttar Pradesh	778.43
28.	West Bengal	25.22
29.	Lakshadweep	80.00

[English]

Human Rights Violations in POK

5671. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Committee on External Affairs has indicted the Government for not highlighting human rights violations in Pak-occupied Kashmir (POK) and the uprising of the people in various international fora:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any instruction to all the missions in the world to highlight the human rights violation in POK;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). The Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs have urged the Government to raise in the international arena forcefully and in a sustained manner, matters relating to rights and privileges of the people living in areas of Jammu and Kashmir, illegally occupied by Pakistan through aggression, and the so-called 'Northern Areas'. The Committee has recommended that the Government may from time to time apprise it as well as Indian Missions abroad of the conditions prevailing in the Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and 'Northern Areas' with a view to project to the international community the true facts.

(c) to (e). The Indian Missions abroad have been provided with materials on the situation in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and the 'Northern Areas' focussing on the denial of democratic rights, Pakistan's illegal annexation of these territories since 1947, recurring violence, sectarian strife and economic deprivation and backwardness which seriously affect the rights and privileges of the people of these areas. The Indian Missions are in a position to regularly brief the international community about the reality of the situation in POK and the 'Northern Areas'.

Government have and will continue to highlight at the international fora the distortions and fallacies in Pakistan's propaganda over the Kashmir issue especially the situation in POK and the 'Northern Areas'. The opportunities provided by bilateral exchanges during the visits of foreign delegations to India and of Indian delegations going abroad, will continue to be utilised to disseminate the perspectives regarding Pakistan's repressive measures affecting the rights and privileges of the people of POK and 'Northern Areas' and the deplorable conditions prevailing in these areas.

Funds for PSUs

5672. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount earmarked for the various Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry in the Eighth Five Year Plan, had remained unutilised during the first couple of years of the plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of plan outlays earmarked for each Public Sector Undertakings during the Eighth Plan, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The approved outlay (B.E.) and actual expenditure in the case of various PSUs/Cooperatives in the fertilizer sector during the first two years of the 8th Plan were as under :

Year	(Rs. Crores)	
	Approved Outlay (B.E.)	Actual Expenditure
1992-93	1214.00	209.73
1993-94	914.00	294.48

The shortfall in the utilisation of plan outlays during the first two years of the 8th Plan was mainly due to delayed start of some of the major projects due to various reasons.

The approved outlay (B.E.) and actual expenditure in the case of various PSUs/Cooperatives/Autonomous bodies under the administrative control of Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals during first two years of the 8th Plan were as under :

Year	(Rs. Crores)	
	Approved Outlay (B.E.)	Actual Expenditure
1992-93	762.80	320.93
1993-94	1205.76	399.80

The shortfall in the utilisation of plan outlays during the first two years of the 8th Five Year Plan was mainly due to delays in the implementation of some of the major projects due to non-availability of right type of technologies; rescheduling of some projects due to delays in the backward/forward linkages; delays in

getting environmental clearances; and low generation of internal and extra-budgetary resources due to change in Government policies and the duty structure, etc.

(c) A Statement indicating the PSUs wise outlays for Eighth Plan is enclosed.

STATEMENT

PSUs wise outlays for the Eighth Plan Department of Fertilizers

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No. Name of PSUs	Plan Outlays				
	Eighth Five Year Plan	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	430.00	75.00	30.00	23.00	25.00
2. Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	700.00	71.00	104.00	120.00	208.00
3. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.	227.00	42.00	35.00	17.00	18.00
4. National Fertilizers Ltd.	1027.00	200.00	162.00	200.00	408.00
5. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	638.00	200.00	135.00	130.00	281.00
6. Projects and Development India Ltd.	9.00	6.00	4.00	1.50	1.00
7. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.	300.00	50.00	44.00	34.00	50.00
8. Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	89.00	20.00	5.00	4.00	5.00
9. Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	448.00	100.00	90.00	246.00	250.00
10. Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd.	384.00	230.00	164.00	100.00	268.00
11. Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd.	1100.00	220.00	141.00	158.00	448.00
Total	5352.00	1214.00	914.00	1031.50	1962.00

PSUs wise outlays for the Eighth Plan-Contd. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No. Name of PSUs	Plan Outlays				
	Eighth Five Year Plan	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd.	1916.00	553.00	972.00	730.00	842.00
2. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	175.00	85.00	100.00	90.00	140.00
3. Petrofills Cooperative Ltd.	200.50	79.30	80.34	43.50	25.35
4. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	30.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	8.43
5. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	8.00	5.00	2.50	16.56	16.43
6. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	5.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	6.69
7. Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals	6.80	1.00	0.75	1.00	1.00
8. Bengal Immunity Ltd.	8.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9. Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	4.00	1.00	0.15	0.35	1.00
10. Central Institute of Pesticides Engineering and Technology	38.50	10.00	23.10	23.00	16.00
11. Institute of Pesticides Formulation Technology + RENPAP	—	—	0.42	0.42	1.00
12. National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research	10.00	2.50	3.50	7.00	10.28
Total	2401.80	762.80	1205.76	935.83	1069.18

[Translation]

Power cut in Northern States by NHPC

5673. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in Rashtriya Sahara dated April 11, 1995 under the caption "N.H.E.P.C. Uttri Rajyou Ko Bijlee Ki Aapurti Band Karege";

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

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The allocation of power to various States from the power stations of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) is, *inter-alia*, subject to the condition that in case of failure of the beneficiary to ensure timely payment, NHPC may shut off or restrict power supply to it and advise the concerned Regional Electricity Board to reallocate the surplus power to other beneficiaries. Accordingly, when a beneficiary is not able to liquidate the arrears inspite of persistent requests and follow up, NHPC is empowered to consider regulating supply of power, subject to considerations of grid security. Though NHPC has indicated that it proposes to regulate the supply of power to Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi, which owed NHPC Rs. 167.17 crores, Rs. 128.18 crores and Rs. 84.93 crores respectively as on 31st March, 1995 a final decision in this regard has not been taken by NHPC. In the meantime, efforts are being made to persuade the State Electricity Boards/ Electricity Departments in favour of NHPC for purchase of power. In addition, recovery of the arrears upto the period ending March 1994 is being effected/to be effected in instalments from the Central Plan Allocation to the States.

[English]

Subsidy for Cash Crops

5674. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is very little difference between the prices of subsidised fertilizers in the domestic market and the world fertilizer prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether subsidy reduction on fertilizer has had a negative impact on the use of fertilizers in the country;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase subsidy on fertilizers used for cash crops; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Presently, urea is the only controlled fertilizer in respect of which subsidy is paid under the retention price-cum subsidy scheme. As per the available information, the farmgate price of urea in India is currently one of the lowest among the neighbouring countries.

(c) to (d). Consequent upon the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers w.e.f. 25.8.1992 as per the recommendations of the JPC on Fertilizer Pricing, their consumption has declined. However, in order to cushion the impact of increase in the price of decontrolled fertilizers, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing a scheme of special concession @ Rs. 1000/- per tonne on imported Muriate of Potash (MOP) and indigenous DAP, as also proportionate concession on indigenous complex fertilizers and Single Superphosphate (SSP). Of late, the consumption of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers has started looking up. The consumption of urea, which is the only controlled fertilizer at present, has been increasing steadily over the years.

The benefit of subsidy/special concession is available to all the farmers irrespective of the crop they cultivate.

Development of Ports

5675. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to develop/modernise major ports in the country;

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

(c) the funds provided for this purpose, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir. An outlay of Rs. 2984 crores has been provided in 8th Five Year Plan 1992-97 for development and modernisation of major ports in the country.

(b) and (c). The details are as below :

Name of the Port	8th Plan Outlay (Rupees in crores)
1	2
Calcutta	155.00
Haldia	266.00
Bombay	413.00
Jawaharlal Nehru	215.00

1	2
Madras	570.00
Cochin	117.00
Visakhapatnam	250.00
Kandla	226.00
Mormugao	123.00
Paradip	486.00
New Mangalore	98.00
Tuticorin	65.00
Total	2984.00

Modernisation of VISL Bhadravati

5676. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Visvesvaraya Iron Steel Limited Bhadravati (Karnataka) has suffered heavy losses during 1994-95;

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

(c) the total amount spent by the Government during 1994-95 for the modernisation of the above steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. However, the financial accounts of the company for the year 1994-95 are under scrutiny and the exact details of the losses will be known on completion of the Audit. The reasons for losses, in general are :

(i) Recession in demand of Alloy Steel;

(ii) High Power tariff rates; and

(iii) Outmoded/obsolete technology in certain areas.

(c) An amount of Rs. 38.92 crores (Provisional) has been spent by SAIL during the year 1994-95 on various capital schemes (including modernisation scheme) under implementation at Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited (VISL)

Water Supply Projects in States

5677. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provides financial assistance to States for water supply projects in cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of proposal from Government of Tamil Nadu for water supply projects in cities in the State cleared during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) No financial assistance is given to the State Governments excepting under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Due to limited funds available under the Programme, so far 10 towns at an estimated cost of Rs. 438.62 lakhs have been approved and Rs. 91.83 Lakhs have already been released as shown in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e). Now the responsibility for selecting new towns have been entrusted to the State Level Selection Committee headed by Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Government of Tamil Nad. Further action would be possible only after new proposals are received from the State Government.

STATEMENT

Annexure Referred to in Reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5677 for 15.5.95.

Names of towns in Tamil Nadu which have been Approved under the Accelerated water Supply Programme.

1. Chithode
2. Annamalai
3. Vengathur
4. Harur
5. Bhuvanagiri
6. Padirivedu
7. Cheyyur
8. Kaveripattinam
9. Denkanikottai
10. Thisayanvilai

Indigenous Drugs

5678. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the negative list for bulk drugs and intermediates are being amended;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any policy has been formulated to protect and encourage the production of indigenous drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The Export-Import Policy (1992-97) as amended up to 31st March, 1995 has deleted Vitamin B-12 from the Negative List of Imports (Restricted Items) in the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Sector.

(c) to (e). The Policy measures in the Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986 aim at, *inter-alia*, strengthening the indigenous capability for production of drugs.

[Translation]

Fall in Pesticides Production

5679. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fall has been registered in the production of Pesticides during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the programme being prepared by the Government to meet the demand-supply gap of pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Funds for Jaipur Development Authority

5680. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to sanction funds to the State Government of Rajasthan for implementing the proposals of Jaipur Development Authority to set up 14 satellite towns around the Pink city; and

(b) if so, the total cost of the project and the funds allocated proposed to be allocated by the Union Government for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Establishment of F.P.I.

5681. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any survey to identify the areas to set up food processing Industries; and

(b) if so, outcome of this survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) and (b). While no such Survey has been conducted by this Ministry, the Ministry under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance for such studies to the State Governments or their agencies, recognised organisations of the industry etc. During the first 3 years of the 8th Plan period such assistance has been provided in respect of proposals received from the States of Assam, West Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram Orissa, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh etc. Most of the studies indicate the good potential for the development of Food Processing Industries.

Investment Treaty with USA

5682. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether USA is keen to sign a bilateral investment treaty with India;

(b) if so, whether India has given its final approval; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The two Governments have exchanged their respective model texts. Formal negotiations have not commenced.

Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited

5683. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited in view of the steep fall in its profits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited is not a Central public sector undertaking. Therefore, the question of Government proposing to privatise this company does not arise.

Deep Sea Fishing

5684. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Corporation to run sick deep-sea fishing vessels in Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details of the composition and structure of the proposed Corporation;

(c) if not, whether the Government have any other plan to use the idle trawlers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). A Technical Committee on the deep sea fishing industry in India has submitted its report for revival of deep sea fishing units and inter-ministerial action has been initiated for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.

[Translation]

Silver availability in Rajasthan

5685. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received reports of availability of deposits of high quality silver and zinc Ores in Bhilwara and around Angucha in the Ajmer district of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the probable date when mining works in these areas will be started;

(c) the percentage of royalty paid to the State Government of Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(d) the locations where surveys work is being undertaken by Mineral Survey Department at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No high quality silver and zinc deposits have been reported in Bhilwara and Angucha in Ajmer district. However, minor occurrences of silver in Bharak and low grade lead-zinc deposit in Pur-Banera area in Bhilwara district have been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Hindustan Zinc Limited has paid to the State Government royalty due to silver as follows :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	105.15
1993-94	134.93
1994-95	113.56

(d) Presently, Geological Survey of India is carrying out mineral survey work in Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Ajmer, Pali, Rajsamand, Sirohi, Bhilwara, Dungarpur, Banswara and Jalore districts.

Fertilizer Plants in U.P.

5686. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94 and 1994-95, unit-wise; and

(b) the details of profits earned and expenditure incurred against the total production of fertilizers, unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Total production of fertilizers (in terms of nutrients) in the large and medium units in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The details of profits earned and expenditure incurred by the Cooperative Sector units in Uttar Pradesh are given below :

	(Rs. Crores)			
	Annual Expenditure	Operating	Profit	
	1993-94	1994-95	1993-94	1994-95
Phulpur-IFFCO	246.56	303.83	4.54	25.96
Aonla-IFFCO	327.10	341.28	46.07	28.76

The only public sector unit viz. Gorakhpur unit of FCI has been lying closed since June, 1990.

STATEMENT*Unit-wise production of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94 & 1994-95*

('000 MT)

Unit	Name of Product	Production 1993-94			Production 1994-95		
		Qty.	N	P	Qty.	N	P
IFFCO-Phulpur	Urea	540.5	248.6	0.0	659.0	303.1	0.0
IFFCO-Aonla	Urea	906.4	416.9	0.0	800.7	368.3	0.0
DIL-Kanpur	Urea	601.3	276.6	0.0	718.4	330.5	0.0
IGFCC-Jagdishpur	Urea	685.3	315.2	0.0	784.3	360.8	0.0
TCL-Babralla	Urea	0.0	0.0	0.0	156.2	71.9	0.0
SSP Units	SSP	339.6	0.0	54.3	689.2	0.0	110.3
State Total		3073.1	1257.4	54.3	3807.8	1434.6	110.3

Note : 1. FCI-Gorakhpur is lying closed since June, 1990 due to an accident.
2. 'N' denotes Nitrogen and 'P' denotes Phosphate nutrient.

Lucknow Plan

5687. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding 'Lucknow Plan' and the targets fixed to be achieved by 2001 A.D. in that regard;

(b) the work completed so far on that plan and whether the work is likely to be completed in accordance with targets fixed to be achieved by 2001 A.D.; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the 20-year Road Development Plan (1981-2001) drawn by the Indian Roads Congress which is a registered society under the Registration Act of 1860. The recommendations/targets enunciated in this Plan document are basically recommendatory in nature and are intended to serve as reference for the formulation of the Five Year Plans etc.

[English]

Travel Facility to Traders

5688. DR. G.L. KANAUIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether border trade by land route between India and Myanmar has already been started;

(b) if so, the terms of facilities offered to traders of both sides;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide visa and travel facilities to the traders and visitors from both countries as Air Journey is too costly

via Bangladesh and Thailand in the absence of direct flight facility between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Border trade by the land route between India and Myanmar through Moreh in Manipur and Tamu on the Myanmar side was officially inaugurated on 12.4.1995.

(b) Government have provided necessary facilities and made appropriate banking, immigration, customs, security and infrastructural arrangements for the conduct of border trade.

(c) to (e). A system of a Border Travel Pass has been introduced to provide overland travel facilities for traders following issuance of a Notification on 7 April, 1995.

BNI on Terrorism in UK Parliament

5689. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Bill was introduced in the Parliament of UK to help India fighting terrorism;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this legislation would enable India to curb operation of Indian terrorist outfits in UK?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). An Agreement was concluded between India and the UK on 22 September, 1992 concerning the investigation and prosecution of crime and the tracing, restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime (including crimes involving currency transfers) and

terrorists funds. This Agreement provides for mutual cooperation in tracing, restraint and confiscation of funds and instruments of crime and terrorist funds as well as for mutual assistance in investigation, prosecution, and the search for and seizure of evidence. It is also designed to strengthen Indo-UK cooperation in combating drug-trafficking. After the completion of necessary procedures in both India and the UK, this Agreement has entered into effect from 1 May, 1995.

(c) Together with the Indo-UK Extradition Treaty, the Agreement serves as a deterrent to anti-India extremists based in the UK to plan or commit terrorist crimes and offences against India.

Repair of National Highways in Maharashtra

5690. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL :
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the original and repair works on National Highways in Maharashtra were hampered on account of paucity of funds during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals pending consideration as on 31st March, 1995; and

(c) the funds likely to be made available during 1995-96 for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Owing to budgetary constraints, the allocation of funds for original and repair works on National Highways has been less than the requirements projected by various State Governments including Maharashtra. However, within the allocations available, roads are kept generally in traffic worthy condition.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the position at this point of time as the Demands-for-Grants for the financial year 1995-96 are yet to be approved by the Parliament.

Privatisation of Inter-State routes of DTC

5691. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI TARA SINGH :
SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise inter-state routes of Delhi Transport Corporation;

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

(c) whether DTC buses would be withdrawn from such routes;

(d) whether the State Government of Delhi has accepted the proposal; and

(e) the likely impact of this proposal on the loss incurring Delhi Transport Corporation?

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

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

[Translation]

Extension of National Highway in Gujarat

5692. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend National Highway in Jamnagar district upto Okha Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Owing to meagre allocation of funds for National Highways during the 8th Five Year Plan, it is difficult to declare any new National Highway at this stage.

Defect in Blast Furnace of Bokaro Steel Plant

5693. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bokaro Steel Plant in Bihar has suffered losses worth crores of rupees due to defects in blast furnace; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to check recurrence of such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Fertiliser use in the North-East

5694. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of fertilisers in the north-eastern parts of the country has decreased over the years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove the bottlenecks in the fertilizer marketing and distribution network, to ensure their easy availability in the north-eastern region of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The consumption of fertilizers in nutrient terms in the North Eastern Region States during the last five years has been as under :

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

Year	Nitrogen (N)	Phosphate (P)	Potash (K)	Total (N+P+K)
1990-91	57.67	21.27	42.47	121.41
1991-92	59.75	21.88	36.41	118.04
1992-93	58.09	17.28	19.21	94.58
1993-94	70.40	16.61	18.22	105.23
1994-95 (Estimated)	66.26	17.04	28.81	112.11

(b) The main reason for low consumption of fertilizers in the North Eastern States is the problem of logistics. Subsequent to decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers in August, 1992, there was a steep hike in their prices which has further depressed the consumption of fertilizers in the region.

(c) Government of India has provided a concession of Rs. 1000 per tonne on the sales of Muriate of Potash (MOP) and indigenous Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Rs. 340 per tonne on Singer Super Phosphate (SSP) and proportionate concession on sales of indigenously produced complex-grade fertilizers. Instructions have also been issued for advance stocking and timely lifting of fertilizers in the North-Eastern region.

[Translation]

Financial Condition of D.T.C.

5695. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial condition of Delhi Transport Corporation is in poor shape;

(b) whether his Ministry has written to the Ministry of Finance for providing grants to deal with the present financial crisis;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Finance Ministry thereon; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken to make it economically viable?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Finance Ministry has observed that no further budgetary support to DTC may be considered without the Ministry first drawing up a rehabilitation package for the Corporation.

(d) Keeping in view the observations of the Ministry of Finance, the Government has initiated action for making proposals to rehabilitate the DTC

[English]

Rehabilitation of Tehri Dam Oustees

5696. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Tehri Dam oustees to start rehabilitation work;

(b) whether the representatives of the dam oustees have also urged the Government to stop all work on the Tehri Dam project till a final decision on this aspect has been taken;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) the main demands of the oustees; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred and likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c). The work on rehabilitation of the population affected by the construction of the Tehri Project had been started in 1976 by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and has been continued from 1990 by Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited. A suggestion has been made that construction on the project may not recommence till rehabilitation is completed. Rehabilitation of the affected population and the construction of the project is being taken up *pari-passu* and the rehabilitation is envisaged to be completed before the impoundment of the reservoir.

(d) The main demands of the oustees *inter-alia* include change in the cut off date of rehabilitation, partially affected families to be treated as fully affected, treatment of adult members of separate family and employment for one member of each family etc.

(e) A provision of Rs. 414 crores has been made for rehabilitation works out of which about Rs. 280.35 crores has been incurred as on March, 1995.

[Translation]

Bridges on National Highways

5697. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of over-bridges constructed during the last two years on the National Highways in Gujarat; and

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) Nil.
(b) Does not arise.

Coal Requirement of Steel Units

5698. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the required quality and quantity of coal was not supplied to the steel producing units during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the quantity of the different quality of Coal required by these units during the said period, separately;

(c) the quantity of the Coal supplied to each of the units as against the requirements thereof;

(d) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for the short supply of coal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps Government propose to take to avoid recurrence of such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) There was a gap in supply of required quantity and quality of coking coal from indigenous sources to the steel producing units in 1994-95.

(b) and (c). Requirement and quantity of coal supplied to each of the steel producing units was as under :

Companies	(Figures in m.t.)		
	Requirement (including imports)	Actual supply from CIL	Imports
SAIL	16.00	9.956	5.271
RINL	3.25	1.01	2.27
TISCO	2.74	0.07*	0.62

* Most of the indigenous supplies were from their captive mines/washeries.

Against the quality norm of ash content between 17-19%, the weighted average of ash content of indigenous coal was around 20% in 1994-95.

(d) to (f). There is an overall shortage of availability of coking coal in the country. Besides, the difficulties in movement of coking coal from pithead to the Plants on account of inadequate availability of wagons also affect supplies. However, following steps have been taken to augment the supplies of coking coal :

- (i) Close monitoring with Railways Rail for day to day wagon supplies, uninterrupted Rail

movement and placement of wagons for loading according to requirements.

- (ii) Strict checks introduced to improve quality of washed coal produced.
(iii) Supply of Assam coal to SAIL and other plants.
(iv) Expediting completion of all modernisation works in the existing washeries.
(v) Close monitoring of various coking coal projects under implementing for augmenting the raw coking coal supplies.
(vi) Speedy commissioning of two coking coal washeries at Madhuband (2.50 MTPA) and Kedla (2.60 MTPA) under Bharat Coking Coal and Central Coalfields Limited respectively
(vii) Early investment decision on construction of new coking coal washeries at Parej and Tapin. (3.75 MTPA).
(viii) Setting up additional capacity to wash low volatile medium coking coal.
(ix) For further increasing washed coking coal availability to the steel plants, Coal India Limited has a programme to set up a coking coal washery in private sector under "Build-own-Operate" Scheme.

Damage to National Highways in Gujarat

5699. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the stretches of National Highways in Gujarat which are prone to damages on account of natural calamities; and

(b) the steps taken to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Generally there are no identifiable stretches of National Highways in Gujarat vulnerable to damage due to natural calamities. However, in case of damage to the National Highways due to natural calamities, all efforts are made for their immediate restoration within the least possible time, within the available funds.

[English]

Foreign Funds for T. and D. Losses

5700. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government have sought foreign funds for power transmission infrastructure;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the State Governments for keeping transmission and distribution losses under control; and

(c) if so, whether any decision have been taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c). The power transmission projects of the various States proposed to be constructed/under construction using foreign funds are given in the enclosed Statement -I. The details of the various projects for System Improvement Studies for keeping transmission and distribution losses under control are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

STATEMENT

List of Transmission Projects of the State Governments Proposed to be Constructed/Under Construction Using Foreign Funds

S. No.	Project name	Loan no. Date of Agreement/ expiry	Loan Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Anpara Power transmission System Project (U.P.) (UPSEB)	Loan 1 IDP-65 30.07.91 30.07.96	19318 Myen includes 4.21.0 Myen for consultancy
2.	Dahnau Thermal Power Station (Maharashtra) (BSES Ltd.)	Loan 1 IBRD 3344- IN 12.07.91 Loan 2 IFC 29.06.91	200MUS\$ includes 6.0 MUS\$ for Trans. Component 68.0 MUS\$ includes 15.94 MUS\$ for Tr. component.
3.	Maharashtra Power Project T & D Scheme	3096-IN 14.12.89 31.12.96	124.0 MUS\$
4.	Budge Budge (2x250 MW) (CESE Ltd.)	Loan 1 ADB 27.4.92 31.12.96 Loan 2 IFC 20-7-92 31-8-97 Loan 3 CDC 23-11-92 31-12-98 Loan 4 Supplier Credit 31-7-92 30-4-96	32 MUS\$ 60 MUS\$ PDS 25 PDS 25
5.	400 KV Srisaillam Left Bank Power House	Loan 1 DECF Loan No. ID-PB5	3743 MYen (includes 63.0 MYen for

1	2	3	4
	Transmission Scheme (APSEB)	21-12-92 18.04.98 Loan 2 Additional loan of 9546 MYen (Agreement) signed on 20-1-95 in Japan)	consultancy)
6.	Madras Metro T & D Upgradation Project (TNEB)	ADB Loan No.1029IND (PartB) 6.12.90 30.6.98	57.54 MUS\$ includes 1.10 MUS\$ for Consultancy)
7.	Kerala Power Project. One 400 KV s/s, Four 220 KV s/s* Switching sub-station & distribution improvement working in 3 major cities of the State.	IBRD 2582- 5.12.85 31.12.94	126 MUS\$ vide letter dated 24.5.94

* one 220 KV

STATEMENT-II

List of System Improvement Schemes of the State Governments for Reduction of Transmission and Distribution Losses

S. No.	Project Name	Loan No. Date of Agreement/ Expiry	Loan Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Madras Metro T & D Upgradation Project (TNEB)	ADB Loan No.1029-IND (Part B) 6.12.90 30.6.98	57.54 MUS \$ includes 1.10 MUS \$ for Consultancy
2.	Kerala Power Project, One 400 KV s/s Four 220 KV s/s one 220 KV Switching Substation and distribution Improvement work in 3 major cities of the State.	IBRD 2582- IN 5.12.1985 31.12.1994	126 MUS \$ vide letter dated 24.5.1994

1	2	3	4
3.	Provision of SVCs (140/70 MVAR) at Lucknow, Kanpurand Moradabad of UPSEB in Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 120 crores.	(Proposed for assistance under OEFC OF Japan)	

Note :

Besides, Ministry of Power has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 245.6 lacs out of a total cost of Rs. 456 lacs for the Pilot Project for installation of 3000 LT switched capacitors in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab and Tamil Nadu and expenditure sanction amounting to Rs. 175.76 lacs to West Bengal and Rs. 114.62 lacs to Kerala State Electricity Board has also been granted for carrying out Energy Audit in their distribution Systems.

Drinking Water in Orissa

5701. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the severe scarcity of drinking water in various districts Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure availability of adequate potable drinking water in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Government of Orissa has not reported about severe scarcity of drinking water in any district.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]**Development of Agro Based Industries**

5702. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the provisions made by the Union Government for the development of agro based industries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the funds provided to each State for that purpose during the corresponding period;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up Integrated Growth Centres for promoting agro-based industries in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGO) : (a) Plan allocation for the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 were Rs. 40, Rs. 47 and Rs. 45 crores respectively.

(b) Under Ministry's Plan Schemes State-wise allocations are not made. Financial assistance is provided to projects emanating from State Government organisations, Cooperative Societies, Joint sector companies, voluntary agencies etc. for setting up/upgrading food processing industries or research and development etc.

(c) and (d). Ministry does not set up food processing industries directly in any State. There is no proposal to set up an Integrated Growth Centre for promoting agro-based industries by this Ministry.

[English]

Manufacture of Penicillin by HAL

5703. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the manufacture of Penicillin by the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited has registered a sharp decline; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir. Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL) produced 840.48 mega million unit (MMU) of Penicillin-G in 1994-95 as compared to 822.07 MMU in 1993-94.

(b) Does not arise.

Linking of Farakka and Talcher with National Power Grid

5704. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Farakka and Talcher has not been connected with National Power Grid;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to connect Farakka and Talcher with National Power Grid at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c). Being the regional power stations, Farakka and Talcher are presently connected to the Eastern Regional Grid. However, with the implementation of the

Jeypore-Gazuwaka and Mau-Biharshariff inter-regional HVDC links, the above projects would automatically get connected to the National Power Grid.

Production of Power Equipments

5705. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether power equipments have been imported during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of countries of import and the foreign exchange spent thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal to produce these equipments in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL):

(a) and (b). A wide range of machinery fall under the category of power equipment which is used in thermal,

hydel, gas and nuclear power plant. Power equipment also covers transmission and distribution equipments and other accessories related to the power sector. Power equipments are imported by SEBs, industries using captive generation plants as well as the public and private utilities in the power sector. The import of power equipment is also covered under bilateral and multilateral aid from various agencies as well as other countries under various funding arrangements. The details of power equipment imported by NHIC, NTPC, POWERGRID and NEEPCO are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (e). Power equipments particularly in the field of generation, transmission and distribution are manufactured domestically by both public sector undertakings as well as private sector companies. If information pertaining to specific equipments or project is indicated, it would be possible for this Ministry to give the details of the local manufacturing capabilities within the country. However, import of power equipment is sometimes necessitated in respect of projects receiving multilateral and bilateral aid.

STATEMENT

List of Power Equipment imported by NHPC, PGCIL, NTPC and NEEPCO

Year of Import	Organisation/ Power Station	Equipment	Foreign Exchange Value	Source of Financing	Country wherefrom imported	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
I. NATIONAL HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION :						
1.	1993-94	Chamera H.E. Project Stage-I (3x180 = 540 MW)	400 KV oil Filled Cables	C\$ 589,012	Export Development Corporation Canada and CIDA	Germany
			400 KV GIS Equipment PH Auxiliary Equipment	C\$ 571,842 C\$ 96,120		Germany Canada
			Total	C\$ 1,256,974		
2.	1993-94	DU1 Hasti H.E. Project (3x130 = 390 MW)	Generating Units	1501,712,888 Yen	French Grant and Loan	France
			Switchyard and GIS Power House	552,232,814 Yen 210,277,491 Yen		France
			Auxiliary Equipment			
			Total	2,264,223,193 Yen		
				or 2264 Million Yen		
3.	1993-94	Uri H.E. Project (4x120 MW)	Generating Unit	6,120,415 GBP	UK Grant and Loan	UK
			Auxiliary Equip.	286,905 GBP	-do-	UK
			Total	6,407,320 GBP		

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	1994-95 Uri H.E Project (4x120 MW)	Generating Unit Power House Auxiliary Equipment	791,259 GBP 791,385 GBP	UK Grant and Loan -do-	UK UK
		Total	1,582,644 GBP		
		Generating Unit	52,154 MCHF	Swedish Grant and Loan	Sweden
		Switchyard and GIS Power House Auxiliary Equipment	33.769 MCHF 52.556 MCHF	-do-	-do-
		Power Cables	14.280 MCHF	-do-	-do-
		Total	152.759 Million CHF		
II. POWER GRID CORPORATION					
1.	1993-94 Powergrid/Kathalguri transmission system	ACSR Moose Conductor	JY 626,214,074	OECF	Baharain
		High Tensile Steel Angle Sections	JY 626,772,550	OECF	S. Korea
2.	1994-95 Powergrid/Kathalguri Transmission System	MS Steel High Tensile Steel Angles & Plates	JY 150,595,200 JY 95,493,364	OECF OECF	S. Korea S. Korea
		ACSR Moose Conductor	JY 335,477,000	OECF	Baharain
	Powergrid/ 2x500 MW EVDC back to back Project at Chandrapur	Thyristor Valves Tiers Converter Transformer Anchor Bolts & Templates	PS 4,884,919 PS 7,008,783 FF 1,110,535	ODA grant of U.K. Govt. ODA grant of U.K. Govt. French Treasury loan & French Export Credit	U.K. U.K. France
		Bus Post Insulators HV conductor & shielding wires	FF 39,281,431 FF 1,783, 781	-do- French Treasury loan and French Export Credit	France France
		A.C. Circuit Breaker Disc Insulators	FF 40,111,738 FF 2,002, 857	-do- -do-	France France
III. NATIONAL THERMAL POWER CORPORATION					
1.	1993-94 FSTPP-II	SG&ESP Pkg.	DM 13.632	Bankers Trust Co. Hongkong	Italy
		Training Stimulator	£ .213 DM .541	"	Germany
		400 KV Bus Post Insulator	US \$.012	"	Yugoslavia
		400 KV CB's Main Plant equipment	DM .313 DM .47	" KFW	Germany "
	Kawas GPP	Main Plant equipment	FF 115.07 BEF 74.74 \$ 0.99	Banque Paribas France & Belgium IBRD	France & Belgium France

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Talcher STPP	SG Package	FF 23.92	Banque Paribas	France
		"	FF 11.46		
		Gen. Cir. Breaker	FRF 10.873	IBRD	France
		GEC			
		Boiler Feed Pump	DM 1.393	-do-	Italy
			IL 7589.468	-do-	Italy
		Steam Gen. Vib.	DM 10.329	-do-	Germany
		Insul.	.148	-do-	Germany
	Anta GPP	Main Plant	DM .829	-do-	Germany
	Auraiya GPP	-do-	JY 65.45	-do-	Japan
	Kahalgaon STPP	-do-	Rbls 2.33	Russian	Russia
	Singrauli STPP	-do-	DM 3.72	KFW	Germany
	Dadri GPP	-do-	DM 1.34	KFW	Germany
	Gandhar GPP	Main Plant equipment	JY 2412.6	OECE	Japan and Germany
2.	1994-95 FSTPP	Generator Tran.	US\$.343	IBRD	Yugoslavia
		Lt Trans.	US\$.025	"	"
	Kawas GPP	Main Plant Equip.	FF 15.52	Banque Paribas	France
			BEF 10.88	France & Belgium	Belgium
	Talcher STPP	SG Package	FF 19.15	"	France
		"	BF 12.90	"	France
		Boiler Feed Pump	IL 3486.529	"	Italy
		Steam Gen ABB	DM 7.788	"	Germany
		Gen Cir Breaker	FRF 4.026	"	France
	Auraiya GPP	Main Plant	JY 2616.00	IBRD	Japan
		Equipment	US\$.837	"	"
			Sing \$.048	"	"
			£ .023	"	"
	Kahalgaon STPP	-do-	Rbls .06	Russian	Russia
			DM 1.14	KFW	Germany
	Gandhar GPP	-do-	JY 13732.00	OECE	Japan & Germany

IV. NORTH EASTERN ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION

1.	1993-94 Assam Gas Based Power Project, Kathalguri	Generating Sets 4 nos. including auxiliaries.			
		Fuel Gas system including 4 sets of gas compressor gas metering system, measuring instruments, Knock-out drums etc.			
		Generator transformers 4 nos.	8,128,529,165 yen	OECE	Japan
		Bypass stack 4 nos.			
		Other miscellaneous auxiliary equipments like DG set, overhead crane, MCC, Bus ducts, fire protection system etc.			

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	1994-95 Assam Gas Based Power Project, Kathalguri	Accessories for Generating sets including auxiliaries. Accessories for fuel gas system including gas compressor, gas metering system, measuring instruments, Knock-out drums etc. Generator transformers Bypass stack Distribution Transformers Other Miscellaneous auxiliary equipments like DG set, overhead crane, MCC, Bus ducts, fire protection system etc.	3,980,850,085 Yen	OECF	Japan

Shipping Company by KIOCL

5706. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited has a proposal to set up a Shipping Company;

(b) if so, whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Steel Authority of India Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam; and

(c) by when the proposed Shipping Company is likely to be floated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have signed a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly set up a joint venture company for operating inward and outward movement of cargos. The formation of the proposed company would depend upon the results of negotiations among the three PSUs.

Limestone Mines in Rajasthan

5707. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) The details of limestone mines in Rajasthan, location-wise; and

(b) The details of Central assistance extended to the State of Rajasthan for promoting mining, processing and sale of limestone resources available in this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Limestone is mined principally in Chittaurgarh, Ajmer, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Jodhpur Nagpur and Bundi districts followed by Sirohi and Udaipur districts.

(b) No Central assistance has been extended to the State of Rajasthan.

[Translation]

Steel Products

5708. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the targets fixed for steel products have been achieved during the current year;

(b) if so, the total production of Steel products both in public and private sectors during the last three years;

(c) the extent of hike in the prices of steel registered during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether adequate quantity of the required coking coal is not available in the country for the production of steel; and

(e) if so, the details regarding imports of coal and the foreign exchange incurred thereon during the last one year by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) As against the anticipated production of 17.84 million tonnes of finished steel in 1994-95, the actual production of finished steel was 16.96 million tonnes.

(b) The total production of various items of finished steel in private and public sectors during 1992-93 to 1994-95 was as under :

(in million tonnes)	
Year	Production
1992-93	15.20
1993-94	15.20
1994-95	16.96

(c) After the deregulation of pricing and distribution of steel w.e.f. 16.1.1992, all steel producers are

themselves fixing the prices of their various products, keeping in view their input costs, changes in excise duty and the prevailing market conditions. Details of movement of prices of representative items of steel produced by Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is given in the statement enclosed. The major reasons for increase in prices have been escalation in input cost and increase in excise duty.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Import of coking coal by the integrated steel plants during 1994-95 was about 8.74 million tonnes value at Rs. 1545 crores (estimated cost and freight value).

STATEMENT

SAIL's Ex-works Prices for Representative Items of Steel (Including Excise Duty Plus Other Statutory Levies Like SDF, EGCAF, JIC Cess But Exclusive of Railway Freight and Stockyard Distribution Charges).

Category	(In Rupees per tonne)									
	1.3.92	19.5.92	3.2.93	1.3.93	1.1.94	1.3.94	3.6.94	1.11.94	1.1.95	
BILLETS : 80-100mm (IS 2830)	5579	7579	8029	8109	9033	9115	9113	9503	9903	
BLOOM: 150mm (IS-2830)	5459	7459	7809	7889	8813	8862	8883	9273	9673	
SLAB: 90mm & LOWER (IS-2830)	5429	7729	7829	7909	8763	8815	8813	9203	9833	
ROUND: 16mm (IS-2062GR.A)	7584	9384	9584	9664	10173	10433	10436	10918	11375	
TOR STEEL: 8mm (IS-1786)	8029	10029	10329	10409	10923	11296	11643	12125	12870	
WIRE RODS : 8mm (IS-2062 GR.A.)	7809	9609	10289	10289	10763	11112	11126	11171	11570	
ANGLES: 65X65X6 (IS-2062 GR.A)	8174	9424	9904	9984	10493	10786	10723	11550	11605	
CHANNEL: 100X50 (IS-2062 GR.A)	8849	10349	10549	10629	11133	11522	11528	11665	11720	
JOIST: 150X75 (IS-2062 GR.A)	9139	11339	11839	11919	12623	13246	13241	13838	13892	
PLATE AB 5 TO 7mm (IS-2062 GR.A)	12276	14305	14360	14481	14936	15248	15266	15311	15710	
HR COILS : 3.15mm (IS-10748 GR. 'I')	10235	12465	12576	12682	13254	13531	14066	14111	14855	
HR SHEET: 3.15mm (IS-1079 GR.'O')	9933	12498	12498	12602	13417	13696	14231	14276	15020	
CR SHEET : 0.63mm (IS-513 GR. 'O' SK)	14171	16992	16991	17136	17472	17790	18164	18611	19126	
CR COIL: 0.63mm (IS-513 GR. 'O' SK)	13380	16200	16403	16543	16893	17199	17539	17986	18501	
GP SHEET 0.63mm (IS-277 CLASS VI)	15922	17761	18257	18433	20033	20388	21257	21705	21529	

[English]

Reconstitution of National Road Safety Board

5709. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any delay in reconstituting the National Road Safety Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase road safety in 1995-96;

(d) whether the National Road Safety Board is likely to be involved in this safety drive; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). No National Road Safety Board exists in the Ministry. However, there is a National Road Safety Council which is a permanent body. The tenure of the Members of the Council is two years.

(c) The steps proposed to be taken/being taken to increase road safety in 1995-96 are given in enclosed statement.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Steps Proposed to be Taken/Being Taken to Increase Road Safety in 1995-96.

1. Organisation of the 5th All India Essay Competition on Road Safety in English, Hindi and twelve other major Regional languages.
2. Special messages of Chief Ministers and release of booklets on Road Safety.
3. Panel discussions on Road safety on AIR & Television.
4. Inviting entries for slogans on Road safety in daily papers and awarding prizes to the best selected entries; Release of advertisements and messages on Road safety from various dignitaries in daily Newspapers during the entire week.
5. Public announcement at important intersections using mobile vans etc on the subject matter of Road safety.
6. Banners at important places displaying road signs and DOs DONTs regarding Road safety.
7. Organisation of exhibition, lectures, seminars, screening of documentary films in cinema houses, public places.
8. Display of important traffic signs and slogans on banners at appropriate places, like petrol pumps, important road intersections.
9. Bringing out pamphlets, folders for children, road users and drivers in order to educate them on road safety aspects.
10. Medical check-ups and eye-sight testing camps and free distribution of spectacles in suitable areas during the Road Safety Year.
11. Proper road marking works on national and other major Highways.
12. Wearing of road safety badges, and bands by the crew of the State Road Transport Undertakings.
13. Checking of overspeeding, over-loading, unauthorised parking of vehicles, drunken drivers during the year.

14. Special training programmes for school/college students in traffic rules.
15. Refreshers course for drivers of State Transport Department.
16. Visit of schools by the Road safety staff for lecturers to school children followed by file shows.
17. Traffic training to children who visit the traffic training parks.
18. Arrangement for showing films and distribution of literature on traffic rules and sign at the Traffic Training Parks.
19. Practical traffic education campaign by Police Department and voluntary agencies.
20. Organisation of Road Safety Marches.

[Translation]

Losses of DTC

5710. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the losses suffered by D.T.C. during the last five years till March, 1995;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The losses incurred by DTC during the last five years are as under :

Year	(Rs in lakhs)	
	Working loss (excluding depreciation & Interest) after prior period Adj.	Total loss (including depreciation & Interest)
1990-91	11322.63	19748.35
1991-92	8385.97	20381.84
1992-93	5392.89	24527.58
1993-94	7147.61	28184.08
1994-95 (Prov.)	7803.55	31810.12

(b) The main reasons for the losses incurred by DTC are :

- (i) Uneconomic fare structure.
- (ii) Rising cost of labour and inputs.
- (iii) Concessions given to the students and weaker sections of the society through concessional passes.
- (iv) Heavy interest burden on the loans advanced to DTC.

- (v) The operation of more than 3500 private buses on city routes.
- (vi) Operation of many un-remunerative routes on social consideration e.g. University and Rural routes.
- (vii) Cost of surplus staff.
- (viii) Low productivity and heavy maintenance cost of over-aged buses.

(c) The Government have been continuously monitoring the performance of DTC with a view to improve its functioning and reduce its losses. Steps are being taken on continuing basis to increase productivity, reduce cost per k.m., enforce economic measures, prevent leakage of revenue by effective checking, rationalisation of routes and fare structure with a view to increase revenue collection and to reduce the cash losses.

[English]

Iran on Kashmir Issue

5711. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have agreed on the view that Kashmir issue should be resolved directly and bilaterally between India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b). Iran has, from time to time, called for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir issue, through a dialogue between India and Pakistan taking into account the wishes of the people of J & K, and has offered to be of assistance in this regard.

Government's position is well known, *i.e.*, it is committed to resolve all differences with Pakistan, including aspects related to Jammu & Kashmir issue, peacefully and through bilateral negotiations within the framework of the Simla Agreement; and there can be no role for any third party.

National Hydro Power Corporation

5712. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NHPC has been extending loan facilities to some States;

(b) if so, the purpose for which NHPC has been extending loans to those States;

(c) the amount of loan owned by those beneficiary States to NHPC as on date; and

(d) the steps taken by NHPC to recover the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) NHPC has not extended any loan facilities to States.

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

Protection to Patented Medicines

5713. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the "Economic Times" dated April 17, 1995 captioned "Market to Temper Price Rise in Patented Medicine";

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

(c) whether the Government propose to extend protection to patentable drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the likely impact of this protection on the prices of drugs patented under the Indian Patent Law;

(f) whether the protection will help in controlling prices of patentable drugs even under TRIPS; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The news item has been seen.

(b), (e) to (g). There will be no impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the prices of the existing drugs in the market whether patented or non-patented. The impact of the TRIPS Agreement on the drugs patented after 1.1.1995 will depend on a number of factors, including the nature of the availability of the therapeutic equivalent substitute non-patented drugs in the market, licencing and marketing strategies adopted by the patent holders, including the option of local manufacturing and the general scenario that might be prevailing in the international market.

(c) and (d). The WTO Agreement provides a transition period of 10 years to countries like India to delay the application of the provisions on product patent protection to areas of technology not so protectable in their territories on 1.1.1995.

[Translation]

Linking of Roads with National Highways

5714. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been submitted to the Union Government for the allocation of specific funds to the States to link some particular roads with national highways;

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

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member has in view the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of State Roads for Inter-State and Economic Importance. A large number of proposals for roads and bridges under this scheme amounting to about Rs. 2320 crores have been forwarded by various State Govts. During the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) An amount of Rs. 60 crore has been allocated for works to be financed under this programme in the 8th Plan.

[English]

Hotline

5715. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed in principle to establish a hot line between New Delhi and Moscow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has hotlines with the U.S., U.K. and some other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is proposed to establish hot line with more countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit of the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Victor S. Chernomyrdin to India from December 21-24, 1994, it was decided that a hot line would be established between New Delhi and Moscow.

(c) and (d). Yes, sir. India has established hotline with Pakistan only.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

HFC Educational Project

5716. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division under the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation was entrusted with various foreign aided

Fertilizer Educational Projects aimed at educating farmers in scientific farming practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are surplus funds available with the Division even after the implementation of the Educational Project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government propose to use these surplus funds for reviving the Fertilizer Promotion and Agricultural Research Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) and (b). The details of foreign aided fertilizer educational projects implemented by the fertilizer Promotion & Agricultural Research Division (FP&ARD) of HFC are given below :

S. No.	Name of the Project	Donor country	States covered	Tenure of the Project
1.	Indo-German Fertilizer Education Project.	Federal Republic of Germany	West Bengal	1974-1985
2.	FAO/UK Dryland Farming Project	UK & FAO	Madhya Pradesh	1976-1988
3.	(i) Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project Phase-I	UK	Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal	1981-82 to March, 1987
	(ii) Phase-II	UK	-do-	March 1987 to March 1992, but extended upto March 1993.
4.	Rainfed Farming Project	UK	West Bengal, Bihar & Orissa	From November 1988 to March 1995.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Counter Guarantee on ENRON

5717. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the World Bank has advised for grant of Counter-guarantee to companies like ENRON for power production;

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

(c) whether terms and conditions for inviting foreign power companies will be revived; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL)
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, Government of India is not contemplating reviving/revising any of the terms and conditions relating to investment by foreign power companies in the Indian Power Sector.

(d) Does not arise.

Visa Fee Hike by Saudi Arabia

5718. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia had hiked visa and other related fees for Asian immigrants recently;

(b) if so, the percentage of the hike;

(c) whether the Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council has urged the Saudi Arabia to withdraw the recent hike;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken up this matter with Saudi Arabia; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the response of Saudi Arabia thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) It is a fact that the Government of Saudi Arabia has recently increased the visa fee from SR 50/- to SR 1000/- in respect of foreign workers for their employment with the private companies and establishments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The revised fee as stated above is uniformly applicable to worker from all the foreign countries including India.

(b) The percentage of increase in 2000%

(c) The Ministry has not received any communication from Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council, a private body, to the effect that they have taken up the matter with the Saudi Arabian Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The matter was taken up with the concerned authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who have clarified that the revised visa fee is to be borne by the Saudi employers not by the expatriate workers.

Trade and Economic Desks

5719. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve further the functioning of trade and economic desks in Indian Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are consistently monitoring the performance of these desks;

(d) if so, whether these desks are submitting their monthly reports regularly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The functioning of trade and economic desks in Indian Missions abroad is continuously being improved inter alia by provision of modern communication tools and computers, telefax machines, etc; participation in trade fairs, seminars, buyer-seller meets; dissemination of publications, bulletins, etc; augmentation of budgetary provisions for trade promotion, regular conferences of Commercial Representatives in various regions; and prompt supply of information from headquarters relating to trade and investment.

The Ministry of External Affairs is currently undertaking a major review of existing infrastructure to enable Missions to respond to the growing demands of our economic diplomacy.

(c) to (e). The Commerce and External Affairs Ministries constantly monitor the performance of our Missions and provide the necessary direction and support. The Commercial Representatives submit monthly status reports. These inter-alia include trade enquiries received from India, trade enquiries from the reporting country/Mission, details of commercial delegations both ways, volume of trade activities organised by the Mission and activities planned for the immediate future, details of trade related complaints received by the Missions, etc.

Production of Steel

5720. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will be Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the production of Steel during the Eighth plan period 'grade-wise';

(b) the progress made so far to achieve the target;

(c) the quantum of steel produced from different public and private sector steel plants during the Eighth Plan so far year-wise; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). Finished Steel is broadly divided into two categories - flat products and non-flat products.

The actual production of flat and non-flat products in 1994-95 and the anticipated production in 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan are as under :

	(In million tonnes)	
	1994-95 (Prov.)	1996-97
Non Flat Product	9.19	13.16
Flat Products	7.77	10.61
Total Finished Steel	16.96	23.77

(c) and (d). The production of saleable steel by Public and Private Sector Steel plants from the beginning of the Eighth Plan (1992-93) till 1994-95 were as under:

	('000 tonnes)		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Prov.)
PUBLIC SECTOR			
Bhilai	3118	335	3407
Durgapur	641	642	827
Rourkela	1179	1130	1196
Bokaro	2999	3205	3169
IISCO	398	333	332
RINL(VSP)	879	1184	2446
VISL	72	63	58
ASP	163	160	154
Sub- Total	9449	10052	11589
PRIVATE SECTOR			
TISCO	2124	2154	1555
IF Units	1200	1200	1500
(Estimated)			
EAF Units	2976	2500	2500
Sub- Total	6300	5854	5555
Grand Total	15749	15906	17144

Power Transmission Network

5721. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power transmission network has not been developed equally as the power generation network/infrastructure;

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

(c) whether the Government have any plan to create a national transmission network particularly to cover long distance places and to ensure dependable transmission network covering the whole country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total cost involved therein; and

(e) how the funds required therefor are to be mobilised and the plan prepared in this regard is to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAJI PATEL): (a) and (b). Appropriate associated transmission links are planned and executed for evacuation of power from the generating stations. However, further development of infrastructure for transmission of power is an ongoing process and there is always a scope and need for augmentation/strengthening of the transmission network.

(c) to (d). Action has already been initiated for the formation of a National Power Grid involving inter-connection of regional grids to facilitate exchange of power across various regions in the country and to make optimum utilisation of the available generation resources. The details of the Schemes for integrating the Regional Grids into a National Grid are as follows:

- (i) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back transmission link at Vindhyachal connecting Northern and Western Regions already exists (Approximate cost Rs. 146.33 crores).
- (ii) 1000 MW HVDE Back to Back station at Chandrapur connecting Southern and Western Regions is under execution and expected to be commissioned in 1997-98 (Approximate cost Rs. 900.28 crores).
- (iii) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back link at Vishakhapatnam connecting Eastern and Southern Regions has also been approved for commissioning during 1998-99 (Approximate cost Rs. 659.98 crores).
- (iv) 500 MW HVDC Back to Back Mau-Biharshariff project has also been planned to connect Eastern and Northern Regions for commissioning during 9th plan (Approximate cost Rs. 556.31 crores).
- (v) Other major links would be planned alongwith future generating projects.

(e) Necessary provisions for implementation of projects are made in the Five Year Plans/Annual Plans and funds are mobilised by POWERGRID through internal resources, equity/loans from Government of India, raising of bonds, multi-lateral/bilateral external borrowings, suppliers credit etc.

Views of Experts for Private Power Sector

5722. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the several experts in the power sector have opined that State Governments can not apply their discretion in either terminating a private power projects or call for fresh bids even after signing (MOUs);

(b) whether experts had expressed their views during two day conference held in Hyderabad; and

(c) if so, the details of decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will laid on the Table of the House.

Bridge Across Yamuna

5723. SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1706 on December 19, 1994 regarding Bridge across Yamuna and state :

(a) whether the detailed project report scheduled to be completed by March, 1995 on the construction of Yamuna bridge near Ashram to connect NOIDA is ready now;

(b) if so, the next step proposed to be taken in the matter and the time-frame for it;

(c) if the report is not ready, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be ready; and

(d) the details of steps taken to expedite the progress of work in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d). The Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services have received the draft Detailed Project Report from the Consultant. The next step is to place the report for consideration of the Steering Committee under the Ministry for Urban Development. It is too early to indicate the time-frame for finalisation of the report and construction of the bridge.

Indo-US Sub-Commission

5724. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-US Sub-Commission is being revived after five years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) The Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-commission was revived after a gap of five years. It met in New Delhi on April 10, 1995.

(b) At this meeting, it was agreed that the initial work programmes of the Sub-commission for the first year would focus on meeting India's infrastructural needs. The two governments also agreed to create three Working Groups to prepare recommendations to be considered at the next meeting of the Sub-commission which would be held at a mutually agreed date in 1996. These are the Working Groups on Trade and Commerce to be co-chaired by the Indian Ministry of Commerce and the Office of the US Trade Representatives; on Finance and Investment to be co-chaired by the Indian Ministry of Finance and the US Treasury Department; and the Joint Private Sector Working Group which would include broad-based business associations from both countries.

[Translation]

SAARC Summit

5725. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the benefit to be accrued to India as a result of the recent SAARC Summit;

(b) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken to implement the consensus reached at the Summit; and

(c) the place and time of the next Summit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) India views SAARC as a additional dimension to its bilateral relationship with member States. We would like SAARC to develop into an effective vehicle for collective self-reliance in the region. The incorporation of substantive issues of economic cooperation into the agenda of SAARC will harness the complementarities of the region in a positive manner. In this connection, it may be noted that the first round of trade negotiations to exchange trade concessions among Member States has been completed and that the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) is expected to be brought into operation preferably by 8th November, 1995 and latest by the end

of December, 1995. This is expected to lead to expansion of intra-SAARC trade. A meeting of Commerce Ministers is expected to be held thereafter to provide further impetus to economic cooperation in the region. A meeting of representatives of business and industry in South Asia for the promotion of intra-regional investment and joint ventures is to be held in Sri Lanka. Member countries have also agreed that after SAPTA is brought into operation, measures would be examined for establishing a free trade area in the region.

Poverty eradication has been an area of primary importance which has been receiving continuous attention of SAARC leaders who had earlier declared that, preferably by the 2002 AD, poverty should be eradicated in South Asia through an Agenda of Action. At the 8th SAARC Summit, the leaders decided to designate 1995 as the "SAARC Year of Poverty Eradication".

As the central activity for the SAARC year of Poverty Eradication, a single round of the following meetings would be held in India :

- (i) the group of Secretaries to the Governments in the Ministries/Departments that are essentially concerned with poverty alleviation and social development;
- (ii) the Finance and planning secretaries of the SAARC countries; and
- (iii) the Finance and Planning Ministers of the SAARC countries.

Mutual benefit of all countries is the central aim of SAARC and to that end cooperation in the core economic areas as well as in the areas of technical cooperation, social issues and poverty eradication, are very important for fulfilling some of the objectives of the Charter, which are to promote the welfare of the people of south Asia and to improve their quality of life and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to provide all individuals the opportunities to live in dignity and to realise their full potential.

(b) Member countries of SAARC take necessary action to implement the consensus reached at the Summit by way of hosting Ministerial Meetings, official meetings, workshops, seminars, etc., as well as necessary action relating to commitments made by them in areas such as ratification of agreements, carrying out enabling legislation at the national level with regard to regional conventions, etc.

(c) The next Summit would be held in the Maldives and the dates would be finalised in consultation with the Maldives and other Member States.

[English]

Greenfield Generation of Power

5726. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been given excessive emphasis on greenfield generation of power in the current power policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether development of Transmission and Distribution system has not been given due consideration;

(d) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b). The present power policy has allowed the Private Sector Companies to set up enterprises to operate either as Licencees for distributing electricity in a specified area or as generating companies. This is in addition to projects being taken up by Central and State Governments and Electricity Boards. There has been no excessive emphasis on the green field generation of power in the current power policy.

(c) and (d). Due consideration is given to the planning of adequate transmission system matching with the generating capacity addition. However, resource constraints are often faced in the timely implementation of the schemes. There is therefore scope and need for further strengthening of the transmission infrastructure in the country.

(e) Government has set up Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for timely implementation of the Central Sector Transmission System which is planning to inter-connect the regions to facilitate the early evolution of a National Power Grid. State Electricity Boards have also started giving due importance for strengthening the State level transmission systems.

Indian Workers Abroad

5727. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian workers abroad are not given adequate attention by Indian Missions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether officers dealing with Indian workers abroad are given adequate orientation so as to enable them to deal with Indian workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b). Our Missions give due attention to the grievances of Indian workers which are brought to their notice.

(c) to (e). All officers posted to our Missions abroad particularly in areas where there is large number of Indian workers e.g. the Gulf, are given necessary orientation through attachment with concerned Divisions in the Ministry, and where necessary, with the other branches of the Government, to familiarise them with Government's standing instructions and to equip them to deal with Indian worker abroad.

Hindustan Copper Limited

5728. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state the number of underground mines under Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : There are seven underground mines under Hindustan Copper Limited.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Situation arising out of Burning down of Charar-e-Sharief in Kashmir

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser) : Sir, I had given a notice to suspend the Question Hour ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now I have received the notices for suspending the Question Hour. I think, Shri Paswan has given the notice. I am suspending the Question Hour.

We have received 14 notices of Adjournment Motion regarding grave situation arising out of the failure of the Government to put down with an iron hand Pakistan sponsored terrorist activities in the State of Jammu and Kashmir leading to the total destruction and desecration of the shrine of Charar-e-Sharief and large scale killing of innocent persons and burning down of the whole township from the following Members.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee
Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi
Shri Hannon Mollah
Shri Basudeb Acharia
Shri Srikanta Jena

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Shri Indrajit Gupta
Shri Jaswant Singh
Shri Bhogendra Jha
Shri Ram Vilas Paswan
Shri Venkateswara D. Rao
Shri George Fernandes
Shri Sharad Yadav

I give my consent to Shri Somnath Chatterjee, who has secured the first place in the ballot to move the Adjournment Motion. Shri Somnath Chatterjee may ask for the leave of the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, in the contents of my notice I had written about the failure of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : It is mentioned herein. Perhaps you have not heard it.

[*English*]

It says : "The Adjournment Motion regarding grave situation arising out of the failure of the Government..."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I beg to seek the leave of the House to move the Adjournment Motion on the failure of the Government to protect the shrine of Charar-e-Sharief, which has been destroyed by acts of vandalism carried out by... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You will ask for the leave of the House first please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I seek leave of the House to move the Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, nobody is opposing it. So, the leave is granted. Shri Somnath Chatterjee may move it.

Generally, the rule is that it is taken up at 4 p.m. in the afternoon. But now that we have suspended the Question Hour, we will start the discussion immediately. The discussion may continue, maybe upto 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. in the afternoon and after that the Motion may be put to the vote. The Members may be ready to speak on this topic in the House and the voting may take place around 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. depending on how many Members are there to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I beg to move :
"That the House do now adjourn".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, although we are in the midst of a Budget Session, we have been constrained to give this Adjournment Motion because the country is today facing a very serious situation and our unity, integrity and secular structure are now at stake. Therefore, it is necessary that even the important Budget discussion

has to wait so that the country's attention could be drawn to this very explosive situation that has been created in a part of our country.

This Parliament and through parliament the people of the country have a right to know why and how this vandalism has taken place at Charar-e-Sharief Shrine, what the Government both at the Centre and at Srinagar have been doing or had done, to avert what has been rightly described as a shameful disaster. In the last few days, although a meeting has been held by the hon. Prime Minister with leaders of political parties after the Shrine has been destroyed, but till today really no Government version has come out; whatever has come out is so vague and so scanty that the people are now having different versions from newspapers, from other sources and it is creating more and more confusion in the country as a whole. There is a feeling that the Government is trying to whitewash its responsibility which is, according to me, a clear failure on the part of the Government. We would obviously like to know in detail what the Government did in the matter.

So far as the Shrine is concerned, it has been one of the most respected shrines associated with the name of one of the Sufi Saints and it used to be visited not only by the Muslims but by people of all religions and communities and it has been one of the most venerated shrines and which had come to symbolise what is known as the essence of Kashmiriat. Unfortunately—and it is a matter of shame — this Shrine is no longer in existence.

For the last two months we have been told that the Army has been moved there, that the Shrine had been occupied by militants whose number was varying, from 28 to 230 as we understand it now. Different versions are coming up. What precautions were taken during these two months by the authorities in the State and also by the Central Government to see that the Shrine was fully protected? We have had the experience of the Hazrat Bal where of course it has been happily and successfully tackled, but since then — that was a warning signal — what steps have been taken to see that similar situations do not develop with regard to other shrines? The Government owes this explanation to the people of this country. Why should important shrines or important places with which the feelings of the people are associated be left at the mercy of the extremists and the militants knowing that Pakistan is there to foment trouble every minute?

Why were they not protected and made it impossible for the extremists? Such a situation was not created to make it impossible for the extremists, terrorists to come and utilise those places as places of their activities. The Government and the Prime Minister owes this explanation to the people of this country.

We have been told that there are quite a few battalions of Army and they were all supposedly posted around on the outskirts. What steps were taken during these months? So many weeks have elapsed to flush

them out. The country was kept totally in dark as to what was happening. That is a very serious matter. Even only when on 6th and 7th May the fire broke out, it was raised by the Opposition Members in the House. I had been humbly submitting not now but for so many years that there are some issues—national issues—when the Government should on its own come before the House and take the House and the country into confidence and give a proper version, the Government version at least, as to what was the situation. Now, we have to discuss it interrupting the Budget Session — the important Budget discussion — to really ascertain what has happened there and to express not only our greatest concern, but our criticism, censure of the Government in its abject failure, total failure and comprehensive failure in protecting this important shrine.

So far as two months that have gone by are concerned, publicity was being given that the armed terrorists from Pakistan had taken over the place and the cordon had been there of the Army. But till today nothing is being said as to what the local authorities or the State Government were doing or what the Governor and his Advisers were doing to flush out those people or to even build up a contact with them or to even apply what may be described as Hazratbal formula. We do not know even anything is being done or not. What steps were taken to disarm them? Some militants go into a very important shrine and they operate in any manner they like. They take over a particular place and for two months — not a small time — there seems to be a total inertia on this side. Neither a political attempt nor any military attempt is being made to solve the problem. Therefore, it is important for the public to know what the authorities, the Armed Forces, the intelligence agencies and the Kashmir Government did during these very vital weeks.

As I said, the nation has a right to know as to what specific steps were taken during this period. We have been having some disquieting information that different agencies are acting differently for different purposes and with different perceptions, and there has been neither any unity of views nor unity of action so far as the Government is concerned.

The Home Minister is no longer the Kashmir Minister. The Kashmir Minister is our Prime Minister now. The two Ministers have been holding different views.

The Prime Minister took over the Kashmir Affairs but since then what has happened? How has the situation changed? What improvement has been brought about? What did the Prime Minister's office do during these two months? Today, I am sorry, standing in the Parliament of India, we have to put so many questions to know this because we, in this country, do not know anything. Parliament does not know anything, people do not know anything. Is this a matter which has to be kept under secrecy? You have to involve the people. They should know what is happening. There are some

occasions when the country has to stand up unitedly. But how can it be done unless the people are taken into confidence by the Government? Now we find a particular political party, the ruling party sending its members there to find out the situation. The other day, there was some demand for a Parliamentary delegation but there was no response. But the two Ministers had gone yesterday. For what purpose? For aerial survey! It is given a much worse publicity, if I may say so, that the Ministers go and cannot get down, and they have to have only an aerial survey. They are not even able to talk to anybody in Srinagar. These are very unfortunate signals that have been given. Why had these two senior Ministers gone there?

We have always been warning the Government of Pakistan's role. Pakistan is not letting the situation to become peaceful or normal. We know that and we just cannot explain that Pakistan is behaving only to disturb the electoral process. I do not know why the Government has come to this decision. Large sections of the people and the political parties in this country feel that this is not the situation for holding elections. During his reply to the Motion of Thanks on President's Address, the Prime Minister spoke of autonomy. But what steps have been taken for providing any more autonomy there? What was the perception of the Prime Minister's concept of autonomy on the day he spoke in the House? There, Pakistan is out to destabilise the situation and some other countries are also there to give encouragement to Pakistan. But can we explain away that because Pakistan is trying to destabilise the situation, therefore, these things are happening? It cannot be the answer. It will give a very serious signal to the country that we are depending only on Pakistan's wishes. Whatever they do, we only follow the events. Can we not anticipate the events? Can we not take action to prevent certain situations developing? Shall we always run after the events and try to do a sort of a repair work? At least the Prime Minister has been good enough to say that he has provided for Rs.15 crore grant for rebuilding. Rebuilding alone cannot assuage the feelings. Of course, something is better than nothing. And the record of this Government's promise of rebuilding of religious shrines has been dismal, as has happened in the case of Babri Masjid. Therefore, there is lack of credibility of the Government on this.

Then, Sir, what has this military Governor, an ex-Army man, been doing and what have his Advisors been doing all these days? Did they inform the Government of India as to what was really the situation and how things were going beyond control? It seems, mines had been planted at the sweet-will of the extremists throughout the town. Today we cannot even operate there because of the mines and we are having casualties. Therefore, they had occupied the shrine. They had gone on mining that area, and for days and weeks and months, we were just at their mercy. Was it expected that they would walk away on their own

volition? Was it expected that they would lift up these mines and go away peacefully? Therefore, these are issues on which we want a categorical reply from the Government and the Prime Minister.

Sir, we charge that there has been a dismal and total failure on the part of the State Administration. The Government of India's failure is no less in protecting this shrine and in protecting, thereby, the unity and the integrity of the country and also from preventing the situation becoming so explosive.

Sir, on the 8th and 9th of this month, the fire had taken place outside the shrine and a large area had been destroyed. The shrine was destroyed on the night of 10th and 11th. And there were very vital 48 hours. What was being done during that time? That issue was raised on the floor of the House. I believe that on 10th it was raised on the floor of the House. We expressed our concern. But it seems that the army was just a bystander of watching it from a distance. Sir, subject to correction, we have been told that even the Friday prayers were not allowed and on the day of *Id*, which is such a holy day, this sacrilege had been committed. The obvious intention is to rouse the felling and the passions of the followers of the great Sufi Saint and of the people, as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a part of the country which is very dear to us. It is unalienable part of our country. We know that to affect India's unity and integrity, to disturb our progress, our neighbours across the border are bent upon creating this situation. Now, from Afghanistan also these mercenaries have come in. Major Mast Gul had come there and taken over the place. He was supposedly in constant touch with his mentors in Pakistan. What were our Intelligence people doing there? What has been their activity? Did they find out what was happening. So far as the activities of Major Mast Gul are concerned, he was openly holding out threats. So, what steps were taken to get the willing cooperation of the people of Charar-e-Sharif? Sir, we know nothing. A part of our country is being treated as a sort of free area by some militants and extremists and we are watching the situation from here. Therefore, Sir, we had to interrupt the Budget discussion for this very important debate.

The other aspect, Sir, I cannot but refer to is the Prime Minister's decision to hold the elections there. We had said that it would be a serious gamble. Unless people are allowed and are able to vote, how can you hold the elections? If you talk of international reaction for not holding the election, what will be the international reaction if the people are not able to vote freely and fairly?

How will the talk of elections help? Today, the position is that Pakistan is also trying to utilise the situation. They will say, "No; This is not a situation where elections can be held and the Prime Minister cannot hold elections after his declaration". Then what is this

decision to hold the elections when almost all the political parties have been opposing it. This is really because some Governments are saying that we must hold elections otherwise international public opinion—like the USA—will be against us. Therefore, we should accept this decision. Sir, it cannot be. This is now when the integrity and unity of the country is involved, when the sanctity and safety of these important shrines are involved, we cannot play about as to what A or B or C will feel or will not feel and what will be their response. We have to think on the basis of our own perceptions, of our own interests and therefore the talk of elections now has not helped us in any way in bringing about normalcy there.

Sir, my Party has been saying, "You have to involve the people in the normalisation of political activity there". You have to point out that their demand for autonomy is a matter of commitment to the rest of the country. We must take those people into confidence. But such activity is not taking place. There is no normalisation of the political activity and this Governor is carrying on merrily with his Advisers. Probably, he has left all his Army intelligence and Army knowledge after he has retired. Then, of course, his continuance has become meaningless because he is unable to do anything and the Prime Minister has to give his response. Therefore, this is the position today. And what will happen in future also, we do not know. We do not know what steps are being taken even now to protect other shrines and to see that our secular credentials of the people there are not disturbed further by the activities of these mercenary extremists. We do not know what the Government is seeking to do. As I said, Kashmir Affairs have been given the importance by having brought the Department under the Prime Minister himself. But since then, no overt step has been taken for the purpose of controlling the situation. I would request the Prime Minister to be very categorical in clarifying as to what he meant by 'autonomy' when he spoke in his reply. Therefore, we say that the political process has to be revived, people will have to be involved and negotiations should take place with people, saner people and saner sections who are at least against Pakistan. There are large sections of the people who are against Pakistan and do not wish to join Pakistan. Sir, let an impression be not given that the Government of India's role has ended with an aerial inspection and sanction of Rs. 15 crore.

We cannot hold aerial election. Except aerial inspection, how can we have an election at the ground level? Now lot of time has elapsed and we must not allow any further time to be wasted. The Prime Minister can not absolve himself of the responsibility. Let there be a functioning Government here. Let the Government take decisions. We cannot allow things just to drift.

Changing of portfolios does not help. What is needed is action. It is not public perception that is to be taken seriously. I would like to know what is the Government policy, the Prime Minister's policy, of dealing

with the Kashmir situation. How do you wish to solve this problem? How do you propose to take the people into confidence? Do you have a policy based on consensus? The consensus cannot be a matter of pious wish. Consensus has to be a reality and it has to be preceded by overt action and a political will on the part of the Government also. What is lacking today is political will. There is total administrative bungling. Our Army has already played a glorious role. Let that feeling be also not created that there is atrophy there. That will be a very serious situation. Therefore, we demand sternest possible action and we demand that let there be a functioning Government. We cannot but express our total opposition, total protest, as to how things have been totally mismanaged, the situation has been totally allowed to drift and the country is proceeding rudderless today. This cannot be permitted to continue.

Therefore, I cannot but express my strongest protest against the Government's failure in protecting this important Shrine.

We would like to know what is the commitment of this country and of the Government of India and of the Prime Minister of India to see that no similar incident can take place in this country. Hazaratbal formula should have landed the Government into inaction and stupor. It appears even that formula was not applied here.

Therefore, we would like to express the deepest concern of the people of this country. I would like to mention how Government media react to this situation. Why the people were not told as to what was happening? Now we get information through news telecast from other news agencies giving certain versions by showing pictures totally different from what our Doordarshan is saying. Therefore, Doordarshan's credibility today is zero. This is very unfortunate. How are you using even this media? You are having Metro channel, entertainment channel and all other channels but no information channel, no truth giving channel. This is a very serious situation. People form their opinion getting information on the basis of the other news media and other agencies all over the world. Therefore, I believe that the people of this country deserve a functioning, well-run, credible Government which our Prime Minister is unable to provide this country. As has been said by a very celebrated correspondent, this country deserves better.

With that note, I wish to conclude. Again I am expressing our deepest anguish at what has happened and our heart goes to our brothers and sisters in Kashmir. We wish to tell them that the rest of the country are with them in their hours of agony. And, all the saner sections, all the secular sections of the people of Kashmir should know that the country is with them in their fight against extremism and terrorism. But the Government must function and that is what we demand.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the House do now adjourn".

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, every Member of this House, whether he sits on the Treasury Benches or whether he sits on the Opposition, will share the deep sense of anguish expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the destruction of one of the most sacred shrines of India. Char-e-Sharief, in the cultural life of this country, in the civilization and ethos of this nation, has exactly the same place as the Temple of Meenakshi, Madurai or of Vaishno Devi. It is, therefore, a matter of great shame that a shrine which has bejeweled our nation for the last six hundred years should today be gutted.

Having said that, however, I would plead with Shri Somnath Chatterjee and his colleagues in the BJP that this is not a moment for partisan opposition but for national consensus. I regard it as a matter of partisan opposition on his part to bring what he described himself as a Censure Motion against a Government which had no hand whatsoever in destroying that shrine...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : For your information, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister agreed to this Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Certainly, Sir, Shri Chandra Jeet Vadav pointed out just now the Government immediately agreed to discuss the Adjournment Motion. I am glad. I congratulate our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for not indulging in procedural wrangles with the Opposition. It is a good thing that this Adjournment Motion has been admitted by the unanimous will of this House. We could, if we had wished, have opposed and succeeded in opposing this Adjournment Motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : But we chose not to because we are in no way behind the Opposition in regarding this whole matter as a matter of national importance, a matter in which it is essential that India speak, if it is at all possible, with one voice. I said, Sir, that the destruction of this shrine...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : Have you gone through the Statement of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad? ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Please let him speak. Did anyone interrupt while Shri Somnath was speaking? You speak only when you have your turn.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : This shrine has been destroyed by militants who have been holed up in it for the last two months and more. I think it is essential for us not to give any aid and comfort to the

enemy by drawing either directly or by implication a parallel between the destruction of the Babri Masjid which was done by Indian nationals supporting an Indian political party and the destruction of the Char-e-Sharief which is the work of foreign mercenaries working against not only the interests of the people of Char-e-Sharief but also of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and of the people of India.

If this is a matter of national shame, it is not as in the case of the Babri Masjid, a shame brought upon our nation by our own people. This is a shame that has been brought upon our nation by foreign mercenaries working against the unity and integrity of this nation and working against the sanctity of our shrine to which Shri Somnath Chatterjee drew attention...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : May I please request you to hear what the hon. Member has to say. All of you will have an opportunity to rebut if you want to, but do not interrupt please...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat. This is no good manner that you do not follow me unless I speak in a loud voice. You must understand some hints also, I am repeatedly saying 'please'. Yet you keep rising and interrupting time and again.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : In our recent history, there have been at least two other instances where violence had desecrated important places of worship. One was the Golden Temple at Amritsar. The second was the Hazratbal...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Paswanji did not you hear what the hon. Speaker said just now?

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Please listen to me. In both these places, action of various kinds was taken. And I think, it is important that we should learn the lessons of the past. In the case of the Golden Temple, a decision was taken at the beginning of June 1984 that we would attempt to paralyse those militants who had taken over that very important Shrine by the use of nerve gas. The Operation did not, however, conclude at that time and it involved armed assault, violence on the spot involving Government forces and militant forces, killing of several people, saving of the Harminder Sahib but the destruction of the Akal Takht. And the process did not lead to a solution of the problem, it did lead to the assassination of a Prime Minister.

There were lessons both of a positive and a negative kind to be learnt from that. Equally, there was

the Operation that was conducted in Amritsar subsequently under the next Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi which is known to history as 'Operation Black Thunder-II' where the techniques adopted were different to the techniques adopted at 'Operation Blue Star'. While there were many more successes attendant on 'Operation Black Thunder-II' than there had been on 'Operation Blue Star', nevertheless, there were some negative features of that Operation too and lessons were to be learnt from that.

Thirdly, we had in October 1993 the occupation of the Hazratbal Mosque and the peaceful vacation of that Mosque. There were lessons again of a positive and a negative nature to be learnt from that Operation. I do not think, the Prime Minister regards himself as a Pope, so he makes no claim to infallibility. He agrees that there are lessons to be learnt, lessons for instance, to be learnt about trusting the Sangh Parivar just as there are lessons to be learnt about how one deals with foreign militants. We have to learn lessons about how to deal with the enemy without as also..... * And it is on this basis of continuous learning that a strategy was evolved for Charar-e-Sharief. That strategy has not resulted in saving that Shrine at Charar-e-Sharief, for that Shrine today lies gutted.

But any alternative strategy would only have led to the gutting of that Shrine several months ago. The alternative of an armed assault on a Shrine that has occupied by militants holding explosives in their hands and having mined the area around the Shrine could only have resulted in what happened now, the gutting of that Shrine. Furthermore, the gutting which has taken place today is the consequence of actions taken by the militants occupying the Shrine and not as in the case of Operation Blue Star,—Indian Armed forces entering a Shrine; or, in the case of the Babri Masjid, where Indian vandals entering the Shrine. Therefore, instead of resting the argument at the point that the Shrine today stands gutted, it is essential that if the Government is to be censured, we be told what third alternative they want, to either a militant assault upon the Shrine or trying to use the Hazratbal technique of flushing out the militants.

Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee's prime complaint against me or, let me say, his first complaint against the Government is that the Government had apparently been keeping the country in the dark. I do not know that is so. Until this House was in Session on the 10th of May, the Shrine was in tact. At the very first opportunity that has been presented to the country of being told what happened, a very detailed statement was issued by the Union Home Secretary and at the very first opportunity offer Parliament has reconvened, no one on the Treasury Benches has had the least objection to joining hands with Shri Somanath Chatterjee in discussing the issue that is not only before this House but also before this nation.

There was, of course, a period ever since the occupation of the Shrine when the matter has been agitated in this House. I had the privilege of moving the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. I dealt at considerable length with the situation obtaining in the Valley including the situation obtaining at Charar-e-Sharief. It is not my fault, Sir, that almost everyone sitting today on the Opposition Benches claiming to be agitated over what has happened, were absent from the House on the occasion. Nevertheless, the fact remains that Government spokesman, as well as people like myself who are merely Treasury Bench spokesmen, have on every available occasion, not only not shrunk from, but come forward in this House to inform the House as fully as possible of what is known of the situation obtaining in Jammu and Kashmir and also in that context, the situation obtaining in Charar-e-Sharief. It is impossible to delink the former from it. It is not as if that there was no militancy in the Valley for all the years that preceded the unfortunate event of the early hours of the 11th May, 1995.

For the last four-a-half years, Sir, we have been faced with the situation of insurgency, terrorism and militant activity in Kashmir and in the adjoining areas of the rest of the State. Those events were unprecedented in the years that went till November, 1989. At the end of November, 1989 the then the Government of India demitted office, having been defeated in an election in which the Kashmir was not a singularly important issue. It took less than one week for the Government which came in our place to set the Valley on fire; it took them a year to set the country on fire.

The fact of the matter is that militancy assumed the character it did in the Valley not in the period up to November 1989, but in the period immediately thereafter. This is extremely important to remember. Sir, there is one simple statistic which establishes what I am attempting to say. It is a statistic I have used before in this House. With your permission, Sir, I would just like to repeat it. In the autumn of 1989, when all the *Chinar* leaves turn golden and everyone who can wants to be in the Valley, Kashmir had the largest intake of autumn tourists ever in its history. So effectively in control of the militant situation was the then Government of Jammu and Kashmir that not only the people of the Valley but the people of India at large, indeed the world at large, expressed their confidence in their ability to go in and out of the Valley without being killed by going there in the largest ever numbers. A week later the place blew up. When it blew up, at the instance of a political party that was supporting the then Government of India, a gentleman whom I cannot name because he happens now to be a Member of the other House and it is not necessary for me to take his name because it is already infamous in the annals of India, that gentleman went in as the Governor of Kashmir on the 29th of January 1990 and without let or hindrance the whole thing blew

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

up. We had never faced a situation as terrible as obtained in the Valley from the 20th of January 1990 till the 31st of May 1990 when the very Government that had sent that gentleman as the Governor of Kashmir was so horrified, so appalled by the way he handled the situation that they summoned him back and prevented him from henceforth having anything to do with that Valley. It is during that period that militancy began.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : He was very much your friend before he was sent there.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : It is the militancy which began in that period which we have been contending with ever since we returned to power. But while the situation only deteriorated between December 1989 and June 1991, those Members of the Opposition who today are so agitated, if they would care to look at the record of the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, would find a detailing of the various steps that have been taken to improve the situation. I mentioned in that speech that I was neither inventing these figures nor taking them from secret records of the Government. I brought with me the monthly publication of the Ministry of Home Affairs available to anybody who is interested to see how in terms of quantified figures militants are being killed, what is happening to politicians in the Valley, how many people are being kidnapped, what is the nature of the arms that are being captured, who are the security forces, what are their losses. All these are facts and figures available on the record. Those who doubt the veracity of these figures are in the distinguished company of our friends from Pakistan who are the other lot who refuse to accept the veracity of these figures. I do not wish to repeat them. For one thing, I have not brought that document with me here, not having anticipated this Adjournment Motion and I am speaking completely unprepared on my feet and in reaction to what Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said. So I am not in a position to repeat all those figures that I gave in the course of that debate. But as those figures are a part of the record of this House, let me boldly state that whereas the situation had grossly deteriorated between December 1989 and November 1990 and had gone even worse between November 1990 and June 1991, there has been a steady and slow progress in containing militancy in the Valley over the last four or five years... (Interruptions)...

It was our experience when Punjab was inflicted with militancy for a period from 14 to 15 years that it was always darkest before dawn.

It was precisely at this point in the history of Punjab—when it seemed as if we would be able to establish our control over militancy—that the militants resorted to some dramatic act, which would give hope

to their cadres and derail the process of normalisation, in which the Government of India was involved. And the same thing is happening in the Valley.

There is simply no doubt that whereas in December, 1989 there were a large number of Kashmiri civilians—I do not know what proportion, but certainly a large number of Kashmiri civilians—supporting the militancy, supporting the cry for *azadi* and believing that with an incompetent Government in Delhi they would get their independence very soon, there is simply no doubt that today the morale of the militants is at an all-time low. The support for them from the civilian population of Jammu and Kashmir is at an all-time low. Their own political leaders—I am not referring to the National Conference and I am not referring to the Indian National Congress, I am referring to the political leaders who constitute the Hurriyat and the one gentleman who is outside the Hurriyat—are so confused about what they want to demand of India, what they want to demand of Pakistan and what they want to demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir that in the Hurriyat there are lose to 30 different political parties represented. Out of 30 different political parties, whom are we going to negotiate with? You cannot negotiate with a hydra that has 30 different heads; nor can you negotiate with an amoeba that keeps splitting and re-forming. We have to find out whose is the authentic, if not sole voice of that element of the Kashmiri population which is not satisfied with the way in which things have been going over the last 50 years. And it is with a view to determining whether it is the totality of the members of the Hurriyat of certain sections of the Hurriyat or to name the favourite independence demanding politician of that Governor, the in famous Governor that I referred to, Shabir Shah, that we have to find out what is the level of support which these people have in the Valley. I have no doubt in my mind that the people of the Valley, in their vast majority would, if given the opportunity, stand four square behind the unity and integrity of India as they have done for the last 50 years. They did it in 1947, when communal passions were at their highest; they did it in 1965, when 'Operation Gibraltar' was launched by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto; they did it in 1971, when this nation was subjected to a third war by the Pakistanis. They have been doing it in every year so long as the Congress was in power.

The collapse took place within one week of the new Government coming into power in December, 1989 and resorting to the cheap populist trick of picking up a defector from the Congress ranks in Kashmir, making him Home Minister and giving him such poor security that his daughter was kidnapped. And there was the total incompetence of that Minister of Information and Broadcasting who decided that he was going to show *glasnost* on Indian television by first picturing the celebrations at Lal Chowk of the release, completely unjustifiable, of five major terrorists, whom we had captured.

The collapse of the intelligence agencies, of our entire intelligence network in Kashmir began, if I may inform Shri Somnath Chatterjee through you, Sir, during that period. It was in January, 1990 that, for the first time, Indian intelligence agents were getting picked up and shot; picked up and shot in such a way that with a bus containing 30 or 40 passengers, it was possible—owing to the leakage of information about our intelligence network from that Government to the militants—to get into bus and say, 'twenty-nine of these people are not informants, but one is; pull him and shoot him out in front of everybody else,

12.00 hrs.

This is the background against which the incident at Charar-e-Sharief has taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : How elections were held there in 1988?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Please, you listen first and speak only when your turn comes. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, are you not allowing him to speak? He is doing as if he is not going to get a place to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jena, you can inform the House afterwards.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : The hon. Member though he has not exactly taken the name, has indicated about the Information Minister. I suppose, the same Information Minister is with him now! ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : Sir, they want to blacken out the history...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I now come to the specifics of what has happened at Charar-e-Sharief. It was impossible to do so without first painting the background. That is why, I have taken the time of the House, and I have sought your indulgence to paint in that background. The incident at Charar-e-Sharief has two aspects. One is the 'events themselves' and the other is the 'political implications' of those events, both national and international. I would like to take up each of these separately.

As regards the events themselves, it would have been best if Shri Somnath Chatterjee would have cared to read the Union Home Secretary's statement—and I have absolutely no doubt that so competent a Parliamentarian as Shri Somnath Chatterjee, who was declared by one newspaper as the best Parliamentarian of the year, in the same issue I was declared the biggest wind-bag in Parliament, would have read the statement made by Shri K Padmanabhaiah—and then come before the House. But for him not to admit that he has read this

and not to acknowledge that the statement sets out almost every piece of information which he has now sought from the Treasury Benches, is of a piece with the kind of running around that he has been doing in economic policy, to tell us that what he is doing as Chairman of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation is on all fours with what Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Gorbachev and Yelstin have said. Therefore, since Shri Somnath Chatterjee has decided to make Shri Padmanabhaiah's Statement into a State secret, may I unveil the State secret and place it before the Members of this House?

Sir, it has been told to the nation, on behalf of the Government by the Union Home Secretary that Mast Gul, an Afghan national, along with some of his mercenary companions entered the shrine about two months ago in the guise of a mercenary companions entered the shrine about two months ago in the guise of a pilgrim. I do not know and I suspect Shri Somnath Chatterjee cannot know since he is an atheist and has presumably never been to a shrine how you can differentiate one pilgrim from another when both come in with an aspect of worship? They entered the place. We knew that they could enter the place. The Communist solution would have been to close down the temple, as they have closed down all their Temples, all their Mosques and all their Churches in the Soviet Union. But, since we are a secular country and not an atheistic nation, we could not close down the Charar-e-Sharief. Various pilgrims came in; thousands of pilgrims came in; and of the thousands of pilgrims who came in, Mast Gul along with two or three others were not honest pilgrims. They brought in or they smuggled in arms into the Temple or into the shrine. I used the word 'Temple' in the broadest sense of the word, as a 'place of worship'. They went in there; and the minute they were inside, they had in their hands, the power which a terrorist, any terrorist and every terrorist has over had over established authority, which is the capacity to destruct that which he claims to revere.

Bhindranwale did it in Amritsar and now. Mast Gul, in the name of Islam, has destroyed a revered Islamic shrine. Mast Gul went in with his explosives. If we had been lucky, we could have intercepted him as we have intercepted numerous attempts all over the Valley to destroy places of worship. In this particular instance, they got in and obviously, despite being a communist, Shri Somnath Chatterjee—since he is a democratic communist which I have heard is a contradiction in term—has learnt nothing about the laying of mines. He says "They were laying the mines for weeks and even months."

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Aiyar, would you like to deal with Somnathji or his points?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I stand corrected...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, to mine the entrance to a small rickety wooden structure, it takes next to no time; it does not even take a day; it takes a matter of

several minutes, perhaps several hours. The fact of the matter is that the minute these innocent pilgrims had shown their face of not being innocent pilgrims but ruthless terrorists, we were faced with a Hobson's choice, either we could assault the Shrine and thereby ensure that it would be gutted or we could try to starve them out of the Shrine, as had done very effectively in Operation Black Thunder-II. In other words, the choice before us was : Do we adopt the Operation Bluestar model or do we adopt the Operation Black Thunder-II model?

Since Operation Bluestar had terrible consequences for this country whereas Operation Black Thunder-II was undoubtedly the turning point which has resulted in the restoration of normalcy to Punjab, we learnt our lessons from the past and we decided that we would attempt the solution of flushing the militants out without destroying the Shrine. And once that decision was made, that we would flush them out without destroying the Shrine, firstly, we could not guarantee that the outcome would be successful, although we could make it successful and the second thing was to work out ways and means of flushing out those terrorists. There are two ways and means always available to any Government. Sir, they are called, in an ordinary layman's language, the carrot and the stick. The carrot offered to the militants who were holed up within was that they could have safe passage outside this country and we made this offer to save the Shrine, if not Shri Somnath Chatterjee, at least his colleagues to his right were up in arms, screaming in this House several times about how giving a safe passage to militants is a great breach of every principle that every patriotic Indian should stand for. The fact of the matter is that that was the only hope of flushing the militants out before they exploded their devices. What we did not know, what we could not know is the extent to which these terrorists were suicide-minded. If they were sufficiently suicide-minded, we knew that they would be ready to blow themselves up alongwith the Shrine, if it came to that. But as we had the previous experience of the Golden Temple during Operation Black Thunder-II and the experience of the Hazratbal Mosque as recently as in November, 1993, it was a risk well worth taking. If the carrot was that they could have safe passage out of India, back to the home from which they came, equally there was the stick. As soon as it was known that the Shrine had been occupied by foreign militants, the Indian Army encircled the town and put it under siege. It is not possible to conduct a siege without inflicting a certain amount of hardship and danger upon the civilian population. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot say that not one single civilian life will suffer and not one single limb will be blown apart and, at the same time, say that you are going to lay a siege. It was known that the military would lay siege and that the civilian population of that town was both in danger of getting caught in the crossfire as well as in danger from the militants who had occupied the Shrine.

Every single piece of information which we have received then or since, indicates that there was no popular support among the civilian population of the town for what these mercenaries were upto, inside the Shrine. And it is because they were completely fed up with being made hostage in battle which was not of their making, that so many of them, in hundreds leading into thousands started fleeing or attempting to flee town. And those who did flee the town were given succour by the Government of India which was the right thing to do, which was the humane thing to do. It is those who chose to remain inside the town, or those who for no fault of their own could not escape or flee, have become the innocent victims of a form of violence which has been undertaken, first and foremost, by the militants and to which there had to be a response based on force.

I remember, Sir, when we were debating the Babri Masjid issue, a very important point was made by our former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekharji who said, "why do you have Armed Force, if you are not ready to use force in situation which demands force?" I must say I had sympathy with the point that he made. I myself would have liked a great deal, more force to have been used at the time of the Babri Masjid than was actually used, but taking the lesson taught to us by a former Prime Minister, an honoured and respected Prime Minister of India, I would have thought that everybody would agree that when the situation went beyond control, when we found that the militants were escaping from the Shrine, first in order to set parts of the town on fire and then when they started setting parts of the town more or less adjacent to the Shrine, more or less abutting on the Shrine, on fire, then it was absolutely essential for the Indian Armed Forces to discontinue their waiting role, centre the field and become active, and they did it. Now, Shri Somnath Chatterjee asks me—well, not me, he asked the Treasury benches, he never dares to ask me anything he always asks the Prime Minister, but he wanted to know, what happened after the night of 8th, 9th when the militants started setting fire? Well, if he had read or cared to the Statement of the Union Home Secretary, what happened was that "16 fire tenders were rushed from various parts of the Valley but the militants opened fire on the approaching fire tenders and prevented them from reaching the spot for some time. The fire tenders ultimately, could manage to reach the spot and brought the fire under control after about six hours." That is what happened. In other words, the town was accessible not only to the military authority of India but also to the civil authority of India. There was never any question that we could go into the town which houses the Shrine of Charar-e-Sharief. The question was, should we use our capacity to access the town, to access the Shrine with force? And if we did, then what would happen? What would inevitably happen? Again I quote from the Statement of the Union Home Secretary who has described the Shrine as `a

fragile wooden structure'. Wood is the most combustible element on Earth. There is no way in which an assault on that Shrine could have taken place without gutting it. And, since it would then have been, as it now is, a national shame to see such a major Shrine being gutted, we stopped ourselves from taking the very easy step of sending in the Indian Armed Forces to round up the half-a-dozen or dozen militants who were holed up inside that Shrine. But it is the nature of terrorism that it takes on established governmental forces, it takes on the establishment by threatening the establishment with the very consequences which the establishment is attempting to avoid. And, therefore, it was in the nature of the thing that either we would succeed in flushing the militants out or the Shrine would get gutted possibly by militant action, possibly as a result of an assault. I think it is a matter of pride that there is no Indian hand involved in the destruction of that Shrine.

Let us remember whom we are to censure. First and foremost I would say let us censure a part of India that was broken from our country in the name of Islam; let us censure a Republic that dares call itself an Islamic Republic and indulges in so anti-Islamic and act as burning down a shrine that is dedicated to one of the greatest saints of Islam that this country has known. Let us censure those mercenaries who fought in Afghanistan in the name of religion and who have now infiltrated into our country in the name of Islam and are pretending that Islam in India could be saved by burning Islamic shrines. Let us understand whom we should censure. For, if we censure the wrong party, we would be letting the culpable escape. We cannot let the culpable escape. The culpable in this case are the foreign mercenaries; the culpable in this case is the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; the most culpable in this case is that terrible organisation, the ISI, which has been wreaking havoc in this country for the last several years.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee asked : What were our intelligence agencies doing? The Union Home Secretary has replied that :

"our intelligence agencies have been so able that they succeeded in intercepting messages sent by Mast Gul to the ISI not only from within the Shrine but also subsequently when it appears that Mast Gul has escaped."

We have no better proof of the involvement of the ISI in what is happening than this. At this point in time, it would be impossible for even the most complacent American Congressman to pretend that Pakistan is not a terrorist State. We are faced with terrorism; and we are faced with dedicated terrorism. We are faced with terrorists who are willing to give up their lives in their nefarious cause. Therefore, these kinds of situation are bound to arise. But we have not yet carried conviction, or, at any rate, we have not yet carried sufficient conviction with the world community about the nature of the terrorism that is taking place in Kashmir namely,

that it is foreign inspired. I do not think it is possible for any self-respecting Government anywhere in the world today to look at the transcript of the kind of messages that are being exchanged between ISI and Mast Gul and claim that there is no Pakistani hand in the events in the Valley. This is a major achievement. It is an achievement that we absolutely must build on.

Sir, we are told by this motion before the House :

"that the failure of the Government of India lay in not using an iron hand"

Sir, it was the mindless use of violence by the Government in January, 1990 which led to so sharp a deterioration of the situation that what happened during the five months of that infamous Governor's rule, we had to take close to five years to find a solution for that. An iron hand, in sensible civilian administration, in a civilised society is always put inside a velvet glove. An iron hand of its own accord is a resort to the kind of meaningless and mindless violence which the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi deplored. I cannot understand, how an Opposition which claims to revere the Father of the Nation as much as we, who are the inheritors of the mantle of that Mahatma, could bring forward, in all solemnity, a resolution before this, the highest tribune of the nation based on saying that we failed because we did not use an iron hand. I could have understood it if you had a resolution which said that we had relied too much on the velvet glove, but that you do not even know. All you want to do is to go and blow the brains out of everybody in the Valley. That is not our way; that is not the Gandhian way. That may be the kind of way that you resorted to when you wished to destroy the Babri Masjid at Ayodhya. But it is not the way that we are willing to accept when we are attempting to protect one of the great shrines of India. There could not be mindless violence. We have to allow the use of force in a way in which Shri Chandrashekhar suggested.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be some limit to distortions. I do not want to interrupt the hon. Member. I never asked to use violence in any situation. The hon. Member thinks that if one situation is ready for using coercive power, in another situation also the same method could be applied. I do not know if such advisors are there with the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : No Sir. I can assure the former Prime Minister that I am no advisor to the Prime Minister. Had I been, I would have been put in the Council of Ministers. I am just a Member from the back Benches.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, buffoonery is permissible in certain circumstances. We are discussing about a much more serious national crisis. When we are trying to have a reconciliation and want that the whole nation should put its head together,

is it necessary that he should bring in all that had happened in the last five years? If everybody goes on replying.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I am not yielding any more. When I am speaking, you cannot speak without my permission. You have to take my permission because I am on the floor. I am on the floor with the permission of the Chair.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Parliamentary rules have changed. I have yet to learn a Parliamentary practice which says that I should take permission from the speaker. My knowledge is that I should take your permission, Mr. Speaker.

I only said that in such a situation we should not try to bring in matters which create more discord, disharmony and antagonism among the Indian people or among the political parties. If he wants to rake up everything, I am not going to reply back, but certainly it will not be good for the country, it will not be good in tackling the situation that we are facing today. Sometimes Members get up and say whatever they like but that is not the way to deal with a very delicate situation which we are facing. If they think that by accusing each other they are going to solve this problem, I have nothing more to say.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am grateful for this homily directed at me. I wish to get on with the subject at hand and the main important subject at hand was that the iron hand, the use of coercive force, which is legitimate for a Government, must be allied with the velvet glove. It is this combination of the iron hand and the velvet glove that was evident at Chrar-e-Sharief and which has been evident right through the time from June 1991 till now when we have been handling the Jammu and Kashmir problem. In this process, Sir, I said that the events that took place, as recounted by the Home Secretary, are a matter of record. There is not much dispute about it. I do not know what it is that the Mover of the Motion seeks in terms of additional information. But if there is additional information to be provided by the Government, I dare say that the Government's spokesman will be doing so.

What I would now like to turn to is the political aspect to which I had drawn attention when I began my intervention here. Sir, we are told that it is wrong to think in terms of elections in the Valley. It is an opinion that can be held honestly or dishonestly. It is honestly held by some Indian political parties that the time is not ripe for elections in the Valley. It is dishonestly held by Pakistan and its spokesman that the time is not ripe for elections in the Valley. Whatever be the intentions of Pakistan, *vis-a-vis* those Opposition parties of India who do not want elections in Kashmir — and the intentions of those political parties in India *vis-a-vis* the Pakistan's position — the fact of the matter is that if you abstract from the label, the position of those who do not want

elections in Kashmir is exactly the same as the position of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This is exactly the same position of all the 30 Members...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : He is talking about abolishing TADA.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : The political parties of the country who are talking of holding parleys with Pakistan.

MR. SPEAKER : Please first listen to his full Statement. He has stated that some political parties which sincerely feel that elections should not be held there. Whereas there are some other parties which feel that election should be held there. He was distinguished between the two.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : He has not referred to any names. He is speaking in vague terms.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, we do have an agonizing choice to make. It is quite clear that if we do hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir in the month of July, we cannot hope to secure the same turnout as, for instance, we had in Maharashtra. I do not think it is the position of anybody that 85-90 per cent of the electorate will come out to vote. At the same time, we need to learn another lesson from recent history. What happened to the advice that the time was not ripe for elections in Punjab?

Yet, in all honesty, can it not be said that however inadequate was the turn-out for the Punjab elections in 1993, if my memory serves me right, the presence of elected representatives of Punjab in this House has played a major role in restoring in Punjab?

I am willing to concede that, possibly as a consequence of restoration of this normalcy, there may be fewer Congress Members of Parliament from Punjab after the next election than there are today. Possibly this may happen. But there can be no doubt that in spite of an inadequate turn-out of voters in Punjab in 1993, sorry it was 1992, I stand corrected, those that got elected and started representing the voice of the people here — if I may have your permission, Sir, I just would like to mention one of my party colleagues, Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar who, on more than one occasion, has spoken for the voice of Punjab in a way which is not in consonance with the view taken by the Government of India. What we want is elected representatives; representatives who may not in some ideal sense represent all the people of Jammu and Kashmir but who would represent a substantial section of that voice, to begin the process of restoration of normalcy.

We do not have a political process in Jammu and Kashmir only because one particular Government decided to suspend an elected Assembly; and then one particular Governor decided, even without consulting his Government, to dissolve that Assembly. There has been no voice, no elected voice of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the last five years. I cannot, in all honesty, say that there is nobody in Kashmir who does not want independence. I know that there are many. What I do not know is, "how many?" I do not know what proportion they are of the people. I am told that there are major political parties belonging to the Hurriyat who want Jammu and Kashmir to become a part of Pakistan. There are others within the same Hurriyat who say, "above all we do not wish to become part of Pakistan, we wish to remain an independent country"; and there are yet other groups inside that same Hurriyat who talk in terms of a greater measure of autonomy within the Constitution of India placing Jammu and Kashmir forever on a different footing to that of the other States of the Union of India. Then we have the Indian National Congress in the valley which stands four-square for the total unity and integrity of India; and we have the National Conference which wants to have certain adjustments in the existing Constitutional arrangements. An election, and an election alone will enable us to find what the French call an *"interlocuteur valable"*, a valid interlocutor.

Whom do we talk to? What do we talk about? We cannot do this any more with the existing Assembly of the State of Jammu and Kashmir because someone in his lack of wisdom dissolved that Assembly and after that we have attempted to start a political process by, for example, having the National Conference holding one working committee meeting in Jammu. I do not think that is right. I personally believe — and I know that this is not view accepted by the Government of India — that we should begin with a party-less election to the Panchayats in the Valley. I know this view is not accepted by the Government of India. I put it forward as my view. But if my view is not accepted, then what alternative is there to holding elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly?

No, it is nobody's case it is not the Prime Minister's case; not the Home Minister's case; not our somewhat fractious Minister of State's case. It is no case of anybody in this country that elections in the present circumstances in Jammu and Kashmir will be similar to the election that took place in Maharashtra. But let us begin a process there, for if we do schedule elections, then various political parties including some of those that belonging to the Hurriyat.

MR. SPEAKER : How much more time are you likely to take?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Another ten minutes, Sir, because I am now coming to the constructive

part...(Interruptions)... If we have these elections we will have ...(Interruptions)... Sir, I need eleven minutes to finish.

If we do hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir, as we apparently are planning to do, the very fact of elections coming will force militants to become politicised; the absentee landlords of vote banks to become present inside the Valley to cultivate their voters; and political parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party which has so far been virtually non-existent in the Valley, to show their flag. The Bharatiya Janata Party as much as the CPI (M), the CPI as much as the Samata Party and the Congress as much as the National Conference, let all of us try and go into the Valley and see whether the people of the Valley stand for the unity and integrity of India or not. If one goes by past experience, it would not have possible for Jammu and Kashmir to have remained an integral part of India for half a century unless, through almost all that time, the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their large numbers had not desired to be part of India. Let us also never forget that the only element in India that desires a disruption of our unity if not to be found just in the Valley. We have had insurgency in Mizoram; we have had insurgency in Nagaland; we have had insurgency in Tripura; and we even had a major political party in my home State of Tamil Nadu asking for an independent Dravidistan until 1965. So, it is not unknown in a country as diverse as ours for people to think that opting out of the Indian Union is one solution to their problems. It is because our nation is not an artificial construct of the last fifty years but is a national that has existed for 5,000 years of human civilization, that the strengths of India are always greater than its weaknesses. What we have not had an opportunity to test in the Valley for the last five years is the strengths of India against the weaknesses of India. What the election is going to afford us a opportunity to do is to go in there and ask the people of Kashmir — "Are you in favour of those who destroyed the Chrar-e-Sharief" It will give us an opportunity of going into the Valley and saying — "Are you in favour of those who tried to destroy the Hazratbal Mosque?" It will give us an opportunity of going into the Valley and saying "Are you in favour of those who wish to wreck Kashmiriyat by driving all the pandits out of the Valley?" It would give us an opportunity of going into the valley and say — "Are you in favour of Pakistan suborning your independence and your freedom?" It will give us an opportunity of going into Kashmir and asking them whether they wish to continue to be ruled by foreign mercenaries, thugs like Mast Gul. It would give us an opportunity of demonstrating, not to the United States of America — I do not know why one particular political party is so obsessed with the United States of America that we can hold elections there. We want to hold those elections to demonstrate, first and foremost to the

people of Jammu and Kashmir, then to all the people of India, and only finally to the world, that the real will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is to continue to be indefinitely into the future what they have been over the last 50 years, free-independent citizens of the Union of India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior to saying something in support of the comment on the lengthy speeches of my predecessors from the Congress party and conclude.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might be remembering that some days ago the Secretary General of Common Wealth had visited our country. He came to see me also. He told me during that meeting that all the Commonwealth countries have democracy but the democracy of India is *sui generis*. He cited an example and stated that in India a political adversary is not considered an enemy. This is a feature of Indian Democracy. But had he heard the speech of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar today, he would not have nourished such illusion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the mover of the Motion has rightly stated that this Adjournment Motion has been moved in extra-ordinary circumstances, and it is perhaps unprecedented incident. The Annual Budget is being discussed. The Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence are being discussed after so many years. The hon. Prime Minister was to reply to the debate but the Opposition considered it proper to suspend the other business of the House and discuss the Charar-e-Sharief tragedy.

We have been discussing the Kashmir problem in this august House and often we have been raising the issue unanimously. I would like to remind you the unanimous resolution of February 22, 1994 which reflected the sentiments of the entire House. We had sunk all our difference and asserted unanimously.

[*English*]

The State of Jammu and Kashmir has been and is and shall be an integral part of India and any attempt to separate it from the rest of the country will be resisted by all necessary means.

[*Translation*]

Further we stated :

[*English*]

India has the will and capacity to firmly counter all designs against its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

[*Translation*]

Thereafter we had put forth two demands :

[*English*]

Pakistan must vacate the areas of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir which they have occupied through aggression and resolve that all attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India will be met resolutely.

[*Translation*]

That Resolution reflected the sentiments of the entire country.

Thereafter the Standing Committee on the Ministry of External Affairs took evidence and collected facts regarding the violation of human rights in Pak occupied Kashmir territory and submitted its report. It was a report prepared by a Committee which comprised representatives of all parties. We also emphasized that it should be endeavoured to get back the Pak occupied Kashmir territory some parts of which have been given away by Pakistan to other country. At least the Pak's approach towards human rights must be exposed.

This House has been unanimous on Kashmir issue. The ruling party need not be misled by different tones being heard today. Here we are not to support whatever stance is taken by the Government. We will fulfil our obligation of the Opposition. If there is any lapse on the part of the Government, if it fails to protect the Charar-e-Sharief and allows terrorists to escape and if we criticise you therefor, then should we be considered enemy of the country...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, does the Government expect us of felicitating it after the Charar-e-Sharief was gutted down to ashes? The Government should go among the public to know its reactions. After knowing their reaction the Government will certainly understand why we have been repeatedly stating that it cannot safeguard the interest of people here and hence should step down and hold fresh Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to drag this dispute to this level. But let me express my own opinion. You did not speak anything when they stooped down to that level, and now you are laughing and grinding your teeth. Why Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was to speak as the first speaker from the Congress party? When I was the Minister of External Affairs he was in that very Ministry. I know everything about him. But what I know about him are not bad things. They are rather good things. The only problem is that sometimes he is off the track while speaking.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Adjournment Motion has been introduced with a heavy heart. When the hon. Prime Minister called us in the all party Parliamentary sitting, we had stated that we were in great distress and anguish. The allegation is being made only because you are in power. Who else will be responsible for this?

Shri Aiyar has rightly stated that this development did not take place in ten days. The Government has

confessed in its Statement that in December terrorists were sneaking into Char-e-Sharif in disguise and took arms there with them. Now this is the month of May. The Government has also admitted that on a particular date of the month of February Mast Gul in disguise sneaked into the shrine. Now there is a question as to why Char-e-Sharif was demolished? Its demolition is the beginning of a tragedy. We are not seeking the account of the beginning. We just want to know details about the beginning from the Government. It must reply.

After getting the information from the State Government in the month of December that the terrorists well equipped with arms have sneaked into this shrine and they were making the city their base what preventive action was taken by the Government. Why were they allowed to concentrate there? Why were not they arrested? How did the Centre react on getting the information from the State Government? The Union Government itself admits that it had got authentic information in this regard in February itself. What did we do then? It is also very clearly mentioned in the statement of the Government. It has been mentioned in the statement of the Home Secretary that army was deployed to circumvallate the shrine at the distance of one and a half kilometres. The army was pressed into service but the movement of people was unchecked. Terrorists were making all their preparations inside the shrine. They were laying land mines. Traffic was being closed not only around the *dargah*, but also on roads but what was the Government doing? The Government asked army to maintain distance from the *dargah*, lest the terrorists should go berserk and set it ablaze.

We should have understood the point the very first day that the Pakistani outfit to which the terrorists belong has no regard for Char-e-Sharif. The persons of this group had opened fire in Shia mosques in Karachi and killed those offering namaz. So, they will not come to Kashmir to protect Char-e-Sharif. Alas had the Government realised it at the very outset. Have we chalked out any strategy taking this fact into consideration? The present Government is inactive and ineffective as it did nothing for Char-e-Sharif and the saint there.

It made no endeavour to create proper public opinion inside and outside the country through the media before the occurrence of this tragedy. After the day the shrine was set ablaze, it appeared in newspapers that the saint of the shrine Narooddin was a Sufi saint. He was called Nund Rishi and his songs, his compositions were called Rishi-kalam. He followed the tenets of Kabir and did not believe in rituals. He often criticized Mullas and Maulavis. So, it is of little surprise that the terrorists had no consideration to protect this shrine. They did not bother even if it were to be set ablaze or demolished. Our concern as to how to protect this shrine was natural. It could have been protected with all our efforts. But the drama ended with a tragic note. The shrine was burnt to ashes. Along with the shrine a mosque was also

ruined. The flames of fire engulfed the guest house also and one thousand houses were also gutted down. The smokes are still emitting from those houses.

Now the question arises as to what are the repercussions of the burning of Char-e-Sharif on the Kashmiri Muslims. Here a new controversy has started. Allegation is levelled against the army today. Who is levelling this allegation?...*(Interruptions)* Just now Shri Aiyar has stated that the army has discharged its duty assigned to it. No Indian is involved in burning the *dargah*. But such news is appearing frequently on the front pages of Indian newspapers and army is being held guilty of it. The Government has not contradicted it so far...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : This is totally wrong...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The army cannot come here for explanation. But it should be understood as to under what circumstances the army functions there. We are best upon making it a scapegoat...*(Interruptions)*... Is it judicious? The democracy demands that the hon. Prime Minister should have accepted his mistake and failure to protect Char-e-Sharif and nab terrorists and their leader. He should have further confessed that he is holding Jammu Kashmir portfolio and has failed to fulfil his obligation and will accept whatever punishment the country awards him for his failure. But he did not do so. He is not ready to own any responsibility. But today search is on for a scapegoat. Shri Pilot is also safe, otherwise, he too would have been sacrificed on the Bakr Id...*(Interruptions)*... I do not know whether he would have been sacrificed with a 'jhatka' or a 'halal'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Nagpur) : Just now you have stated that sacrifice is made on Id. This is right...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The hon. Prime Minister is in charge of Jammu and Kashmir affairs. He himself should reply as to how did this all happen. Could it not be averted? Could the terrorists not be prevented from congregating there? After the terrorists assembled there. What was the duty of the army there? I am surprised to read it. I am quoting the Statement of the Home Secretary.

[English]

"The security forces, therefore, occupied the high features of the surrounding hills at a distance of one and a half kilometres and kept a watch over the militants to prevent further infiltration of militants into the Shrine and further smuggling of arms and ammunition."

[Translation]

How could it be possible that they had occupied the high features of the surrounding hills at a distance of one and a half kilometres and claimed keeping a watch over the militants to prevent their infiltration. How

can the infiltration be prevented until army reaches the close quarters of the shrine and resist, smuggling of arms and ammunitions and infiltration without resorting to skirmishes was very much noticed. The army remained a mute spectator because it was asked to do so and to take any action. Today this should be made clear in this august House. What role can be played by the army under such circumstances? There is no unified command. Decisions are not taken in collectively.

The Government is there with his advisors. Apart from them the army, the BSF, the Kashmir police and civil administration are there and the PMO at Delhi. I do not know whether it is possible to contact the hon. Prime Minister in the PMO on every occasion. The Prime Minister is too much busy. Then who takes decisions? Who made the decision to ask the army to remain at a distance of one and a half kilometers? The army should not be entrusted with the responsibility of preventing infiltration and smuggling of arms and ammunition. How could the army do it? Who was there to take decision? It is a gross injustice to army that attempts are being made to hold the army responsible for all the odds...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Secretary's Statement has very clearly said at what time the Army reached. The Army reached early morning there, after the incident had taken place. So, the Army has not been involved. What the hon. Member is saying is totally wrong. The Government has verified it in very clear terms.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I agree to whatever Shri Pilot is saying. The army was not involved at all in setting the dargah ablaze. The question of the involvement of army in this act does not rise at all. The terrorists had deliberately chosen the Bakr Id day for burning the dargah. It was also the birthday of saint Nurooddin. They knew its repercussions on the valley, India and Pakistan. They knew it very well that it will help mislead the Islamic countries. The incident took place in a planned way. What they wanted they did, but the problem is that what we intended did not materialise. We wanted to protect the dargah and also that the terrorists leave the dargah and go across the border safe and sound. It was emphasized very frequently. They were terrorists, killers and mercenaries. The desperadoes chose Kashmir after committing their misdeeds all over the world. But we were very much concerned to protect the shrine and we were no less concerned to send them back safe and sound. The Government itself has admitted in its statement that it endeavoured for the same for three months. It requested the terrorist with utmost humility to leave the shrine and assured them of safe return. What short of image the

country has been presented there that time? What will be its effect on the people of the Kashmir valley? The population of the country is 90 crore. A country with such a great army could not tackle 35 or 40 odd terrorist, could not protect the dargah and could not safeguard its tradition. Will it have a good affect on the people of the country? Will it inspire them to think in the favour of India? They are already scared of terrorists. Now they will be more awe stricken. Still Mast Gul...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : He is queer personality.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mast Gul has not been arrested as yet. He is absconding. How did he manage to escape? Isn't it our failure?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : An Army General has stated that he is lying injured there only. Do you have this information?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have got it. In this first day's reaction, he admitted that Mast Gul is lying injured somewhere in the very town that was set ablaze. Now it is being said that Mast Gul has sneaked into Pulwama town. The main culprit has escaped and the shrine has been razed to the ground. In view of this, Whall we pat our backs and congratulate each other? I feel humiliated in my own country.

There is another queer aspect of it. Tall claims are made about the efficiency and alacrity of our intelligence agencies so much so that they intercepted the wireless communication between Pakistan and the militants. With whom were they communicating in Pakistan? Was it the ISI? Have you got any proof? Did the Government confront Pakistan with this proof? Was the Pakistan's ambassador to India summoned? The Pakistan's ambassador had been summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to register India's protest against the disregard shown to Bhatia Sahib. According to your version it is a mighty proof. The wireless messages intercepted should have been flashed either from Pakistan or the Pak occupied Kashmir. Who was there operating the messages at that end? As is clear that the messages were transmitted from Pakistan, then would it suffice that the country, the Parliament should only be informed about it? Should not this have any international implications or fallout? Should not a letter of protest be despatched to Pakistan? Should not the representatives of other countries be called and told that this is another proof to substantiate what we have been saying so far. If I am to believe you, they were saying from across the border, "Well done; now, let us watch and enjoy; carry on with your mission." There is also the information that they declined the Governments offer of a safe passage because Pakistan had told them that there was no room for them to return to Pakistan. They have to do or die on Indian territory only. If the Government was aware of this fact, then it was clear that it had no alternative left to save the shrine.

I agree that had some strict action been taken in a planned manner in the beginning itself, the possibility of gutting down the whole shrine could have been averted and the subsequent destruction and devastation around the shrine site probably prevented. But this Government is indecisive, weak, inactive, inefficient and impotent. How can it give the reply? I want to give one. I had been to Geneva with Indian delegation. I rise above party politics where the question of national interest is involved. But, I am agitated today. What have we done? Could not this situation be averted?

I do not want to recapitulate the past history. Had the past history been faultless, there would not have been this turbulent situation in Kashmir today. Neither our party nor our allies had been in power there.

13.00 hrs.

The Kashmir situation deteriorated by and by and reached a point that even Sheikh Abdullah had to be arrested and put behind the bars for years together. However, the situation in Kashmir did not deteriorate beyond a certain point because New Delhi pursued right policies and acted with firm determination. The situation goes out of hand today because New Delhi is not able to take a decision. The Prime Minister depends on the Governor and I do not know who the Governor depends upon.

The army is being blamed there. The Lieutenant General, Shri Dhillon rightly observed that the Indian army exercised maximum restraint but it could not save the shrine. An Army General reacted that what was the need of waiting for three months if this was the expected end result? It was not a political reaction. On a war front many army jawans become martyrs. They sacrifice their lives for the country. Are we, in such a situation, doing justice to them. Are we trying to uphold their morale?

MR. SPEAKER : Vajpayee ji, I do not think that any responsible person has blamed the army.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mani Shankar Aiyar ji did not commit that mistake. However, he has committed many other mistakes. I am citing what is being reported in the press. We should uphold the morale of the army. This responsibility lies on the Government. Whether the decisions are being taken on time or not, whether adequate decisions are taken or not...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was talking about accountability. Is not the Governor accountable? On whose advice does he act? He only talks to the Prime Minister directly on telephone, though, earlier he used to talk to the Home Minister. There seems least possibility of his contacting the Minister of State for Defence. What is the Governor meant for? I might agree with the view of our Congress friends that Shri Narasimha Rao is an indispensable person but I am not ready to agree that General Krishna Rao has also become indispensable. He should go. Moreover, the Government proposes a

new package for Kashmir. There are differences of opinion on the question of restoration of political process there. These differences are authentic in the present context. Doubting our Bonafides on every issue, levelling allegations of unauthenticity on the opposition may be a cheap method of conducting a debate but it is no way of building a national consensus. Do not we have the right to say that it is not the right time to hold elections in Kashmir. You may say that the situation is congenial for the purpose and elections will be held. That is a separate thing. Since Pakistan is not favouring elections and we too are not favouring it, then should we be called as Pakistanis...*(Interruptions)*... Look, he is nodding his head. He is saying like that...*(Interruptions)*... He says that he did say so.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : Sir, he said that there are honest opinions which do not want elections there and there are dishonest opinions from Pakistan which do not want elections there.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now they are talking in terms of dishonesty...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : He has talked of your honesty...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member.* He also called Pakistan as an enemy of the country. He said that both Pakistan and BJP are not favouring elections there. Everything will be clear if his speech is read thoroughly. I am also against holding elections in Kashmir though I do not belong to the BJP and am opposed to them. So, should I also be termed as a supporter of Pakistan? If speaking out openly and supporting every move of the Congress; alone is the politics...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I have been personally named. I never ever described — whatever my inner feeling may be — the BJP as.

What Mr. Chandra Shekhar has said is totally wrong. I do not agree with him mainly because I was not a supporter of the Government headed by Mr. Chandra Shekhar. But he keeps on hitting me. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, who was he to support me? He was a non-entity in the Congress Party; whether he supported my Government or not, it did not matter to me. I never knew that was a person by name, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I insist that he withdraws the allegations made against me. I did not say that the BJP is.* I never said that. *(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : You said that the BJP...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : *...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are incompetent. I am not the Prime Minister.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : **

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; it is not going on record...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry, These kinds of expressions should not be used in the House please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I withdraw that remark. (Interruptions)

[Translations]

MR. SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, you please take your seat. You too, please. Please let me deal when I am on my legs or you deal yourself.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was referring to his speech. In his speech, he said that* and the enemy outside destroyed Char-e-Sharief. What does it mean? He was saying that they destroyed the Babri Masjid. I condemn them for the destruction of Babri Masjid. But I do not consider them * He is not the only patriot in this House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Look, both sides are putting forth their views in a very good manner.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It will be very kind of you if you keep quiet for a minute or two.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You too keep quiet please.

I will expunge any expression which I deem might hurt the feelings of any person. All the Members sitting in this House are friends, notwithstanding our different ideologies, and nobody is an enemy here. This should be borne in mind that I will not allow any such reference in anybody's speech to go on record. It may come from Chandra Shekharji, Somnathji, Vajpayeeji, or Mani Shankar Aiyarji. View points are being expressed very nicely on this issue. If something has gone wrong somewhere, there is an endeavour to locate and rectify it. Simultaneously, we all are unitedly trying to face and combat any such critical situation that may arise. That is more important. From the very niche of my heart and with all humility, I request you to take care to see and

ensure that nobody utters something that might pique anybody. What Vajpayeeji said is totally right I am going to expunge such expressions.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You take your seat please. This diminishes the dignity of the House. Taking an overall view of the situation I will do what I have to do and what I have undertaken to do. Please do not interrupt a good speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It was from Mani Shankar ji, Vajpayeeji and also from Somnath ji.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw my speech towards its peroration. Our national President, Advani ji, will partake in the debate on behalf of our party. I would touch upon only one issue.

I fail to understand how could we afford to forget so soon the experience we gathered from the Hazratbal episode two and a half years ago?

There was no reason to presume that because the policy of laying a siege around Hazratbal succeeded, therefore, it will also prove to be successful in case of Char-e-Sharief. Hazratbal was an isolated, segregated site. There was no food, no drinking water facility available inside Hazratbal whereas the shrine of Char-e-Sharief abuts upon the township and thus there could be no dearth of food and water. Therefore, there was no reason to think that we could get control of the situation by laying an army siege at one and a half kilometer diameter. I do not know how was this decision taken?

Now, you may ask what else could we do other than laying a siege. This can be debated and many *via medias* can be suggested but the *via media* the Government chose was not feasible and was bound to lead to failure because we were ready to leave the situation to the mercy of the militants' whims and fancies in abject capitulation. If the shrine could be saved, it could be saved because of them and if they wanted to set it ablaze, how could we thwart it? We wanted to give them a safe passage but how could we help if they were out to die? This whole incident portrays a helpless, policy-bankrupt, unresolved picture of the Government, we do not approve of this portrayal because this does not reflect the picture of the Government alone but that of this country as well. What shall the people of Kashmir experience? We agree that the militants are gradually beating a retreat there. People are getting disenchanted. People are in favour of normalisation of situation but the militants resorted to such a heinous incident so as to reverse all the endeavours made towards normalisation of the situation. We did not anticipate this incident and prepare ourselves to face it. Now the Government will have to bring the people together and win over their confidence afresh in Kashmir. However,

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

** Not recorded.

I do not think that this Government will be able to accomplish it. Therefore, we censure this Government and urge them to bow out of power.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I stand today with a heavy heart and perplexed mind whether I have to reply to the allegations made against our country, our nation and our people by an enemy country or to reply to the allegations made by the hon. Members from the other side of the House. If there is a serious concern about Jammu and Kashmir, it must be a concern that goes beyond the tragic incident that faces us today. If there is a serious concern about Jammu and Kashmir, it must be a serious concern about the state of our nation and about the perceptions of where we are to take our nation in the coming century. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir cannot be blamed entirely on any single event, on any single person, on any single decision. The Jammu and Kashmir has become the battle ground of two major perceptions that go back to 1947 and without understanding this particular issue, any attempt to shed light on the present strategy in Jammu and Kashmir will be an attempt that would undermine our resolve at national unity and national integrity. Essentially, Jammu and Kashmir has been and remains today a battle ground for two perceptions. One perception is that we have of united India and that was the perception that India will be a home of all people, of all religion. This perception was challenged by the two-nation theory. This perception was challenged by a belief that a nation can be formed on the basis of religion; on the basis of belief that people following one religion could have one nation on the subcontinent. The Congress Party historically stood up against this belief. The Congress Party led a campaign against this belief and the Congress Party was poised in this belief when a majority of Muslims decided to stay on in India and said proudly, 'India is our home and this is where we will remain'.

In 1947, Pakistan disagreed with majority of Muslims of India. In 1971, we have proved right. We have said that the sub-continent cannot be divided on the basis of religion, the sub-continent cannot be divided by artificial walls and artificial boundaries and yet, in 1947, an attempt was made to create artificial boundaries. We saw the uncovering of this in 1971 and 1972 in the birth of Bangladesh when it became apparent that not vision but other beliefs, of the feelings of nationhood, of the feeling of camaraderie, of the feeling of one large family, was to be the basis of religion. The same disease in Bangladesh, the same disease in 1947, now continues to frustrate Pakistan. Instead of having created for themselves out of the unhappy history of 1947, a new modern liberal State which is concerned about its citizens, Pakistan continues to attempt to redefine India in the hope that it will be able to redefine itself. India

will not be and must not be allowed to be redefined by anybody else because we and our forefathers in 1947 defined India as a home of people of all religions, irrespective of where it is from and where we want to go.

Today if there is an atmosphere that questions this perception, it is an atmosphere that has been created in different parts of India. Do not think that Jammu and Kashmir is in isolation. The young people of Jammu and Kashmir watch every word that is spoken in any part of India. Every time you speak of separate culture, every time you speak of sub-regionalism, every time you speak of a special culture of a special people for a special India, people in different parts of India begin to question the perception on the basis of which they had agreed to be part of the Indian family and that is the basic question today that stares us in the face in Jammu and Kashmir, not the question of who decided how far the Army would cordon Charar-e-Sharief. We are not here and we are not capable of going into operational decisions about how the Army was to operate, at what distance it was to operate and what kind of force the Army was going to use. We have never made any disclosures about secret operations of the Army. We cannot make disclosures about operations of the Army because that would put us with the very lives of the men who have dedicated themselves to protect this nation even with their lives. We cannot be so irresponsible to satisfy the ego of the hon. Members of the Opposition and in order to satisfy the ego of the hon. Members of the Opposition put at risk the lives of the young men who have worn the Indian uniform, who have taken Indian tricolour and who have stood at its doors to say that this land shall never be violated again.

There are fundamental questions about Jammu and Kashmir which this Government has tried to tackle in the last few years. I am afraid that history may have to be rediscovered one day to decide who made mistakes and what mistakes were made. It is true that whoever is in Government, they share the greatest blame, but then whoever is in the Government would also be given credit for what they have achieved. I do not want to look back at history to read once again and to reiterate who made mistakes. As a young Indian, I want to put one simple question and age in this country. Have we shown enough concern, thoughtfulness and consideration to young people of Jammu and Kashmir? Today by asking questions about what the Government has done and what the Prime Minister has done to save Charar-e-Sharief, have we absolved ourselves of our responsibility? What is it that we have done for the young people of Jammu and Kashmir? There are on this side of this House those who have risked their lives in going out to reach out to the young people of Jammu and Kashmir. The question in Jammu and Kashmir is the alienation of younger people. Why have the younger people left us? Why have the younger people provided fertile ground for foreign mercenaries to come and

operate and to question the integrity of this nation? Why have the younger people felt that they are not part of this family? These questions will have to be answered and we are attempting to answer these questions.

Do not say, if you do not know, that nothing has been done. How many of us have got up? There are no restrictions. This Government has had a courageous policy of transparency. We have allowed the world to come in and see what is happening in Kashmir. We have allowed the international media. We have allowed the representatives of foreign Governments. We have allowed the Human Rights Commissioner of the U.N. to come and see what is happening in Kashmir. We have allowed tourists to go freely to Kashmir. What stopped the Indian Members of Parliament, especially of the Opposition, from visiting Kashmir? Once an attempt was made and the attempt was made to go and fly the Indian Flag as though the Indian Flag has never flown in Kashmir. Even then, how was it flown? It was but by asking for special assistance from the Indian Army and asking for a special aircraft to fly that particular group into Srinagar and under the protection of the gun the flag was flown. The flag has flown in Kashmir not under the protection of gun but by the support and the inspiration of young people in Kashmir, who, over the last fifty years, have stood by us and in fact have again said: "We are Indians and we are proud to be Indians."

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : You can't do even this bit. You don't have the guts to do so.

[English]

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : The trouble in the perception that has thrown doubt in the hearts and minds of young people of Kashmir is that Kashmir has to be won with guns. We have tried to win the people of Kashmir through their hearts and not by forcing them on the point of a gun... (Interruptions) We have forced the gun when it is necessary to fight the gun. But we have not pointed a gun at the hearts of people of Kashmir. What do we say to the young people of Kashmir when we go there? When we go there and when we want to speak to them about devolution of power, when we want to speak to them about giving them rights to decide about their own future, when we go and speak to them about respect and participation in the mainstream in India, then they ask us whether we will abide by the constitutional guarantees. What stares us in the face is that a constant policy statement is being made by a major political party in this country that Article 370 should be abrogated. When the whole country is speaking of giving autonomy, speaking of reaching out and giving them confidence, then there is one major political party which says "You have given them too much and take it back." Today, when we seriously come to this House to discuss about what the future of Kashmir will be, let it be clear that we are here

to discuss the future of Kashmir and not the future of this Government as has become apparent in the speeches that have been made. We are here not to protect the future of this Government. We are here to protect the future of this country and this country includes the State of Jammu and Kashmir. And, when a serious effort is made to decide the future of this country and the future of Jammu and Kashmir, we have two political parties standing up, two major movements in this country standing up one saying abrogate article 370 and the other saying give them great autonomy and yet both saying: "You are wrong." We are wrong if we support Article 370. We are wrong if we abrogate Article 370. We are wrong if we use force. We are wrong if we do not use force. We are wrong if we find a *via media*. We are wrong if we do not find a *via media*. We are wrong if we send the Forces. We are wrong if we do not send Forces. We are wrong if we do not hold elections. We are wrong if we hold elections. What is that we have done right? If there is something which we have done right and if we have not done something right, then why would even today people in Jammu and Kashmir, the young people in Jammu and Kashmir be prepared to come and talk to us? I have been to Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Rajesh Pilot has been to Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Chavan has been to Jammu and Kashmir. I want to know how many people from the Opposition have been to Jammu and Kashmir. Who stopped them from going to Jammu and Kashmir and talking to those young people? Do not compare and do not come to conclusions about how to deal with terrorists. Terrorists have to be dealt by methods of psychological warfare. A terrorist is not a soldier. A terrorist is a psychological warrior and you have to reply a psychological war with a psychological war. The terrorists that we have in Hazratbal may not necessarily be the kind of terrorists we saw in Charar-e-Sharief. I have myself met the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. I have met them... (Interruptions). If this is not a serious enough matter for the Opposition, I am prepared to keep quiet. The Opposition does not want to hear me tell what I have seen with my own eyes. I had talked to the young people in Kashmir. I have talked to seventeen year old boys in Kashmir who said that they have come from Pak or they have come from another part of Pakistan because they were told that shrines and mosques were being burnt in the Valley; they have come because they were told that the Muslims in India do not have the right to pray because they were told that India does not provide equal rights to all of its citizens. I said to them? "What did you see in India?" They said: "We have seen a different world."

'We have seen the equality. And the first thing we heard when we came on to the Indian soil was the sound of the *Aazan* given from the mosque in India.' This is what a young boy of 17 said to me. Equally, I spoke to a man of 35 years. He was a hardened criminal. He saw nothing right. Like the Opposition, he saw

nothing right with this Government. He saw nothing right with this country. He saw nothing right ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : Is he comparing the Opposition with the hardened criminals? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You are spoiling your own case. Use some good words, use some parliamentary words ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : I beg your pardon. I have done some study. I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translations]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is this happening here—Opposition like hardened criminals? Is everybody under the spell of hemp ...*(Interruptions)*... let us talk about some solution.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : This is not a subject for criticism. Let us discuss it seriously. The discussion is lacking in seriousness...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If I have understood the debate correctly, while finding fault with something, they are trying to see that some consensus is developed so that this matter is dealt with properly. Let us understand that spirit and let us use the language, the phrase and the sentences in that manner.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : I shall abide by your ruling...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : He is engaged in party politics when the whole country is concerned. That will perish, sink, nobody can avert that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (Bhandara) : Vajpayee ji called us inapt, inefficient...*(Interruptions)*... His words strike proper to your ears...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : According to them, everything we say is wrong here. I would like to know whether they abide by the Constitution in respect of Article 370 or they want to abrogate Article 370. Let them clarify it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : I have got an indication that those who speak in our mother tongue are free to use such words whereas these are prohibited for speakers speaking in English.

MR. SPEAKER : I said what I felt. You are free to choose any language for delivering your speech.

[English]

Let us understand that there is a difficulty before the country. We all should try to face that difficulty. And while criticising, if somebody is trying to help you, you should understand that.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : Sir, I welcome and ensure that our Government in agreeing to this debate has welcomed any constructive criticism of our policy, our intentions or of our conduct. I wanted to put on record that what has come so far did not indicate and could not have indicated a constructive criticism of our policy or of our intentions.

MR. SPEAKER : You say that. Nobody is going to object to that.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : They did object. That is all I said.

With the greatest respect to our former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar, I would like to clarify this. I said, 'like them, he also found nothing right with this Government.' 'Like them' is only a similarity and has nothing to do with reflecting upon your character. It was only your behaviour, your conduct...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : He has likened the Opposition as 'hardened Criminals.' ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not put the words which he has not used. He did not say that.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : You go and see the records please

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into it. If it is there, I will remove it.

Now, please take your own line.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED : If the Opposition is sensitive to my formulations, I regret it. But I would like the Opposition to understand when they are sensitive only to these words, how sensitive the young people in Jammu and Kashmir would be when it is said that Article 370 should be abrogated and the rights given under the Constitution should be taken away ...*(Interruptions)*

I am on the same side as my hon. friend is. I think we just are at some distance, that is why, I could not understand him properly.

I want to say that a major effort has been made in the last year and this is serious. Kashmir in the Valley was in a state of total destruction and disrepair. Many many facilities have been destroyed and have been deliberately and unconsciously sabotaged so as to bring life in Kashmir Valley to a standstill. A very major effort has been made, which other States, especially the Opposition-ruled States, would be envious of the amount of money that is being poured into Kashmir this year in terms of Central Grant - Rs. 600 crore going entirely to rehabilitation and reconstruction work, not relying upon

the usual account of States of giving Rs. 600 crore and drawing back Rs. 400 crore because of an overdraft of previous year. This is the first time that a clear effort has been made to pour in enormous amount of money to give the basic infrastructure that is necessary to instill the kind of confidence that the young people need when they go out to face an election, to decide about their own future.

For the first time, a private effort has been made by public schools in Delhi to give 100 seats to deserving Kashmiri children, who cannot find good schools within easy distance of their residence in Kashmir to come and stay, in residence, in hostels, in schools, in Delhi, grow up with the people from other parts of India and stand up tomorrow as people who say we have grown up together in the family of India, we will not let this family break. Wherever these poor people, wherever the meritorious students do not have money to pay for hostel fees, the Government of India has taken steps to ensure that they are provided scholarship. This is the way we will join hearts of people of India and not by saying that we should have used weapons, not by saying that we should have flushed out people earlier, which are operational decisions, as you know, in which even civilian Governments are incapable of taking the right or wrong decisions. Those decisions have to be left to the people in uniform; they have to be left to the people who know what is happening on the ground. It is very easy to say that you have a cordon at a kilometre and half away. But anyone who has served in the Army will know that you have a terrain, like the terrain around Charar-e-Sharief. You cannot show as to where the cordon will be effective. You have to take positions at vantage point in order to ensure that the cordon will be successful.

Sir, as far as the entire incident of the burning of the Shrine of Sheikh Nooruddin Wali is concerned. I am reminded of a famous adage that came from, a namesake of Sheikh Noor-ud-din Wali, Sheikh Khurja Naseeruddin of Uzbekistan, whose books are now made very popular by an Indian Television series. Sheikh Khurja Naseeruddin has asked his family to design and to build a *mazhar* for him even during his life time and he has given the design of the *mazhar* to be specific. It was a massive mausoleum building; it has walls around it; it has no boundary wall, but a massive gate on which there was to be a massive lock. When people asked him why would you place a lock on the door that does not even have a boundary wall to support, he said that this lock is to indicate to all the honest people that they must not enter without permission. A thief will even climb the wall to enter mausoleum, but this lock is to remind the honest people.

What we did in Charar-e-Sharief was to remind the honest people that you have a compassionate Government; that you have a passionate Government;

that you have a Government that cares; that you have a Government that will go to the absolute brink to ensure that homes will not break. But you have a Government which will act when the time comes to act. We did it. This time we did not succeed. We did not succeed in saving the Shrine. But in not being able to save the Shrine, let us not cave in; let us not to proclaim that people who want to destroy India, have been successful.

What is reported of the debate in this House today will be reported across the globe. Let the world not say that Indian Parliamentarians have said that India's policy on Kashmir has failed. Let the world not say that Indian Parliamentarians believe that elections should not and must not be held in Kashmir. Let the world not say that even Indian Parliament and the representatives of the people of India do not believe that Kashmir can be brought back to the street or narrow path of democracy. The elections have to be held in Kashmir not as a solution, but as a panacea that would begin the solution. The elections have to be held in Kashmir not to say that everything will then be perfect, but to indicate that this is the beginning of normalcy. The elections are to be held in Kashmir because we do not want to be held accountable for the slightest wrong that is done by an ordinary policeman walking the streets of Srinagar. We want elected representatives of the people of Kashmir, we want the elected representatives sitting in the Assembly of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, taking oath under the Indian Constitution, to be answerable for anything that goes wrong. We want the representatives of the media, we want the world representatives to go and speak to the elected representatives and take answers from them and accountability from them as to why things have gone wrong, and not to come here, thousands of miles away, and ask us why things have gone wrong. If they are to ask us why things have gone wrong, I am afraid, that answer will have to be given by the entire Parliament, not just by us alone because it is the totality of atmosphere that we have created in the country and in Jammu and Kashmir, that is the basis for the present unrest in Jammu and Kashmir. It is that totality of atmosphere which has to be reversed before we can hope to bring normalcy to Jammu and Kashmir. The elections are to be a part of that attempt to reverse that totality of atmosphere and to introduce a sense of confidence and normalcy. Believe me, the hon. Members on the other side of the House would have known that dreaded terrorists who, in the past, have been held responsible even for murder of Servicemen in the Valley of Jammu and Kashmir, were released. You see their Statement, their reconciliatory Statements. They went out and they said things that were not necessarily palatable to this Government. But we were glad that now dissent was taking the path of democracy.

We want even to lose in Kashmir. If we lose Kashmir to honest Indians who stand up and say that we disagree

with the Government of India, but we do not disagree with the people of India. We want to give them a chance to express their dissent. We want to give them a chance to feel that they can contribute something to India. We want them to feel that they are part of India. We want them to feel that they are valued members of the Indian family.

Sir, while we are saying that we want the young people of Jammu and Kashmir to be valued members of the Indian family, we are accused of having no policy, we have no courage, we have no conviction, we have no vision and we have no desire to implement what we want to do. Why do not they see for a change the style or sound that we have to face with Pakistan? Why do not they give us this opportunity of an *Agni Pariksha*? The *Agni Pariksha* that has started in Charar-e-Sharief must end with elections in the Valley. We must go through this *Angi Pariksha*. What sense does it make when we are ready to face this *Angi Pariksha*, for anyone to stand up and say, 'Do not face this *Agni Pariksha*' when we want to destroy ourselves, what sense does it make for them to say, 'Do not destroy yourself'; when we want to kill ourselves for the nation, what sense does it make for them to say, 'Do not kill yourself for the nation'? We are prepared to make the highest sacrifice that this nation calls for today to keep this nation together. We have done it with sagacity. We have done it with sense, we have done it with analysis.

We know that the political infrastructure must be based on an economic infrastructure. The economic infrastructure will take a period of three to five years to get into place. The political infrastructure will provide the gravitational pull for the economic infrastructure to get into place. There will then be no charges that civil servants are purloining all the money or deciding where that money will be spent. Then questions will be asked and they will be asked of the representatives of Kashmir. They will be asked of MLAs and MLCs and they will be asked in the Assembly in Srinagar, in Jammu; they will be asked of an elected Government of Jammu and Kashmir and not of civil servants appointed from the Centre. If we want to give the people of Jammu and Kashmir a chance to decide and take their own decisions about their lives, why then are we being told that we have no policy? It is no policy; it is a commitment. It is a constitutional obligation on us which we want to fulfil. We want to stand up in the world.

Vajpayeeji was with me in Geneva and I stand and pay tribute to the great service that he did to this nation at Geneva. But I want to remind Atalji also of the eyes that are watching India, of the expectations of India not because any country wants to dictate how India should run itself, but because every country that has upheld India as a major model of working democracy today wants to see India at the forefront of the movement of democracy.

Every country wants India to participate at the forefront of the human rights today; every country wants India to lead Africa, Asia and Latin America. They want India to lead at the horizon of human rights and democracy. Why then should India make an exception; why should India say that we are weak; why should India say that we are unable to fulfil our obligation within our own country; why should we go to the United Nations year after year to answer Pakistan and not lead the democratic world into a brighter future in the 21st century? This is the question that we have to answer today and not the question of how many soldiers were deployed; what were the ranks of the soldiers who were deployed; what were the armaments given to them; when did they move in; whether they moved in firing shots or whether they moved in shouting slogans, only of 'Jai Hind'; whether they moved in the warn people or whether they moved in to let people escape across the border.

The negotiations with people who are militants, who are extremists and who are terrorists have to take place at a psychological level. What you say and what appears in the Press is not necessarily what we are doing within. And that is exactly how terrorists have to be handled. They are not hon. people; they are not hon. people as are the people across the floor of this House to whom you can speak openly with your hearts and with your minds. Those are people with whom you have to be careful; those are people whose every move, you have to counter. If they are deceitful, you have to watch their deceit; if they have a sleight of hand, you have to watch that sleight of hand; if they are ready to betray, you have to watch the betrayal. Those are people who have come here to destroy; those are people who have not come here to negotiate. But there are many, many young boys in the Valley, who are our boys, who have left us who have gone away from Mother India, who are disenchanted, who are today frustrated, who are today confused. We have to reach out to them. The question is not 'why', but the question is when will we get them back; the question is how will we get them back. Today it is not for us to ask, why this has happened. Today it is for us to ask when will they be back in the fold; today, it is for us to ask why Kashmir has reached where it has reached; today, it is for us to ask how will we get Kashmir back and when will we get the representatives of the people of Kashmir sitting in this House, speaking about Kashmir and not having to relegate it to all of us, who come from other parts of the country. We have problems enough in other parts of the country to be able to address. Forget about the problems of Kashmir, let their own representatives come and sit in this House with you. And then you ask them 'why', they will answer 'why'. We should not answer 'why'; let those answer, who are best qualified to answer. Today, let those govern, who are elected by the people of India to govern. Today, let India lead itself to prosperity and peace. Today, let not factions and factions divide India; let not egos divide India; let not personal discumfiture divide India. Let us

today just simply remember that one simple *shayar*, one simple poet, who felt for this country, who felt for such tragedies said. And let those be the words that ring in our hearts, in our minds and in our ears as we go to solve the problems of Kashmir.

Dil Na-umeed to nahin, nakamyab hi to hai,
Lambi hai gam ki sham, magar sham hi to hai.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I think, let us sit for some time. I think, Chandra Shekharji wants to speak. And after that, we will break for lunch.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will only take a few minutes to put forth my views before you. The Kashmir question was a vexed question for many years but for the last 5-7 years it took such a turn that I thought that we would sit together and do some serious deliberations on how can we pull the country out of this crisis. However, it seems from the way the debate is going on as if we have no knowledge, no perception of the crisis we are passing through today. The question is not who committed or who did not commit the mistake? Whosoever committed this mistake, it has become a national crisis today.

We gave this suggestion because we thought that the Government ought to be seized of the probable crisis. At occasions, I might have said that the Government should deal with the situation with an iron hand but I never said that we should wield arms and resort to firing unnecessarily. Yet, cannot we ask from the Government as to what was the need of deploying army there for three odd months if it was not to be used, if no bullet was to be fired?

While Atalji was delivering his speech here, many of our friends were saying and defining the jurisdiction, the limitations of the army and the difficulties likely to be faced in that particular terrain but it should be borne in mind that the army can do very little from a distance of one and a half kilometers. Why were army jawans deployed there and what was the need of sending them there if army had no role to play? What directions were given to the army jawans deployed there? This question will be posed to the Government not only by the country but the whole world. It has not only proved our failure but also put a question mark on the army's competence and efficiency, no matter if somebody raises this question today or not. The army also shall be on the horns of a dilemma. I have said it earlier also that the army jawans should not be unnecessarily deployed at some place and if at all deployed they should be used judiciously. Can I know from the Government whether it had any premonition of the ensuing turn of events two months earlier that some people were going to set that shrine ablaze? Why was, then, permission granted to all and sundry from around the world to visit the shrine after withdrawing army from there? The Government is allowing foreign media coverage in Kashmir. The

Government says that it will allow persons from any corner of the world to visit Kashmir. But at the same time why Islamic countries were not intimated that certain unscrupulous persons with their ulterior motives to demolish the shrine are staying there? Why did it keep mum for two months? Had the Government invited persons, media persons and ambassadors from various countries to see how foreigners were infiltrating into the border and attempting to create disturbances in the country, the image of the country abroad would have been different today. Did, it not strike the mind of the persons in the Government, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office the Prime Minister's advisors that if the use of army was impossible, the matter required to be treated in a very sensitive manner? Had we invited the representatives from Islamic countries to Kashmir, the Organisation of Islamic Conference would not have turned against our country.

Our hon. friend Shri Khursheed Alam made here a long Statement and claimed that we would lead in the UNO. If we can create such an atmosphere and the country has a leading role in the UNO, it will be a matter of great happiness for we all. But we are distressed to learn that even Maldives and Nepal are not standing by us in the SAARC. Therefore his loud rhetorics would leave no impact on us. The Government must clear its intentions and contemplate as to what action should be taken to meet the present situation. It also should think as to where we are going and in which direction we will lead the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be better if we had discussed the Kashmir issue in some other manner instead of bringing the Adjournment Motion. The manner the discussion is going on gives impression as if it is essential to make allegations and counter allegations. My predecessor here pointed out that the blunders committed during the 11 - 12 or 17 months has led to the disintegration of the country. I do not want to pass any comment on it. But it seems as if the country had attained the highest prosperity and there had been peace and harmony everywhere in the country earlier and the situation worsened just within 17 months and we should forget those mistakes for some days. But till when the Government will continue to attribute the present deteriorating condition to previous developments and justify its style of function?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is as to what significant steps the Government is taking in Kashmir? It wants to hold elections there, and we are also not opposed to it. But I would like to know as to who will come forward to participate in the elections? Has the Government ever thought over it? One of the speakers here stated that we should not mind even if we lose Kashmir in the process of experimenting democracy.

But it should be noted that we will lose not only Kashmir...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir it is claimed that since there is no other party of the B.J.P. in Kashmir, in that case if you do not vote the Congress Party to power, there that will mean handing over Kashmir to secessionists who want to disintegrate it from India?

While speaking in his capacity as an hon. Minister, he must have his clear outlook. To whose hands does the Government wish to hand over Kashmir? I do not want to make it a point of debate, but the world would ask the hon. Minister making such statement in Parliament as to whom does we propose to hand over Kashmir. Does he want to hand it over to those who want secession from India?

I told my hon. friends in the Government that to held elections there is a welcome idea. But I fail to understand why elections are announced to hold there in advance? If the Government is at all interested to hold elections there, first it should do its spadework. Thereafter it should consult the Election Commission and fix a particular date for the election. But when the Election Commission makes announcement of holding election there, the foreigners claim that

[English]

Election is also an alternative to referendum.

[Translation]

Some pressmen and also some persons in the Government say that the policy of the Government is succeeding. Some foreign countries are also supporting it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a common man sometimes I am afraid whether none would turn up to cast his vote there or any secessionist elements are elected there. Would it not become another referendum? In such a situation what explanation would we provide to the world? Does it mean that we are traitors or antidemocratic and is it the reason that we are supporting Pakistan? Mr. Speaker, Sir, don't we have right to state it? What is the Government doing in Kashmir? Can it protect the sovereignty and unity of the Government? Had we asked the Government to provide separate regions for the Budhists and the Islams in Ladakh? In the name of providing autonomy the Government bifurcated it. Hon. Shri Advani, I want to ask you also whether it is essential to provide autonomy to some parts of Jammu by launching Liberation Movement in Jammu? Today those seeking separation from the State are bolstered individually in various circles of Kashmir. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am distressed to state that it is known best to the Government itself as to why it is extending its support to them. Perhaps it is under the impression that by doing so it would be able to win the voters to its side.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we must keep one thing in mind that if we lose Kashmir we would lose not only a territory but also the unity, secularism and the tenets of the country on which basis India fought the freedom struggle. These were the tenets on which basis Gandhiji stated that we could become poor yet we are able to lead the world spiritually.

Today we have hurdles, predicaments and we are gradually losing our power to lead the world spiritually because we are dividing ourselves in smaller bits. You know my opinion on the Article 370 and other issues. I do not support them. Atalji, I admit that the movement should be suspended for a short time. But nobody is ready to do it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, I am very anguished.

The present development there is very serious. It is the Government and not we who ever suggested firing there. Had we consulted in this regard we would have suggested to withdraw the army and invite ambassadors of all the countries there. We would have suggested to withdraw the army and invite ambassadors of all the countries there. We would have suggested to ask the Islamic countries to examine as to what was happening there. This could have compelled the Militants to leave the site and we would have raised our head before the world with pride. But the Government does not bother to consult us, and it is under the impression that whatever it thinks is the last word of history. The ruling party has been running the country for last 50 years on the basis of this very 'last word' but everything went wrong in 17 or 18 months. Something went wrong during the regime of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh and something during my regime. It seems as if there was the Ramrajya before it and lord Rama is again going to rule the nation.

The Government must note as to why every constituent of the country is seceding one by one. Shri Syed must inform us about the developments in his regard. It is a small state. Shri George Fernandes had raised an issue just now that the names of some persons are being excluded from the voter list. I do not know whether he is aware of the fact or not. But everywhere there is the same unrest, and discontentment. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Government is at all determined to hold elections there, it must make all necessary preparation so that it may not meet an embarrassing situation that no voter turns up there to cast his vote. Otherwise, it will be a matter of great ignominy on international forum ... (Interruptions)

SH. UMRAO SINGH : Shri Chandra Shekhar, you committed the same mistake in Punjab when terrorists demanded referendum on Khalistan. Why did not you halt election that time? Did you forget it?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : No, I did not forget it. I did not suspend the elections there I never thought it improper. That was a different thing. It is different matter as to what happened in Punjab at that time and how correct the policies on Punjab were adopted and how many mistakes were committed by me. My predecessor mentioned this issue in his speech. But today the Government is put into an embarrassing situation. It had its high ambition that time and still it is nourishing the same. But I warn the Government against committing

mistakes. It should get alert before it is too late. The annals of last 10 years indicate that the Congress confessed its mistakes after four months of committing the same. But those mistakes were minor ones. But if it commits any mistakes presently, it will thwart the identity and the unity of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, even today I would like to point out that if possible an incontrovertible solution to the Kashmir problem should be evolved so that the entire nation is brought to unanimity that we can overcome these crisis. We are ordinary persons. We do not have the power that the Congressmen have. The leaders from the opposition party may be criminals but such elements are very much present in the Parliament.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : What suggestion do you wish to give therefor?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I am talking about two things. First I want to submit that elections should not be held in a haste. Before holding election the Government must ensure itself whether people are ready to participate in elections. I would not like to mince my words that those persons should not be allowed to participate in electoral process who want to secede Kashmir from India. I tell it very frankly.

Secondly I would like to suggest that army should not be pressed into service without proper deliberation and just to display the might of the Government. Thirdly I would like to suggest that we all should sink all our differences on Kashmir issue and make our efforts to resolve it. This initiative will have to be taken by the Government and not by the opposition because its onus is on the former. The Government did not do it and therefore, we have come across the present situation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that the Government will think over it with cool mind and display its sagacity to resolve the problem. History is a very strict judge. I am afraid that it announces its judgement in 10 days that the onus of the disintegration of the country rests on the Government itself. I, therefore, very politely warn the Government, not as a criticism but as a suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.00 p.m.

13.58 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Three minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF BURNING DOWN OF CHARAR-E-SHARIEF IN KASHMIR

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to express by deep shock and sorrow over the destruction of the Charar-e-Sharief. Today, the whole country feels so much desperate and disgusted at the dastardly attack of the mercenaries on a very famous shrine of this country which has, for the last many centuries, been the symbol of real secularism; or in other words, was the essence of *Kashmiriyat*. That shrine is no more today.

Sir, today in this House we have witnessed a very rare situation. Those people who, almost on a similar situation in the past did not even express their regret when a very famous shrine was pulled down, are at easy showing their sympathy and their feelings on this issue. It is good that at least sometimes, some Parties take a right step on such matters.

Sir, this is an occasion for all the political parties in this country to ponder over as to what is happening and what united action and step could be taken by all Parties, irrespective of their Political differences.

This House has got an opportunity to deliberate on an issue which is before the whole nation before the calamity happened. It is a sad fact that even though it was very much in the knowledge of this House and the Government, we could not save this shrine. The Opposition parties can rightly blame the Government for not being able to save this shrine. I am not prepared to brush aside this allegation at the first instance. I would like to go a little deeper into this allegation. I would also like to request all the Members to sincerely approach this issue and find out whether there is truth in this allegation. They should find out whether it is really the failure of the Government which has led to the destruction of such a reputed shrine which was a symbol of secularism as not only Muslims but people belonging to other religions also used to offer prayers there. If it is due to the indifference or failure on the part of the Government, it really is a serious matter.

Our past experience tells us that a situation like this should be dealt with utmost care and planning. Today the Government of India is being criticised for its action in this regard. But we find that the mover of the Adjournment Motion, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, who is the best Parliamentarian and the most effective speaker, could not put forth his argument forcibly. I am not making any insinuation but I feel that this shows that the Government alone cannot be blamed for what has happened to Charar-e-Sharief.

The situation that is prevailing in Kashmir is known to everybody. The Government of India is trying to solve this complicated problem with a definite and concrete plan. That plan is to be accepted by all the political

parties. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has said that all the political parties were not taken into confidence. I request the Government to take all the political parties into confidence and discuss such matters with them in detail. This issue was debated in the House on several occasions and every time the Government came forward with its suggestions openly. The political differences never stand in its way to come to the right conclusions. Today I feel very much distressed to hear from seasoned politicians like Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Chandra Shekhar that in the background of what has happened in Charar-e-Sharief the proposal for elections in Kashmir should be postponed. This probably would be the greatest mistake which we may be committing if we accept this proposal at the present moment.

I recall, Sir, more or less a similar situation was prevailing in Punjab which was also highlighted by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. An allegation was made in this very House by the very same Members that less than 20-30 per cent of the voters would be able to participate in the elections. We were criticised for the way in which the elections were conducted in Punjab. I feel the democratic process can start only in this way. We all know the situation which is prevailing now in Punjab. There are by-elections in Punjab. We are getting the newspaper reports that various Opposition parties are contesting against the Congress Party and they claim that they will win the elections. Today, various Opposition parties, especially the Akali Dal, are taking part in elections. They are certain that there will be free and fair elections and they also claim to win the elections. It is all because of the determination of the Government which held elections in Punjab despite the threat of the extremists.

Sir, even after the occurrence of this unfortunate incident the Prime Minister has deliberately made a declaration that we are not going to go back from our decision of holding elections in Kashmir. In the background of this unfortunate incident, a suggestion is being made in this House by very respectable, honourable and experienced Members that we should postpone the election. There may be complaints in respect electoral rolls. There are avenues and opportunities to rectify the mistakes if there are any anomalies and discrepancies in the electoral rolls it can be corrected and this can only be done when holding elections.

Sir, the world opinion on Kashmir has been changing. We have been watching that a few countries in the world who were lenient to Pakistan have stopped being so. They have watched India functioning neutrally and democratically. That kind of situation is helping us. Probably, we have to make use of that situation and decide to go on with election in Kashmir. Probably, just before the Charar-e-Sharief incident the atmosphere was becoming so conducive that the Government was hopeful and was going ahead with determination for holding election in Kashmir. Steps were being taken.

All political parties were taken into confidence including those political parties who were supporting the enemy from across the Border. Many Opposition Members also had discussions with some of the members connected with the Hurriyat who came to Delhi. The new leadership which has come in up the valley had discussions with some of the Opposition parties of this House.

Sir, the Government did not keep quiet. The Government held discussions. The Government had initiated deliberate discussion with the political parties. Not only those political parties which were supporting the Government's view but those which were opposing the Government's view also were taken into confidence. The new leadership which has developed in Kashmir was also consulted. We should not lose sight of the facts in Kashmir. The people who have so far been supporting those coming from across the Border have lost hope in them. Those who were totally dependent on the aliens started realising that their promises no more hold good for them and the independence of Kashmir or the Kashmir becoming a part of Pakistan is no more going to be a reality. Having realised this, they began thinking that election process probably is the only thing which is the solution for Kashmir issue. Conducting free and fair polls as far as possible is probably the only solution to the Kashmir issue.

In creating the situation, Sir, this Government did not keep quiet. On many occasions this issue has been discussed in this House. Mr. Rajesh Pilot, the Minister who was in charge of the Kashmir issue till recently, on a number of occasions, visited Kashmir and started political initiative there. Before all kinds of force, before all kinds of challenges, before all kinds of difficulties caused by the extremists with their foreign supporters, the Ministers of Government of India were going to Kashmir and they were initiating a political process.

Now, the Home Minister and the Finance Minister, on the advice of the Prime Minister visited Kashmir and had an aerial survey of the Charar-e-Sharief. Shri Somnath Chatterjee's allegation was that they could only make an aerial survey. Sir, I am surprised that some Members are making this kind of allegations. Everyone knows that Parliament is meeting today and we are going to discuss the issue. It was the duty of the Home Minister and the senior member of the Government to go to Kashmir to have first hand information and come back to report to this House.

Sir, another notice was given by Shri George Fernandes for this Adjournment Motion. We cannot forget what happened in the past when Shri George Fernandes was the Minister-in-Charge of Kashmir in the previous non-Congress Government. I still remember that a Vice-Chancellor was butchered. One of the most dignified personalities in Kashmir lost his life. Shri George Fernandes may recall that his plane could not land in Kashmir. He kept flying around in the sky. We remember what happened during those days.

But, they take objection to Shri Chavan and Shri Manmohan Singh not making *padayatra* there. How can they make *padayatra* when mines are being planted near Charar-e-Sharief by the extremists? If they say that is the mistake of the Government, then we are prepared to admit that mistake. Kashmir is such a place, where danger is lurking in every inch of land. There, we are prepared to risk our life. This Government is prepared to take any risk. I would like to say that the Opposition Parties in this House are duty bound to support this Government not only on this issue but also on such other issues. Let them use some other opportunity to pull down this Government and not now. I would like to mention here that the hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri Vajpayee and his Party had tried on all previous occasions to pull down the Government, but, Sir, today, he, with his folded hands, requested the Prime Minister to resign. Of course, it is a good strategy to request the Prime Minister, with folded hands, to resign. Probably they are looking only at the Chair, of the PM. But this is not the way to deal with the political issue and that too an issue which is so sensitive as the Kashmir issue. Shri Chandra Shekhar has said that probably we are not taking the issue with that seriousness which we are expected to take. Particularly this dastardly act of destruction of this Shrine was committed with a definite intention of postponing the elections in Kashmir.

Sir, I condemn this action and express my sympathies to the people of Kashmir. Sir, the Prime Minister had already declared that Rs. 15 crore will be provided for rebuilding the houses and the Shrine which Noorani Wali have been destroyed. In addition to this Shrine in the name of Nooruddin about one thousand houses had been gutted in this small town. So, it is the bounden duty of every Indian to re-build the Shrine which is the symbol of love and sacrifice. The offers which had been made by the Government are being treated very lightly by the Opposition Parties. I can understand any other differences. I can understand their pointing an accusing finger at the Government on the economic policy or any other issue but not on this issue.

With deep anguish and sorrow, I condemn this dastardly act. Although I appreciate the spirit behind bringing forward this Resolution, I would like to tell Shri Somnath Chatterjee who brought forward this Resolution that this is not an issue on which he should try to grill this Government. This is not an issue on which he should blame the Government. Irrespective of your differences - the whole world is watching the Indian Parliament from outside — to see that, we are standing together and we should take a position which will defeat Pakistan's machinations. Such a message should go from the Parliament of India to the people of the world.

With these few words, I oppose this Resolution.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission this question was raised in the House on the 10th of this month and we had been permitted by you to raise it first. Charar-e-Sharief was gutted down at 2.30 on the 10th.

I listened to all the speeches delivered today by the Members of the Treasury benches. A tradition of sorts had developed for the last four years to first commit a mistake and thereafter have a detailed discussion aimed at finding out the factors leading to that mistake and then continue with it going the round about way. If mistake is committed once, twice or even thrice, that can be understood but our no step has led us towards any kind of success in case of Kashmir. Terrorists or those external forces which do not want India to progress are chalking out an agenda and the kind of agenda or policy being chalked out by us are such that later we try to wriggle out of it. In other words, we are not formulating any agenda ourselves, the people of India have no say in it. This agenda is being chalked out by those external forces which want to create troubles in our country. The Hazratbal incident or whatever happened in Amritsar should not have taken place. This country thrives on religion, that is our country is the only country in the world where religion has such deep roots. I think barring 1-2 gods all other gods were born in our country only. There are innumerable graves of great men in our country. The number of gods in our country is 33 crores. Our population is of 70 crore people that means there is one god for every two persons.

Shri Chandra Shekhar rightly said just now that we can lead the world only in one field. I have never studied spirituality seriously but it must have been linked with God then in this way maybe we can lead. So far as the Hazratbal incident is concerned, we are aware that the extremists of this country have only acted this way. The people of this country have great faith in God and graves of their holy men. They are so obsessed with these things that they strongly believe that they get everything including their children from God. No other place attracts such crowds elsewhere in the world as do these places in our country. These days such places are drawing more crowds than even petrol pumps. This country is the most aberrated country in the world. I do not understand as to where is God. I do not dwell deep into this malaise but I would like to say that the biggest of all our social malaises is the blind faith of our people in all the temples and mosques.

Sir, the extremists create trouble in our country. People belonging to North-Eastern areas are though, extremists but I must congratulate them for not having over-indulgence in gods or idol-worshipping, etc. These people seem good to me to some extent otherwise people in all other parts of our country are having very bad tendencies. I am including myself. We can make use of anything. I mean to say that whatever took place

in Charar-e-Sharief amounts to treason. Now, we have all seen what happened in the case of golden temple, how people got embroiled there. The soldiers deserted army. Such was their faith. In other words, if you want to run the country, it must be done according to the sentiments and whims of the people. These are the people whom you have to improve. People take refuge in these shrines.

Sir, what steps have been taken by the Government in the aftermath of the Hazratbal incident to ensure that extremists do not take refuge in Charar-e-Sharief. We are not aware but people of that area are telling that it was difficult to tell as to who were in larger number—Hindus or Muslims? The hon. Member has just said a very interesting thing that only the Gods are Hindu or Muslim in this country. Atalji just mentioned that like it is not known to which community the Saint of Charar-e-Sharief belonged to - Hindu or a Muslim, as is the case with Kabirji. In this country a human does not take birth, a Hindu, or a Muslim or some other belonging to some other caste takes birth. Here in Parliament we keep shouting that casteism should be done away with. We are unique people and this present discussion is also unique. That is why I want to say that Hindus and Muslims had equal reverence and faith for Charar-e-Sharief. Why did they not pay any attention to Charar-e-Sharief earlier. They detailed military only later why was it not done earlier? Shri Chandra Shekharji said something useful as to why some transparency was not allowed. Shri Chandra Shekharji does not remember one thing that the world media had reached Srinagar on the 18th but they were stopped-till 21st, they were not allowed to enter. When we knew that Charar-e-Sharief was surrounded by military, and militants were holed up inside and in the event of a military attack the wooden grave would be burnt and would turn in pieces by rifles, then the only sensible thing was to allow them to enter. Those people went there but they were not allowed to enter.

Sir, the statements made on behalf of the Government, including one from our External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khursheed reminded me of my college life when we used to have debates in college and we would be required to give synonymous words of a given word, e.g., for the word love, words like affection, passion, etc. would be given and the person who came out with maximum number of words would receive the first prize. His speech gave me a *deja vu* feeling. The same thing was repeated that elections would be held and it would usher in democracy. Hey, somebody is asking you about religion. When our Prime Minister visits the US he does not find a mention on the front page of news-papers. I do not mean to say that if a Member of our party becomes the Prime Minister he will get a warm welcome in the US but nobody gives it a serious thought. It happens because we have made our country weak, poor and helpless. It will not do by singing national song and the song of democracy will

not strengthen our country, the democracy will not strengthen, it will continue to be barren. By 'barren' I mean by a country which does not generate employment, does not think about the poor, is indifferent towards farmers. If a country does not do any work then such a democracy will be called barren only. You want to hold elections in Kashmir to usher in democracy and we listened to the speeches of both the brothers in this regard and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ji also spoke just now. He is a very unpredictable person. He can insult anybody any time. He likes to insult people. Sir, we have been contesting elections since our university days. We really used to do funny things in those days but the times have changed. But the speech of Shri Aiyar reminded us of our old days. If we had met in those times then he would not have got other people to create trouble. He says anything to anybody. It is not a good thing. He also said that the elections should be held. When Charar-e-Sharief was burned down, in respect of which we are having discussion on the Adjournment Motion moved, Masjid was also pulled down in Ayodhya. The whole country is on the verge of ruination, petrol is not available.

Diesel is also not available, there is unemployment and factories are lying closed. Now a days the places of worship are also being destroyed. Therefore, the issue of Charar-e-Sharief has been raised here. How the elections will be held there when Shri Pilot could not save the Charar-e-Sharief! When I listened to his speech and for the first time I felt that no one else can be more gossipy than him in this world. He was making big claims that Pakistan will be set right. It will be given a befitting reply... (*Interruptions*) Now you both can reply to each other.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, gossipy is not a parliamentary term.

MR. SPEAKER : This will be excluded from the proceedings if it is an unparliamentary term.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will withdraw the word 'gossipy' if Shri Pilot has any objection to it. Though it is not an unparliamentary term.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not heard clearly what he said.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : What I have said is a meaningless term.

MR. SPEAKER : This is my ruling that it is not an unparliamentary term.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I have said this because I consider Shri Pilot a brave man. He works hard to extract results. But he also convened a meeting involving the same officials who were responsible to spoil the

matter. Even after that he warned that Pakistan will be set right, no disturbance, do not move ahead of it. You have burnt Charar-e-Sharief but no other disturbance will be tolerated. It is alright that you entered Hazratbal but do not move further. Newspapers have published the news items that Mastgul has left Charar-e-Sharief and gone to Gopia town and now he is preparing to enter the sacred shrine 'Asare Sharief' in nearby Tizara village. What will happen if he enters there. Our military will sit outside that shrine. Mr. Speaker, Sir, now in this incident of 'Asare Sharief' if we have nay bravery we can call our neighbours to show that how this person is troubling us and why he is chasing us. Mastgul is a determined and tough man. He kept on running even after he was shot. He is a tough man and it will be difficult if he escapes. He has been fighting for the last seven-eight years. He is a foreigner and we could not overpower him. Our records show that we do not know how to fight and if I would say anything in this regard, all the members will stand to interrupt me and I will have to conclude my speech. I agree with the views expressed by Chandra Shekhar ji and you should do that if you want to control the situation. All the authorities viz. Military, BSF and General Krishna Rao have different modus-operandi. They work on different line of action. You should have deputed a brave political person like Dwarka Prasad Mishra or Shri Govind Narayan Singh. There are several brave persons who can solve this problem but they are unemployed, sitting idle and leading a poor life in U.P. and Bihar. Such people could have solved this problem efficiently. Mani Shankar Aiyarji is an articulate in his opinion and say something good and useful...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : You keep on speaking whatever you like. Every time you use unparliamentary language.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sister, I accepted what you have said. I am afraid of you. Please sit down.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, this will not go on record.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I withdraw my word if it is unparliamentary. Mr. Speapker, Sir, I would like to say that the Prime Minister was wholly responsible whether it is a matter of Kashmir, Ayodhya or any other matter. Now I would not like to go deep into the controversy that how it happened but that further deteriorated the situation. Now he is dealing with the Kashmir issue. His hands are really efficient and today condition is that any object touched by his hands that becomes a stone.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Bofors issue is also in his hands.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : No one is going to touch that issue because several other bigger.scandals.have taken place after that. We are raising the Bofors issue tomorrow. We are not going to leave this issue. But several other persons have left this issue because if a hue and cry is made against one issue today, next day another big and sensitive scandal comes before the people and earlier issue is left behind. Thus people are tired of selecting the scandals to be debated.

People from ruling party have suggested elections as solution for this situation. I would like to make 3-4 points on it. People like us are also in favour of elections. My party has given a suggestion that elections should be held if the situation there is normal. I am of the firm opinion that elections are the only remedy to set the things rights anywhere in India. If elections are held in a village where only one Panchayat is functioning, that Panchayat will be divided into ten because there are thousands of castes whether a person is Hindu or Muslim it is difficult to get rid of casteism. I would like to know as to what efforts have been made to create a cordial atmosphere for holding elections. Today he has focused his attention on the statement made by the Home Secretary and read it here. It is wonderful. Has he not found any other person or whether his statement will serve the purpose? Whether you have taken any political measures in this regard? He was asking that how many people among us have visited the area. My leg was broken but even then we had gone there and stayed for five days. One of my friends who studied with me in Engineering College was also there. While speaking to a waiter we came to know that around 30 thousands girls have been sent outside. Extremists are involved in this work. Alongwith extremist activities they also earn money by doing this work. For this reason, people are sending their daughters outside the State for studying. They told us that they were the people who were leading this movement but now the situation has taken such a turn that the person working as a cook in the family ask the head of the family to marry their daughter to him. Therefore the people have sent their daughters outside the State for study. As per the estimates I would like to say that 30 to 40 thousand Hindu families and around two and half thousand Muslim families have migrated from Kashmir. Whether you have made any arrangements that how those people would be able to cast their votes at the time of elections in the State. I have heard that Shri T.N. Sheshan has met the Prime Minister yesterday. They may be serious on the issue of elections. I would like to ask from the Government as to what efforts it has made to bring back those Kashmir people to their homes who have migrated, if at all the Government wants to complete the political process for the elections.

Weaving is the main occupation in Kashmir. There is not hotel in any city of the country which does not have Kashmir emporium. You can gather all those people, who are relatives of the migrated people. You

* Not Recorded.

can talk to them and can start political process for holding the elections. I have discussed this issue with the Minister of Home Affairs for half an hour that Kashmiri people living in other parts of the country should be involved in this process but no attention has been paid to it.

Shri Salman Khurshid is saying that we have to show to the world that there is democracy in our country and we are the largest democratic country. I will be happy if he could show. I will consider him as great person when all the Kashmiri people will take part in the elections. Suppose elections are held there and only five votes are cast and some dangerous situation is created as has been said by Shri Chandra Shekharji and myself. So it is essential to improve the law and order situation there first. We are not avoiding elections but leaders from my party have asked to provide some package for Kashmir. We all are demanding autonomy. You should discuss it with people as to what package you are going to offer for Kashmir? Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country has been sick for centuries, we can solve this problem with determination, patience and wisdom as we are not much powerful. We are weak and even then we challenge others and that is the reason for our betrayal, Kashmir is an example of it. China is adjoining to it which has annexed the whole Tibet but no country is ready to raise this issue. Though everyone discusses this issue but no one dares to say anything against China because it is powerful and thus the issue is under discussion. We are weak, so we should solve our problems cleverly. Our whole Cabinet dances and sings to their tunes when any US Secretary of State visits our country because we are not much powerful...

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sharadji, do you remember that during the rule of your party one ambassador had gone out of way to clean the shoes of visiting foreign dignitaries.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are not listening to me carefully. In this context I have said that we would have been in the same position if we were dealing with this problem. I am accepting it and telling fairly because I also had been in the Government. We know about the reality and plight of the Government. There will be no change and the situation will be same whosoever is the ruling party. But if we were in power, we will use our ability and wisdom to solve this problem. We also think for welfare of the poor.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Do you feel that we are so weak as has been told by you?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am not saying that you are strong. You should be more powerful but powerful person is not allowed to stay for long. You are strong but not other. I am not saying it only about you but say it for all. I would like to say that Charar-e-Sharief was burnt due to their idleness even after the incident of Hazratnab. Now Mastgool will enter some other Asare Sharief and after 15 days you will say that it has also been burnt but it should not be so. You should make

arrangements to protect other shrines, which are centre of people's faith. Military should be deployed around those and people entering there should be searched. When you can put metal detector in Kashi then what is wrong in using it in Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you wish to hold elections in Kashmir but why the people of Kashmir protested against you even after the incident of Charar-e-Sharief. You have faith in them and not in us. I would like to make a suggestion that reservation quota should be fixed for Kashmiri youth in medical and engineering colleges to inculcate faith and confidence among them. When those people will come here to study and know the reality and tell it there to other people which is essential for the integrity of the country. It is alright that you wish to hold elections in Kashmir. I have warned you about the obstacles that could pose a problem during the elections. Today you are ruling the country and you can bring a good name or bad name for your Government. I have said what I felt. Earlier both these issues were with the Prime Minister. Pilotji was not holding the charge of this Ministry. For the first time you have become active on Kashmir issue. You have evicted terrorists only after the incident of burning of Charar-e-Sharief. Chavanji visited the place for the first time. Hon. Prime Minister is also looking into the matter. Now he should care for the country. He had ruled the country efficiently for last four-five years. Now what is the problem if another person is given a chance to rule, so that the future Government will have a fear that he has to leave the chair if any Charar-e-Sharief is burnt. The person who is accountable for such incidents should leave the chair himself otherwise the public will remove him during elections. I would like to say that Kashmir problem could be solved and elections could be held there if the Government works with the cooperation and consensus of other political parties. The only punishment for Charar-e-Sharief is that you should go there and select some other person to deal with this sensitive issue so that no Charar-e-Sharief could be burnt in future. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH (Satna) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Please speak in Hindi.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : It is not the last chance.

[English]

Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words. I have no intention to match rhetoric with rhetoric or polemics with polemics because I feel it is a very sterile effort. The situation that has emerged after this unfortunate event is far too grave for an exercise of this kind. I do not have to remind this hon.

House that Kashmir was the place where all the basic tenets, precepts and postulates, which the great leaders of this country and the people who followed them during the freedom struggle, evolved, and it is this soil where it was put to a final test, even as the tragedy of the partition of India was unfolded. Therefore, in my humble opinion, it is not merely a question of failure of an administrative set up, nor of the political entities, we have to look at this matter in the background of what India went out to become, where we have come and where we have to go. If we do not have this wide canvas, then we might get caught in the passions of the moment and the prejudices of the moment and try to raise fingers against each other. I was really saddened when some senior leaders of this House had to stand up and request your intervention to bring the debate to a certain level.

That necessity should not have arisen. What are we facing in Jammu and Kashmir? It is not only the fragility of a shrine which has been reduced to ashes. I would like to say in anguish and humility that what we are facing not only in Kashmir but in the entire country is the fragility of our beliefs, commitments and faith in the basic tenets of this Republic. If that is fragile, we cannot impart an artificial strength to any part of the country. This is what has happened. That moral fibre which enables us to stand up and face the mightiest of adversaries — as we have done in the past — that courage of conviction which gives us the imagination which gives us the capacity to take initiative to resolve matters of conflict under very trying circumstances are, in my humble opinion, now lacking. And unless we have that, whether it is an Ayodhya or whether it is Charar-e-Sharief or whether, as my dear friend Shri Yadav has said, it is some other place tomorrow, we shall only be counting the sad demolition of the places of worship where faith is reposed by ordinary people of all religions in the country.

I know some people would say that what I am saying hardly has any relevance to the situation which this House is discussing today and I say this also because it was very evident that accountability which is the keystone of any democratic institution has now acquired a very sullied condition. I do not want to invoke that. What I do want to point out, with your permission, is that we have not given thought and have not attempted to comprehend in totality what is at stake in Kashmir. The sporadic initiatives which come now and then because something is happening or because something is forced on us do not in themselves constitute a Kashmir policy.

I would like to inform this House of a very embarrassing moment I faced in Jammu a few years ago. When an all-party delegation met me, and after discussions on the subjects which were under my charge at that time, naturally they asked me: 'What is the policy of the Government of India on Kashmir?' It is the matter of record because it appeared in the press even

then. I said: 'I cannot, as of now, answer this question in all sincerity'. Coming back from there, we made an effort that the Cabinet system of Government which evolves strategies and stratagems and takes decisions must have a comprehensive discussion on the problems of Kashmir and we should all be involved in evolving a policy on Kashmir. I am not letting out a Cabinet secret because nothing was discussed, at least to the best of my recollection. There was never any comprehensive discussion on Kashmir in the Cabinet and no policy framework emerged out of such a discussion till I was a member of the Cabinet.

Sir, I am not complaining, because against whom can I complain? And to complain is not the essence of what we are facing today. We cannot have a piecemeal approach to a problem of this dimension.

I agree with Mr. Aiyar that after all, we have, first, to devise the contours of the crisis, then devise the strategy that we have to evolve and then see how that strategy is to be implemented. If the contours are not yet clear, the strategy is bound to be halting or half-way; how it will be implemented is now being witnessed day in and day out in the events that are following in such quick succession in that tormented piece of our country.

Sir, he was waxing eloquent and pointing a finger at a former Head of State over there. I do not want to go into personal factors. Every person who occupies an office, must presume that he tries to do his best according to his own perceptions. He may go wrong, his decisions may be wrong, he may commit mistakes, but there are certain basic parameters which a democratic system has laid down for itself which we should not ignore, because that can lead to certain incongruities which could cause problems and which will then become difficult to address.

Sir, we have a very distinguished soldier of this country as the Head of State in Jammu and Kashmir. He is a man of great honour, ability and his services to the Motherland, I am sure, are second to none. But he is heading a civil administration and that civil administration is controlling, to some extent, the operations of the Army in that State of least guiding them, if not totally controlling them. Certain psychological factors have emerged which should be taken note of, without creating an impression that somebody is right and somebody is wrong. We have very defined parameters in this regard. I am not against any former General or Officer of the Army assuming office. That is all right. But in such troubled places where decisions are of such great import every day, the delicacy of relationship between a former General and an officiating General, working General has created problems and that must be taken note of. I am not apportioning blame either on this one or that one.

The second thing, Sir, is about how do bring about a sense of normalcy there so that we could have elections. Every single person sitting here in this august

House has entered the portals of this House only through the mandate of the people. There cannot be any doubt that each one of us is not only beholden, but is the end result of a democratic exercise. How can anyone here say that there should not be any democratic option open in Jammu and Kashmir? But the question is very simple. A democratic option, Sir, is exercised under two very overriding situations. Firstly, there should be peace and tranquility. Secondly, there should be an unfettered opportunity to exercise one's right to vote. If the Government is satisfied that these pre-conditions exist there, not only to their satisfaction, but to the satisfaction of the entire country all sections of the political framework, certainly they can go ahead with the elections. But we should not try to have an election only because we have a strategy to perform. This country, Sir, is too vast; its problems are too complex to lend themselves to any kind of simple manipulation.

16.00 hrs.

This has to be borne in mind. Only then a decision to hold the election can be taken. A lot of comments were made but as I have already said at the beginning, I have no intention of involving myself. I do believe and I concede that we are not prepared to ask why the people of Kashmir have gone away from us. If we cannot ask this question, I do not think we can equip ourselves properly and then involve ourselves honestly and sincerely to find an answer to the satisfaction of the alienated and if the satisfaction of the alienated is not an objective, then I believe, it means that we would like the situation to go on as it is and somehow correct itself and enable us to claim credit for it. Such miracles are dreamt of but the world has not seen any such miracle happening in practice. In a country which is run democratically, decisions have to be taken under very difficult circumstances. In places where we have perhaps the whole framework of decision making in a shambles because of terrorism, militancy, fundamentalism and yet those decisions have to be taken. In all humility, though I am not making any comparison, there was a situation in Punjab where we were faced with practically the same question, the same scenario, the same option but two things were very clearly available. One, the line of command was clear and unambiguous - the decision to be taken at what level and by whom. There was no ambiguity and the time framework within which such decision have to be taken was not inconsistent with the requirements of the moment. If a decision has to be taken in the time span of two hours, it cannot be taken fruitfully in the time span of two weeks. A similar situation arose where just on the day when nominations to the Assembly elections were to be started, Sant Longonval was assassinated. The terrorists there wanted to see that the electoral democratic process is vitiated, thwarted or abandoned because all these people cannot withstand the force of the will of the people which can only be demonstrated by democratic elections. Many hon. Members who are sitting here

were present in this House that day when the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, while taking counsel from everyone decided that in spite of what had happened, the election would go and he made a statement in this House. One sentence of which still rings in my ears - 'whether we win or lose, democracy will win' and democracy won because even in the shadow of such a dastardly assassination, not a single life was lost, not a single act of violence took place and the elections in Punjab may not have suited one political party or the other but at least the people of Punjab were satisfied that they have been given an opportunity to exercise their democratic right and work according to their own conviction. Is this thing possible in Jammu and Kashmir today? Let us in all honesty ask ourselves, if it is possible and I am sure, the responsibility is that of the Government. They will satisfy first themselves, then they will satisfy this House and then they will satisfy the country.

But the dangers that lurk ahead which have been very pointedly brought to the notice of this House by Shri Chandra Shekharji are not figments of imagination.

So far as relations with Pakistan which are inextricably linked with the situation of Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, I am not equipped to say much on it. There were two things which must be borne in mind. Pakistan has not been able to overcome the trauma which they are not themselves able to define. Which is the trauma that still grips their mind? Is it the defeat of the two-nation theory in India even though Pakistan was born? Or is it the fact that a vast majority of the minority community accepted in good faith and with open conviction the fact that India is a land of peace, is a secular place where their rights and their future are safe? Or is it the trauma that is born out of the three unsuccessful aggressions they have launched on this country? The Government of Pakistan have not been able to get out of it. But that is not so, so far as the broad mass of the people of Pakistan are concerned. It is time that we made conscious and genuine attempt to build bridges with the people of Pakistan. I know there are a lot of hurdles on the way. Even simple things like trade, cultural and educational exchanges are not allowed. But there has to be a sense of determination in that effort.

There are certain things which we must also take care of. Pakistan knows and we know that at any point of time if they choose to challenge the might of India, the result will be what it has been in the past. There cannot be any other result. But why should we expose people here to the wild of visiting dignitaries from Pakistan who openly try to convince these people that what they see is in the real interest of India and not what we in this country feel is in the real interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Hurriyat leaders had an audience here in New Delhi. They were given a lecture and I perhaps feel more that a lecture. Was that necessary? Or was it a part of diplomacy which has some other objective in view? Maybe. But we do not know. We have to be careful about this.

In the end, I would like to conclude with one observation. As a very famous Roman philosopher said, no country and no leader can do justice to himself or to his country unless he is aware of the limits of power. This is a heady and a very intoxicating drug. I think crossing these limits, opening up such dark and sinister attitudes ultimately cause great damage to nation's psyche and future in a democratic set up which really saps the energy, saps the initiative, and saps what it takes for a democracy to work, with its total participation, total self-confidence and balance and ultimately an urge, a desire and a commitment to serve country and the people whom we have the honour to represent in this House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall be quite brief. We are perforce engaged in a painful exercise as they are sitting in a *post mortem* over the ashes of Charar-e-Sharief - not only the Shrine but also the houses, the homes of hundreds of people. It has been a monumental failure of our Intelligence. I do not wish to go into details about this because so many other colleagues have spoken about that. And I say it because we also come to this judgement. We can only come to this judgment on the basis of whatever information is available to us. We do not know about that. The Government has not told us what feedback the Government was actually getting from our Intelligence Services during this prolonged period when these insurgents or terrorists has entered the town of Charar-e-Sharief and later on entered the Shrine and were busy with their activities of laying mines and so on. We do not know about that. But this was going on since February. People are asking why the security forces were not able to prevent these people from going in or from storing the arms there and so on. If the Intelligence has provided them with the warnings, then, perhaps they could have done something. I do not know about it. I remember even at the time of the Golden Temple affair in Amritsar, plenty of arms were carried into the Temple and stored there although the Temple area was surrounded by security forces. To this day, we do not know how this was permitted unless of course there was some collusion. But it did happen.

Sir, I wish to emphasise some general realities, broad realities when we are dealing with this kind of a situation. It has also been stated that this is a multi-religious country; people are very much exercised by religious sentiments and different communities are there with their own places of worship. And in such a country if you are concerned with maintaining the unity of the country, the protection of such shrines, whichever religious community they may belong to, must be a must, a top priority. Our record in this matter has not been too commendable, whoever may be to blame. I am not blaming anybody. I could, of course, start accusing various people who are involved in this. The fact of the matter is that starting from the Golden Temple issue, we do not mind - and we cannot mind - if some

lives are lost, if some terrorists or even members of the security forces have to make a sacrifice. But the Shrine should be preserved, the Shrine should be protected because it has a much wider connotation.

In the case of the Golden Temple, many lives were lost. The main Shrine of Harminder Sahib was protected but the Akal Takht could not be protected. I need not repeat here again what its fall out was. It is one of the most tragic and dismal chapters in our history. In the case of the Babri Masjid, we could not protect it from being demolished although a whole number of public assurances had been given by the Chief Minister, by the Prime Minister saying that no damage would be allowed to come to the Babri Masjid, but those assurances could not be kept.

And now we have come to Charar-e-Sharief where the whole township including the Shrine has been burnt to ashes. Our security forces were there in position. But they were not able to intervene and not able to protect the Shrine. My first contention is that in a country like this, if the protection of places of religious worship cannot be effectively carried out by the Government, then if a whole series of mishaps takes place, as has happened in this country, the unity of our country, which after all has a history of running into thousands of years - we have a composite culture; we have so many religions, so many different cultures in this country - will not be preserved. That unity is in grave danger of fragmentation. One of the key points is the protection of these religious shrines. We have passed an Act also in this House. But the question is, what happens on the ground.

The second point I wish to make is that while dealing with the situation in Kashmir, we have to remember whether we like it or not, that we are behaving with an alienated people, we are treating with an alienated people. Who is responsible for that? I am not going into that also. The long history of alienation - how it came about, how people who virtually compelled the Maharaja to accede to India against his wishes and did not go to Pakistan, how the people who almost bare-handed fought back the first wave of Pakistani invaders, tribal invaders and drove them back, how such people have now become completely alienated from us - is, of course, a matter of much pain and sorry. But the fact is that you are dealing with an alienated people. I regret to see from the press reports, if they are to be believed that the general mass of people there in Charar-e-Sharief and maybe in other towns of Kashmir are reportedly putting the blame for the burning of that town on the army, on our army. Nobody says that Shri Mast Gul or his other mercenaries have done this. Is it a fact? Is it a fact that the masses of people there do not put the blame on these people and all are accusing the army of having set fire to the township, of blaming the army helicopters for having scattered some sort of powder or something over the town which was an incendiary powder? I do not believe it. But I regret that some of our top journals..

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Helicopters cannot fly in the night.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : ...leading media in this country who are enjoying the atmosphere of liberalism, should also know what limits they should not go beyond. Yesterday, I read a newspaper, I was in Calcutta, where the front page, the whole eight columns was covered by one headline which said that this powder had been scattered from the air by the army helicopters and also that people everywhere were blaming only the army. Nobody blame Shri Mast Gul and his friends. If that is a fact, if people are really in that mood, then the extent and the depth of the alienation that has come about should be seriously taken by us.

I am not suggesting that there should be censorship of the newspapers. We are not in favour of censorship. There should be some self-censorship. In a critical period like this, there should be some sense of restraint or responsibility on the part of many leading newspapers of this country. I regret to say this. These leading newspapers go on giving news not only to the people of our country, but also abroad. This will be taken as an evidence. Indian newspapers constantly write that the people in Kashmir are convinced that everything there-setting fire to this old township and all that - has been done by the Army. No contradiction comes from the Government's side. I do not know why the Government keeps quiet on these matters. It is an intolerable state of affairs. It is these Indian newspapers which are quoted as evidence abroad. What better evidence could there be? I do not want to name those newspapers. Not all newspapers behave like this, but, some have.

The third thing I want to say and I say it with conviction, is that our Army, because of the duties that are being imposed on that Army has become a much maligned Army. I do not say that the Army personnel here and there do not commit things which they should not do, but a general picture which is held out of an Army which is interested in nothing except committing atrocities on people, an Army whose prime job is to defend our borders against external aggression, whose prime job is not internal security duties, that Army is more and being pushed into playing a role which is the worst possible thing for the Army's discipline. It is not its job to go rounding up people from civilian areas, taking people away for interrogation, looking for some people who are supposed to be absconding and so on. This is not the job of the Army. Why? One reason is that it brings them more and more into direct confrontation with the civilian population, a thing which should be avoided at all costs.

After that it is *jawans* who are blamed for everything that follows. The *jawans* have their own training. We know what the Army training is and you cannot expect them not to behave in a particular way if they are attacked and something like that. But, this is not the way to run the Army in these areas where they are

constantly being brought into confrontation with the civilian population and the thing which is more detrimental to the Army's young morale and discipline in the long run.

Fourthly, I would say on the date which is approaching fast. If we do not go in for election - I am coming to that later on - the only alternative left to us is to pass a Constitution Amendment and further extend the period of President's Rule in Kashmir. Our experience of this, so many time we have done, in my view is that is entirely unproductive. It has not solved any problem. It has further alienated the people from us. It sends out the message that all we got for them, in store, is this President's Rule which is *danda*. We talk about democratic process, this and that. But, every time what we have been doing is just extending this President's Rule and now if we again go through that exercise, I think, at this particular point of time, nothing could be more disastrous. So, the signal sent out will be a very wrong one, if we opt for that course.

Now, Sir, the only option left is to go in for elections. All the difficulties bristle with difficulties. The path to elections in Kashmir bristles with difficulties. There is no question of having any illusions about it.

But the point is whether it is in the long run going to be better for the people to feel that they are being ruled by their own elected representatives or they are being ruled only from Delhi. There is every chance. We do not want an election in which people will not participate. That will be ridiculous. It will become a farce, a mockery. We have to have an election in which at least a substantial number of people can participate, will cast their votes.

The Hurriyat which claims to represent 27 organisations, the leaders of the Hurriyat have been reported to have said recently after their meeting here with the President of Pakistan, which was allowed, that they will not participate in any elections. I do not know whether this is a correct version of their statement or not. If the Hurriyat comes out with a call for a boycott of the elections, as things stand at present, do we really feel that people will go and vote? Earlier, you see as in Punjab, at one time it was the fear of the gun. Anybody who goes to vote was in danger of not getting back home again. Perhaps that fear of the gun has not entirely gone away in Kashmir. It may be there surely. But I think stronger than that would be the fear of defying a boycott call given by a body like Hurriyat.

So we want election, but an election which will not be a mockery, an election in which people participate. My main grouse with the Government is that they are not doing anything so far. They are not doing any ground work; they are not doing any spade work; they are not taking any measures which would try to reconcile the people to the idea of an election. We would like to hear from the Prime Minister whether he has any idea about these things. I do not know.

Sir, we had some talk, quite a detailed talk, a prolonged talk with Shabbir Shah when he came here. We called him, we wanted to talk to him. The Government, as far as I know, does not talk to these people at all. They are still clinging to the illusion of a former leader who I think has got no ground now to stand on in the Valley. One time he was all powerful. At one time his party had cadres in every village in the Valley. But now they feel abandoned. Some of them have been killed; some of them have had to leave their homes; some of them are so demoralised because of lack of leadership that their party does not exist except in name now. If the Government of India thinks that by linking their fortunes with that gentleman again something is going to happen to their benefit, I am afraid, it will not. So many new forces have emerged in the Valley. They have to be taken into account. You may not like their views. They are younger people, true. They began their careers as part of the anti-Government forces. They took to arms. Some of them were arrested. They spent long years in jail. Then some of them were released. From what I know, they got very big public receptions outside when they came out of the jail. Such people are there. Now they are not for the gun. Now they are for negotiations. Do you negotiate with them? You have not negotiated with them as far as I know. Negotiations may fail. But it is a hundred times better than standing aloof from everybody. How will you manage to get closer to the people whom you expect to participate in an election?

The Government knows very well that one - not the only one, but one principal factor which has led to this alienation is the way in which elections have been held over the years. There has hardly been an election except one perhaps, which was not patently rigged. Once an election was held, which was not rigged, or not so much rigged, and a Government was formed as a result of that election. And that Government, shortly afterwards, was destabilized and chucked out by the machinations of people in Delhi. So, how are you going to bring about any credibility about elections, if you do not do some serious hard work? My suggestion is that, after talking to various people, who are there in the Valley, the Government of India and the parties in this House - all of them together, jointly - should declare from this Parliament that we take the responsibility jointly, of ensuring that the next elections whenever they are held will be free and fair and will not be rigged. It is for the Prime Minister to make it clear that he and his party are not interested in seeing to it or on insisting that some Government must be elected in Kashmir, which will be a Congress Government or pro-Congress Government. In that case, of course, there will be no credibility left at all. They should elect whomever they want to elect. But the question arises, supposing they elect an Assembly and after elections a majority of them want to secede to Pakistan, what will you do? I think, we cannot

proceed on the basis of such an apprehension. If people participate in the election - if they do not participate, it is a different matter - in a sizeable number and an assembly comes out of that election, I myself do not think that the majority would then opt to go to Pakistan. But you would still have to discuss with them, with those elected representatives, the extent to which you are prepared to give them more powers. Autonomy within the framework of the Constitution can be augmented. Article 370 and some other assurances given over the years have been eroded. This requires going into all the relevant documents and papers and the three agreements which were signed. The extent of erosion has to be identified and people should be assured that wherever there has been erosion, that will be restored. We have to discuss with them whatever more autonomy they want.

They talk about *Azadi*. I asked Shabbir Shah, 'The people across the border, who are living in the Pakistan Occupied part of Kashmir, are they not your brethren?'. He said 'Yes'. I said, 'We do not hear them clamouring for *azadi* from Pakistan. You want *azadi* from India, but they are not saying anything about *azadi* from Pakistan. So, what is the point?' He said 'This is why I want to visit Pakistan to talk to them, but the Government of India is not allowing me to go'. What are the facts? I do not know. So, I do feel that ultimately - not immediately - a long-term solution cannot be worked out unless the people of the Valley, the people of Jammu, even the people of Ladakh and the Government of India, and also perhaps the Government of Pakistan jointly work out a solution. I do not think that Pakistan will agree. But then, at least the world should know. The world should now know who has made what proposals and who is obstructing or preventing any solution. At the moment, it is we who get a dog's name everywhere.

I think, long ago, it was assured to the people of Ladakh that they would be given an Autonomous Council or Autonomous District Council or Autonomous Board. That was their demand. But, that is not being implemented yet. If it is implemented, then, perhaps in the Ladakh portion there may not immediately be a need for election. I do not know, what is the Government's stand on that now. I am in favour of the Governor being changed. It is not that I have anything personal against him; I do not know that gentleman; I have never met him. But from all the feedback we get, the records that we get - he may have been a very distinguished soldier, I do not doubt it - he is apparently, ill-suited for the responsibilities which he is called upon to discharge as a Governor. The main malady from which he is suffering - from the reports that we get - is that, he does not meet people. He meets hardly any people. You cannot have a Governor in Kashmir who is not opened up to the people. He should be prepared to hear them, talk to them, hear their complaints and grievances and have an open way of dealing with things.

So, I will say that, as far as Charar-e-Sharief is concerned, we should own up that there has been a monumental failure. Failure of whom? Please do not blame the *jawans*. Please do not blame only the Intelligence Services. I do not know what reports they are sending. But the responsibility ultimately is of the Government; and the Prime Minister who himself is handling J & K affairs, must be morally accountable for what has happened. I agree with Shri Arjun Singh when he said that the accountability is the test of any democratic Parliamentary system which we are slowly giving up, as we have seen over the last year or two. Nobody is prepared to be held responsible for anything which happens, which is proved, which is brought to light and which is verified by a Parliamentary Committee. Nobody is accountable; nobody loses his job; nobody is held guilty; nobody admits that he is to blame and nobody claims that he is responsible. If we go on like this, there will be nothing left of the system itself. Therefore, in this particular case which has sent shock waves throughout the country and shock waves which are being felt abroad also, I would welcome very much if the Prime Minister admits that the conduct of the Government and the forces that it was controlling in this matter of Charar-e-Sharief, has failed. That would be something which would let a breath of fresh air come into the whole situation.

Finally, I want to say something about the distorted Press campaign. I can only appeal to the Press people or the friends in the press; and nothing else. I do not know what purpose this distorted type of press campaign serves, except to help our enemy. But this distorted Press campaign should be stopped. It is an insult to our Intelligence; it is an insult to the security forces; and it is an insult to the people who are there in the town both Hindus and Muslims alike who are the worshippers of Nooruddin Noorani at his time. If they go on saying that, nobody believes that these terrorists have anything to do with this arson and it is all due to the Indian Army. Is this the type of responsible journalism which is going on? Should we provide ammunition to foreign agencies and foreign parties to blackmail us and to slander us?

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling) : Could you identify as to which newspaper is that?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You are an old journalist. I am sure you read most of the papers. Why do you want me to identify that?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has given up reading!

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Has he given up reading?

What is already over is over; we cannot do anything about it. I hope, Sir, that the offers that have been made by the Government — that we will rebuild the burnt houses at our cost and we are giving a large sum of money and all that — have been rejected.

It is being rejected; the Hurriyat Conference has rejected it. They said, "Nothing doing, we do not want

your money. Our own people will collect the money." A couple of days ago, the IOC, in its meeting, have also passed a resolution and given a call for collection help, finances and all that for rebuilding the town and to help the people who have become homeless. So, the sentiments of people have to be respected and taken into account because religious matters are involved and for the future, I would say that the Government should take it on itself, as one of its primary duties, that religious shrines, to whichever religion they belong to in this country, should be protected. It does not matter what the cost is in terms of life. If they are not protected, the ultimate cost is much heavier to the society and the country. In view of the dismal record that we have in this matter, since the Operation Bluestar down to this latest episode, I think the Government should do some serious soul-searching and come out with a firm commitment - a commitment which is meant to be honoured and not to be violated. So, this is all that I have got to say and I hope that the whole House will stand with the Government if it really takes some meaningful steps which we have not heard about as yet.

It is quite easy to say that the Prime Minister should resign but then who will come? Some other Bloc will come. I have no confidence on him beforehand. I do not know who he will be. The point is, Government is Government and it has the responsibility of administering the country. Therefore, since we are now on the brink of elections, both perhaps in Kashmir and general elections in the country, this Government has to see that the ground is prepared in a way which will give the civilian population, the voters of this country, a feeling of self-respect, dignity, honour and confidence that their rights will be respected. Without that, many murky things may happen, many unpleasant things will happen which we will not be able to control ultimately. So, this all what I have to say.

I support this Motion because I consider it to be a Motion primarily criticising or condemning the Government's behaviour in handling this Charar-e-Sharief. There can be no two questions on that. The rest that I spoke about is dealing more with the future than with the past. And I hope that it will be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal) : An adjournment motion was brought forward on the situation in Kashmir. I would like to throw light on the Kashmir situation for some minutes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the year 1989 Janata Dal formed the Government and during the period of Janta Dal regime there was the incident of kidnapping of Rubbaiah Sayeed in Kashmir. At that time, the situation had not taken the present turn in Kashmir. There were no communal strifes nor had lakhs of people come in the open the say that.....*

After the Rubbaiah incident, the wrong and weak policies pursued by the then Government gave that impression as if the Government did not exist at all,

consequent upon which the local people were encouraged and the situation in Kashmir deteriorated. The Janta Dal Government lasted for 18 months only and it was during this period that the situation in Kashmir acquired its present dimensions. I listened to Atal ji very patiently. He delivered a rhetoric speech. He used every possible adjective for the Government. He has every right to do so, but, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is no crime to call a spade a spade. The ground realities are to be seen. The Hazratbal episode is fresh in the memory of the Countrymen. The Governments's farsight, restraint and sensibility brought the situation under control. It took time but it was devoid of bloodshed. Hazratbal was a secluded shrine. Charar-e-Sharief was situated amidst dense population. Such elements found their way, by and by, into the shrine in the name of Islam. There is no ban on anybody's entry into a temple, a mosque, a Gurudwara or any other shrine. One could not even imagine....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Excuse me, Sharma Ji. I am sorry to disturb you. But then, I have a very long list of Members who want to speak. As far as possible, please come directly to the point so that many Members may participate in the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : I will not take much time. I have just started. I will conclude within five minutes if you so desire. If you allot me ten minutes, I will conclude in ten minutes. The hon. Members who spoke prior to me....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The policy we have adopted is to allow the first speaker a little more time.

[Translation]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : I will obey your orders. I will take my seat if you so direct me.

MR. SPEAKER : I did not ask you to resume your seat. I asked you to come to the point directly.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : I am giving the background of the matter under discussion, the situation that prompted to bring forward this adjournment motion. I will not dwell at length on it.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee asked whether his party was in power, whether it was their Government there, why was not the situation handled? I would like to respectfully tell him that it was during their regime that the Babari Masjid was demolished. The Chief Minister of their Government had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court. The leaders of the BJP had given an assurance in this House. The leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party

had given an assurance in the National Integration Council. Wasn't that a breach of trust? The Prime Minister can only be blamed for reposing his confidence in you and your Government betrayed him. Then, the plea was advanced that two lakh people gathered from all over the country and the mob went out of control. You have besmirched India's name by pulling down 462 year old mosque.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : There was no mosque and prayers were not offered as well.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : If there was no mosque, then, why did you leader tender a public apology saying that you had committed a mistake. I remind you of Atalji's statement. He admitted that a mistake was committed. Your leader, Shri Advani ji also resigned from his post of the Leader of the Opposition. That was not our mistake.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI (Kaiserganj) : The demolition of Babari Masjid took to toll of four Governments and, now, as a result of Charar-e-Sharief incident, the Prime minister should resign and this Government should go.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Your intentions behind pulling down the Babari masjid were malafide. It was a pure conspiracy, a pre-planned mischief. Your obnoxious designs sullied the atmosphere of love and homogeneity. Your valorous chauvinism was manifest in folding hands before the para-military forces requesting them to send buses for ferrying your workers to their destinations. Two lakh people fled from there and nobody got even a scratch on his body. Who died? What was the situation that followed in Kanpur, Allahabad and Bombay? You people demolished the very character of Bombay. The vicious atmosphere prevailing today is the result of Babari Masjid demolition...(Interruptions) We listened patiently when your leaders spoke. We listened to you, so, you should listen to us.

"Haqiqat asshiyana aashana bakafe israre hasti haon Samajhta haon magar dunig ko samjhana nahin aata."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask them not to interrupt my speech. You can shut their mouths.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : You speak on the Charar-e-Sharief incident and they will not interrupt you.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : I am speaking on Charar-e-Sharief. There was a 600 year old 'dargh'. The Government could very easily order a military assault and shoot people but it was situated in a densely populated area. The wolves in human skin set a thousand houses ablaze there. Subsequently, they razed to the ground this 600 year old shrine on the auspicious occasion of Id-ul-zuha. Now, it may be asked as to why was the army deployed at a distance of one and a half kilometers? Those who run the administration

there and shoulder the responsibility also formulate the plans. This is not my or your job. It is they who make such strategies. The army could lay a seige around the mosque there but they abstained from this foolish act. Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the remedy? As Chatterjee Sahib, Shri Indrajit Gupta and our partymen are saying that elections should be held there and a popular Government installed because there is no other remedy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Punjab was such during 1982-92 that 50-60 people were killed mercilessly every day...

MR. SPEAKER : Nay, all that is the story of the past now. There is no need to repeat that story.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission was that it was our Government here at that time. The hon. Prime Minister lost no time to decide that elections should be held in Punjab. Akali Dal boycotted the elections. Elections were held, no matter there was a low percentage of votes polled. Nobody was to be blamed for that. Elections changed the face of Punjab where there was bloodshed, where people preferred to remain indoors after the sunset and during the night. After election were held, peace and tranquillity returned to Punjab and a popular Government came into being.

As a result of that Punjab has attained its earlier glory. Cermonies and festivals are celebrated in Punjab today as was done earlier. The cities of Punjab have regained their grandeur and Punjab is rejuvenated now. Elections to Panchayats and Municipal committees were held there. A democratic set up was established. The District Council and other elected bodies were constituted there. The Narasimha Rao Government wants to hold elections in Kashmir after creating an atmosphere congenial for elections and install a popular Government and for this everybody's co-operatin is solicited. It is true tht the situation is not favourable at present but unfavourable situation will be controlled. The situation was unfavourable in Assam, Mizoram and in every nook and corner of the country and the day is not far away when this Government will bring the Kashmir situation under control, conduct elections there and install a popular Government. Then, the slogans etc. being raised today will die their own death.

With these words, I oppoe the adjournment motion.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISE (Hyderabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will have to go into the details of the Charar-e-Sharief tragedy, since we attained independence our policy on Kashmir has not been clear, which can be confiermed from the speeches of our different Prime ministers since independence and that is why the people of Kashmir have been in confusion. We will have to examine the reality as to how we treated the person under whose leadership Kashmir was merged in our country. Article 370 was introduced by us but gradually we, brought an end to it and the result is

that the people there became disheartened. Today, we will have to take a firm and positive step. Then the issue of Charar-e-Sharief Came before us, it should have been solved by the Government. There are issues like Hazrat Bal, the Golden Temple, the Babri Masjid and the Charar-e-Sharief before you. Forthy outsiders came there leading to exodus of 40,000 locals and later on all the houses are damaged there. Now you can guess as to what had happened with those people. Afterwards it is said that the election is the solution to this problem. Definately we also want the elections to be conducted there. But what sort of election would that be when thousands of Kashmiries are roaming in the country. Do you want that election should be conducted through two percent people only like that in Punjab. Please do not do like that. It will be a blunder and the situation in Kashmir will worsen further after elections. Do not be under this impression. We do want election to be conducted there but prior to that settle down its natives there. Bring those schemes, and after it give the people their right to elect the popular

17.00 hrs.

Government there. It is understood that there are only few Muslims, who belong to aristocrat families. Excuse me, I am habitual of calling a spade a spade, you think that only these are sincere but you do not pay any heed towards the public. Think of the public. Do not keep few faces with you. You are facing the results of it. If you love Kashmir, then, do love the public there. The issue of Kashmir will be solved on the day you start doing so. What have you done for the public there? There is a restriction on begging by the Maha Kashmiries, living in Hyderabad in thousands and if they do so, the police arrestes them. The children are going from door to door in engineering colleges and medical colleges. But if I say so you will think that I am spreading communalism. But it is a fact and keeping it into consideration you can solve this issue. A number of our minister know about it. Today a Muslim youth do not get admission anywhere. If you want then I have their list, with me. What can a man do under disappointment? If he wants to study, he can not do so and if he wanted ot resort to begging, he cannot do so. Then what he should do. When a man becomes fed up, there is a saying, "scarcity gives way to rift." We should think about the reality. Instead of doubling anyone we should think over the reality and we should think towards solveing the problem. The people there are love hungry, they will run towards you but you think that only a few people are all in all to you, then remember that that's no going to solve the purspose. I would like to submit that these are your birds, until you feed them. Untill they get to eat, they will be there, and thereafter they will fly away. Think about the public and solve thir problems.

I would like to know if you are aware fo the problems of Kashmir and the hardships, the poeple are facing

there. Today the people of Kashmir say that if we raise voice against terrorists, we are shot down. They come and ask for food and shelter. If we do not give them shelter they open fire on us. If we discard them, again they open fire on us. If we give them shelter, then the Indian Army opens fire on us. Then what can we do? Anyway we go there are bullets all around. The result is that they are leaving Kashmir. We should pay attention towards it. Then there are so many people, the governor is there who had been the Commander-in-Chief of our army. I should not say so, since he belongs to my State but when he has failed, bring someone else. But we fail to understand why do you keep the matter pending.

I would like to submit that he is my good friend but the condition of our Home Ministry is very amazing. Whose Statement should be considered to be factual? We fail to understand, what is the policy after all. Whatever the Minister says, whether that is based on facts or that Minister says is based on facts. What is the matter after all? There is a saying in Urdu, "many a cook spoil the broth." It is an amazing situation. We fail to understand as to where they should go.

I would like to submit that improve the condition. It is a national issue. We do not have enmity with anyone. We want that you should adopt a national policy after discussing with all to solve this issue and if you try to solve this issue after all this then that will be good. I am among those who move such a resolution therefore I support this adjournment motion. I would like to submit that a proper policy should be adopted to solve this issue and all of us, and all the parties should try to solve this issue. It will be far better. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have risen to oppose the Adjournment motion moved in the House. When I came to know that the Adjournment Motion had been brought I was happy that our hon. leaders would come out with effective and useful suggestion on the Kashmir imbroglio and the motion moved would lead the Government towards a new direction but I am sorry to say that the problems kept raising their heads one after another but all of us used all our strength only on condemning the government and no light was thrown on the aspect as to how this problem should be solved.

I listen to Shri Vajpayee ji very attentively. He is an honourable Member and I hold him in high esteem. When he started his speech with tears in his eyes I felt that a number of useful suggestions would definitely be put forward to help us in solving the Kashmir problem but he only lamented it and did not come out with any concrete suggestion which could be implemented by the Government. I am distressed about that. I would like to submit to the hon. Vajpayee that Kashmir imbroglio has not started today. When we were attending a meeting of the members of Parliament and Shri V.P. Singh was in power then Shri V.P. Singh ji himself had

said that if he knew that Kashmir imbroglio was so complicated then he would not have chosen Bofors as an issue. He had stated it in the House, the proceedings are there. Were you not in the government at that time, in the national front Government...*(Interruptions)* Please have patience. Please listen to me first. I was also in the same party and that is why I am expressing my distress to you. He had said it specifically that if he had known about this imbroglio then he would not have made Bofors an issue. At that time also we had a discussion here on the Kashmir issue and then the discussions on the same issue had been held in 1990 and 1991 but no concrete solution was found to this problem which resulted in worsening of the problem.

Today we have the problem of Charar-e-Shariff and some force has also been assembled outside the mosque. Whenever an incident takes place somewhere then the government takes action thereon and, Sir, you are all witness to that, that the leader of the Opposition and the hon. Members ask as to how could the Government take an action without consulting them and the Government has done injustice. When the Ayodhya incident took place then everybody said that this Government had done injustice though an assurance had been given in the House, in the judiciary and in the Executive. So, if the Government had taken any action in Kashmir then you would have again raised a similar issue stating that the Government had taken a wrong step and they had done injustice. I, therefore, would like to submit to the Government, through you, that Kashmir problem is not a problem of anyone party but of the whole country. We have several leaders present here today and I would like then to bring a unanimous motion in this regard and give suggestion to the Government as to what action should be taken in Kashmir. Our Government are taking an action and want to take more action but there should be a unanimity at first.

Sir, if the country lives, Lok Sabha will live. We will continue to come to Lok Sabha as its Members and hold discussions. If Kashmir is not there then what will remain? We have been hearing that this problem has been there for the last 47 years but no solution has been found so far.

An hon. colleague of ours was just saying that the unemployment problem is prevailing there and there is a large number of unemployed there. Those people are not given admission in Medical and Engineering Colleges. Then is the trouble created there by students and are those, who have created trouble there, students? Have they infiltrated from Pakistan or Afghanistan? Rendering of such speeches can mislead people, so it should be checked. I therefore, would like to submit to the House, through you, that such misleading speeches should not be delivered. If such misleading statements, will be continuously delivered in regard to Kashmir issue then it may lead to the

raising up of Uttranchal issue followed by Gorkhaland and LTTE issue, you are requested not to do injustice to the country with such misleading speeches.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Charar-e-Shariff problem of Kashmir is a very serious one. Our colleague Sharad ji was just talking in a very lighter vein but he put forth several points in a very proper manner. Vajpayee ji, if the elections will be held there but there would be not held in a proper way and the discussion will be continuously held in Lok Sabha then it will not solve the problem. That is why, I would like to appeal to the leaders of all the parties that every body should have a unanimous view and then participate in the elections and hold free and fair elections.

MR. SPEAKER : You have put forth very good points. Now, please conclude and let others also have a chance to speak.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Goswami Tulsi Dass has said "Samarath Ko nahin dosh Gusain" which means a person who is powerful and resourceful keeps doing his work gradually. I consider myself resourceful. Despite the gherao done by army Charar-e-Shariff was burnt down. Sir, through you, I would like to submit to Shri Rao that this incident which took place in Kashmir was not right Shri Chandra Shekhar ji has rightly said that even if you were forced to shoot or use force even then you should have not delayed. We need to come forward in the interest of the nation and we should not have any objection in this regard. Mr. Speaker, Sir, thirdly, I would like to say something to the opposition party, respecially, to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. He has said that all Governments are guilty. I feel that the way Shri Vajpayee ji has said it in a roundabout manner, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji has also held the Government responsible and had levelled the charges against the army. You are right in saying that if the Narasimha Rao Government is responsible for this deed, then you point a finger towards that but I would like to submit not to resort to levelling charges against the army in an attempt to gain cheap publicity. Please do not do anything which harms our country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would like to submit to you that whenever we criticise the actions taken by the Government it does not constitute the criticism of the army. Please do not say it. I have never criticised the army.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we are making the Government answerable to us, are we criticising the army? Sir I would like you to give a ruling on this subject. If such kind of discussion takes place on the issues raised by us then how will it function ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Shri Paswan withdraws his stance they I will also take

my words back. It is a healthy practice that he has withdrawn his stance. He has at least withdrawn ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Surya Narayan Yadav ji, he has to said anything against the army. Please, you are also requested not to say anything. Please come to you next point.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : The part of Kashmir which is in India belongs to India. The terrorists are infiltrating from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. I would like to say to the government that if the number of such incidents is in on an increase and you have all the reports with you. Then you must take control of Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir. It should be dismantled and merged with our country. The whole world knows that they have sent terrorists to create trouble not only in Kashmir but in Bombay also. so, whatever action you want to take in the interest of the nation, you must. I feel that all other leaders have not given their consent to you for taking any such action. You should not be worried about that because the masses have expressed their trust in you and brought you in power and that is why, the whole accountability of the country lies on you. You must do this work in the interest of the nation... *(Interruptions)* while opposing this Adjournment Motion I would like to hearly congratulate Shri narasimha Rao that he has himself taken charge of Kashmir... *(Interruptions)* By taking affairs of Kashmir in his hands he has tried to prove that this is a very sensitive and serious matter and he is taking it with all seriousness. In the end I heartily thank you and oppose this Adjournment Motion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzzafarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we would like to associate ourselves with the feelings of the people of Kashmir who are pained, aggrieved and agitated because of burning down of Charar-e-Shariff. I was thinking that this discussion would be useful and some important points regarding Kashmir would be high lighted and it would not be politicised but I am sorry to say that the two Speakers who have been asked by the ruling party to speak on it have only talked about politics and nothing else. They have, especially Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, has also furnished some new information. This information creates some new questions and we would like the hon. Prime Minister to keep these points in his reply to the discussion. Shri Salman Khurshid has asked several questions and we would definitely like to answer those because both these speeches have been delivered from the ruling party. But by accepting previous mistakes in regard to wrong policies what kind of direction are we going to take in future? Nobody was there to guide us about that. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has repeatedly said on thing in his speech about the Charar-e-Shariff incident that we took such and such decisions. We took those decisions after studying all the aspects. He kept using some english phrases in his speech like "We decided, we felt, we did," etc. We would like to know

from him as to who are these "We"? Since he was speaking on behalf of the Government. All those decisions made were by the Delhi Government. There is Government in Kashmir also. No matter that it is run by the Governor. He has advisors who enjoy the status of Ministers. Everybody might be aware that at the time of this shameful act all the three Advisors were missing from the state. There can be any reason for that but they were in three different parts of the country at that time. The Army is the centre-point of the whole matter. That is why we must have the hon. Prime Minister's reply to what was mentioned by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, as, "we decided". There were several alternatives before us — first, we could approach it straightway and attacked. But it was risky. We had experiences from Golden Temple to Hazratbal. Therefore we decided not on the basis of those experiences but on the basis of some other experience that we should use the other alternative. Now, in regard to past experiences I would like to put a couple of questions to the hon. Prime Minister whose replies we want. I want to categorise these questions in two parts. The first question concern the military intervention. What happened before and on the day the military reached the spot on the 8th of March and what happened after 8th of March. These were two different decisions. When military reached there on 8th of March, who constituted "we" and who had taken his decision as to what would be the behaviour of military. The hon. Prime Minister, who holds the defence portfolio also, had politically declared it from here that he had given his discretion to act to the army. Today the Ministry of Home Affairs is not interfering with the Kashmir issue but was the consultation of the Ministry of Home Affairs had been sought because we have heard that in the Kashmir Department in Your Ministry there is only one Joint Secretary and nobody else. We would like to be informed about this also from the hon. Prime Minister. Was only one Joint Secretary in charge of such an important matter which concerned the future of several other matters of this country? The Minister of Home has not played any role in it so far because when an hon. Member talked of two Ministers' visit to that state then it was stated here that the Minister of Home had been sent along the Minister of Finance so that he could collect the information and furnish the same to the House. The Minister of Home is yet to come back to the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I had been told that the Government was ready to give a statement but his Adjournment Motion was brought before that statement.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Is there no contradiction between the statement and the Adjournment Motion?

MR. SPEAKER : No, we did not have time.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : They could have made the statement at any time. Then our discussions would have put on a more meaningful look

...*(Interruptions)* I am really distressed to say that they did not consider it proper to make a statement. The statement should have been made.

MR. SPEAKER : They had told me that they were ready to make a statement but I decided that if it looked necessary then the statement could be made midway. also. We did not view it from that angle. We only thought or policy matter.

[English]

In all fairness I must say this

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Alright, I am concluding that topic here but my today's question is a direct one, to which the hon. Prime Minister must reply, that on 8th March the army was deployed one and half to two kilometers. The people who have visited there know about it. The army has to take the position there in much difficulty, but it is meant for this purpose. Sometimes I feel as if every issue has become painful for part of any Government, be it the questions of the security of the country. The army is meant for that exclusive purpose. The he should not do such a job, he should have gone for IAS, he should have done necessary paper work. People go indifferent industries and different professions. The army has a special responsibility. It performs its duty. We applaud it. But I do not think so that a class should be adorned all the times. If the armymen do something wrong then it should be discussed both in the House and outside the House.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RET.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Would you yield for a minute? Sir, the Army is being referred to in an improper manner.

[Translation]

Hon. Fernandesji, if army is assigned a task then it is her prime duty to fight with the enemy. The army is not assigned such a work and secondly, if she is given clear direction and freedom, then you ask for her explanation. Please do not talk in the fashion in which you are speaking right now.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : General Sahib, I am not asking any question from the army but from the Hon. Prime Minister. I am doing the same thing and asking the same thing as you are saying.

I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to who had taken the decision on 8th March to ask the army to take a position at a distance of one and half to two kilometers. Was that the decision of the military or was it a political decision? Since many things are associated with it. hon. Prime Minister, Sir, your army reached there on 8th march, then is it a fact that when it had reached there, the governor had complained that army should not have been sent there. Does it mean

that the governor was unaware about it. The governor was not taken into confidence. Why did the governor object to it? Had he conveyed his objections to you?

Well, my question is that on 15th March, after seven days a unanimous decision is taken and not a single journalist is allowed to go near Charar-e-Sharief. It was restricted why this restriction was imposed? What was the reason for it? Later on they army, which was at a distance of one and half to two kilometers, how it surrounded the area at a distance of 800 meters on 22nd March? We want clarification on it since, who is responsible for levelling charges against our army personnel? We would like to know as to who are responsible for it?

We would like to know if they were given the clearcut instructions to fight with the enemy and to complete the task, were they allowed a free hand or were they given instruction at every step?

I have said that there is another aspect of it. All this happened before 8th March. I would not like to repeat it since it has already come before the House, but since we want the reply therefore the House, but since we want the reply therefore, I would like to submit that Mastgul reached Charar-e-Sharief in the month of December which was duely. I reported by the Home Secretary. I have not seen the document but Mani Shankar ji had delivered a long speech on the document and it was said that he came there on a pilgrimage. So, when did you come to know about it, when did your intelligence came to know about it. Did you and your intelligence came to know about it on 8th march or when he had left from there? He did not enter Kashmir on 8th December, he reached Charar in the month of December it means that he was in Kashmir before December. Today I have heard the statement of General Sahib that all the arrangements have been made lest Mastgul run away from the country throught the line of actual control in Kashmir. The army has been deployed there. It is a peculiar statement. I fail to understand as to why this statement has been made? Line of actual control is very long. Thousands of our children from Kashmir go to Pakistan and return back after having the training. Thousands of people cross the line of actual control to enter our country with arms and amminations. We cannot stop it. Today the statement comes all of a sudden that there is full arrangement of the army and he will not be able to run away. He will be apprehended. Did you have the information, when in December he entered Charar. If so, when did you have the information? Did not you have the report of the Intelligence Bureau in which it was written that Mastgul will use Charar for his protection? He decided to use that holy shrine to accomplish the assigned by the ISI and Pakistan. Did not this report come to you by that time? Was the governor ignorant of it? Did not he conduct a meeting in this regard? Was it not decided during the meeting that he would leave by the end of the winter, therefore there is no need at all to use power. Was not this

decision taken by you? While the governor and his consultants took this decision, did they do so after consultation with the hon. Prime Minister? Was the army aware of it. Who took the decision that he was to go back and Pakistan is also angry with him. One or two hon. Members have told that Mastgul was in severe trouble. Pakistan had asked him not to come back, do and die there, that was all for him. Did not you have this information?

Salmanji has repeatedly said that for many things discussion is to be held. You were disscussing with Mastgul. He had said that Pakistan is behind him and he will go back after Id. It is not the Id of 3rd March. Did not the governor take the decision on that issue that all the arrangements should be made, well before 3rd March? 3rd March had passed, Id had passed, and the asked to reach there on 8th March. We would like to know

[English]

who are the "we's" who took the decison before 8th March and after 8th March? Are they different "we's" or the same "we's"

[Translation]

These are such questions, without giving reply to these, there is no use of this discussion. I am not ready to accept that discussing all these issues openly will harm the security of the country. Things are altogether different. When the political leaders, the bureaucrats and the generals of the military, who take the decision and on whose shoulder the responsibility rests, do something wrong them it should not merely be, discussed but they should be punished suitably. Such practice is there in other countries of the world, but nothing happens in our country. Do anything here. No Bureaucrat has been sacked here till date. If someone has staged a dharna against the set up, refused to accept the bribe and was not ready to corrupt himself only then he was sacked otherwise the bureaucrats, the politicians and anyone in army have never been punished for their mistakes. We presume that everything goes on here. Therefore, I would like to submit that all these things should be discussed here clearly. Some facts should come forth before the people so that in future we need not have to fact any problems in determining the policy for building the nation.

Whatever has been said by the ruling party here, two or three things become clear of it. The first thing is that there was no option in Charar-e-Sharief issue except the governor and the military. Chandrashekhar ji has spoken ditto to Indrajeet ji. Did we put forth the facts before the people of Kashmir and beofre the people who take interest in these things. Today when you are saying that there is no need at all to postpone the elections due to Charar-e-Sharief incident and there is nothing to be worried about since the whole of Kashmir is with us. Aiyar Sahib, you have used a few words. You have said:

[English]

"In November, 1989, there were a large number of civilians who thought that they could get away with their demand for freedom. Today the people of the Valley, in their vast majority, stand for the unity and integrity of India."

[Translation]

We want that each of your words should be based on facts and you are associated with the situation. When this was the situation they why did not you allow the people of Kashmir even to enter Charar-e-Sharief? Leave aside the journalists, since a ban had been imposed on them but at least you should have allowed the people of the town Charar to go there. This is their temple, their holy shrine, had they were given the opportunity to go there, they could have made it clear that the outsiders have come and are putting our Dargah in danger. They want to demolish and burn our Dargah. It could have been said to the whole of the country. The people of our country as well as the other nations should be aware of it. The responsibility should have been given to the people of Kashmir, whose holy shrine it is and they should be told that it is your holy shrine and today they are going to attack it, there is a conspiracy to set it ablaze, so will you merely keep on watching it or will you throw them out. Why did not you do so? Had there been some facts in your sentences then in November 1989, everyone wanted to run away but today all are standing behind you, then why did not you take this step. It seems that you do not have any policy or any resolution.

I would like to ask a question from the hon. Prime Minister. The President of Pakistan had paid a visit here some 15-20 days back. The hon. Members of this House had an opportunity to meet him one evening. Atalji, Jaswant ji, our Agriculture Minister Balram Jakharji and one or two hon. Members, who are not present here were also there. Mani Shankar Aiyar ji was also there. We had been with him for two and half hours. During that period, he expressed only one fear i.e. Prithvi. He was much worried about Prithvi. He was so much worried at the power of our country that I felt as if Pakistan is afraid of our country.

If the President of that country expressed this apprehension for two hours out of his two and half hours discussion with us and spoke on no other issue then, during his 3 or 4 hours meeting he must have raised the issue of the 'Prithvi' missile and also must have expressed his concern over our military capabilities etc. On the same lines as he expressed his apprehensions to us. Did you not say anything to him on Charar-e-Sharief as we know it very well that Pakistan is meddling with our affairs. The Pak President has also refuted this charge vehemently, though he has not confessed it openly also. He did say that they are

worried over the matter. He talked openly on TADA in Pakistan as also to us. He referred to all these issues. Then why did you not raise the issue of Charar-e-Sharief with him as this issue was likely to explode in near future? Did you not raise any issue at all? We, therefore, want that the hon. Prime Minister must reply to these questions so that it becomes easy to reach any conclusion. The present debate is unlikely to provide any solution and no policy is going to be formulated during this discussion under the Censure motion. However, this debate may help to reach any conclusion.

Sir, Shri Salman Khursheed raised several points here. He stated that the Government has provided Rs. 6 crore for Kashmir for providing an extensive infrastructure. How did the Government start thinking about providing infrastructure after the 48 years slumber? Again, the Government stated that it spent a huge amount there. A very pertinent question was asked by an hon. Member.

[English]

What have you done for the young people of J&K? Why have they left us? Why have they come to believe that they are not a part of us?

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was dealing with Kashmir affairs for some months. At that time, we used to meet the 'young people' he has talked of. You met only one 17-year old boy but we had met thousands of such boys. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is under the impression that we went there in disguise, sporting moustaches and dyeing our hair or donning a 'burka'. No, it was not so. We went there in our usual attire of Kurta and pyjamas. The only person who accompanied me was, Shri Ashok Subramaniam, my Personal Assistant in the Ministry of Railways. We used to persuade the young people, when they asked questions. Shri Salmanji, you will get the answer to your questions in those queries. The first question as to where the amount of Rs. one lakh crore has gone, which the Government claims to have spent on Kashmir? When the question was asked for the first time, I replied that the amount was not Rs. one lakh crore; it was Rs. 50 thousand crore because we come some figures in mind. But they did not agree with me. Whenever we used to meet the President, we used to inform him of the developments in Kashmir. This time, when we met the President and narrated our experience to him that the people in Kashmir claimed that Rs. one lakh crore had been spent on Kashmir, whereas I tried to convince them that this figure was Rs. fifty thousand crore only the President told us.

[English]

'George, they are right; you are wrong.'

[Translation]

The Government has spent Rs. one lakh crore. But to those young boys, we used to say that it is well-known to them is to us as to where that amount had gone. Some of the amount had gone. Some of the amount had been spent on erecting bungalows in the garden, some in constructing skyscrapers, some in constructing a house with marble, swimming pool in South Delhi and some of the amount has been diverted to Swiss Bank. But this issue is not confined to Kashmir alone. This has become a countrywide phenomenon. People are enjoying with that money therefore, this issue is not limited to Kashmir alone but this issue relates to India as a whole. I asked them as to why they were not fighting unitedly. They asked another question about corruption. I explained that corruption is not confined to Kashmir and its bureaucracy. I further added that had there been no Bofors scandal, we would have never become Ministers. The then Government collapsed due to the Bofors issue. Therefore, I told them that corruption had spread everywhere.

Then they asked about their employment. They said that when the amount meant for Kashmir had been swallowed by corrupt persons, then what will happen to their employment prospects. You have stated that children from Kashmir were brought here to educate them. But what has been done for the employment of youths there during the last 45-47 years? This point did not strike Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. Only 10 per cent of the 93 per cent Muslims in Kashmir have got employment...*(Interruptions)*

The Government has made tall claims of great achievements and has also said that it made the country great and accomplished welfare works in Kashmir but Shri V.P. Singh got the credit for all those works. Actually, it were the misdeeds of the Congress Government during 45 years, which led Kashmir to the present situation.

Sir, the fourth and the last question that they asked was as to why elections have not been held in Kashmir after the elections held there during the Prime Ministership of Shri Morarji Desai? As such, how can they support us to ensure the progress of the country. I tried to convince them that such things usually happen in many parts of the country. But it could not have been a satisfactory answer. And this cannot help find out any solution. Thus today, it is not easy to answer those young people because we have harmed them as much as we could.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we cannot forget what we experienced during the visit to Kashmir in the 1987 elections. Perhaps none of those who accompanied there is present in the House at present. Those who went there that time were Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Shri Jaswant Singh, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and many other hon. friends. I do not want to reproduce experience we had at that time. But I know the pangs and anguish of the young people of Kashmir for a long. Following the

dismissal of duly elected Government there in 1983, all the opposition leaders from here, including me, had visited there. I do not want to repeat here what the military, the paramilitary, the police did there at that time. However, I jumped the handobast of Governor, took Shri Ashok Subramanyam with me and reached the old Railway Guest House and called these old acquaintances and young people. Firstly, two youths came to me. I knew them. It was a small room and we sat on a sofa on the one side and they sat on another sofa on the other side. There was a tripod in between. They took out their guns and place before us on the table. I went on persuading them. There were no tears in their eyes. Their eyes were red hot. They uttered certain words which cannot be quoted here. When I raised the issue of elections, they stated that elections had already been held there. They named the area they had gone as polling agents. They narrated that some persons reached there to cast bogus votes and when they were stopped by them, candidate in the fray reached there with his people within few minutes. He was the brother-in-law of a very influential leader. They caught hold of their hair, pulled them out, kicked them with shoes and asked them to bring their sisters. I would not like to narrate as to what happened thereafter. They took down their guns and asked whether we were talking of that very India where they got such treatment. They were my old acquaintances because they were sometime in the National Conference. You compelled me to speak out these things by asking the questions. Otherwise I would not have mentioned these things.

Shri Salmanji, you will have to feel the agony of Kashmir. He could not understand this by talking to a 17 years old boy. The Government will have to accept mal treatment meted out to them. We must muster courage to apologise; otherwise, the Government cannot be in a position to hold talk with them. I want to tell it very categorically whether one likes it or not. I can tell you the names of dozens of Generals, but I will not. They always asked us whether any discussion had been held with the ultras because it was not the duty of military. They used to say that it should be done by political leaders. Hon. Prime Minister, to save Kashmir is to save the country. I have been asserting from the very outset that elections cannot be held in Kashmir. I heard Shri Indrajit very attentively. We know the opinion of the Congress Party in this regard. Shri Chandra Shekhar has raised certain very pertinent points. He asked what will the Government do if the decision goes against it. He says that if the decision goes against it, this should be treated as their decision. I hold that nobody will participate in elections there. I cannot believe that the young people of Kashmir will be ready to contest elections there just to prove what they want. I am also not ready to accept that they will fight elections and tell a lie because a candidate in elections has to take oath of protecting the unity and the constitution of the country. In my opinion, the situation there is not favourable for holding elections. It is easier to talk of

holding elections there while sitting in Parliament or in the party forum that to hold elections in real sense. Leaders hold meetings there only after blocking all the roads there by security men. Police is deployed there on every inch of the area-round the clock. In such a situation the Government decides to hold elections there. One hon. Member challenged me about any version of the murder of the Vice-Chancellor. I may tell you that I had gone to Delhi airport to have his dead body and I was attacked there. I had gone to take the dead body of the assassinated General Manager of BHEL and I was roughed up there. I have experienced all these things. I did not go to the airport just to roam about and come back. I do not know from where did Shri Chacko get this information that he revealed here. The leaders of those parties who demand elections there are living in Delhi, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and London. During summer they rush to London and come back during winter. Mr. Speaker, Sir, political activities should be started before political process is begun. Mr. Home Minister, how can political process be possible without political activities and the Government is not in a position to start political activities. I, therefore, request to find a way out to hold discussion with the young people of Kashmir. This has been suggested by the youths who come here and those who have released from prison. They also admit that violence is no solution to the problem. They should be convinced that what they have experienced as related in my answer to four questions, will not be repeated. Then alone one can talk about holding elections there. I, therefore, support the Adjournment Motion and demand the immediat removal of the Governor there. My second demand is that whatever may be the fate of the Motion, a new system should be evolved so that even after the present Government is defeated, the system may continue for the progress of the country. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is five minutes to 6 o' clock now. For how much time should we continue this debate? I have a long list of names with me and I have allowed all the Leaders of the Parties to speak for as much time as they like. But afterwards it may not be possible to give a very long to the Members who want to speak. How much time should we continue this debate?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad) : You may please continue till night or even upto tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : You do not know that the Adjournment Motion cannot continue till next day. Please keep this in mind that the points that have already been mentioned here, should not be repeated. I have no problem to allow you to speak on new points for whatever time you want, History is known to all. This need not be narrated again. Please think of the present and the future. I request you all to cooperate with me by speaking in brief. Now Shri Sudhir Sawant.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR (Gopalganj) : We are extending you our full cooperation.

MR. SPEAKER : The Adjournment Motion is for two and a half hours only but the present one was started today at 11.00 a.m. and it is now 6 p.m. and it is going to continue still. However, you need not repeat any point that has already been mentioned by your predecessors.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Only one speaker has spoken from my Party so far. From Congress-I Party, five Members have spoken.

MR. SPEAKER : I know who is to be allowed. Why do you think that I am insensitive to these things?

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : We will cooperate with you and the hon. Prime Minister as well. I would like to say one sentence only with reference to what Shri George Fernandes and Shri Vajpayee have stated here. Once I went to Shri Jinnah and asked him whether we also will have to go to your Pakistan. He remained silent for a minute and then raising his head told me that let there be no confusion about the minorities of India and the minorities of Pakistan. He further added that he would treat the minorities in his regime in such a manner that the Prime Minister of India will hang his head in shame. I would like to point out to the Government and my hon. friends, especially Shri Vajpayee that the facts are known to everybody. But I would like to suggest to find a new solution of the problem. But perhaps nobody can find the solution.

I, too, have heard that Many of our hon. friends are present here. Their party has been annihilated from the map of the world. The Congress is trading the same path and the new party is engaged in infighting. This House should pass a resolution and appraise the Prime Minister of Pakistan of it.

18.00 hrs.

I have pointed towards another thing and this animosity is not going to end. We will be totally bogged down because we are pained to know what happens in Mazar-e-Sharief and Mecca-Sharief. The Saudi Arabia administration only filled the whole mosque with water to trap and punish the gun-wielding men who had entered the place of worship for killing people because killing is forbidden there. Anyway, leave that all aside because many things are happening in the world; there is lack of courage. Arjun Singh ji said, and I repeat to all of you that no step is worth taking if you are devoid of courage. With regard to the Babari Masjid issue, Shri Vajpayee ji feels guilty at heart but what is his fault? His party's leaders had gone there. I am not talking of the

BJP alone. There were men of all hues, who did what they intended to and Vajpayee ji was left crying. They are all the birds of same feather. The same story is being repeated in the other party as well. I will not name anybody. I am clean at heart. I may tell you that some people had tried to forge a unity among you. Somebody said, the Minister said you were afraid, were hatching a conspiracy against them. Will Shri Balram Jakhar ever hatch a conspiracy? No, he will not. But a particular Minister whom I will not name went there and said so. This is a very bad world. We should not bother much. Everybody says that India is great and strong. Today's citizens of India should listen carefully that people were not so coward and weak. I may tell you that when I was a member of forward block in Calcutta and worked with Subhash Chandra Bose, there was a bomb explosion, consequent upon which the strength of the British army was increased as they thought that we were gaining courage. So, Narasimha Rao ji, this is a very strange world. I may tell you the truth that the Kashmir issue is not such. People say that Muslims do not speak. What should they speak? People have started speaking a little but as I said earlier that Shri Jinnah had said that such treatment will be meted out to the minorities in Pakistan that the head of Indian Prime Minister will hang in shame. This alone is the remedy.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. I oppose this Motion precisely for the reason that some respectable Members have indulged in castigating the Government ... (Interruptions). When the debate started, I had expected, as you had brought out very well, that while discussing this very serious issue, we would come to some consensus.

I treat Jammu and Kashmir as an issue which is above politics and which is vital to India's national interest and vital to national security. That is why, it was expected that all Members of the House would treat this issue as vital to national security, as has been the tradition, and deal with it in a manner where there would be consensus. So that is why, I am disappointed because this debate has ultimately ended up in mudslinging. I want to just ask those people who have charged this Government in various forms, whether the situation in Charar-e-Sharief would have been any different had any other Government been there. This is a question I want to ask. If they say 'yes', then I want to charge that the seriousness of the matter has not been understood because in Charar-e-Sharief what happened - the deplorable as it is - is the outcome of certain circumstances. Probably it has been a trend when militants have taken up to these tactics of entering religious places and then holding the State to ransom. It is something like kidnapping. When hostages are held, then the security forces dealing with the issue have to take a decision. For example, in Charar-e-Sharief, if any decision is taken by the man on the spot, say to attack, it works as a double-edged weapon. It can cut both ways. If the decision is proved right on hindsight, then there will be glory and laurels shown by

everyone. But if the decision is proved wrong in hindsight, then some neck has to be chopped off. This is the game. In Kashmir, the problem essentially is that we are not dealing with the conventional enemy, but we are dealing with terrorists. 'Terrorists', as the word suggest, are like fish in the sea, in the sea inhabited by civilian population. And that is why, whenever the security forces operate in the circumstances, they have to operate with one hand tied behind their back. And that is why, in this delicate situation, what decision is to be taken, is a matter which can be debated.

For example, Vajpayeeji has brought out that if Charar-e-Sharief had to be destroyed, then why was the action not taken three months ago. But the situation does not emerge like that. The security forces or the Government is faced with the situation, has to take a decision and while taking that decision, the man on the spot has to decide what should be done. So in the process, his decisions are delayed. To create a situation to make the operation successful, the delay has to be accepted. In Hazaratbal, the same thing happened. The security forces operating there showed patience and restraint and ultimately they emerged successful. The other thing could have also happened there. We cannot ignore that aspect.

One thing that this House has to decide is, how to deal with the situation because you cannot blame the security forces in this case. When they are going into the operation, you must take into account the risk that the religious places can be damaged. And if that is to be accepted, then the Government and the security forces can do it any time by flushing out those entering the religious places. But the consequences of that action must be accepted and realised by everyone.

What we have to decide here is whenever religious places are used by terrorist or fundamentalists, how we are going to deal with it. If there is destruction, that it is propagated all over the country. Again, the Government is in the dock. This is a dilemma which we will have to address and in future we will have to take action in this regard. Notwithstanding what I have said, I would like to say something about Kashmir and how the situation emerges. Shri George Fernandes has eloquently tried to justify the young people taking up the militancy. But this situation we have encountered on our border States right from Independence. That is why when Shri Indrajit Gupta has suggested that the Army should not be employed, I have my differences because we know from history that in fact, India had been plagued by insurgency all along the border and the Army is the only capable machinery in this country which can tackle insurgency. The Army knows how to use force with compassion. The Army has a string of successes. If you go to the North-East, you can see today that legitimate Governments are in place. The second thing that has to be realised, when we talk of insurgency is that it has got a time period. These cannot be resolved in a day. There is a theory behind it. When the insurgency rises, when local support is gained, when external power supports the insurgents, it comes to that thing. When insurgency is at height, it is that point when security

forces have to be employed, many times ruthlessly. It is after that when situation comes down, the political process can start. We have seen in Punjab. The situation started going bad in 1979-80 and it took 12 to 13 years, that is in 1992-93, to resolve the problem. In Kashmir, the problem has started in 1987. It will have to go through the logical process. The time-table will have to be met and that everybody must realise and not at every instance because terrorists are terrorists. In Oklahoma, there was a bombing of the federal building. So, President Clinton should resign. Is this the language? Terrorists can do anything. There are Bombay blasts, serial blasts in Bombay. So, the Government should resign. Is this the solution? Is any other Government in place capable of handling the situation. We are not tackling terrorism. It is not tackling any civilian problem. We have to deal with that mechanism. But, definitely there are certain actions required to be taken. I think with this incident, time has now come for us to take action and it requires ruthless action. Sir, I have said that the foreign countries or foreign powers are trying to interfere into India's internal affairs by using the angle of human rights. The other day I mentioned that the issue in Jammu and Kashmir is not that some people have been alienated from this country, but the issue that we have to address, as the Parliament here, is the right of any State to secede from the Union. Do we accord that right or not? That is the question. In America, there was a civilian war where lakhs and lakhs of people died on this very issue. When the Southern States wanted to secede from the Union, the Government stood firm and employed Armed Forces at its command to destroy the rebellion. In America itself, the civil war got failed. So, India today is in the process of making and any country, nation will have to be moulded by blood and iron not with bricks and this is what I said the other day.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : You advise your friends sitting behind you.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT : That is why this process will have to be undertaken and what I have seen in my experience - I myself have stayed for five years in Jammu and Kashmir. Basically there are two problems. There is total lack of coordination between security forces, even today.

I have to say this with great sadness because what is required there is that security forces should work together in conjunction. We have paramilitary forces and the Army. We have demanded that there should be a unified command. The unified command has been established. But the unified command leaves much to be wanted.

The second thing is the integration of the intelligence agencies. The other day when I was talking about internal threat during the course of my speech on Defence Budget, I had brought out this point and also demanded that we must try to bring about integration because now every person in every different agency rushes to Delhi with his information. There is no local arrangement. There are some coordination meetings held; but they are not effective. So this is a fact. These

two factors have to be gone into and a situation created where I think we will have to come to a decision today as to how to employ our security forces.

As I have brought out, unlike what Indrajitji has said, the Indian Army has faced insurgency in all our border States with great precision. Today in Jammu and Kashmir there is no civic administration. There is no Patwari. There is no Tehsildar. These have to be established. It is very difficult to do in these circumstances. How is it to be done, how to reach the money given by the Central Government to the villages?

Just two years ago I have seen people had to carry a jerrican of kerosene of 20 kgs. on their back for five hours, so that they can survive in winter. Money is not reaching them. This fact has been acknowledged by everyone including our Government. So this civic administration has to be established. How can it be done? If it cannot be done in the normal course, I had said last time while speaking on Jammu and Kashmir that we must initiate a civic action programme through the Armed Forces because in Jammu and Kashmir, Army has been there for many years and they have established a good rapport with the civilians. Civilians trust Army more and that is why in certain programmes of civic action, when Army uses force, it has to use it with compassion. If it has to go on cordon and search mission, it has to go and do welfare activities also. Then only will the goodwill emerge.

Now Vajpayeeji talked about another factor that Army was one-and-a-half kilometres away from Charar-e-Sharief. I want to dispel this doubt. This is a simple tactic of cordon and search. When the security forces go on cordoning, they can go from various directions and stay away. The cordon does not go into the site. It stays away one kilometre or one-and-a-half kilometres away, as has been done, depending on the terrain. Then the search party goes inside. So the fact that the Army has been deployed one-and-a-half kilometres away is no sign of inefficiency. This is the normal tactic. That is why we do not understand these operations.

My only request today is - I do not want to go into great details - to bring one fact to the notice of this House that in spite of the allegations that have been made, I mentioned the other day that the single most achievement of this Government has been that unlike the situation of 1991, today India's prestige and power in this world has been established again. That was the situation when India had to bend on its knees and give refuelling rights to the American planes going to the Gulf War. That is the situation we have come from. But this Government has worked up to the situation now, that today in spite of being alone in a post-cold war situation, we have been successful in establishing our power and that too by very intelligent, articulate and activist diplomacy.

That being what it is, I would like to give a suggestion here. No doubt, the Government has come up to this stage. I have also demanded that elections should be held in Jammu and Kashmir. But elections cannot be held in a void. Before elections are held, I would request the Government to consider whether the actions of

Pakistan have to be countered effectively or not. As has been brought out and as has been seen, Pakistan has interfered in the internal affairs of this country for the past many years. That has been their tactic. Pakistan's entire operational plan is to employ the soft options while initiating and creating divisions among the Indian population and the Indian States on the lines of religion and on the lines of caste.

That is why Pakistan's intention has been to divide India on the lines of religion. And who has supported them knowingly or unknowingly, we all know. We all know who has taken up the chord; we all know who has worked to create this communal divide in the country. I would like to ask our BJP firends what happened when they started the Ram Janmabhoomi issue. It has divided the people on the lines of religion. That is exactly what Pakistan wanted, and that is what Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar probably meant when he spoke this morning. That is why I would say that that is not a question of Jammu and Kashmir alone, but we have to address it nationally. We have to work towards bringing all the communities and castes together because the first priority in national security policy has to be setting our house in order. And for this, all of us have to contribute.

Sir, what has happened in Charar-e-Sharief is very sad and indeed deserves total rejection. But I want to bring out that the Government has tried to show its sincerity by bringing in a situation where there could be elections in the State. Pakistan has deliberately initiated action to create a situation, where elections cannot be held. Today, this House should unanimously condemn the action of Pakistan, the militants and unitedly call for action that can restore normality in Jammu and Kashmir. It is that sort of resolution which is called for to be passed by this House today.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, may I request hon. Members not to treat this discussion as a question-answer hour? For, if too many questions are asked you are not likely to get replies to all the questions as the time is going to be very limited for the reply. Also, there shall not be any discussion on this discussion itself. Thirdly, let there be no repetition of the replies to some of the points which are raised by other Members. And fourthly, I would like to request you to directly come to the point so that within the available time, we can give more time to others.

May I request Jaswant Singhji to speak please?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will endeavour to abide as faithfully as I can by your observations. I shall, therefore, speak only on the Adjournment Motion, unlike the principal speakers of the Treasury, who, as you have yourself observed, narrated to us the history and the philosophy of the partition of this country.

MR. SPEAKER : My remark applies to Members from all the sides.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, Sir. It applies to everyone. I have said that they have narrated the history and the philosophy of the partition of the country only because the central issue involved about the incident at Charar-e-Sharief is what has indeed persuaded some of us to move the Adjournment Motion or to support it. And I support the Motion moved by Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

There was another caution which was voiced earlier, before this decision was taken. And subsequently also, this kept on coming up in various interventions. It was about the need for a consensus to emerge from this discussion. I am pained to point out that indeed a consensus already existed. Giving voice to that consensus, the Government was empowered by both the Houses of Parliament by a unanimous Resolution on Kashmir. That unanimous Resolution is not simply a piece of paper. That was an expression of the concern of both the Houses of Parliament. It was a document of unanimous consensus.

No further additional consensus need to be expressed by this House. It is that consensus which this Government has betrayed; and it is since that consensus and that responsibility which have been betrayed, we have this Adjournment Motion here as a mark of the censure of this House, as a mark of censure of this Parliament and as a mark of betrayal of a consensus which was handed over to this Government as a responsibility. That is why, in a very mild term that this Adjournment Motion has come about. There were indeed other ways by which the same censure could have been expressed; but we chose the mildest of the three. We chose it because around the 'mildest of the three', there was the maximum equation of agreement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am necessarily mindful of the caution that you have voiced. I am rushing through the points that I have; and I shall endeavour not to repeat anything that has been said earlier.

I did not have the benefit of attending the meeting of the Leaders of the Opposition that the hon. Prime Minister called, if I am not mistaken, on the 12th of May. In that meeting, the hon. Prime Minister, as reported by the newspapers, believed to have said this and I am quoting as accurately as I can, The hon. Prime Minister is indeed here; this is an occasion to verify. I quote :

"... maybe the State Government adopted a certain approach which perhaps did not succeed. But this should not be viewed as a failure, etc. etc."

I am stunned by the sophistry of these words and by the total evasion involved in using words to communicate nothing! He says : "... maybe the State Government adopted an approach." What was the Union Government doing, if still on the 12th of May, after the incident, the Prime Minister has to say "... maybe the State Government"? Is the State Government an autonomous organisation? Is the Governor of Jammu &

Kashmir, a representative of an autonomous will, free from the directions of the Union Government; and therefore, even on the 12th of May, there is still a question of, "... may be"? Every blame is being transferred on to the head of the State Government, as if the Union Government had no responsibility whatsoever in the matter. Thereafter, he says, "... perhaps did not succeed." He says "... perhaps did not succeed", after the *dargah* has been burnt down to ashes; he says "... perhaps did not succeed", after the rubble of the total policy on Jammu & Kashmir lies down there smouldering. The final irony of that is, the hon. Prime Minister informs the nation and the Leaders of the Opposition that, "... this should not be viewed as a failure." I would like very sincerely not to view this as a failure and if I continue to view it as a failure, perhaps it is a deficiency in my understanding! It is a failure of such a major dimension because in this what has failed is not simply the Government. What has been burnt down indeed - whether you consider it as Nand Rishi or you consider that as the Mazhar of the Nand Rishi or the *dargha* of Nooruddin Wali in a sense, Sir, is a sense of honour of this country. We gave you the consensus as our responsibility; you hold that responsibility; you betrayed that consensus; you betrayed our trust; you betrayed the trust of the Parliament; and you betrayed the trust of the nation.

I will go to the chronology of the event. The Government's stand is explained by the spokesman fielded by the Treasury Benches. I would not like to rely on the statement of the Union Home Secretary because he cannot stand up and answer for himself; that has not been an authoritative statement by anyone from the Government. Therefore, I have to take recourse to either that or the statement repeated here in the House.

There are three things particularly said : What else could we have done - please tell us now. There was no other option. It was a fragile structure of wood, etc. After the event, after the failure of that policy and after the burning down of the *Dargah*, it does not lie on the Treasury Benches to turn and tell us as to what else could have we done now? This is precisely your responsibility because you ought to have thought out not only one option but ten options or if necessary, all the possible 100 options or the contingencies that could have arisen to prevent this humiliation from being inflicted on the country. You are responsible for having humiliated the nation in the process that has happened and that is why, Sir, we are charging them with dereliction of this duty. That is why, we have come, in collectively, with this mildest form of censure. The chronology, even now being explained by the Union Government, through the agencies of various speakers who have intervened, is filled with either total evasion, history and philosophy or inaccuracies or half-truths. The problem lies here because what was a total failure, for publicity sake, you have conveyed it or tried to convey it as a great success. You did everything possibly wrong in the management of the situation in Hazratbal.

Even then, I had mentioned in Parliament : "You did everything wrong; it was the creator's great grace upon India that permitted out of that mess a resolution to emerge which conveyed an impression as if a great success had been achieved by this Government." It was not a success, Sir. It was a great failure, and the root of what has taken place today in Charar-e-Sharief lies in that misconception, in that total misreading of that situation.

Though you have said not to ask too many questions, I would like to say that there are some questions which cannot but must be asked....(*Interruptions*)...I am given to understand that this self-styled Major Gul had been operating in Jammu and Kashmir since mid-1991. This has been in the knowledge of the Government since mid-1991. This very self-styled Gul was, through intelligence agencies, reported to be in Hazratbal, when Hazratbal was seized. You have to clarify this. You owe this to us because now, anything but total candour will not do. On mendacity, consensus cannot be built. Consensus is the distillation of collective thought. When you are sharing only a quarter thought, you cannot expect from us complete and full cooperation based on fractions of truth. Were there no intelligence reports that the self-styled Gul was in Hazratbal? Thereafter, when you arranged for the so-called capitulation or surrender of those who were inside the Hazratbal, you arranged it through the local policy and not through the Army which had been entrusted with the responsibility which you again repeated in Charar-e-Sharief. And when the intelligence agencies asked for him there, after the so-called surrender, he, alongwith six others, was not there. If this is not correct, tell us about 1991. Tell us about Hazratbal. Even till today, we do not know what happened in Hazratbal. What were the lessons of Hazratbal? What went wrong and what went right? Parliament does not know that those lessons were.

Sir, we move now in December, 1994. I am not referring to Doda; I am not referring to Kishtwar; I am not referring to continuing incidents of foreign mercenaries - Sudani, Afghanistan, Palestine, others whose presence was known to this Government in Doda repeatedly. A foreign mercenary on the soil of India is an invader and this Government showed weakness, the slackness and cowardice in standing up against the invasion of India, which is not an invasion of six months old, six days old. This invasion has been going on for the last four years. For four years repeatedly we have been saying, 'you have foreign mercenaries sitting on your soil. They do not deserve any consideration because they are invaders. A citizen, a countryman he is meriting. He will certainly deserve to be spoken to even if he is in error, but a foreign mercenary not. You did not heed it.

In December 1994, Intelligence again reported to you that the activities of foreign mercenaries are now seen in Charar-e-Sharief. Intelligence again repeated to you and I think this was mentioned by hon. Shri

George Fernandes too. He quoted to you that what was done in Hazratbal is likely to be repeated in Charar-e-Sharief. What did you do? What directions were given from the Government of India? What additional coordination was arranged?

Thereafter, in February 1995, incident started multiplying around Charar-e-Sharief like spark. It became apparent that Charar-e-Sharief is going to become a focus; Charar-e-Sharief is going to become that area around which yet another question is going to be posed to India, we raised it in Parliament. I recollect very well coming in pleading with you in your Chamber that I be permitted to raise Charar-e-Sharief because I think that it is a very important issue. We raised it in Press. Repeatedly, we asked you to explain to us; repeatedly, we cautioned you that what is coming about in Charar-e-Sharief is yet another very big challenge and question to India. On the 2nd or the 3rd March 1995 - I could well be mistaken on the exact date an encounter takes place between BSF and this very group of self-styled Gul. In that encounter two BSF, other rank, are killed. Soon after the killings, of these two BSF personnel, the first ingress and shelter taking into Charar-e-Sharief takes place. Yet, at the beginning of March, there is no further action from this Government. We again asked the Government, 'what is happening?' Kashmir Valley is begun to simmer with anxiety about this. The Government is silent. The Government does not share information; the Government does not even share our concern when we voiced it.

The Jammu & Kashmir Ministry raises my next concern. The Union Home Ministry unable to cope with the situation of its internal feuding is split apart. Controls are taken up one from another. The affairs of Jammu & Kashmir, of prime importance to the country become the direct responsibility of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister thereafter is good enough to inform the nation and the Parliament, which was an expression to my mind, of lack of confidence in the Ministers that were there in the Union Home Ministry.

I do not mean it to be individual's slur. But when the Prime Minister took away those responsibilities from the Ministry itself, it was an expression by the Prime Minister of a lack of confidence in the totality of his Union Home Ministry. Yet, the Home Ministry continued to be as such. The Prime Minister took on an additional charge of Jammu and Kashmir. Implicit in that was that he would now-like he had earlier said once about Bofors - pay day to day attention to it as done in Bofors. The other day he was good enough to inform us here in this House that it was very important for him to be also his own Defence Minister. I was not convinced. I still am not convinced. Even when he took direct charge of the Ministry of Jammu and Kashmir, I personally was not convinced that the hon. the Prime Minister had the time to pay heed to the complicated challenges that Kashmir throws up, not on a daily basis but almost on an hourly basis.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : There was a demand from the political Parties that the Prime Minister should take up the charge.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : But then certainly, I was not a part of that political consensus. That is not the point. The point that I would like to know is, ever since - there being only one Joint Secretary in it, is one point; perhaps the hon. the Prime Minister, the Minister in charge of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs does it all himself and there was a cell created for looking after the Jammu and Kashmir Affairs - that cell, since the creation of that separate Ministry has had an opportunity to meet only once. Since the creation of that Cell directly under the charge of the Prime Minister to look after the Jammu and Kashmir affairs has had an opportunity to meet only once! Leave alone all other aspects of Jammu and Kashmir; leave alone every other aspect of the deteriorating situation - whether it be in Jammu, or Doda or Kesra or the Valley or anywhere; and considering the great experience in public life that the hon. the Prime Minister has, his individual, personal learning and his super-humanability, how is it possible that the hon. the Prime Minister, the Minister in charge for Jammu and Kashmir Affairs has managed the affairs of Jammu and Kashmir for the entire duration of that direct charge with only one meeting of that Cell?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : I do not know what you are talking about. I thank you for the sarcasm. But I would like to tell you that the Department, those who are concerned with the Kashmir matter have been meeting, have been consulting on a daily basis - in fact, more than once a day whenever needed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, that is my question. My point is precisely that. The Prime Minister objected to my sarcasm. Yes, I was being sarcastic. I am being sarcastic. I am being sarcastic because what otherwise we are unable to reach the thick hide of this Government. I am deliberately being sarcastic. The hon. the Prime Minister says that this Department has been meeting on a daily basis; has been meeting, if necessary, twice a day. My charge is that that department has not access to the Prime Minister.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : No.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : They have not been able to meet the Prime Minister.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : When I said the Department, I included myself in it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : If the hon. the Prime Minister says that he has been meeting this Department twice a day and if despite that the Charar-e-Sharief burns down, then this is precisely why we are talking about it.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : You can turn it around in any way you like.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, if the Prime Minister says that he is meeting the Department twice a day and if the consequence of that meeting twice a day is this national humiliation, then this Adjournment Motion is really not enough. Then it is really not enough because what it calls for is much more severe and much greater censure. These things do not delight us. I have had an occasion to say this earlier. Why do we have to say all these things to a man of great learning? Why are we compelled to say all these things?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have only informed you the facts. Now, you made a comment. I have no objection to your comments at all. I am not going to make any comment on your comment. You said, we have not met; you said, in spite of the Prime Minister being in charge, things have not happened; there have been no meeting; there is only one meeting. I said, this is not correct. We have been meeting whenever necessary, if necessary, more than once a day. That is all I said.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will proceed, Sir, because my point is established. I am really on the chronology of events and they will speak for themselves. I spoke about 1991 and came up to 1995. I am now on the situation that was there after the occupation of Nand Rishi Mazaar also called as Dargah Charar-e-Sharief.

These are well-known facts. The inner cordon around the Nand Rishi Mazaar was composed of paramilitary forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police and Civilian Revenue and other authorities. The Army, as pointed out, was on pickets but the pickets were to attempt to overlook the township. It is a small township. I have had the benefit of visiting the township on numerous occasions and paying homage to Nand Rishi Mazaar or Dargah Charar-e-Sharief. The army was never given any task. I would like to know what task was given to the Army. It was, as claimed by somebody, to prevent ingress and egress. We would like to know what task was given to the Army. The Army did not go there on its own.

It is well known now at this stage that a Joint Command was to set up. It did not work. I remember the courtesy which the then Minister of State for Home Affairs extended to us. He called up to his house and shared the information with us that the establishment of a Joint Command will take place and so many other things will happen but nothing happened. At this stage we know that the Dargah has been occupied. There is no coordination. You visualise for yourself a small township and there is an inner cordon of outer picket at some distance away, necessarily because that is the deployment pattern. There is absolutely no coordination. I would like to know what tasks were given to the Army.

I am, Sir, on the night of Tuesday-Wednesday, that is Eighth-Ninth May. A mention was made here by hon. George Fernandes that the Army was asked to move on the eighth itself. I would like this to be clarified because if I recall correctly the first fire took place, which was

like a warning, on the night of Tuesday-Wednesday, that is on the night of Eighth-Ninth May. There were numerous reports and we raised it in the House also. There was some response that 300 or 500 houses were burnt. A very casual cursory sort of a response came from the Government and a statement of the sort was given which was completely evasive. The Government did not even then recognise the enormity or the seriousness of the impending problem. I charge, Sir, that even at this stage no effort was made either by the State Government or the Union Government to ensure that at this stage at least a coordinated action between the paramilitary forces, the Civilian organisations and the military which was eventually called, was taken. The first fire in Charar-e-Sharief ought to have made both the State and the Union Governments to think as to what is to be done as elementary precaution of what is obviously a tactic to set on fire when it comes to the wooden township. They could only say, Sir, that the fire tenders which came from Srinagar could not enter because they came under fire. It is misleading and it is only the half truth.

Firstly, after Hazratbal, once the Dargah had been occupied, why were not fire tenders placed on permanent duty in Charar-e-Sharief as a requirement, as a contingency? Secondly, it is insulting the intelligence of those that have suffered for fire tenders which cannot go into the narrow lanes of Charar-e-Sharief because it is a small township of wooden shacks and you want to send big trucks which cannot go in any case. Why were not other contingency plans made? Why were not alternative arrangements to fight fire made? Not made because no thought was being given.

MR. SPEAKER : Jaswant Singh Ji, there are many other Members who would like to speak including those of your party.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Sir, these are the only two from our party.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I have made the point on fire fighting. I am now moving to the night of 10th-11th May because it is the 11th May, early morning. By all accounts, the fire starts in the vicinity of the Dargah at around 0230 hours that is 2.30 in the morning. Between 2.30 and 5.30 the fire rages with no one in control. No one is in control; no one is fighting it; no one is going to the help of the township, the civilian or any one. The Army is finally called. In that Sir, I differ with the dates given by hon. George Fernandes. The Army is finally called to help the situation at 0600 hours that is at 6 A.M. on the 11th of May. By the time the Army is called, the Dargah has been reduced to rubble already. By the time the Army is called, the self-styled Gul with whatever others has already left Charar-e-Sharief. From Wednesday, the first incident, till 5.30 on the morning of the 11th of May, from 8th of May till 11th of May, the Government was literally fiddling while that fire was burning. That is my charge, Sir.

Now, Sir, I have a point to make about, I think, of a very great wrong that has been done by the Union Home Ministry and the Government of India as a whole. The Army let the Government know that their Signal Intelligence has intercepted wireless communication between the self-styled Guls and their mentors across the Border. In an act of unbelievable irresponsibility, the Union Home Ministry made that knowledge public. By making that knowledge about the Signal Intelligence intercept by the Army public, they have compromised a source, an ability, and I charge the Government of having done that after the incident as if there were some more demonstration needed of how irresponsibly and how senselessly and continuously mindlessly this Government can act despite all that now lies as rubble.

Sir, very briefly let us look at it from another angle. What could possibly have been our adversary's aims? This is an elementary assessment and appreciation that ought to have been conducted by the Government. The adversary's aims were clear. They must occupy, Hazratbal, some other similar place. They must embarrass India in that some other such religious site, place of worship or whatever. They must stand there and defy us till the whole world sees that they are defying us. They stand there and defy us for 60 continuous days. Thereafter the aim could well have been that they will do as much damage as possible in those 60 days to further internationalise, to show us down.

They do that. Thereafter, their aim could have been to destroy it. They indeed, declared it that they will destroy it. The knowledge of the declaration is with the Government. They destroyed it and the Government did nothing. The Government came here today and told us what else could they have done? What their aims ought to have been? Their aims ought to have been to have assessed all these things from the very beginning. They ought to have prevented it. They ought to have prevented it from internationalising it. They ought to have thwarted it. They ought to have prevented the slap directly on the face of India. An *aira gaira nathu khaira* of a foreign mercenary comes and stands there for sixty continuous days and defies India and all that the Indian Government, carrying the responsibility of our consensus, was able to do was to say that they will give him safe passage to Pakistan. What was their aim? What was your Government's aim? What was your appreciation? How did you, while planning, aim to counter the aims of our adversaries? I charge you with that failure too.

Now that Pakistan has done what it wanted to do. Have we expected anything else from Pakistan? It is not a new input. If you wish to hang your own failure only on Pakistan, then please be cautious. It is because in the process you create a nation which is one-sixth in every sense of India. Pakistan is one-sixth of India in every sense. When you give it a kind of superhuman ability by constantly referring, either to their third rate Intelligence Agency or to think as they are

responsible for every difficulty that takes place with us, then you demoralise or denigrate the country and you in fact, instead of transferring the responsibility, add on to your guilt. What has the Government done after the 11th May? For the first time, after coming into being of the Ministry on Kashmir Affairs under honourable the Prime Minister, finally sat with the entire opposition. Sir, he had deputed two of his Ministers to go to Jammu and Kashmir. I have no difficulty with whom the Prime Minister deputed to go to which part of the country. The direct involvement was in Jammu and Kashmir. The issues involved related either to the Ministry on Kashmir Affairs or to the Ministry of Defence. Honourable the Union Finance Minister is looking after the finances of the country. And with great technical ability, honourable the Union Home Minister is supposedly looking after, at least in theory, the affairs of the Home Ministry with as much ability as God has granted him. After all, where is the Ministry of Defence? Where is the Ministry on Kashmir Affairs? Incidentally, Sir, we were informed through newspapers that they were to go for an on-the-spot study. I mean no disrespect to the person of the Union Finance Minister. I know how he must have gone. I know that because I have had to do this myself. On both sides of the road were lined up either the paramilitary or military commandoes with bullet proof cars whizzed from Srinagar Airport to the Governor's beautiful residence overlooking the placid and wonderful spring lake of Kashmir. There, in the well-appointed drawing room, he must have sat and conferred with the Governor and a few others, a select handful; thereafter they go in a helicopter and over-fly Charar-e-Sharief and come back.

MR. SPEAKER : Some other time.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I know, Sir. He should have gone some other time.

MR. SPEAKER : I said that we will discuss it some other time.

19.00 hrs.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I will conclude. We say what we say in pain and we say in anger because you fail to act in time; because you fail to act with courage. In Doda last evening three people were killed and three were seriously injured. In a village near Kishtwar six people were killed. This will continue to happen for as long as you are there. Sir, this Motion of Censure through the Adjournment is not enough for this Government. I appeal to you even now if you do really want to change, time has come. Display one great commitment to India. Give up the Chair which seems to be your principal pre-occupation. That is the only way a new beginning can be made in Kashmir.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Charar-e-Sharief was the shining symbol of Kashmir's secular traditions and was respected by the people of all faiths. Sir, there have been several instances where the militants attempted to damage

mosques to rouse passions as part of their design of engineering large scale disturbances to thwart the process of normalisation for which the Government has been actively working. After the occupation of Hazrat Bal, there have been several incidents where militants have indulged in the acts of vandalism.

Sir, this shrine of Sheikh Noorudin is the second most venerated shrine after the Hazrat Bal and lakhs of people visit there every year. The occupation of this shrine by the militants and the mercenaries has not been received well by the Kashmiris in general and the people of the Charar-e-Sharief in particular. On the night of 8th May, 1995 the militants set on fire the residential houses in the town and in utter frustration and desperation tried to thwart the political process by creating terror. The militants opened fire and prevented the fire tenders from reaching the spot. On 11th May, at about 2 a.m. the militants set a cluster of houses on fire which are very close to the shrine. After setting the whole shrine ablaze, the militants opened fire and launched racket attacks on the posts of security forces.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Narayanan, that is known to all of us.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : Sir, I will not take more than five minutes. I will be very brief. The militants, conscious of the public resentment of their occupation, has promised the local residents that they would leave the town as soon as the weather improves. But they did not do so as they were guided by the dictates of their mentors across the border. Now, the entire country is in deep anguish over the tragic development culminating in the burning down of the famous shrine. The 600 years-old shrine was set afire in the early hours by the foreign mercenaries holed up in its premises. The fierce battle engaged by the militants is yet another proof of the sinister attempt made to create chaos and confusion all over the State. While the Government was successful in flushing out the militants from Hazratbal, why did not the security forces flush the militants out in Charar-e-Sharief? Sir, the Government has once again failed to honour its commitment to the nation, particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The irony is that the Government did not initiate any step to protect the shrine even after the threat to its survival became real on 8th May when the militants began torching *mohallas*. Besides reducing the shrine to ashes, the militants have also torched the historic place of Khankah and the green mosque. Sir, moreover the shrine was burned down on the day when Bakrid was being celebrated joyously world over by the Muslims. This is the clear indication of the total mishandling.

This is a clear indication of the total mishandling by the bureaucratic administration involving a sacred place held in high reverence throughout the Valley. The Prime Minister will have to explain the reasons for repeatedly rejecting the popular demand for replacing the...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

It was also ironical that even till yesterday, the Home Minister, Shri Chavan had held out the assurance that the Shrine was fully protected. The Government is claiming that the situation was improving in Jammu & Kashmir. I wanted the Government to explain how the fire started and what it proposed to deal with the militants holed up in the Shrine. I also suggest that in view of the Government's plan to hold elections there, a parliamentary delegation should visit the State and assess the situation.

Sir, the Prime Minister should have taken the Parliament into confidence, but he failed to do that. It is a national issue. The Prime Minister has to explain as to why he has not taken the Parliament into confidence. I submit that inefficient handling of the situation by the Government is the cause for this total destruction. The affairs of Jammu & Kashmir are directly handled and looked after by the Prime Minister. He cannot escape the responsibility. He should own moral responsibility for the burning down of the Shrine and the entire town.

With these words I support the Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : The derogatory remarks to the Governor may not go on record. I will look into it and then remove it.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla) : Sir, I do not wish to take much time by repeating the same events. I rise to support the Censor Motion moved by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The reason being that I have been seeing the events that are being taking place in Kashmir for the last five or six years. We have been told time and again that the situation in Kashmir Valley was under full control and the time has come for us to hold the elections.

But here with this Charar-e-Sharief incident whereby the total Shrine is being destroyed as well as thousands of houses are being destroyed in the same process, the particular situation is revealing nothing but the present situation that is existing in the Kashmir Valley. All the time the Government was there and the Government was here, that is, the Prime Minister's office that is directly handling the affairs is responsible for this kind of activity that has happened.

Sir, one lakh crores of rupees have been spent in the Kashmir Valley for the last few years. But so far what had happened over there? It is very much sad that people are not getting education; they are not getting proper food; and they are not getting employment there. This is the result of the last four or five years of activities that have taken place in this Valley. Now these events in the Kashmir Valley are highly objectionable.

Now, the present situation is not the only thing that is happening over there. Right from the Hazratbal incident if you take, these events are taking place. As Shri Jaswant Singh has said that we should not take the Hazratbal incident as successful handling of the

situation where the seeds were sown at that moment itself. The self-styled Afghan leader was there right from that time onwards. The Government could not catch that man and he, after blasting the Shrine, was able to go away.

This is the failure of the Government. We can directly say that this Government could not handle this situation properly.

Sir, when this incident is being taken place, so many people around it also have been affected, for which the Government could not say anything. On the one side the Government is telling that this act is being done by the militants and foreign ISI and other activists but at the same time the local people are not believing this. As has been said earlier, the whole area is being dominated by the military operations and all that. The people who have gathered over there in thousands and thousands protest against the Government that this destruction is being done by the military. But the Government is not in a position to convince the people here as well as outside the country that this is being done by the militants alone. Sir, in this particular situation, the Government has to take the responsibility for this incident. The sentiments of the entire Muslim community are being affected in this particular situation as well.

Right from Ayodhya to till now, this Government could not instill confidence in that community that we are dedicated for the secular system and the secular activities in this country. And to the world, we should also give our responsible slogan that we are secular.

Sir, with these few words, I support the Adjournment Motion moved by Shri Somnath Chatterjee and this Government should take the responsibility for the failure to prevent this incident.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will be very brief and come straight to the subject.

Sir, I also want that the Prime Minister and the Government should realise seriously the implications of this Adjournment Motion because the Adjournment Motion amounts, with all its implications, the censure, the spirit of censure against the Government's activities and performance particularly in regard to Jammu and Kashmir problem.

Sir, we also take this opportunity to express our gravest possible concern over the dismal and utter failure of the Government in tackling such a very important vital national problem of our country.

Sir, I take this opportunity of participating in this debate to appeal to the people of our country belonging to all religious faiths to see that peace and amity prevails all over the country and nobody should be allowed to take advantage of this kind of peculiar and frequent situation to disrupt the normalcy in the country.

Sir, coming to the main problem, once again I reiterate that the Jammu and Kashmir problem is not

the problem of a particular Party and the Party's philosophy cannot be with the guiding principle of solving such an important national and vital problem, which concerns the security perceptions of our country and which concerns the external relation and manifestations in the field of country to country relation. Therefore, it must have an all comprehensive policy framework. My charge is that this Government has failed to evolve such a policy framework. As a matter of act, there is no Jammu and Kashmir policy of the Government of India.
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That point has already been made.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : If there is anything, that is a policy of drift, a policy of procrastination and a policy of simply evading the issues. I think, the Government should take this into account and reformulate the Jammu and Kashmir policy is that the emerging danger can be met effectively.

Sir, the basic problem is the alienation of Jammu and Kashmir people from the mainstream politics of our country. Unless their hearts are won, unless they are persuaded to join the mainstream politics of our country, I think the problem will continue to fester. This alienation is the result of the policy of procrastination and drifting.

So far as the holding of elections is concerned, nobody has so far objected to the process of political functioning. But elections should not be the beginning of the process. Our Party is of the view that the elections should be the end-result of a series and continuous political process and not the beginning of the political process. Moreover, the present situation is not conducive to hold a fair and free election. If a free and fair election is not held it shall prove being counter-productive and it may also become an instrument for anti-media propaganda in the international fora.

Therefore, I still feel that since it is a political problem, a solution should be sought politically and there cannot be a military solution to the problem, to be very clear and plain. Therefore, the political solution can be arrived at only by a continuous dialogue with all those who are concerned in the matter. I hope that the Government will take proper notice of it and continue the efforts of bringing about a political solution and not take up the matter from a law and order point of view and a solution should not be sought militarily.

[Translation]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Charar-e-Sharief incident has been a very painful incident in this country. For the past four years, we have been hearing that the political process is going to be set in motion in Kashmir. Now, Kashmir has experienced this sordid incident. Prior to this, the hon. Members had drawn the attention of the Government towards the Babri Masjid issue but despite the Government's assurances till the eleventh hour that nobody will be allowed to demolish the Babri Masjid, it was pulled down and the

Government could not protect it. The same story has been repeated today. No decision has been taken regarding this incident.

On Wednesday, Shri Sharad Yadav had expressed his concern in the House over the tension prevailing at Charar-e-Sharief. Many hon. Members had drawn the attention of the Government towards this issue on the very same day. Despite that, Charar-e-Sharief was set ablaze on Thursday. Does the Government intend to take action after occurrence of an incident like this in Kashmir, Punjab, Assam or anywhere else? I think that this ugly incident could have definitely been averted if these questions were addressed seriously at some forum. Pakistan takes some action against India and we keep on sitting merely contemplating on that. You know everything. Why didn't the Government take any action when it was aware that Pakistan or some terrorists were bent upon burning down Charar-e-Sharief? An hon. Minister of the Government of India made a statement that the Government was aware of it in advance. When the Government was aware....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All this has already been asked.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL : So, let India be set ablaze as well. Such incidents are taking place despite diverting all the funds of India to Kashmir and deploying all the army there. An hon. Minister visits Kashmir, sets the things right. Then another Minister goes there and reverses the whole process. Have you turned Kashmir into a political arena where you may play game of power? In Pakistan such things had been suppressed for quite a long time....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mandal ji, you may speak at a later occasion. That is enough. All that has already been said.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL : It seems that the Members of smaller parties are of no significance in the eyes of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : What you are saying has already been stated.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL : Whether it is Kashmir or any other problem, the Members of the major parties were called to deliver their speeches and as Shri Jaswant Singh ji was saying that the hon. Home Minister visited the place and talked to the officials in a closed room, here, too, the same pattern is followed and the matters are disposed of by talking to certain leaders in a room.

MR. SPEAKER : They have already said what you intended to say.

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL : I am restricting my speech to the confines of my knowledge. I want to say that the Government should take action before an incident takes place. The Government is talking of starting the electoral process but how will elections be conducted there? Like they were held in Punjab or in Assam? Who will cast votes there? The public or those who will snatch

the ballot boxes? The Government should first prepare the people for the exercise, instil confidence and courage in them, go in for the development of the region. Nothing has been left for the people of Kashmir and 4-5 percent people have exploited whole of Kashmir and you are talking of initiating the political process with the involvement of these very people. The representatives of the Government should go and meet the common man and involve them to find a solution to this problem. In our country, be it Bombay or any other place, the way the religious places, both of the Hindus and Muslims are made targets, it hurts the feelings of the people....(Interruptions)

Nothing has been said about Jharkhand. This Government does not believe in solving the problems; instead, it wants to hold them in abeyance so that people may hanker after it. The Government has completed four years and, as such, is in office for 5-6 months more. It can pass this period also by procrastinating things. Yet, my submission is that there is still time to take the Kashmir issue seriously and save what is left of Kashmir from destruction and loss.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think now the hon. Prime Minister should speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : As the Mover, I did not take much time. So, please give them time.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhogendra Jha, I am not going to give you the last word.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give two minutes' time to each Member.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with deep anguish I condemn the brutal and criminal assault on the Charar-e-Sharief, the symbol of Indian secular faith.

I also support the other points made by my other colleagues regarding the attack on Charar-e-Sharief.

I want to mention only two or three points.

I had the opportunity to visit Kashmir on several occasions, individually as well as in delegations. After coming back, we pleaded with the Prime Minister not to talk of elections in Kashmir but to prepare for a situation there. We told him that all the political parties in Kashmir had become irrelevant and requested him to first bring the political parties into relevance. We suggested to him that before meeting the political leaders, he should win the confidence of the people. But instead of that, he called some discredited people in Delhi, had talks with them and announced elections. This is just a mere eye-wash to find a solution of the problem. This Government is totally insensitive to the ground realities and the situation in Kashmir. We made a representation saying

that with the money being sent in Kashmir, a building is being constructed in Noida. We requested the Government to look into it. Only one officer in Anantnag was caught with Rs. 4 crore defalcation but crores and crores of rupees are being defalcated like that. The boys in Kashmir told me - and Mr. Jaina also who is here - repeatedly when we visited Kashmir. The Government did not protect those people who met us and gave some information to us. One after the other they were killed. How can we depose faith in the Government? All the political parties had deposed faith in the Prime Minister. He had promised that he would protect the Babri Mosque but he failed. This time again we had all deposed faith in him. It was in his hands to protect this Charar-e-Sharief because he is looking after the Department. But again he failed. It is a total failure of this Government. I condemn this act of failure and this assault on the people. This Government has failed to protect our Constitution and the unity of this country. This Government has, therefore, no right to stay and rule this country. This Government has taken the country to the brink of destruction. I condemn this Government with all the might at my command and thank you for giving me the opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay-South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the hon. Somnath Chatterjee was moving Adjournment Motion in the House, there was a sudden darkness all around in the House. I would like to say that the Government has been keeping the House in the dark in regard to Kashmir. Charar-e-Sharief is not the first mosque which has been gutted down. Through you, I would like to inform the House, that Maqdoom Sahib masjid was burnt down in Srinagar on 21st September, 1992, then Naqshband Sahib Masjid was burnt down on 25th September, 1992 and Shameshwari's masjid was burnt down on 28th October, 1992, the Maqdoom masjid was once again attacked on 3rd November, 1992. I would like to say that several masjids have been attacked time and again. Jiarat Rishi Sahib in Anantnag was attacked on 11th November. Then, an attempt was made to burn down Sopore masjid. The Library was burnt down in Hazrat Bal area. Then, there was a big blast in Jamia Masjid on 6th of May.

An hon. Colleague of ours just said that if some incident had happened there then the Government would have been asked to resign. I would like to ask whether we are supposed to congratulate the Government for what happened in the Charar-e-Sharief. This Government has proved to be a complete failure in regard to Charar-e-Sharief. They would not even save one masjid!

Shri Salman Khursheed just mentioned that elections should be held in Kashmir. Then, Shri Chandra Shekhar remarked as to in whose hands we want to

entrust Kashmir by holding elections there. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs who belongs to my state has also said something like this just now. I would like to ask whether you propose to appeal to Hizbul Mujahiddin, which is an official organisation of the ISI, to contest elections. Do you want to hand over Kashmir to them?

Sir, I do not want to take much time but I must say one thing that if you are really planning to hold elections in Kashmir then you should hand it over to Army and free Kashmir of militants and then hold elections. Only then the elections can be free and fair and people would also be able to cast their votes without any fear. Our hon. Prime Minister is present here, he has announced an amount to the tune of Rs. 15 crore for re-building Charar-e-Sharief but if he can provide Rs. 15 crore for re-building Charar-e-Sharief then who will provide funds for re-building 5 temples which have recently been burnt down there. All these temples were burnt in the wake of Charar-e-Sharief incident only. As per my information a total of 750 temples have been burnt down. You should provide funds to re-build all of them.

You are aware that Sri Lanka Government has sought help from an organisation called MOSAD to deal with LTTE. I suggest that our Government should also seek the help of MOSAD organisation to deal with the conspiracies hatched by the ISI Organisation and to deal with terrorists.

Sir, I would only like to submit that it is all politicised. Hon. Indrajit Gupta and Atal Bihar Vajpayee have said that it is being propagated there that the Indian Army had sprinkled gun-powder from Helicopter and then set it afire and this way Charar-e-Sharief was burnt down. This kind of propaganda is being indulged in. The people in that area are shouting slogans against India. That is why, I feel that it is all due to politics.

Sir, there were bomb blasts in Bombay. I consider Shri Rajesh Pilot brave. We may have differences. When there were attacks in Kashmir, he had gone there. He was attacked, and four of his colleagues got killed but he remained there. He went there. Similarly when there were bomb blasts in Bombay, he went there also. I was witness to that. I was also there. Shri Mukul Wasnik went along him. Shri Rajesh Pilot had said it in this House only that ISI was behind it all and it was masterminded by Pakistan. 257 persons got killed and 713 were injured in the Bombay bomb blasts. The people who were behind these blasts had been trained in Pakistan. It was confirmed by the CBI also. The Bombay Police also said it. The CBI Chief also supported it but a Bombay police official said it in the High-court that it did not constitute treason. So, Sir, what kind of message is directed to the country and Pakistan by them? This way they have given a message to the whole world... (Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : These things are not going on record.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is this? They should speak with full responsibility that it was not master-minded by ISI. They said it only in accordance with the public sentiments. They are afraid of them.

Sir, I would like to say only one sentence about Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you may sit down.

[English]

You do not have to comment on each one's points.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude by saying that be it a mosque or a temple, if our soldiers are killed in a temple or a mosque then since our country is big enough, we should kill those who want to kill our soldiers.

I would conclude and express my gratitude to you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I rise to support the Adjournment Motion introduced by Comrade-Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I had also given a resolution condemning the burning of the Charar-e-Sharief, the fire that broke out in the city in which several temples were demolished and houses of those persons belonging to the minorities those who have been left were torched. The Government failed to protect them. I, therefore, condemn the Government with these words.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, followers of almost all main religious of the world live in our country and we cannot rule and save it by resorting to favouritism to anyone of them. Gandhiji could not save the country from disintegration when he tried to appease a particular religion and the country was divided in 1947. He used to say :

"Ishwar Allah tere nam, sabko sanmati de bhagwan".

But he was shot dead in the name of 'Ishwar' and the country was divided in the name of 'Allah'. Therefore, secularism is the only way out in our country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have stated that religion is just like a ball. If it is kicked at particular direction of the wall, it will rebound at the opposite direction. I, therefore, have stated in 1991 that the incidents of disturbances at Ayodhya are echoing as threats in Kashmir. It has its effects. I, therefore, repeat it even today that the failure of the Government is now known to all.

The Government could not prevent the Pak trained terrorist gangs equipped with Pak and American arms who perpetrated lakhs of murders in Afghanistan and who fought in the name of anti-communist rule. This is the failure of the government. The august House should unanimously censure the failure of the Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, again I would like to point out that every individual in India has his right to follow the religion of his choice. However, a person like myself who is non-mythological and secular cannot survive in the most of the nations in the world. No suit will be filed against a person like me and rather I would be beheaded. Our constitution has been framed taking the concept of secularism into consideration. Every individual has his right to adopt religion of his choice. Faith and religion are totally personal matter. There is no legal binding. The faith and religion cannot be imposed on a person through any decision by majority or law. People, suggest on the basis of faith to chalk out solution after holding a dialogue first. What solution should we evolve? Should we find out a solution by making Kashmir independent? Can this decision be swallowed by those who want to migrate to Pakistan? They would smuggle arms from abroad. Just now Shri Salman Khurshid and my other hon. Members have stated that this seed was sown in 1947. But we will have to prove it.

Shri Ghafoor had told... (Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, Sir, usually forget very soon.

MR. SPEAKER : We have not time to recall history. Much time has passed. It is 7.30 p.m.

SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA : Now the Kaide-Azam Jinnah had stated in his capacity of the first President of Pakistan on August 14, 1947 that Pakistan was made and persons of all religions will enjoy equal rights there. He added that the Pak Government did not give publicity to it... (Interruptions)

The base of the mythological state will collapse. Our Government does not give publicity to it so that people may not know the truth. But this was his speech in his capacity as the first President. If the Government does not have this with it, I do have and I can provide it. I would like to request the Government to implement hundred per cent secularism today and we should not as well yield to the disturbances created by the publicity of holding elections there. We should be firm and well-determined to attain our objective. 90 crore people of our democratic country cannot be held hostages by a handful of armed gangs. Nobody can check us if we all assembled at a place unitedly. India is faced with disintegration. I, therefore, would like to request other hon. friends that they should not remain in fool's paradise, that everything will be resolved without any efforts. The election process should be initiated without any fear. This should be passed with voice vote. Nobody should provoke and excite. We should not be trigger-happy and eschew violence. But if the situation demands we should not hesitate to make use of our arms. If

democracy is to be saved in India..(Interruptions) I say this only because some people live in fool's paradise. The situation can improve only when political process is started there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to myself. I have some old friends. We never anticipated that some day we would contest elections...(Interruptions)... I was also imprisoned. Our hon. colleague...(Interruptions) Our hon. colleague in Telangana..in four places...(Interruptions)..Democracy changed us and it will change Kashmir also. We adopted that process and went ahead. My request is that we should not give in and be perturbed. we should proceed further with courage and determination....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARSIMHA RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in the debate. They have criticised the Government. They have also offered suggestions, in some case criticism mixed with suggestions and I would like to assure them that the Government will take into account each and every point raised by the hon. Members.

Sir, all the facts that are available with the Government have been brought before the House. I would not like to repeat them. The options as were available to the authorities at the spot have also come before the House. They have been commented upon. The same strategy which worked in one place in one case did not work in another case.

That is why, I pointed out to the hon. Leaders of the Opposition when I met them that : "You cannot condemn the strategy; you can only say, 'in this case it has not worked' ". Three-four strategies have been followed in the past by the Government - first in the Golden Temple, second in the Hazaratbal and the third which was repeated in Charar-e-Sharief. There were successes; there were failures. I also told very humbly to the Leaders of the Opposition that 'in a matter like this you cannot expect to succeed every time. There will be partial successes, total successes but finally we have to go with the full faith that the success will be ours, victory will be ours'. That is the faith with which the Government is going ahead. I cannot guarantee that in the future also we will come out with unqualified success in every incident and every case. This is a long drawn out struggle and in this long drawn out struggle we will get some casualties and at the same time, we will make many more targets of our attack and between four-five thousand terrorists have been killed during the last three-four years. Let us not forget that. We have not been just pussyfooting here and there. We are not being chicken-hearted. But when it is a question of saving the lives of civilians, even in a military operation, I am not ashamed to say, I do not regret saying that even in a military operation, the lives of the people are sacrosanct

and as far as possible, the military operation also should take into account this and try to avoid it as far as possible.

Now, the town is just like a kind of beehive. It abuts more or less on the shrine. I understand that if people go in as ordinary pilgrims, concealing their weapons and suddenly say that they are in possession and we find that they are in possession and in this case, Sir, I am quite convinced in my mind that there is only one option left and that option is one of not attempting to storm the place, storm the shrine but to wear them out as far as possible. There is always this risk. It has been said many times. many speakers have said it. We cannot do anything in these operations without taking one risk or the other. What I would like to very respectfully submit to the House it, the greater risk has been avoided, a smaller rise has been taken, but the smaller risk has resulted in a tragedy, in a disaster and we feel that the whole country, the Government, Parliament, everyone concerned, is feeling the anguish of this disaster. I have no doubt that whatever has been said in this Parliament today, in this Lok Sabha today every word is full of anguish and anger also but anger against those who have perpetrated this. I have no manner of doubt in my mind that despite whatever disinformation is being created, it is these terrorist from Pakistan, these militants from Pakistan trained, armed, funded and sent by Pakistan - are responsible for this tragedy. I have no doubt at all - now, no doubt on any account on this and this disinformation, I would like to submit, is atrocious. It cannot be done without someone agains fanning this from behind and we know who is fanning it. So, let us not all in this trap.

Sir, on the operational side, I was asked to explain as to who took the decision on the 7th of march to send the Army and BSF to occupy certain high features around the town.

May I submit that in operational matters, no instructions are sent from Delhi, neither now nor any other time in any other operation? The decisions are taken by the authorities there in which the BSF, the other Forces, the Army, the Governor, Administration, all of them are involved. They have a mechanism there and that was the way the decision was taken. There was no question of sending any operational instructions from here. That is never done. That has not been done. That will not be done. That I can assure the House.

These are the facts and this is the result. So much has been said about elections. Why is it that I did not talk of elections last year? Why is it that I did not talk of elections year before last? We only talked about terrorism. We only talked about casualties. We only talked about what the Government was doing or not doing, about terrorism. We all agreed that this terrorism is being sent from abroad, from across the border. We were fully convinced that this is so. There has been any amount of evidence which has been shown internationally and there is hardly any doubt in anybody's

mind today that this is being done by Pakistan. I do not any point in going back on that or questioning that. Why is it that only this year we have started a kind of atmosphere, we have started the effort to create an atmosphere of a political process? Two years back also, I had a meeting with the Leaders of the Opposition. Every one of them said 'No. nothing doing. We will have to now control terrorism. That is the first thing to do. You think of other things later.' I was convinced that was true. Therefore, we concentrated on controlling terrorism and this year when it was found that the control in the aspect of terrorism had advanced a little — advanced even considerably, let me say — and the atmosphere has changed, we just started thinking about the political process. Today in the whole of Jammu and Kashmir, what is the talk? The talk is about elections. The talk is about the political process. It is occupying everybody's mind. Does this not really denote a total change from the previous years? Somebody says 'No. Election cannot be held.' Another Party says 'No. It should be held. Another Party says it can be held only if you give us a package. What do we take to the people? So, please give us a package.'

All these questions are engaging the attention of the Government. I have been overtaken by events. I agree. I confess. But I was having talks with the Leaders of the Opposition on the desirability or otherwise of having elections. It is not that elections or dates of elections have been announced. That has to be done by the Election Commission. The Election Commission has made it clear that unless they are satisfied that free and fair elections can be held in Jammu and Kashmir and conditions there are under control to their satisfaction, they will not have it. It is up to them, up to the Election Commission. What we are trying to do is to create the atmosphere. That atmosphere has been created and I want to submit to the House that while creating that atmosphere, we were all the time aware of two facts. One is that at the last moment it may be that something will happen.

The second is that it may be that there is a neighbour of ours who abhors these elections, who is so frightened of these elections that they will go to any extent to frustrate the elections, to thwart the efforts of the Government to hold elections.

These two things were known and today, as it is, this incident, I would like to submit once again with all the sincerity at my command, should not become the reason for reversing our decisions on the political process.

I would like to very respectfully submit to the House that **yes, leaders have their own views.** They have been expressing those views. I am taking those views into consideration. And I told this House the other day, Sir, that after talking to all the leaders, I would come back to the House and make a statement in regard to the political process. We all have been overtaken by events.

So, the time has not come, the day has not come. But I will still do it. I will continue my efforts and I will come back to the House with whatever strategy the Government thinks is proper. We are amenable to advice. We are prepared to sit with you. But merely because a particular strategy in one case has not worked, we cannot really say that it will never work. I am quite clear in my mind, Sir, that from time to time, from incident to incident, from case to case, we have been examining the pros and cons of everything. What happens if the poll is so low that people will start reading meanings into it. I would like to inform the House that this has been discussed not only within the Government but with other Governments also, internationally also — the possibility of a low poll. What are the implications of a low poll and what are the implications of a no poll? You do not have wonderful options before you. The option is 'low poll and no poll', let us say. Now, we were calculating it. I am amenable to guidance, to advice from hon. Members. Shall we have no poll at all? There are examples in the world where no polls have taken place for twenty years under similar conditions. But we think that President's rule, according to our experience, becomes rather counter-productive after some time. It may be one year; it may be two years. Now, it is five years. You will stay where you are. In fact, things go back, slide back. I do not want that slide back. And, everyone agrees in principle that there should be the political process. It is nobody's case that there should be no political process there. It is a question of whether at a particular time you think that the conditions are ripe to start it, to take the plunge and as Shri George Fernandes has said political activity should precede political process. Elections will come last. We are trying to encourage the process by releasing the leaders who were incarcerated for a number of years by allowing them to come here, talk to everybody. I was talking to the leaders to whom they have talked. I am getting the feedback from the leaders in regard to what they are saying. I have not yet started talking to them because once I start, then, there is nothing else. You come up against a blank wall. So many leaders have been helping me. I am grateful to them. On talking to them they are giving me the feedback. That feedback is available with me. The process is going on. This is how things are being done step by step. Now, we have a setback. I have said it openly. I have said it to the Press that this is a setback. But we feel that in spite of the setback, the atmosphere created will not be vitiated for ever. Let us see to what extent it has been vitiated. We are taking all the reports into account. In fact, the operational details, I am not in a position to divulge to the House. I am not in possession of the details because operation is still continuing in the sense that only as of this morning, the cross-firing has stopped and the Army is screening up the place. I am told that the latest report is that the place will be made over to the civil authorities.

some time tomorrow. We are going to have the opportunity of an all-Party Delegation of Members of parliament going to Jammu and Kashmir. I have agreed to that. They wanted it and I am very happy that we are going there. When we go there, that will be the time when operational details etc. can be presented. There can be a presentation by the authorities there of what happened at what hour, at what minute and where and at what spot.

Now I have no idea of the spot. They are all said to be seven or eight places which are all around the town. Now why is that they were at one and a half kilometres away and not at one kilometre? I cannot say. It is possible that at one kilometre you do not have a hillock. You have a hillock only at that place. It is the strategy of the military people. I am quite sure that they will be able to give you all the facts in regard to the operation, then we can come to our conclusion. What I am saying about the responsibility is, yes, nobody is disowning responsibility, Sir. Nobody is disowning responsibility. I am not. The point is that in a matter like this, we will have partial successes, total successes and failures as well. We have to be ready with all these. We will be killed, they will be killed and ultimately with the hope, with the full faith that the triumph is going to be ours because our cause is the right cause. Jammu and Kashmir is an inalienable part of India. I do not know what else one can say about the Jammu and Kashmir Policy apart from what we have all resolved here in that Resolution unanimously. That is a Jammu and Kashmir Policy of the Government. From time to time, we are acting on that Policy. Whether we continue with one part of the Policy or the other part of the Policy, is a matter of strategy. Given the circumstances, we have to take the decision. And this is what we have been doing. There is no need of making this a party issue. It has never been party issue. It will not be a party issue. I would like to say that I would continue to make it an issue of national consensus. I will do nothing to change that position. I would like to continue with that position. So, this is what I have to say.

Now for the rest, I cannot deny that Charar-e-Sharief has been burnt down. I cannot deny that a tragedy has occurred. I cannot deny that this should not have happened. But I cannot also deny that all options available were considered and the option of not interfering in the Shrine, not storming the Shrine was taken after due consideration. If we had really interfered, if they had really interfered or stormed, the Shrine would have gone and casualties, civilian casualties would have been abounding. Now they thought in their wisdom, in their operational meetings and consultations that this should be avoided. Now I have no way of saying that this was wrong. We do not operate that way. We do not function that way. So this is the position.

Sir, whatever I have to say, I have said. I am ready to take the House into confidence, the Members of the parties into confidence on every detail, on every

decision to be taken on Jammu and Kashmir as I consider it a matter of National consensus ...*(Interruptions)*

As I have said, these questions can only be explained by those who are in charge of the operation - when did anybody leave, when did anybody not leave, how many left with him? I only know that there are Pak nationals in this. This has been confirmed and reconfirmed. The number two man has been caught alive. He has been captured alive. The number one man had escaped. When and how, who is responsible for the escape, I just cannot say. I must pleased that cannot say. I am completely ignorant of what happened. I am only reading from the report which I am getting from the field. Beyond that I cannot say. I can certainly find out by tomorrow, maybe they will be able to tell us more details. But as an operation which is in progress, it is impossible for any person, any Government, any member of the Government to come up with all the details. All those details are just not available. Please bear with me that it will take some time for taking those things....*(Interruptions)*

20.00 hrs.

I do not want to bring in Ayodhya. If the House is kind enough not to insist on that, it is better we avoid that. But, I would like to say that where a Government in charge of the State is involved in particular tragedy, the complexion is totally different. Beyond this, I do not want to say anything. I can only say that the complexion in the Jammu and Kashmir case is totally different. There, it was done by some one having come from across the border, here it was done or got done by some one who was holding the Babri Masjid in his hands. Beyond this, there is nothing more to say. So, the difference is very clear....*(Interruptions)* That is why I did not want to go into the details of Ayodhya beyond saying the pith and kernel of the whole thing- what is at stake there, what is at stake here and what is the difference between the two. For the rest, Sir, I am at the command of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If I give chance to one Member, I shall have to give to all.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : That the Shrine was burnt down due to cross-firing between the militants and the Army.

MR. SPEAKER : Please help us.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : What is the reaction of the international community? Have you anything to say about it?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have given my very clear conviction, conclusion that this was done by the militants and no one else.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : But, what is the reaction of the other countries?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The other countries have understood and appreciated the position because we have been given...*(Interruptions)*....Sir, we are in possession of the background materials copiously supplied to them over the years. I have no doubt about that, about the international community.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Mr. Prime Minister, I want to say one thing. It is true that whatever you have said is said. But, one thing you did not clarify on that day when you called the leaders of different political parties, I raised that issue and also today I am raising that issue. It is stated in the Home Secretary's note, that various measures of tackling the militants and their Pakistani masters who were holed up in the Shrine in the past few days are being intercepted by Intelligence agencies. When it was intercepted? This issue was raised on 10th May and the House sat up to 6 o'clock on 10th May. You say that 'we got this message intercepted a few days back, i.e., before 10th May.' What prompted you not to divulge that issue and show that information to this august House? That is number one. Let me complete... *(Interruptions)* Number two is about the economic package, leave apart the political package. We were sent to the Valley in a parliamentary delegation two years back. We came from the Valley, we met you, we met the Home Minister then and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad was there. There was a discussion about the economic package - which was again said by Shri George Fernandes today - what is the actual ground reality? Why is the Young man there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That will require a lot of decisions.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : You did not mention about the economic package only, the political package without the economic package. Will you please elaborate about the economic package today, if not the political package?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The economic package has been increasing over the years and this year the economic package is Rs.1,010 crore*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : But, it is not reaching the people.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I am talking of the package. Several very large projects going into hundreds of crores have been now operationalised, including the dulhasti project. These details are available. Dulhasti project had gone into inoperation, a mode of hibernation, for the last three or four year, if I am not mistaken.

There have been claims and counter-claims between the contractors and the operating agencies. Those have been decided. Those have been resolved now. In the next one or two months actually the work is going to start. All orders have been given.

The developmental activity in Jammu and Kashmir has picked up so well. I am not claiming it because we have done it. But this is a fact. More than four hundred schools were burnt down by the militants. All the four hundred schools are being constructed, even now, this minute, while I am talking here. Culverts, roads and all these activities have been taken up, That is a package which is well in hand. Now this has come as a setback. This setback is something which we have to get over, the nation has to get over, all of us have to get over, the Parliament has to get over. If we do not get over, go under, I think it will be a great shame for this country. That is what I say. I have the guts to say this. I shall not stop the political process, maybe slow, maybe fast, in spite of anything that these people are doing because that is exactly what they want. I do not want to oblige Pakistan. I do not want to oblige whoever is getting these things done. Whatever is the sacrifice, we will go ahead because we think that the time has come to shorten the duration of the President's rule now ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : About my first question, Mr. Prime Minister, about intercepts.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : In regard to intercepts. hon. Member Jaswant Singhji has just said and I agree with that point of view, that the moment you talk about an intercept, you are taking a risk, not for yourself maybe. but for one source which you have; maybe several sources. Therefore, I would not like to talk about intercepts.

MR. SPEAKER : Intelligence is not disclosed in the House.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : That has been disclosed already.

MR. SPEAKER : After it is used.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This was not used. If it was so, that would have been better.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not argue, please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have heard several speeches from the Treasury Benches, including the hon. Prime Minister's reply. He said facts have been brought to the notice of the House. That is precisely what we have been asking. Two leading speeches on the Treasury Benches - I may be excused for saying this - were full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Nothing was disclosed. We waited for the hon. Prime Minister to tell us. He said that facts have been brought to the notice of the House and that he need not go into them. will the House be governed only by the Home Secretary's note? Even the Prime Minister has accepted the responsibility of that on the floor of this House. The Prime Minister said, 'What can I do, the same strategy did not work in this case?' What was this strategy? In Hazratbal you succeeded. There was no

application of that strategy anywhere else. Whatever may be the ground realities, whatever may be the condition in respect of another event, you say, 'Because I was following a particular strategy, what could I do? It has not worked this time.' Is this the only answer by the Government of India, by the prime Minister of this great country?

He admits now that he has been overtaken by events. He has said it twice. Precisely the job of the Government is not to be overtaken by events. As I said, you are running after the events, you are not able to regulate the events, influence the events, you are not either able to anticipate the events and influence them.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I said it only in one respect, Sir. I said it only in respect of the electoral process or the democratic process. Nothing more. That was the only point one which I said we have been overtaken by events.

SHRI SOMNATH CHARRERFEE : Well, then the position — I am sorry to say — becomes worse for the Government because then there is nothing, neither remorse nor apology to this country, nor any explanation to the House as to how things have happened. You have only answered that you have evolved a strategy for Hazratbal and that 'it did not work here, I am sorry'. He said, 'I cannot guarantee...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, the failure has been compounded now. It has become almost a criminal neglect. What we thought to be a mere failure, or a monumental failure - to use the expression of my friend Shri Indrajit Gupta - is almost a criminal neglect on the part of the Government. If, today, places like this Charar-e-Sharief shrine are completely at the mercy of militants or extremists, then anything can happen at any place. Shri Sharad Yadav referred to some other place - Asar-e-Sharief. It may happen there also. Now, what strategy will you apply, one strategy having failed? What is the strategy? Is it being taken as a routine matter?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : It is not being taken as a routine matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This country has gone through the trauma of the demolition of the Babri Masjid, a day of lasting shame for us. I wish my friends on my right had that feeling when it was demolished. Well, the Leader of the Opposition has now gone to the Press saying he did destroy the Babri Masjid. That feeling was not there, then. This is the tragedy in this country. For the purpose of narrow political ends, some people here in this country are demolishing shrines. now pakistan is instigating others to do that and our Government are sleeping Buddhas, as I have been telling many times. Very good, you remain peaceful, but the country in getting into the flames.

Sir, we have been referring to the question of beginning of a political activity or political process in Kashmir. How is this to be commenced? How do you begin political activity there? Merely announcing will not do. The hon. Prime Minister says that efforts have been started to create an atmosphere of political process. How? This is precisely what we are saying. The political parties are not functioning. Nobody, no political leader is available there. The all India parties have hardly any presence there, except the Congress. How are you going to bring about the political process there? Now, It has been referred on the floor of this House how alienated the people are, the young people are. They feel deprived of their minimum entitlements. There is not even a reference to what Shri George Fernandez and others have said on the floor of this House. Today, we find that the Prime Minister is still sticking to his idea of holding the elections. Now his only addition is that the Chief Election Commissioner will decide. Now, therefore, in a place like Jammu and Kashmir, is it a matter only for the Chief Election Commissioner to decide? The Prime Minister and earlier agreed that the time has not come, even to think of elections.

Today, you are saying, "Yes, the time is becoming ripe for the election or has become ripe for the election; and it will be finally decided by the Chief Election Commissioner." I referred to the Prime Minister's own reference to the grant of autonomy in his reply to the debate on the Presidential Address; but he does not refer to it at all. What sort of autonomy he has in his mind, Sir?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I have said that after consulting all the political parties' leaders, I am going to come back to the House with a statement, of what the autonomy is, what it could be, what we would like to offer or not to offer. I am coming with all those details. That is why, I am continuing this consultation.

About the young men that is referred to, I just forgot to mention one fact. It is not a very big thing. About eight to nine thousand young men, have been, in one year, recruited in our police forces.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is this. As we are saying, so many important issues and questions have been raised during this debate. The Prime Minister today said this. He is very humble. Naturally the Prime Ministerial Humility is always there; we appreciate that. But everything is for the future. This contry is not entitled to know how such a sacrilege could take place. We have got everything. We have got the Army; we have got Administration there; We have the Governor there. You have nothing to say about the Governor. It was almost a unanimous demand on the floor of this House that he should be asked to take rest elsewhere. It was almost a unanimous demand and enough is enough. But there is no response to that. Today I was hearing very carefully what the hon. Prime

Minister has been saying. He say, "I am now ready to talk to the political parties; I will discuss with them; I will decide what to do thereafter; I am always willing to hear; there is a setback no doubt."

But he is prepared now to allow an all party delegation to go there. So, everything is for the future. But what is the result of it? What do you anticipate, Mr. Prime Minister, to come out of this? Will it help in normalising the process now? You will start talking now, but in the meantime what will happen to Asar-e-Sharief, I do not know. Charar-e-Sharief is gone now. Where is this Mast Gul? Anybody can come in and anybody can go out; and you can say, "This is operational and therefore, I cannot disclose anything." What will happen then? What has been the achievement of this Ministerial visit? I do not know, the Finance Minister was taken there to find out how much money can he spare probably? But you cannot assure how that will be spent. you cannot assure how that money will be spent. Serious allegations are being made on the floor of this House that the building is being constructed in Noida out of the funds meant for Kashmir. The type of attitude of the Government today is like nothing serious has happened; you go on abusing the Opposition; the Prime Minister is only referring to the future. But we have to decide about you future actions by what you have been doing so long. The inactive Government cannot suddenly produce some miracle tomorrow. In every sphere, you have been procrastinating; in every matter, you are delaying decisions and sometimes you are taking decisions to which the country becomes suddenly averse to; what is happening? Suddenly election is announced and nobody knows anything about it. You had taken a decision without consulting the Opposition. Now, suddenly you are thinking of the Opposition. It may be because you are now having difficulties in your game of numbers. But your number here or your paucity of number here cannot decide the future of this country. The future of this country will depend on what the Government of the day does and a proper policy has to be adopted.

Sir, we interrupted the debate on the very important subject of Defence. It was because a serious situation was developing in the country and the Government also admitted that. They conceded to the discussion on the Adjournment Motion. It was such a serious matter that even the discussion on the Demands of the Ministry of Defence could not take place.

MR. SPEAKER : But this should not be treated as a precedent.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yes. I am unhappy that such a serious situation is developing. As an India I am unhappy. We are worried. We are in deep anguish. This is an expression of that. This is not only to score a debating point.

We are a multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-cultural country and we want that everybody should enjoy his rights and privileges. Today if one shrine is

demolished, and tomorrow if another shrine is demolished, then you know, how far the religious feelings of the people are being affected? The Parliament of India cannot sit idle and watch. In the Kashmir Valley, the situation is already volatile; we are unable to normalise the process there; and the Shrine had been demolished. Everybody is saying that there is alienation of the people. This is the State with respect to which the hon. Prime Minister has taken up on himself the responsibility of looking after the Kashmir Affairs. That shows the importance that had been given to it by this Government. We appreciate it. But the Prime Minister is overworked. I do not know whether he is able to devote proper time on Kashmir affairs. He says that he is able to devote proper time. In that case, is this the result?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been demanding that until political activity or political process starts, the question of election should not come. We wanted to know from the Government, how could this heinous crime be committed there. We have not been told about it. When these militants took over one shrine after another we were unable to deal with the situation. There was really no answer.

So far as the situation prevailing in Kashmir, the economic activities and other activities are concerned, the Prime Minister has said certain thing. He said some money is being spent. But we are hardly satisfied with this. We remained totally in the dark as to how this thing had happened and we remained totally uncertain about the future that nothing like that would happen or would be allowed to happen in future. Nothing has been said about the plan of action for such future eventualities, if any. We have not been told anything about it.

Therefore, there is no reason and I shall be failing in my duty to this country and the people of this country if I do not press this Motion. I am constrained to press this Motion and I request you to put it to Vote.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I am putting the Motion to the vote of the House. Please do not change you seats because the machine is not working and if the vote has to take place, then we shall have to take by slips.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : May I request the hon. Members to take your seats and not stand at other places than the seat which is allotted to you because if the slips are distributed to you and they are to be collected in proper manner, it becomes very difficult, if you are standing, talking or moving in the House. So, please cooperate.

Let the Lobbies be cleared—

Now the Lobbies have been cleared. Now, let the slips be distributed to the Members.

The question is :

"That the House do now adjourn."

The Lok-Sabha divided :

20.30 hrs.

[Division No. 4]**AYES**

Abdul Ghafoor, Shri (Gopalganj)
 Abedya Nath, Mahant (Gorakhpur)
 Acharia, Shri Basudeb (Bankura)
 Advani, Shri Lal K. (Gandhi Nagar)
 Agnihotri, Shri Rajendra (Jhansi)
 Amar Pal Singh, Shri (Meerut)
 Anjalose, Shri Thayil John (Alleppey)
 Ansari, Dr. Mumtaz (Kodarma)
 Asokaraj, Shri A. (Perambalur)
 Baitha, Shri Mahendra (Bagaha)
 Bala, Dr. Asim (Nabadwip)
 Baliyan, Shri N. K. (Muzaffarnagar)
 Barman, Shri Palas (Balurghat)
 Barman, Shri Uddhab (Barpeta)
 Basu, Shri Anil (Arambagh)
 Basu, Shri Chitta (Barasat)
 Berwa, Shri Ram Narain (Tonk)
 Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal (Jaipur)
 Bhattacharya, Shrimati Malini (Jadavpur)
 Chakraborty, Prof. Susanta (Howrah)
 Chatterjee, Shri Nirmal Kanti (Dumdum)
 Chatterjee, Shri Somnath (Bolgpur)
 Chaudhary, Shri Rudrasen (Bahraich)
 Chauhan, Shri Chetan P.S. (Amroha)
 Chauhan, Shri Shivraj Singh (Vidisha)
 Chavda, Shri Ishwarbhai Khodabhai (Anand)
 Chhatwal, Shri Sartaj Singh (Hoshangabad)
 Chhotey Lal, Shri (Mohanlalganj)
 Chikhlia, Shrimati Bhavna (Junagarh)
 Choudhary, Shri Ram Tahal (Ranchi)
 Choudhury, Shri Saifuddin (Katwa)
 Das, Shri Dwaraka Nath (Karimganj)
 Das, Shri Jitendra Nath (Jalpaiguri)
 Datta, Shri Amal (Diamond Harbour)
 Deshmukh, Shri Chandubhai (Bharuch)
 Dharmabhiksham, Shri (Nalgonda)
 Dhumal, Prof. Prem (Hamirpur)
 Dikshit, Shri Shreesh Chandra (Varanasi)
 Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra (Birbhum)
 Drona, Shri Jagat Vir Singh (Kanpur)
 Bubey, Shrimati Saroj (Allahabad)
 Fernandes, Shri George (Muzaffarpur)
 Gangwar, Dr. P.R. (Pilibhit)
 Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar (Bareilly)
 Gautam, Shrimati Sheela (Aligarh)
 Giri, Shri Sudhir (Contai)
 Girija Devi, Shrimati (Maharaj Ganj)
 Gopalan, Shrimati Suseela (Chirayinkil)

Gowda, Prof. K. Venkatagiri (Bangalore South)
 Gupta, Shri Indrajit (Midnapore)
 Hossain, Shri Syed Masudal (Murshidabad)
 Jai Prakash, Shri (Hardoi)
 Jaswant Singh, Shri (Chittorgarh)
 Jatiya, Shri Satyanarayan (Ujjain)
 Jena, Shri Srikanta (Cuttack)
 Jeswani, Dr. K.D. (Kheda)
 Jha, Shri Bhogendra (Madhubani)
 Joshi, Shri Anna (Pune)
 Joshi, Shri Dau Dayal (Kota)
 Kalka Das, Shri (Karolbagh)
 Kamal, Shri Shyam Lal (Basti)
 Kanaujia, Dr. G.L. (Kheri)
 Kashwan, Shri Ram Singh (Churu)
 Katheria, Shri Prabhu Dayal (Firozabad)
 Katiyar, Shri Vinay (Faizabad)
 Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra (Garhwal)
 Khanoria, Major D.D. (Kangra)
 Koli, Shri Ganga Ram (Bayana)
 Kumar, Shri Nitish (Barh)
 Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya (Mangalore)
 Kumarasamy, Shri P. (Palani)
 Kunjee Lal, Shri (Sawai Madhopur)
 Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna (Damoh)
 Laljan Basha, Shri S.M. (Guntur)
 Lodha, Shri Guman Mal (Pali)
 Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra (Indore)
 Mahato, Shri Bir Singh (Purulia)
 Mahendra Kumari, Shrimati (Alwar)
 Mahto, Shri Shailendra (Jamshedpur)
 Malik, Shri Purna Chandra (Durgapur)
 Mallikarjunaiah, Shri S. (Tumkur)
 Mandal, Shri Brahmanand (Monghyr)
 Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar (Joynagar)
 Mandal, Shri Suraj (Godda)
 Maurya, Shri Anand Ratna (Chandauli)
 Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina (Padrauna)
 Misra, Shri Janardan (Sitapur)
 Misra, Shri Satyagopal (Tamluk)
 Misra, Shri Shyam Bihari (Bilhapur)
 Mollah, Shri Hannan (Uluberia)
 Mukherjee, Shri Pramothes (Berhampore)
 Mukherjee, Shri Subrata (Raiganj)
 Mukhopadhyay, Shri Ajoy (Krishnagar)
 Munda, Shri Kariya (Khunti)
 Murugesam, Dr. N. (Karur)
 Naik, Shri Ram (Bombay North)
 Narayanan, Shri P.G. (Gobichettipalayam)
 Oraon, Shri Lalit (Lohardaga)
 Pal, Shri Rupchand (Hooghly)

Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan (Mandsaur)
 Passi, Shri Balraj (Nainital)
 Paswan, Shri Chhedi (Sasaram)
 Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas (Rosera)
 Paswan, Shri Sukdeo (Araria)
 Patel, Dr. Amrit Lal Kalidas (Mehsana)
 Patel, Shri Brishin (Siwan)
 Patel, Shri Chandresh (Jamnagar)
 Patel, Shri Somabhai (Surendranagar)
 Pathak, Shri Harin (Ahmedabad)
 Pathak, Shri Surendra Pal (Shahabad)
 Patidar, Shri Rameshwar (Khargone)
 Patil, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh (Amravati)
 Patnaik, Shri Sivaji (Bhubaneswar)
 Pramanik, Prof. R.R. (Mathurapur)
 Prem, Shri B.L. Sharma (East Delhi)
 Purkayastha, Shri Kabindra (Silchar)
 Rai, Shri Lal Babu (Chhapra)
 Rai, Shri M. Ramanna (Kasaragod)
 Rai, Shri Nawal Kishore (Sitamarhi)
 Raj Narain, Shri (Basgaon)
 Rajaravivarma, Shri B. (Pollachi)
 Raje, Shrimati Vasundhara (Jhalawar)
 Rajesh Kumar, Shri (Gaya)
 Rajulu, Dr. R.K.G. (Sivakasi)
 Ram, Shri Prem Chand (Nawada)
 Ram Singh, Shri (Haridwar)
 Ramaiah, Shri Bolla Bulli (Eluru)
 Ramasamy, Shri R. Naidu (Periyakulam)
 Rana, Shri Kashiram (Surat)
 Rao, Shri D. Venkateswara (Bapatla)
 Rawal, Dr. Lal Bahadur (Hathras)
 Rawale, Shri Mohan (Bombay - South Central)
 Rawat, Shri Bhagwan Shankar (Agra)
 Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh (Ajmer)
 Ray, Shri Rabi (Kendrapada)
 Ray, Dr. Sudhir (Burdwan)
 Raychaudhuri, Shri Sudarsan (Serampore)
 Reddy, Shri B.N. (Miryalguda)
 Ray, Shri Haradhan (Asansol)
 Roypradhan, Shri Amar (Cooch Behar)
 Sakshiji, Dr. (Mathura)
 Sanghani, Shri Dileep Bhai (Amreli)
 Sarode, Dr. Gunvant Rambhau (Jalgaon)
 Shah, Shri Manabendra (Tehri Garhwal)
 Shakya, Dr. Mahadeepak Singh (Etah)
 Sharma, Shri Jeewan (Almora)
 Sharma, Shri Rajendra Kumar (Rampur)
 Sharma, Shri V.N. (Hamirpur)
 Shastri, Shri Vishwanath (Gazipur)
 Shukla, Shri Astbhuja Prasad (Khalilabad)
 Singh, Shri Mohan (Deoria)

Singh, Shri Rajveer (Aonla)
 Singh, Shri Ram Prasad (Bikramganj)
 Singh, Shri Ramashray Prasad (Jahanabad)
 Singh, Shri Ramnaresh (Aurangabad)
 Singh, Shri Rampal (Domariaganj)
 Singh, Shri Satya Deo (Balampur)
 Singh, Shri Surya Narayan (Balía)
 Sivaraman, Shri S. (Ottapalam)
 Sur, Shri Monoranjan (Basirhat)
 Swami, Shri Chinmayanand (Badaun)
 Tandel, Shri D. J. (Daman and Diu)
 Turkey, Shri Pius (Alipurduars)
 Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand (Hapur)
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran (Barrackpore)
 Topiwala, Shrimati Dipika H. (Baroda)
 Tripathi, Shri Lakshmi Narain Mani (Kaiserganj)
 Tripathi, Shri Prakash Narain (Banda)
 Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore (Puri)
 Trivedi, Shri Arvind (Sabarkantha)
 Uma Bharti, Kumari (Khajuraho)
 Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Prof. (Tenali)
 Vadde, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao (Vijayawada)
 Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari (Lucknow)
 Varma, Shri Ratilal (Dhanduka)
 Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra (Bidar)
 Vekaria, Shri Shivlal Nagjibhai (Rajkot)
 Verma, Shri Phool Chand (Shajapur)
 Verma, Prof. Rita (Dhanbad)
 Yadav, Shri Chandra Jeet (Azamgarh)
 Yadav, Shri Chun Chun Prasad (Bhagalpur)
 Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad (Jhanjharpur)
 Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal (Patna)
 Yadav, Shri Sharad (Madhepura)
 Zainal Abedin, Shri (Jangipur)

NOES

Adaikalaraj, Shri L. (Tiruchirapalli)
 Ahmed, Shri Kamaluddin (Hanamkonda)
 Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar (Mayiladuturai)
 Ajit Singh, Shri (Baghpat)
 Akber Pasha, Shri B. (Vellore)
 Anbarasu, Shri R. (Madras Central)
 Anwar, Shrimati K. Padmashree (Nellore)
 Antulay, Shri A.R. (Kulaba)
 Arunachalam, Shri M. (Tenkasi)
 Athithan, Shri R. Dhanuskodi (Tiruchendur)
 Ayub Khan, Shri (Jhunjhunu)
 Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh (Faridabad)
 Bhagat, Shri Vishweshwar (Balaghat)
 Bhakta, Shri Manoranjan
 (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)
 Bhardwaj, Shri Paras Ram (Sarangarh)

- Bhatia, Shri Raghunandan Lal (Amritsar)
 Bhoi, Dr. Krupasindhu (Sambalpur)
 Bhonsle, Shri Prataprao B. (Satara)
 Bhuria, Shri Dileep Singh (Jhabua)
 Barbal, Shri (Ganganagar)
 Brar, Shri Jagmeet Singh (Faridkot)
 Brohmo Chaudhury, Shri Satyendra Nath (Kokrajhar)
 Buta Singh, Shri (Jalore)
 Chacko, Shri P.C. (Trichur)
 Chaliha, Shri Kirip (Guwahati)
 Chandrasekhar, Shrimati Maragathan
 (Sriperumbudur)
 Charles, Shri A. (Trivandrum)
 Chaudhary, Sqn. Ldr. Kamal (Hoshiarpur)
 Chaudhri, Shri Narain Singh (Hissar)
 Chavan, Shri Prithviraj D (Karad)
 Chevithala, Shri Ramesh Kottayam)
 Chidambaram, Shri P. (Sivaganga)
 Chinta Mohan, Dr. (Tirupathi)
 Chowdary, Dr. K.V.R (Rajahmundry)
 Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh (Phillaur)
 Chowdhury, Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan (Malda)
 Dadahoor, Shri Gurcharan Singh (Sangrur)
 Dalbir Singh, Shri (Shahdol)
 Damor, Shri Somjibhai (Dohad)
 Das, Shri Anadi Charan (Jaipur)
 Delkar, Shri Mohan S. (Dadra and Nagar Haveli)
 Dennis, Shri N. (Nagercoil)
 Deora, Shri Murti (Bombay South)
 Deshmukh, Shri Anantao (Washim)
 Deshmukh, Shri Ashok Anandrao (Parbhani)
 Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan (Tripura West)
 Devi, Shrimati Bibhu Kumari (Tripura East)
 Dighe, Shri Sharad (Bombay North Central)
 Feleiro, Shri Eduardo (Mormugao)
 Farook, Shri M.O.H. (Pondicherry)
 Fernandes, Shri Oscar (Udupi)
 Gaikwad, Shri Udaysingrao (Kolhapur)
 Gajapathi, Shri Gopi Nath (Berhampur)
 Galib, Shri Gurcharan Singh (Ludhiana)
 Gamit, Shri Chhitubhai (Mandvi)
 Gehlot, Shri Ashok (Jodhpur)
 Ghatowar, Shri Padan Singh (Dibrugarh)
 Giriappa, Shri C.P. Mudala (Chitradurga)
 Gogol, Shri Tarun (Kallabor)
 Gudadinni, Shri B.K. (Bijapur)
 Gundewar, Shri Vilasrao Nagnathrao (Hingoli)
 Handique, Shri Bijoy Krishna (Jorhat)
 Harchand Singh, Shri (Ropar)
 Hooda, Shri Bhupinder Singh (Rohtak)
 Imchalemba, Shri (Nagaland)
 Inder Jit, Shri (Darjeeling)
 Irani Shrimati Shiela F. (Nominated Anglo Indian)
 Jakhar, Shri Balram (Sikar)
 Jangbir Singh, Shri (Bhiwani)
 Jangde, Shri Khelan Ram (Vilaspur)
 Jayamohan, Shri A. (Tirupattur)
 Jeevarathinam, Shri R. (Arakonam)
 Jhikram, Shri Mohanlal (Mandla)
 Kairon, Shri Surinder Singh (Tarn Taran)
 Kale, Shri Shankarrao D. (Kopergaon)
 Kaliaperumal, Shri P.P. (Cuddalore)
 Kamal Nath, Shri (Chhindwara)
 Kamat, Shri Gurudas (Bombay North-East)
 Kamson, Prof. M. (Outer Manipur)
 Kanithi, Dr. Viswanatham (Srikakulam)
 Karreddula, Shrimati Kamala Kumari
 (Bhadrachalam)
 Kasu, Shri Venkata Krishna Reddy (Narasaraopeta)
 Kaul, Shrimati Sheila (Rae Bareli)
 Kewal Singh, Shri (Bhatinda)
 Khan, Shri Aslam Sher (Betul)
 Khursheed, Shri Salman (Farrukhabad)
 Konathala, Shri Rama Krishna (Anakapalli)
 Krishna Kumar, Shri S. (Quilon)
 Kotla, Shri Jaya Suryaprakash Reddy (Kurnool)
 Krishnaswamy, Shri M. (Vandavasi)
 Kshirsagar, Shrimati Kesharbai Sonaji (Beed)
 Kuli, Shri Balin (Lakhimpur)
 Kuppuswamy, Shri C.K. (Coimbatore)
 Kurien, Prof. P.J. (Mavelikara)
 Lakshmanan, Prof. Savithri (Mukundapuram)
 Made Gowda, Shri G. (Mandya)
 Malik, Shri Dharampal Singh (Sonepat)
 Mallikarjun, Shri (Mahbubnagar)
 Mallu, Dr. R. (Nagar Kurnool)
 Manphool Singh, Shri (Bikaner)
 Marbaniang, Shri Peter G. (Shillong)
 Mathew, Shri Pala K.M. (Idukki)
 Meena, Shri Bheru Lal (Salumbar)
 Meghe, Shri Datta (Nagpur)
 Mirdha, Shri Nathu Ram (Nagaur)
 Mirdha, Shri Ram Niwas (Barmer)
 Mujahid, Shri B.M. (Dharwad South)
 Muniyappa, Shri K.K. (Kolar)
 Murthy, Shri M.V. Chandrashekhara (Kanakapura)
 Muttemwar, Shri Vilas (Chimur)
 Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh (Raichur)
 Naik, Shri G. Devaraya (Kanara)
 Naikar, Shri D.K. (Dharwad North)
 Nandi, Shri Yellaiah (Siddipet)
 Nayak, Shri Mrutyunjaya (Phulbani)
 Nayak, Shri Subash Chandra (Kalahandi)

- Netam, Shri Arvind (Kanker)
 Nyamagouda, Shri S.B. (Bagalkot)
 Odeyar, Shri Channaiah (Davangere)
 Padma, Dr. (Shrimati) (Nagapattinam)
 Pal, Dr. Debi Prosad (Calcutta North-West)
 Palacholla, Shri V.R. Naidu (Khammam)
 Pandian, Shri D. (Madras North)
 Panigrahi, Shri Sriballav (Deogarh)
 Panja, Shri Ajit (Calcutta North-East)
 Panwar, Shri Harpal (Kairana)
 Patel, Shri Praful (Bhandara)
 Patel, Shri Shravan Kumar (Jabalpur)
 Patel, Shri Uttambhai Harjibhai (Bulsar)
 Patil, Shri Prakash V. (Sangli)
 Patil, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh (Amravati)
 Patil, Shri Uttamrao Deorao (Yavatmal)
 Patil, Shri Vijay Naval (Erandol)
 Patra, Dr. kartikeswar (Balasore)
 Pattanayak, Shri Sarat (Bolangir)
 Pawar, Dr. Vasant Niwruitti (Nasik)
 Peruman, Dr. P. Vallal (Chidambaram)
 Pilot, Shri Rajesh (Dausa)
 Potdukhe, Shri Shantaram (Chandrapur)
 Prabhu, Shri R. (Nilgiris)
 Prabhu Zantye, Shri Harish Narayan (Panaji)
 Pradhani, Shri K. (Nowrangpur)
 Prasad, Shri V. Sreenivasa (Chamarajanagar)
 Rahi, Shri Ram Lal (Misrikh)
 Rai, Shri Kalp Nath (Ghosi)
 Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav Shri (Purnia)
 Rajeshwaran, Dr. V. (Ramnathapuram)
 Rajeswari, Shrimati Basava (Bellary)
 Ram Awadh, Shri (Akbarpur)
 Ram Babu, Shri A.G.S. (Madurai)
 Ram Badan, Shri (Lalganj)
 Ramchandran, Shri Mullappally (Connanore)
 Rao, Shri J. Chokka (Karimnagar)
 Rao, Shri P.V. Narasimha (Nandyal)
 Rao Ram Singh, Col. (Mahindergarh)
 Rao, Shri V. Krishna (Chikballapur)
 Rath, Shri Rama Chandra (Aska)
 Rathva, Shri N.J. (Chhota Udaipur)
 Reddy, Shri A. Venkata (Anantapur)
 Reddy, Shri G. Ganga (Nizamabad)
 Reddy, Shri M.G. (Chittoor)
 Reddy, Shri Magunta Subbarama (Ongole)
 Reddy, Shri R. Surender (Warangal)
 Roshan Lal, Shri (Khurja)
 Sahi, Shrimati Krishna (Begusarai)
 Sai, Shri A. pratap (Rajampet)
 Sajjan Kaumr, Shri (Outer Delhi)
 Sangma, Shri Purno A. (Tura)
 Sanipalli, Shri Gangadhara (Hindupur)
 Satrucharla, Shri Vijayarama Raju (Parvathipuram)
 Sawant, Shri Sudhir (Rajapur)
 Sayeed, Shri P.M. (Lakshadweep)
 Scindia, Shri Madhavrao (Gwalior)
 Selja, Kumari (Sirsa)
 Shankaranand, Shri B. (Chikkodi)
 Sharma, Shri Chiranji Lal (Karnal)
 Sharma, Capt. Satish Kumar (Amethi)
 Shelke, Shri Maruti Deoram (Ahmednagar)
 Shingda, Shri D.B. (Dahanu)
 Shivappa, Shri K.G. (Shimoga)
 Shukla, Shri Vidyacharan (Raipur)
 Siddhartha, Shrimati D.K. Tharadevi (Chikmagalur)
 Sidnal, Shri S.B. (Belgaum)
 Silvera, Dr. C. (Mizoram)
 Singh, Shri Abhay Pratap (Pratapgarh)
 Singh, Shri Khelsai (Sarguja)
 Singh, Shri Motilal (Sidhi)
 Singh, Kumari Pushpa Devi (Raigarh)
 Singh, Shri S.B. (Rajnandgaon)
 Singh Deo, Shri K.P. (Dhenkanal)
 Singla, Shri Sant Ram (Patiala)
 Solanki, Shri Surajbhanu (Dhar)
 Subbarao, Shri Thota (Kakinada)
 Sukh Ram, Shri (Mandi)
 Sukhbuns Kaur, Shrimati (Gurdaspur)
 Sultanpuri, Shri Krishan Dutt (Shimla)
 Suresh, Shri Kodikkunnill (Adoor)
 Swamy, Shri G. Venkat (Pedapalli)
 Tara Singh, Shri (Kurukshehra)
 Thakur, Shri Mahendra Kumar Singh (Khandwa)
 Thangka Balu, Shri K.V. (Dharmapuri)
 Thite, Shri Bapusahib (Baramati)
 Thomas, Prof. K.V. (Ernakulam)
 Thungon, Shri P.K. (Arunachal West)
 Tindivanam, Shri K. Ramamurthee (Tindivanam)
 Tiriya, Kumari Sushila (Mayurbhanj)
 Tope, Shri Ankushrao Raosaheb (Jalna)
 Topno, Kumari Frida (Sundargarh)
 Tytler, Shri Jagdish (Delhi Sadar)
 Umbrey, Shri Laeta (Arunachal East)
 Umrao Singh, Shri (Jalandhar)
 Upadhyay, Shri Swarup (Tejpur)
 Vandayar, Shri K.T. (Thanjavur)
 Verma, Shri Shiv Sharan (Machhlishahar)
 Verma, Kumari Vimla (Seoni)
 Vijayaraghavan, Shri V.S. (Palghat)
 Vyas, Dr. Giriya (Udaipur)
 Wasnik, Shri Mukul (Buldana)
 Williams, Maj. Gen. R.G. (Nominated Anglo-Indian)
 Yadav, Shri Ram Lakhna Singh (Arrah)
 Yadav, Shri Ram Saran (Khagaria)
 Yadav, Shri Surya Narayan (Sahasra)

MR. SPEAKER : Subject to correction* the result of the division is :

Ayes : 186

Noes : 221

The motion was negatived.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

20.53 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Now Papers to be laid on the Table.

Notification under Major Port Trusts Act, 1963

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 312 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1995 approving the Paradip Port Trust (Licensing of Stevedores) Amendment Regulation, 1994, under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7569/95]

20.53½ hrs.

Capital Restructuring order dated 30.3.1995 in respect of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd, under Companies Act, 1956.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Capital Restructuring Order (Hindi and English versions) dated the 30th March, 1995 in respect of Paradeep Phosphates Limited including conversion of Government loan into Share Capital, under sub-section (6) of section 81 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-7570/95]

20.54 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Reports and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE (Satara) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English

Revised result is as under

Ayes : 185

Noes : 222

versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development and Minutes of the sitting of the committee relating thereto :

- (1) Fourteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development on Annual Report of the Ministry of Urban Development (1992-93).
- (2) Fifteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.
- (3) Sixteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development on Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment.
- (4) Seventeenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development on Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.
- (5) Eighteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development on Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Rural Development.

20.55 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

Sixteenth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Sixteenth Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on the Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Industry.

20.55½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Reports

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English

versions) of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Electronics, respectively.

20.55% hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Potato Wart Disease in West Bengal

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : I beg to lay a Statement on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a Statement on the Potato Wart Disease in West Bengal.

Potato Wart Disease caused by *Synchytrium endobioticum* was first detected in Darjeeling District during 1953. Survey conducted in 1957 and 1958 confirmed the persistence of the disease in the area. Since it was an exotic disease, it was felt necessary to contain its further spread and accordingly a notification imposing restrictions on the movement of potatoes grown in the State of West Bengal was issued on 8.10.1959.

Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla and State Agriculture Department of West Bengal have conducted six joint surveys since 1963 to assess the intensity of the potato wart disease. The survey reports have established that the disease is on the decline, but, it still persists in Darjeeling and adjoining potato growing areas. Potato wart is a soil borne disease and it persists in infected fields for a period of 25-30 years.

Keeping in view the increasing production of potato in West Bengal, a fresh joint survey to assess the disease situation in the affected district was conducted in May, 1993. There are 7 hilly blocks in the Darjeeling district, out of which only two blocks namely; Sukhiapokhri and Bijanbari could be surveyed. Potato wart disease was observed to persist in Bijanbari block. Surveys conducted by ICAR during 1985 and 1993 have also revealed that even in plots where wart immune varieties of potatoes developed by Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla are grown, viable spores of wart fungus are still prevalent.

It has now been decided to conduct a joint survey during May-June, 1995 to assess the status of wart disease in the hilly areas of Darjeeling district. The survey will be conducted by the officers of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Ministry of Agriculture, Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla and the officers of the Agriculture Department of West Bengal. An officer of the Directorate of Plant Protection,

Quarantine and Storage has already been nominated as a Co-ordinator for this joint survey. The survey report is expected to be available by middle of July, 1995. A decision regarding withdrawal or suitable modification of Notification No. 6-11/59-PPS dated 8.10.1959 which *inter-alia* bans the movement of potatoes from West Bengal will be taken after examining the report.

I wish to assure the Hon'ble Members of the House that a joint survey in this regard will be conducted before a final view is taken in the matter.

(ii) Present Position of Supply of Diesel and Petrol in the Northern Region

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : I beg to lay Statement on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Sharing my concern with Hon'ble Members of the House about the difficulties of farmers and consumers about the availability of diesel and petrol in some States of Northern Region in the past few weeks, in my statement in this House on 4th May, 1995. I had explained the reasons for this problem. Besides the underlying important constraints of railway movement, port handling and power inadequacy, increasingly felt by the Oil Industry, the emergency shutdown of different Units of Mathura Refinery for more than 3 weeks in March-April, 1995, high demand of diesel in Northern States during the current harvesting season and operational constraints in import and movement of diesel by Railways into Northern Region had created a difficult situation and a challenge of meeting the requirement of petroleum products for Northern Region by quick mobilisation of Railways and other resources to move the products from alternate sources and arrange their equitable distribution in the whole area.

In my earlier statement, I had spelt out emergency steps that had been taken to meet the peak season demand during April-May, 1995. By identifying effective measures and taking a number of urgent steps, Oil Industry has progressively overcome the initial constraints and the position regarding production, import and movement of more diesel into Northern Region has shown a steady improvement. The refinery production has been increased at Mathura, Koyali and Barauni and, therefore, greater amount of product is available now in Koyali and Mathura Refineries for feeding Northern Region. Ministry of Surface Transport has been extremely cooperative by providing priority berthing to the oil tankers at Kandla and maximum possible imports have been handled on a war footing. Oil Industry has also taken a number of steps to increase the throughput at Kandla Terminal. Apart from deploying vessels with higher pumping rate, the discharge mechanism has also been altered, resulting in more than 20% increase

in the discharge and handling rate. A pipeline hookup at second oil jetty will be shortly commissioned to enable Oil Industry to handle diesel at this jetty also. Apart from one temporary jetty, called Virtual Jetty, being put up by Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has also been directed to put up another Virtual Jetty at Kandla, both of which are expected to be commissioned by September/October, 1995. Help of Army Engineering Corps and M.E.S. is also being sought in their quick implementation. This will enable the Oil Industry to import about 2 to 3 million tonnes more diesel per annum at Kandla. Thanks to detailed planning and expeditious action, diesel reserves at Kandla are now of the order of more than 120 thousand tonnes. Thus, at the supply sources, there is no shortage of diesel at present.

Railways have fully cooperated and helped in undertaking higher movements from Kandla, Koyali, Budge Budge and even from non-traditional sources like Loni, Haldia and Visakh. Some tank wagons for Kandla-North Region sector have been made available from certain close circuit zones where requirements will now be met by road-bridging. Railways have been further requested to maximise average Tank Wagon loading from different points into the Northern Region, through a number of steps such as moving the Petroleum Product Rakes on white hot priority superseding even Express/Mail Trains and faster loading and unloading.

Movement of diesel by road has been taken up on a massive scale during this period. Against the average of 214 Tank Wagons per day equivalent of Tank Trucks movement of diesel during April, 1995, more than 330 Tank Wagons per day equivalent of diesel on an average is being moved by road into Northern Zone presently. This involves about 4000 Tank Trucks, apart from those which are delivering products from the Depots to the Retail Outlets.

The pipeline capacity is being used to the full extent. Mathura-Jalandhar pipeline feeding Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh and Haldia-Barauni-Kanpur pipeline feeding Uttar Pradesh are running at more than 100% of their rated capacity.

Oil Industry is moving diesel from different locations in such a manner that deficit depots get the supplier on quick basis in a short time by rail or road. Apart from moving product by road to deficit locations from far and near sources, direct long-lead rail loadings have been made for far off locations like Bareilly, Moradabad and Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh and Jalandhar and Bhatinda in Punjab. As an emergency measure, rail loadings are being made even from Mathura to the Western UP locations and Punjab to immediately increase the availability of diesel into these areas during the next 4-5 days.

With all these efforts, the Oil Industry has been able to provide 3% growth in supply of diesel in the Northern Region in April, 1995. In the month of May, upto 13th May, 1995 the growth in supply of diesel in the Northern Region is 10.3% over the same period last year. Against an average daily supply of about 31,000

KL during May, 1994 the present average supply is 34,000 KL per day during May, 1995 so far in the Northern Region as a whole. During May, 1995, Haryana has recorded a growth of 28.3%, Rajasthan 29.7%, Delhi 56.2%, J and K 24.8% and Himachal Pradesh 63.5% in the sales of diesel over the same period of the previous year. Although supplies have improved continuously during this period, Punjab is still somewhat deficit in supply compared to the previous year. As regards Uttar Pradesh, average daily supply in May, 1995 has come at par with the previous year. All possible steps are being taken to meet the full demand of all the States with emphasis on Punjab and UP where the harvesting and threshing operations are at their peak currently. Adequate quantities in transit by rail and road to meet the shortfall in Punjab and UP. Although it is not possible to build up comfortable inventories during this month, the daily requirement will be met by arranging product from different sources and by different modes of transport on day-to day basis.

The Task Force appointed by me under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation and consisting of C and MDs of other Oil Companies and representatives from Ministries of Petroleum, Surface Transport and Railways is reviewing and analysing the situation in its daily meetings and guiding and directing the Oil Companies and others concerned to take up corrective measures and immediate steps to rush the products particularly to deficit areas. In desiging these measures for meeting the demand in Northern Region, I have asked the Task Force to take care that the supply position in all parts of the country continues to be comfortable and the demand there is fully met. Control Cells are being operated round the clock in the Oil Coordination Committee, New Delhi, the Headquarters of all the oil companies, in the Offices of the Regional Coordinator, Delhi and offices of the State Level Coordinators in State Capitals. All the depots and other installations of oil companies have been asked to work round the clock on seven days a week basis to carry out essential operations. The State Level coordinators and the District Level Coordinators are in constant touch with the officers of State Governments and the District Administration to keep them fully informed about the supply position and to manage the local problems. Secretary, Petroleum, has had detailed discussions with Secretaries of Food and Civil Supplies and Agriculture Departments of the State Governments in this Region in a meeting held in Delhi on 6th May, 1995, where the problems of the States were discussed and decisions taken to meet the specific needs of different States. Among other things, the State Governments were also requested that they should increase their power generation during this period so that the demand of diesel is less. Similarly, my Ministry has offered additional one million metric cubic metres of Natural Gas per day the Power Stations of NTPC in the North India, namely, Anta, Auraiya, Jagdishpur and Dadri so that with the increased availability of electricity, threshing and irrigation operations of farmers are carried out satisfactorily and additional supply of Natural Gas has commenced since the last few days. Requirement

of diesel for transport for Uttarkhand and other hill areas like Himachal Pradesh and J and K as well as for pilgrim and tourist centres is being fully met. There is no shortage of petrol and the requirement of petrol in the whole of Northern Region is being met fully.

Joint Secretaries of my Ministry alongwith senior officers of the Oil Companies have visited the States in the Northern Region and held detailed discussions with State Government officials to assess the situation on the spot and to plan measures to meet the demand. Secretary, Petroleum, has himself visited UP. Officers have also called on Chief Ministers of some of the States and apprised them about the position and sought their guidance and cooperation. The span of next fifteen days is the period of maximum demand as reported by State Government officials and Oil Companies have been directed to pump in maximum quantities immediately by all possible measures.

I must inform the Hon'ble Members that despite the above steps and the sincerest efforts of the Oil Industry, occasional problems in availability of diesel may occur in some of the markets. It is here that the cooperation of the State Governments is most required. Supplies at Retail Outlets have to be controlled in a manner so that all farmers and consumers get their requirements in an equitable manner. The Ministry of Petroleum has requested the State Governments to direct the District Magistrates to depute administrative and police personnel at retail outlets, particularly in sensitive areas and ensure that supplies from Retail Outlets to different kinds of vehicles are regulated as per essential demand in the particular area and that no diesel is allowed to be sold for hoarding and black marketing, as such actions and panic buying aggravate problems.

District Administration will also have to maintain strict checks against Retail Outlets charging higher price from the consumers and black-marketing of diesel. State Governments have also been requested to ensure order at the Retail Outlets and to prevent untoward incidents of violence and breach of peace. To build up public confidence, prevent malpractices and panic buying, it is necessary to keep the public fully informed and assured through Press, Television and Radio, about the efforts being made by the Oil Industry to meet the demand and about the position of movement and satisfactory availability of diesel. State Government have also been advised to arrange for proper education of all sections of consumers, through media publicity and through efforts of field staff.

I do not want to repeat here the medium-term measures being taken by the Ministry to meet the demand during the coming peak season and in future. Apart from increasing the handling capacity at Ports, commissioning of Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline in phases in August and November, 1995, as well as certain other measures will definitely enable us to meet the full demand in the coming season. I must mention here that apart from increasing the capacity of Panipat Refinery and Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline, unless one more Refinery is set up in the Northern Region, the difficulties in product availability will continue. Therefore, it is being

planned to set up one more Refinery at a suitable location in the Northern Region.

I expect that during the next few days the situation will improve further. I would like to assure the House and the Hon'ble Members that notwithstanding the difficulties and constraints, I am confident that with the cooperation of all agencies concerned and the State Governments, we shall be able to meet the requirement of diesel for the farmers and other consumers, during the current peak season and in the coming months.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a long good statement. It is about petrol and all those things. It is very comprehensive.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, there may be some difficulty with that statement. He is not giving reasons why the shortage had arisen.

MR. SPEAKER : He has said what is being done also. I have read the entire statement. It is a good Statement.

(iii) Formation of Autonomous hill development Councils for Ladakh

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : I beg to lay a Statement on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

I rise to apprise this august House of an important development that has taken place on May 9, 1995, in which, in deference to the long standing demand of the people of Ladakh for a decentralised democratic structure to enable them to fulfill their numerous aspirations, a law has been enacted for the formation of Autonomous Hill Development Councils for the two districts of Ladakh. This region of the Jammu and Kashmir state, a vast area of inhospitable terrain, remains landlocked for nearly seven months in a year. Consequently, the people of the area have special problems distinct from those of other areas of the State. The people of Ladakh had, therefore, for a long time, been demanding effective local institutional arrangements which can help promote and accelerate the pace of development and put the people of the region on an equitable steady development path, apart from ensuring participation of the local community in the administration. In fulfilment of this demand, a Tripartite Agreement was signed between the Government of India, the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the representatives of the Ladakh Buddhist Association in October, 1989. The exact structure and functions of the council within the framework of a sufficiently decentralised democratic set up has been under negotiation with the local leaders and the State Government. The underlying objective was to preserve the socio-cultural identity of the region, and to promote and accelerate the pace of development keeping in view its peculiar geo-climatic and locational conditions which have acted to inhibit growth and development in the area. As a result, a suitable institutional framework

which could provide for effective devolution of administrative, financial and executive authority to the District level through a democratic set up meet the above objectives has been evolved. The whole exercise culminated into the enactment of a suitable legal framework for giving effect to the common decision of the Central and State Governments.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1992 the President of India has, on May 9, 1995, enacted the "Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1995." The Act envisages at Autonomous Hill Development Council for each District of the region, viz., Leh and Kargil, and an inter-District Advisory Council for the Ladakh region as a whole which the State Government may constitute in consultation with the Councils of Leh and Kargil. Under the law, Government can appoint different dates for the constitution of the District Councils. In pursuance of this it is proposed to constitute the Council for Leh District in the first place. The District Council is to comprise 30 members of whom 26 shall be elected. The remaining members are to be nominated by the Governor from amongst the principal religious minorities and women in the district.

The Council shall have executive powers in the district in relation to allotment, use and occupation of land; formulation of development scheme for the district; periodical review of progress of development schemes; formulation and finalisation of Budgets, plan as well as non-plan; laying down guidelines for implementation of schemes at grass roots level etc. The Council shall also have the power to collect taxes under the law within the district.

The members of the Council shall elect a Chairman, who will also be the Chief Executive Councillor of a five member Executive Council shall be responsible for conduct of the business. The four other Executive Councillors shall be nominated by the Chief Executive Councillor.

The Inter-District Council, when formed, will advise the District Council on matters of common interest to both the district, on measures to be adopted for resolving differences between the Council harmony in Ladakh region. It will also address inter-District problems, if any.

It is hoped that this decision of the Government will usher in an era of development and prosperity of this difficult and remote region so that the people living there can march hand in hand with people in other parts of the State and the country.

(iv) The Withdrawal of Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : I beg to lay a Statement on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

In view of the sensitiveness of certain areas in different parts of the North-East, there has been a regime under which permits are required for visiting certain areas. Indian citizens from other States are required to obtain Inner Line Permits (ILP) for entry into the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur. Foreign nationals, on the other hand, are required to obtain Protected Area Permits (PAP) for entry into the North-Eastern State of Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur and Restricted Area Permits (RAP) for entry into Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. Protected Area Permits and Restricted Area Permits and can be issued by the Central Government or by State Government functionaries authorised by the Central Government.

The question of liberalisation of the permits regime has been under very active consideration of the Central Government for quite some time. After consultations with the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States at Shillong on 22 January 1994 and at New Delhi on 19 July 1994, I had assured, inter-alia, that under the overall policy of liberalisation and opening up being followed by the Central Government, and with a view to promoting tourism and investments in the States of the North-East as also from the point of view of promoting greater inter-action between the tribal and non tribal people of the North-East, the restricted permit regime will be liberalised.

There are sensitive issues, involving security, administrative and legal aspects. After very careful consideration, I have finally decided that the requirement of Restricted Area Permit be withdrawn from the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. With this, there would be no requirement for foreign nationals to obtain PAP to enter these three States. The RAP is not applicable in other States of the North-East. However, the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain the Protected Area Permits (PAP) for entry into the States of Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur in the North-East will continue.

With this decision, the demand of the State Governments of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura in this regard has been fulfilled. The removal of the requirement of RAP is expected to promote greater inter-action between the local people of these States and outsiders, both Indians and foreigners. Greater transparency and easier accessibility should, it is hoped, also bring about an atmosphere of mutual confidence and goodwill, thereby promoting greater flow of tourists and investments into the area as also closer integration of the area with the rest of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to thank the Members for the best cooperation today. If the Members are not present this should be conveyed to them.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, 16th May 1995 at 11 A.M.

20.57 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 16, 1995/Vaisakha 26, 1917 (Saka)