

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Third Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XII contains Nos. 41 to 49)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 8, 1992/Vaisakha
18, 1914(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Export of Rice.

+
*922. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH
HOODA:
SHRI NARAIN SINGH
CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed
for the export of rice during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken
by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHI-
DAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The target for

export of rice for the the current year is yet to
be finalised.

(c) The existing policy for export of rice
is considered adequate. No further meas-
ures are proposed to be taken by the Gov-
ernment to push export of rice during the
current year.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the basis for fixing
the target? Is the surplus production consid-
ered as the basis or something else is con-
sidered as the basis? Secondly, whether the
Government is thinking of formulating a policy
under which the agriculturist may directly get
the benefit of export, as is the case with
industries? Can an agriculturist get rice plant-
ing machinery or tractor or other tools for
himself on the same basis? The producer
does not have any gains, so the agriculturist
will not take interest in more production,
because he does not get any direct benefit
from export.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if the
farmer exports or farmers cooperative ex-
ports or farmers organization exports, surely
that exporter be he the farmer or the
farmers, cooperative, will get the benefit.
Earlier, the exporter would have got
the EXIM scrip benefit. Today, they will get
the benefit of LERMS policy. As far as the
quantity to be exported, the Ministry of
Commerce goes by the advice of the Minis-
try of Agriculture and the Ministry of
Food.

As I have repeatedly said, the Government's opposition is, in regard to basic commodities, cereals, we will export only the surpluses. Or first duty is to the people of this country. If there are surpluses, they will be made available for export.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Government thinking of forming an agriculture Product Export Promotion Council which will give direct benefit to the agriculturist for his produce? The targets for export may be announced in advance so that the agriculturist may manage his crop and produce accordingly. Because, it so happens that some times there is a good crop and the yield is also high do the agriculturist has to make distress sale of his crop. When the production is low, middle man buys the crop. This way the Agriculturist is a loser both ways. Is the Government making any such provision according to which the agriculturist can get the proper benefit of the Government policy?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is Agricultural and Processed Foods Export Development Authority (APEDA) which is doing precisely the work which the hon. Member intends should be done by the Council.

As regards the target, I wish we could set the targets very early, in respect of rice which is the subject matter of this question. For basmati rice, that is freely exportable because we have enough surpluses of basmati rice. For non-basmati rice, it is not possible to fix the target. It has not been possible to finalise the target because we are only barely marginal as far as production and consumption are concerned. We cannot take any hasty decision. We have to fix the surplus and only then we can make available these quantities for export. Once we become sufficiently surplus, then perhaps, we can fix the targets well in advance. It is not possible this year.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you the reasons for delay in fixing the target for export of rice, the details of the present policy of export of rice and the basis on which rice has been exported during the past three years?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said, there is no difficulty in indicating the quantity or the value of Basmati rice that will be exported. We expect to export Basmati rice of the value approximately of Rs. 500 crores. But, in respect of non-Basmati rice, it is not possible to indicate any quantity or value targets because we must ascertain the total production, the total procurement and the total needs for domestic consumption. Since we are only barely marginally surplus in that, we cannot take any hasty decision because we must ensure that adequate rice is available for the domestic market and the public distribution system.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister confirms the present policy of the Government. That is, only when there is something available as surplus, the Government wishes to export it. Due to this policy, in regard to our exports to other countries, we could not find a steady market and some years we are exporting and the very next year, we are not able to export. And so, we are not getting enough foreign exchange from the countries which import these products from us. In view of this fact, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, as to whether the Government will reconsider these present policy and come to an idea so as to export a certain minimum quantity of rice or wheat or cotton or other agricultural products so that we will definitely be in a position to export and earn foreign exchange. Is it not a fact that the present targets of production are barely sufficient to meet the domestic requirements and they are not kept in view of our export necessities? So,

will the Ministry of Commerce interact with the Ministry of agriculture and see that definitely the increase in the target is made and also necessary funds are made available to the farmers to produce that quantity of agricultural products especially rice and other food products to meet our foreign exchange commitments and achieve targets so as to earn more foreign exchange?

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM: I entirely share the approach of the hon. Member. In fact, I have said on a number of occasions that India cannot enter the export market in fits and starts. We must have a stable export policy so that our markets are stable and we can export year after year. But, this principle has been qualified in the case of cereals. There is no difficulty for non-Basmati rice. The policy is very clear; we have announced the policy for five years. Non-Basmati rice is exportable and as a result of such a stable policy, you will find that in 1989-90, the export was 26,705 tonnes of non-Basmati rice; in 1990-91, it was 3,13,720 tonnes; and in 1991-92, it was 5,25,000 tonnes.

But, this year, because of lower production and procurement and because of the needs of domestic consumption, when we find that we are only barely marginal we cannot fix the target, unless we are sure that the local requirements are met.

We have said that Basmati rice is freely exportable for five years and there is no difficulty at all. Anybody can export Basmati rice. But, I cannot indicate targets in a commodity where we are only barely marginal. Unless we are self-sufficient and that there are surpluses we can no indicate these targets. But, our policy is to encourage export of agricultural products and I would like to say for the record, that our farmers must grow keeping in mind the fact that we can export. But we are monsoon-dependent. If the monsoon fails or is erratic and if our production goes down, we cannot make our commitments in advance. Then, we will starve the domestic market; we cannot do that.

SHRI GURCHARAN SINGH DADA-

HOOR: Punjab farmers, despite the disturbed conditions in the State, produce the maximum amount of food grains particularly rice and wheat. The best quality of rice that is Basmati is produced in Punjab. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what incentives are being given to the farmers producing rice for export.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, incentives to farmers' must be addressed to the ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food. I would not be able to answer about incentives given to farmers.

As far as exports are concerned, any quantity indicated as surplus by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Food is made available for export.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, farmers earn foreign exchange by exporting rice. Now the Minister says that because of shortage of limited amount of surplus of rice in the country, it is not possible to allow export of non-basmati rice.

Is there any scheme of the Government to compensate the farmers who will incur loss by not exporting rice this year?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I do not think the farmer incurs a loss by not exporting rice. As long as there is a domestic demand and there is a good price in the domestic market, I do not think that the farmer incurs a loss. And I do not think it is correct to compare what a farmer would have got had he exported because the rice and wheat are basic foodstuffs. They must be available first in the domestic market. Only surpluses can be exported.

I think, the loss which the hon. Member is talking about is a notional loss.

DR. B.G. JAWALI: At the outset, I think, there is a little discrepancy in the answer given by the Minister. In the first part, he has said that the target is yet to be finalised. And in part (c), he says that the policy for export

of rice is considered to be adequate and no further consideration is required. However, whatever foreign exchange is earned in any other industry, wherein the people export, the people who export are benefited by the import of a particular item concerned with the industry. There is a certain percentage of foreign exchange earned.

Similarly, could any foreign exchange earned or a portion of it be passed on to the farmers directly to import any item like agricultural implements or chemicals or fertilisers or item of that kind?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: After the partial convertibility, any item or commodity which is not in the negative list of imports, is freely importable. There are no restrictions at all. One has to simply go to the bank, pay the rupees, get the foreign exchange and import whatever one likes to import as long as that is not in the negative list of imports.

The benefit of LEARMS will naturally go only to the exporter. Now the farmer could export. As I said, a farmers' cooperative could export. States could set up export agencies and procure the foodgrains or other agricultural products for exports. But the benefit of LERMS will naturally go to the actual exporter. For example, if a cooperative exports, the benefit will go to that cooperative. It will be shared by the farmers. A bigger farmer can export directly. The benefit will go to the exporter.

MR. SPEAKER: Questions No.923 is transferred from 5.5.1992.

SHRI RAM NAIK: In spite of that, how can there be two questions in one person's name?

MR. SPEAKER: This is a question for the Commerce Ministry. That is why we have done it.

SHRI RAM NAIK: It can come at the end.

MR. SPEAKER: This was balloted. This

has come. This was fixed but then it was transferred to the Commerce Ministry. Now Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Import of Drugs

*923. **SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bulk drugs imported by various firms having licence under actual user condition during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have taken steps for post-import checks of such imports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHEDAMBARAM) (a) Firm-Wise/licence-wise statistics of imports are not maintained. In terms of the Export and Import Policy for 1992-97, import of all drugs other than those covered by the Negative list of Imports is freely allowed. Drugs covered by the Negative List are allowed for import against specific licences and subject to conditions laid down.

(b) to (c). Adequate provisions are available in the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947, the Orders issued thereunder and the Export and Import Policy to ensure proper utilisation of material imported against specific licences.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, this question was raised by me to the Health Ministry as I never wanted the policy but I wanted the statistical date which is being maintained by the Drug Controller of India through its port offices as there are a lot of discrepancies in it. The same medicine which is imported by one firm at the rate of Rs. 12,000 per kilogram is imported at the rate of Rs. 4000 per kilogram by another firm. The price restrictions are made by the

Sub-Committee of the Drug Prices review Committee where the Drug Controller of India is also a member. The base price is taken as Rs.9000. So, when the medicine reaches the real consumers, that is, the patients, it costs very high. These firms earn a lot of money by manipulations at the cost of the poor patients. Would the hon. Minister tell me whether the Drought Controller maintains this account or not through its port offices?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think the hon. Member has prefaced his question by saying that he intends the Drug Controller in the Health Ministry to answer his question. I am not in a position to answer the question on behalf of the Drug Controller.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Then why was it transferred? My question was very clear. I never asked for any policy. I wanted only the statistical data because I have got three names of drugs with me.

Thioridazine was imported through loan licences arrangements at the rate of Rs. 12,000 per kilogram by one firm and the same medicine was imported by another firm at the landed rate of Rs.4000 per kilogram. Secondly, tripoline was imported by one firm at the rate of Rs.40,000 per kilogram but the same was imported by another firm at the rate of Rs. 10,000 per kilogram. Thirdly, cabamezapine was imported by one firm at Rs. 4500 per kilogram and at the rate of Rs.2500 per kilogram by another firm. So, I want to ask the question as to whether the Government is forming any policy to check these fictitious loan licence importers so that the consumers are not made to pay high price for life-saving drugs. This is very important and serious question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I have said in the answer, all drugs, except those which are in the negative list of imports, are freely importable under the new imports and exports policy. I think the fact that they are freely importable without licences will, in the medium term and surely in the long term, iron out irrationalities and pricing by the

importers because after all, if somebody come import a drug at Rs.4000 per kilogram or any other unit, surely, it will not be advantageous to anyone else to import it at five times of that price. If the suggestion of the hon. Member is that there is under-invoicing, then that is a matter that has to be inquired into. If he will furnish me specific cases where he subjects under-invoicing, we will surely investigate those cases of under invoicing.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, this is not the answer to my question. It should be referred to the Health Ministry. That fixes the price at the highest rate of import.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I want to know whether it is true that transnational companies in pharmaceuticals which are supposed to be working their patents in India leave their installed plants under-utilised and instead import their patented products from the foreign countries to sell them at inflated rates here. If this is what they are doing, then, I would like to know how many cases of trans national companies violating their patent agreements are there and what action is being taken against them.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, please refer to the question. This question deals with import of drugs by loan licences and post-import checks of such imports. This has really nothing to do with patents and transnational companies setting up installed capacities here.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Many such transnational companies are working here. And it comes within the ambit of this question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have no hesitation in answering the question put by the hon. Member Shrimati Bhattacharya. I am sure she knows how to ask a question. I have information on a question dealing with loan licences and post-import checks. How do I suddenly give information, off the cuff, about the trans-national companies which

have installed capacities here and which have not utilised capacity and so on?

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: I want to know whether there is any such information in the Ministry. And may I say that this is implied in Shri Hooda's question?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am sure there is information in the Ministry. If she puts a separate question, I will gather the information and give it to her.

MR. SPEAKER: Even otherwise, you can furnish the information to her.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes Sir. Even otherwise, I will give it to her.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please understand the spirit of what respected Hooda ji has said....

MR. SPEAKER: That question is over now.

SHRI SHANKERSING VAGHELA: May I know about the details of the multinational companies in India and the quantity of bulk drugs imported by them and the number of the countries from which these drugs were imported? A lot of our foreign seehangs is waited. May I know the number of such companies in India which have submitted their applications, but their applications have not been cleared, though are manufacture there along in own our country. May I know the umber of such multinational companies which have imported bulk drugs and the number of countries from which they imported bulk drugs during two years?

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am sure, I would be able to give information about multi-nationals which have applied for import licences. Since that is not the question, the information is not available with name

now. I will certainly furnish the information to the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

Legal Aid to Poor

*924. **SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee with a view to bring about comprehensive reforms in the process of providing legal aid to the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations of the committee have been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement those recommendations?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER FO STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (**SHRI RANGA RAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM**) (a) The Government set up the " Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes"(CILAS) in September, 1980 as per the recommendations made by the Bhagwati Committee which was constituted in May, 1976.

(b) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) to (d). The Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) is required to formulate and to implement comprehensive Legal Aid Schemes, monitor the scheme for legal aid and advice in the States and Union Territories and to take or recommend such other steps as are neces-

sary to secure proper working of the Legal Aid Schemes. As recommended by the Bhagwati Committee, Legal Aid and Advice Boards have been set up in the States and Union Territories besides Legal Aid committees at the District and Taluka levels in most of the States. people whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 6,000/- and Rs. 12,000/- are entitled to free legal-aid upto the High Courts and Supreme Court respectively. However, the ceiling in regard to income is not applicable to persons belonging to the scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, Vimukta Jatis, Nomadic Tribes, women and children.

Various Legal Aid Programmes, such as, training of para-legals, setting up of the Urban and Rural Entitlement and Legal Support Centres, organising of Legal Aid Camps, Lok adulates, setting up of Legal Aid Clinics, Legal Literacy Camps and promotion of legal literacy are some of the major programmes being taken up by the State Legal Aid & advice Boards to provide legal-aid to the weaker sections of the community and to make them aware of their rights and duties.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the Government through you that the committee constituted under the chairmanship of Justice Bhagwati in 1980 known as Committee for Implementing Legal Aid scheme whose objective was to provide easy justice to the poor, but their problems are that it takes five years, ten years, fifteen years and some time a generation to decide a case. Has the Government thought about these things so that these poor people may get justice within minimum number of hearings. What I mean to say is that a case should be decided within a period of 5 or 6 months or within a year. This way the poor people can get justice because it is quite inconvenient to them to travel to and fro....

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked a very good question. It is a clear question.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): Justice Bhagwati Committee was set up in 1976 and it gave its recommendations in 1977. Based on those recommendations, CILAS was formed in 1980 and it was headed by a judge of the Supreme Court. In all the states, there are branches of CILAS upto the Taluk level. This body is functioning very well to reduce the time taken in arriving at a decision. There is no question of delay in its working. Once they take up the legal aid matter, it is all decided on one day. If it is not decided in one day, then it goes to the court. Most of the legal aid meetings are for one or two days only. It is decided then and there and there is no question of further going back on that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: My second supplementary question is that minimum income group for providing free legal-aid in respect of a case up to state level has been fixed at the ceiling of income 6,000 and Rs. 9,000 for cases up to Supreme Court level and this ceiling has not been made applicable to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as also women and children. Is the Government taking some measures to raise the ceiling? Secondly, whether the Government is considering to include the persons belonging to backward classes in society and the minorities in it or not?

[*English*]

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, the Government is thinking of raising the limit from Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 12,000 and Rs. 15,000. The Rajya Sabha has passed the Bill and it is pending here. It has come in this Session and it will be done. We are also thinking of raising it a little more. But there are other aspects. Whoever is poor in other communities, they also come under this. If their income is between Rs. 6,000 and Rs. 9,000, they come under it. We are going

to raise it. Most of the poor people of other communities will also come under it.

Even if there is some difficulty, we can consider it at a later date.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is regarding bringing about comprehensive reforms in the process of providing legal aid to the poor. It appears that this CILAS has been constituted and one of the functions is to recommend such other steps as are necessary to secure proper working of the legal aid.

I would, therefore, like to know whether any recommendations have been made by the CILAS to introduce comprehensive reforms in this process and if so, what are those recommendations?

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, recently, there was a Conference held in Hyderabad and they reviewed the position. They have expressed satisfaction over the functioning of it. They have not yet given any specific comments. But, I am going to discuss with the Chairman, CILAS Mr. Justice Ahamadi and if he suggests some more recommendations, I can incorporate them in the Bill and try to improve the position. (*Inter-ruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a general belief that the law is blind and whosoever has the money and influence wins the case. Even the Verdict of Judges is influenced. As a result the poor are always deprived of justice. When the poor does not get justice or the doors of justice are closed to him, he seeks remedy elsewhere. I would like to impress upon you that though an announcement for the constitution of the committee has been made, yet the procedure for it is so intricate that it has not served any purpose. When we tried to deliver justice to the poor through the legal aid scheme, we could not succeed. The procedure is so

complex that every case is first referred to the legal aid committee which then appoints a lawyer to argue the case. Often the lawyer appointed, I donot say, is sub-standard but, is of no standing in comparison to lawyers against whom he is pitched. That is why the poor are deprived of justice. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the recommendations of the Committee. Let us forget about the recommendations also, but at least make arrangements for the direct disbursement of the amount given for legal aid, to the poor and not through the appointed lawyer. This would enable them to use the services of best of the lawyers to plead their cases. I would like to know whether the Government will start direct disbursement of money to the poor in this regard. Will the Government also inform the number of poor given assistance through the legal aid cell and the number of cases that have been decided in their favour?

[*English*]

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: Sir, paying directly for the legal aid is not under consideration. At the Supreme Court level, a Judge of the Supreme Court heads the Committee here. At the High Court level, a Judge of the High court heads the Committee and at the District Court level, a Judge of the District Court heads the Committee. They are the best judges to choose proper advocates to look after the interests of the poor. If anything is to be done, it is done through these Committees. According to us, these Committees are functioning very well and the system is working very well.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to know whether Government will start directly disbursing money to the poor instead of following the existing procedure of providing legal aid to the affected persons. This was my specific question.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY:
Not at this stage. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is considered to be the biggest and the more cantankerous litigant today. Often we find cases where many officers.....

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the important part of his question was regarding the number of persons given legal aid so far which has not been replied to by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already made it clear that a separate notice is required as the information is to be collected from the State Governments, the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

SHRI KALKA DAS: The specific question was about the number of persons benefited through the legal aid scheme. That is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Instead of seeking the information from the Minister, you are putting the question to me.

SHRI KALKA DAS: You ask the hon. Minister to state the number of persons benefited through the legal aid scheme so far.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You give the total number of beneficiaries.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: I am giving the total number of beneficiaries. The total number of beneficiaries is 14,90,000 and add.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Government has today become the biggest and the most cantankerous litigant. Often, we come across cases where officers wanting to shrug off their own responsibility, drag poor people to the courts and indulge in frivolous and most unnecessary form of litigation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will pay attention to this very important aspect which can reduce the litigation to almost half in this country and there would be no need of providing aid if the Government were to ensure that its own officers do not add to unnecessary litigation.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: It is not that way. We have been educating the people about the problems involved in this and to reduce the litigation. This aspect also, the Government is looking into.

[Translation]

Recovery of Taxes

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*925. SHRI NIT ISH KUMAR:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of different Central taxes remains unrecovered every year in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the amount of each of the Central taxes outstanding at the end of 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 against private and public sectors separately;

(d) whether the Government have made some improvement in the present system of tax collection;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the achievements made as a result thereof?

[English]

tion of outstanding tax demands are-

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for non-realisa-

(i) Tax demands are disputed in appeals;

(ii) Stays are granted by the Courts, the tribunals and the departmental authorities.

(c) the amounts of tax demands of major Central taxes outstanding at the end of 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 are as follows:-

	<i>Income tax including Tax</i>	<i>Central Excise Duty</i>	<i>(Rupees in Crores) Customs duty</i>
1989-90	6638	973	73
1990-91	6695	1226	67
1991-92	6589	1283	69

@Figures for the year 1991-92 are as on 1.2.1992, as the figures as on 31.3.1992 have not yet been compiled.

Statistics of tax demands outstanding against private and public sectors are not maintained separately.

(d) to (f). Improvement of the tax collection system is an on-going process. The system is reviewed from time to time and improvements wherever necessary are brought about. Presently, the Tax Reforms Committee headed by Shri Raja J. Chelliah is going into the various aspects of tax administration. The recommendations made by the committee in its interim report have been partially implemented. The final report of the Committee is likely to be received shortly. It is premature to assess the achievement to this stage.

tribunals I would like to know from the Government for how many years the cases of the value of more than Rs.10 lakh Central tax like income tax, corporation tax, customs duty and excise duty are pending in the courts, the tribunals and the departmental authorities?

In the reply the figures of the outstanding tax demands still unrecovered because of dispute appeals has not been mentioned. In view of the cases pending I would like to know whether Government propose to set up maximum number of tribunals and special courts, instead of General Courts to realise the outstanding tax demands?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply it has been stated that there are two main reasons for non-realisation of outstanding tax demands. Firstly, the tax demands are disputed in appeals and secondly, stays are granted by the courts and

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to have a fair estimate of the outstanding tax demands, it is necessary to know that out of the total tax demands outstanding of Rs.6,695 crore on 1.4.91, Rs.

2,247 crore had been realised by 21 January, 1992 and by February-March approximately Rs. 1,000 crore more was realised. This means that nearly 50 per cent of the outstanding tax demand has been realised. Out of the outstanding tax demands of Rs. 8,370 crore in 1991-92 Rs. 6,236 crore has already been realised i.e. 75 per cent in the current year has been realised. As far as the Customs Duty and the Central Excise are concerned, nearly 95.5 per cent of the outstanding tax demands has been realised in 1989-90.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the number of cases pending in the Courts, the tribunals and with the departmental authorities and the money unrecovered as a result thereof and not what the hon. Minister has already stated in the reply.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is better to know the basic thing first. I was dwelling on that. The number of cases of direct taxes pending with deputy Commissioner Appeal, as on 1-4-92 was 1,37,070, with Commissioner Appeal, 1,58,782 with Income Tax Tribunal, 2,98,000 with the High Courts 34,000 and the Supreme Court it was 3,485. Of the less than one x year old cases out of the unrecovered Rs.5,595 crore Rs. 3,341 crore is still out standing. I have the year wise break up also with me. There are 1291 cases pending for the last three years. It constitutes 19 per cent of the total pending cases. Similarly there are 558 cases pending for the last five years and constitute only 8 per cent of the total cases. Only 2 per cent cases, i.e. 192 are pending for the last 10 years. The hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget speech stated that efforts are being made to speedily dispose off cases pending with the departmental authorities especially the departmental appeals. We are in touch with the Ministry of Law to set up more and more benches and additional benches to dispose off cases pending with the Commissioner Appeal and the Tribunal. Attempts are being made to set up special benches in the High Courts. In this connection requests have also been made

to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Law. Arrangements are being made for the setting up of the National Court of direct Taxes as then hon. Minister of Finance mentioned in his Budget speech.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Government gets a revenue of more than Rs.25,000 crore through the Customs Duty. The cost of collection of direct taxes, including the Corporation Tax, is 6-7 per cent while the cost of collection of the Customs Duty is nearly 0.5 per cent. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to entrust the collection of the customs duty to a foreign agency probably SGS International? If so, what will be the effect of engaging of the agency on the cost of collection of the customs duty?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to the moment.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that maximum collection of income tax is from the salaried class only? I would also like to know the categorywise collection of income tax from the salaried class, traders and private companies? What is the categorywise cost of collection of income tax from the aforementioned categories and what steps does the Government propose to take to reduce the cost of collection?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: We do not have separate data regarding the categorywise collection of taxes by the various salary circles of the department. However, the cost of collection is just 2 per cent of the total tax collection.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government must address to two issues if it wants to control unaccounted money. One is tax evasion and the other is the activities which generate black money. What we find here is that there is no integration in these two methods of control. Raja Chelliah Committee Report and also Tax

Administration addresses only to tax evasion. And what is required is that an integrated approach must be followed. For example, smuggling is the foundation of organised crime. The State law and order machinery and the CBI are not allowed to prosecute the cases under the Customs Act.

Will the Government take all these issues into consideration and adopt an integrated approach and formulate the customs, Act and all other Acts so that all the offenders, those engaged in the activities of generating black money and also tax evasion are brought under one net?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Sir, apart from the departmental authorities that we have got for the collection of money and also for the follow up of the smuggling and other kind of cases, we take the assistance of the State Governments in many areas in reducing and helping in the smuggling cases. There is an integrated approach and there has been, by and large, success in these various areas. We have the fullest co-operation of most of the State Governments in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask a question in regard to the reply given to the part (d) of the original question. The system of collection of taxes in India is so complicated that the Government do not receive as much collection as it should have. In foreign countries, particularly in America, taxes are the minimum as a result of which there are a very few incidents of tax evasion and there is a very good collection of taxes. In view of this, whether the Central Government proposes to appoint a committee to suggest a scientific tax collection system?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had appointed Dr Raja Chelliah Committee in this regard which has already submitted the first part of its report to the Government. The detailed suggestion in regard to the taxation are likely

to be given in the second and last part of the report. The Government will consider the report and take appropriate action thereon. The hon. Minister of Finance, keeping in view the suggestions given so far, by the hon. Members, the Chambers of Commerce and the experts, has already reduced the tax limit from 50 per cent to 40 per cent in the Budget proposed for the year 1992-93. I hope that this reduction in tax limit will help in collection of the taxes during the current year. In regard to the existing complicated laws, the Government would take action only after the report of Chelliah Committee is received. The hon. Minister has announced that the Government proposes to set up a court to deal with direct taxes and the law will be simplified by clubbing income tax, wealth tax and gift tax. The proposal will be placed in the House in due course of time.

[*English*]

Land Acquired for Defence Purposes

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*926 SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired for defence purposes during each of the last three year, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to provide alternate lands or jobs to the persons whose lands were acquired;

(c) if so, the number of such persons who have been provided lands or jobs in this regard during the above period; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NEURALGDAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) (a) A statement indica-

ing the total area acquired during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise, is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no provision under the Land Acquisition Act, 1984, on the requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952, for providing compensatory land or employment to the persons whose lands are acquired.

STATEMENT

YEAR	STATE	AREA ACQUIRED IN ACRES
1989-90 1.	West Bengal	3.845
2.	Orissa	92.630
3.	Assam	15.796
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	2003.843
5.	Himachal Pradesh	4.505
6.	Madhya Pradesh	6.941
7.	Bihar	194.870
8.	Punjab	1219.412
9.	Rajasthan	6140.427
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	212.275
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0.730
12.	Maharashtra	83.080
13.	Gujarat	32.782
14.	Tamil Nadu	86.830
15.	karnataka	5783.730
16.	Kerala	5.780
1990-91 1.	Orissa	22.000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.410
3.	Assam	2.071
4.	West Bengal	1.350

YEAR	STATE	AREA ACQUIRED IN ACRES
5.	Haryana	369.270
6.	Bihar	1.465
7.	Punjab	27.740
8.	Madhya Pradesh	3627.079
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	723.975
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1199.790
11.	Rajasthan	3661.385
12.	Maharashtra	1605.420
13.	Gujarat	932.814
14.	Tamil Nadu	153.821
15.	Karnataka	203.540
16.	Andhra Pradesh	95.125
17.	Kerala	0.020
1991-92 1.	West Bengal	5.700
2.	Orissa	2.580
3.	Assam	0.641
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	156.470
5.	Sikkim	0.710
6.	Meghalaya	0.250
7.	Punjab	694.000
8.	Rajasthan	3450.071
9.	Madhya Pradesh	139.100
10.	Uttar Pradesh	4.925
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4.790
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	509.976

YEAR	STATE	AREA ACQUIRED IN ACRES
13.	Maharashtra	1418.408
14.	Gujarat	941.654
15.	Tamil Nadu	150.511
16.	Goa	14.959
17.	Karnataka	266.615
18.	Andhra Pradesh	94.925

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, the Defence Ministry has been acquiring thousands acres of lands since British *RAJ*. I would like to know whether you have exploited or utilised all the lands which you had acquired for defence purposes till 1989.

Then, you have acquired nearly 34000 acres of land for the last three years. May I ask the hon. Minister whether this is arbitrary acquisition or whether you have got some planning of expansion of defence establishments and for that purpose this land is acquired.

May I also know that out of this 34000 acres of land, how much is utilised and how much is lying idle?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the Defence Ministry has under its possession, a total of 22, 16,000 and odd acres of land. All these have been acquired from time to time.

As far as the new acquisitions are concerned, we have 363 cases for 1,69,000 and odd acres. No acquisition is sanctioned by the Defence Ministry unless the purpose for the acquisition is established. It is normally for various operation, for projects, new, military stations, and so on.

We closely monitor not only the land acquisition cases but also the utilisation of the land after the acquisition has taken place.

The spirit of the hon. Member's ques-

tion is understood. We also constantly review the surplus lands which are not immediately required by the army, and there is a policy and programme for disposal of such surplus lands for public purposes.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, not a single of my Questions is answered. Should I repeat them?

MR. SPEAKER: At the cost of losing the second supplementary.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, nearly 32 lakh acres of land they have acquired up to 1989. I have asked; do take it for granted that these 32 lakh acres of land which they have acquired has been completely utilised or the remaining one which is not utilised has been returned to the farmers... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: They have the Ranges also, you know, where lot of land is required. Then they have the containments and many other things also. unless you classify, it is not possible to reply.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: O.K., Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: You have the honour that the Speaker has replied to your question.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Hon. Speaker was the Defence Minister also.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, it is an established fact that whenever the land of the farmer is taken away, he is rendered jobless. Therefore, before completing the project, whether it is of irrigation or defence or anything else, at least one person from the family of the farmer who is rendered jobless, is given job or his rehabilitation takes place. In the second part of the answer the hon. Minister has said: "It is not binding on us by law". That is all right, but morally they are bound. The Government has already accepted that and they are acting on that. So, on that line, when they have acquired this 34,000 acres of land during the last three years, to how many families they have provided jobs or are going to provide jobs?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, the acquisition for the armed Forces is done under the Land Acquisition Act or the Requesting and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act for Operational purposes. In neither of these Acts there is any provision for giving employment to people who have to lose the land consequent on the acquisition. When the Legislature enacted these laws, they had taken into account the morality or the practicality of giving land to the evictees. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to amend the legislation. But in certain cases, on the request of the State Governments, we have given rehabilitation grants to enable the State Governments to rehabilitate the evictees. I have the details of the rehabilitation grants which have been given in recent years. It is not practical nor do we want to take such a big policy deviation or legislative deviation, giving a right to the evictees to alternative land or employment in Defence under takings.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMAHESH KANODIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know (a) the names of defence projects for which land has been acquired in Gujarat during the last three years? Have those projects been completed and what are the reasons for which the acquired land is lying unutilized? (b) Have the Government paid compensa-

tion for the land acquired in all cases particularly in Gujarat and whether any case in regard to compensation is lying pending in court?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, in the State of Gujarat, 32.7 acres of land was acquired in 1989-90 and 932.8 acres of land was acquired in 1990-91. In 1991-92, 941.6 acres of land was acquired. I can give the hon. Member the statistics regarding the cases pending in courts. But I have only the maerco picture. I do not have the figures with respect to each State. There is a constant monitoring by the Ministry to ensure that the lands acquired are utilised and not kept idle unnecessarily. The progress of the land acquisition is also very closely monitored in our Ministry.

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the statement laid on the attention of the House in reply to the question, and to serial number 6 for the year 1991-92 where the figure of 0.250 acres is mentioned and I want to ask where is the location of this land in Meghalaya and what is the same of the area.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: It is a small plot of land obviously acquired for defence purposes. I will require notice. 363 cases are pending and there are thousands of cases of the past years. I will require notice to answer this question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can send it in writing.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTEJEE: Sir, at Barrackpore, which is part of my constituency, there is a good amount of land which is lying vacant and which is in a very congested area. We want to keep it in these days of disturbing pollution-as a lung of that area where fresh air can be breathed. We want that this entire land not to be built upon and to let that be treated as vacant plot which may be handed over to the municipality. We have been receiving representations in this regard. Will the hon. Minister agree to this?

SHRIS. KRISHANKUMAR: The whole question of surplus land is in the process of consideration. It is ostensibly a large part of the vacant land. The lands are being identified. There are a large number of extensive plots which are being kept open deliberately by the defence forces for use for public purposes. When any land is identified as surplus by the defence forces, the first option to purchase that land at market value is given to the State Government, then the municipalities and then to public sector undertakings and so on. It is only then that the question of auction in which private developers can take part arises. The suggestion made by the hon. Member is worthy of consideration. We shall always discuss it with the State Government before any land is utilised in any manner and certainly there is a case for open lands being kept as such because they are the lung areas of our urban life.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Why at market value? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM HUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has admitted that the land for defence purposes is always acquired under two Acts. There is a difference in the rates of the compensation given under the Land Acquisition Act and Requisition and Acquisition of properties Act due to which the person from whom the land is acquired may suffer loss also. Have the Government received any suggestions from the State Government to make provision for acquiring land under one Act instead of two. Secondly, the Government had acquired a vast area of land in the districts of Una, Hamirpur and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh many years ago. I would like to know the time by which Government proposes to set up Army Cantonments there?

[*English*]

SHRIS. KRISHANKUMAR: Sir, the two legislations under which land is acquired for the defence forces have evolved over a

course of time. We have the normal land acquisition Act. But the Requisitioning Act has been in operation and the purpose of the Act is for quick acquisition of land for operational purposes of the defence forces. When the land is immediately required for operational purposes it is requisitioned. The amount of compensation is different. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is temporary and permanent. The requisition is temporary and the acquisition is permanent.

SHRIS. KRISHANKUMAR: According to the RAIP Requisition Act, only an annual compensation is paid to the land owner based on the rental till such time as the land is not acquired whereas according to the Land Acquisition Act, the land value is determined by the Collector, the land acquisition value is paid and the land becomes part of the Government. These are two Acts and both are necessary, there is no need to have a single legislation.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will appreciate and the entire House will appreciate that in my constituency Balasore Chandipur Defence establishment has contributed tremendously.

MR. SPEAKER: We would like to congratulate you.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Sir, the land area acquired by the Defence establishments in 1989-90 in Orissa is 92.630 acres and in 1990-91 the land acquired was 22 acres and in 1991-92, only 2.58 acres of land have been acquired for the purpose of Defence establishments.

Sir, I want to know categorically from the Minister that at the time of accruing the land from the people an understanding was given to them that for each family whose land has been acquired, a person from that family will be provided employment facility. But till today, since 1989 or even previous to that, it could not be provided to the people, so, there is much dissatisfaction amongst the people. That is why I want to submit before the hon.

Minister that he should assure the House that employment will be given to the persons who have lost their lands on account of acquisition for Defence purposes.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: I have already explained in answer to the main question that there is no right for employment or alternative land in the case of land acquisition.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: The Government has assured that employment will be given.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: That is not possible.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: I can show the letters of the Government in this regard. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The State Government promised and you may request the State Government and we will also put in a word. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that maximum area of land was acquired in Rajasthan as compared to all other State for defence purposes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the people and the farmers living in backward areas of Rajasthan, where even drinking water is not available, will be given due compensation for their land acquired from them? Do the Government propose to provide the facility of drinking water also in those areas?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: About rehabilitation, generally it is replied.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, I had already answered that along with the De-

fence land acquisition cases, in suitable cases we also give the State Governments rehabilitation grants and in the rehabilitation situation, the requests such as the one made by the Member can also be accommodated by the concerned State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.P. Singh Deo. I know the interests of the Members and according to their interests I am calling their names. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Defence Ministry has become a trading concern or a speculative body because in the figure given here, about 31000 acres of land has been acquired in the last three years and at the moment there is a move to sell off the prime land in Anand Parbat, Delhi Cantonment including the Rajputana Rifle Regimental Centre, Pune and Kanpur. So, I would like to know what is the policy of the Ministry of Defence in this regard and how much money was spent on acquire this 31,000 acres of land in the last three years.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, there is a policy for disposal of surplus defence lands. A Committee is going into it. They have identified some of the areas mentioned by the hon. Member. But, they are not going to be sold as such to private persons. First, they will be offered to the State Governments, then the Municipalities and so on at market value. Of course, you may ask: why are you acquiring when the surplus lands are available. The acquisition is situation-specific. It is depending on where the projects are coming up and these are not co-terminous. So, the acquisition has to go on at selected areas and disposal of surplus lands will also going on in different areas as an ongoing process. The whole policy is a long wisting one; We have not sold any prime land as yet.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a Short Notice Question today given by Shri Keshri Lal. I will ask Shri Keshri Lal to Put his question now.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

DTC Buses Chartered by Public Schools

S.N.Q.1. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Transport Corporation had asked all heads of schools in the Capital using DTC buses for transportation of school children to pay double the hire-charges for its buses chartered by such schools;

(b) if so, whether DTC also conveyed to the heads of such schools the decision that the schools authorities shall not increase and will charge the same rates from the students which is being charged at present;

(c) whether schools authorities have now asked the parents to pay more; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Some instances have come to the notice of the Government. The Government have discussed the matter with the Principals of Schools and they have been given the following directions:-

- (i) All Schools would maintain an exclusive bus fee collection account, into which all fees collected from the students on account of transportation would be remitted.
- (ii) Each school would estimate the

total amounts required for payment to DTC at the new rates and on this basis, determine the monthly/quarterly slabs for bus fees which are to be realised from the students.

- (iii) The schools utilising the DTC buses would pay to DTC at the rate of Rs. 9/- per Km. of utilisation. The schools would also be entitled to charge 50 paise per Km. Operated as administration charges from the students.
- (iv) Any surplus in the bus fee collection account of a particular year would be adjusted in the next year's estimated collection for the whole year by the schools and the fees to be realised from the students would be adjusted accordingly.
- (v) All schools would furnish an annual account to the Director of Education, Delhi Administration of the total amounts collected by way of bus fees, the amounts paid to DTC/ other transport operators and the balance available in the account.

[Translation]

SHRI KESRI LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the DTC had increased the hire-charges of DTC buses for transportation of school children in the capital. It has been admitted by the Government that the charges are very high. Some instances have come to the notice of the Government that principals of some schools have asked the parents to pay more bus fee. In the light of the fact that things have come to the notice of the Government, I would like to know as to what action has been taken against such schools so far?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Some instances came to our knowledge with reference to two schools stating that they were charging more bus fee than they were paying to the DTC. We referred this to the

Director of Education and the Director of Education took whatever action was necessary. The DTC was going in losses. We thought that as to why the DTC should pay for the school children who are going to public schools and so, we said that whatever is the cost of the DTC, it should be paid by the schools. That is what we did.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KESRI LAL: Mr Speaker, Sir the hon. Minister in his reply has just stated that the Director of Education would take action whatever was necessary. I would like to know whether the directions issued by the hon. Minister to the schools are being followed and what action will be taken by the Government in this regard. What effective measures are proposed to be taken to ensure that the parent have not to pay more bus fee? In how many schools more bus fee has been charged? What action will be taken against the principals of such schools?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Instances of only two schools—Lady Irwin School and ramjas Public School has come to the notice of the Government, in pursuance of which a meeting of the principals of all schools and the Director of Education was convened. It was made clear to them that it was not justified on the part of any of the schools to charge more bus fee from the students and pay less to DTC. Thereafter, a meeting of the officials of the Ministry of Surface Transport was held. This direction had to be issued when the Delhi High Court gave a verdict that to school could charge bus fee from the students as profit. The entire expenditure will be borne by the DTC. This made the DTC realise that they had been suffering considerable losses due to this. The Government then decided not to extend this concession to private public schools. When the parents can afford to send their children to premier schools, then

[*English*]

It is the same thing if I look there, that way.

[*Translation*]

They thought that the DTC would bear the transportation expenses of public schools, but we decided not to allow this; The schools will have to meet the expenses that the DTC incurs on transportation of school children; So we increased the charges accordingly.

SHRI KESRI LAL: In how many of schools more bus fee has been charged and what action is being taken against them?

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling Shri Khurana. You may please sit down.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier the DTC charged Rs. 4.50 per km which has now been increased to Rs. 9.50 now. The burden of these extra charges has fallen on the parents. As the citizens of Delhi these parents have to bear additional burden of 100 percent increased charges and additional burden in being put on them as increased bus fares. In order to provide them some relief I would like to suggest two alternatives. I hope the hon. Minister will take them into consideration? Firstly, DTC issues monthly student passes for Rs. 12.50p to all the students in Delhi, but these small children have been deprived of this facility. Will the Government consider to provide same passes to them also? Or allow the private buses playing under DTC operation to render this service to schools at the rate of Rs. 4.50. per km so that the parents and students would not bear extra burden. If DTC is not prepared for this, the Government may allow the private buses playing under DTC operation. They are prepared to ply their buses at the rate of Rs. 4.50 per km. The Government will have just to monitor their operation.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: The suggestion given in the interest of the children is good. Adequate attention will be paid to it. Secondly, DTC buses are primarily meant for public who are mostly office goers. The Government is not prepared to run them for schools. Those who want to avail DTC service will have to bear the estimated expendi-

ture. This is absolutely clear. Let me clarify this to you also. When I directed the Delhi Administration to issue permits for 3000 more buses to provide bus facility to Delhotes, I know how they twisted by statement and questioned as to what the Central Government was doing in this regard. Now the position will become clear the day after tomorrow when the Delhi Administration issues permits for 3000 more buses; I am confident that this will further improve the bus facility in Delhi.

[*English*]

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: I do not agree with the hon. Minister that this facility of the buses is being utilised by public schools or the children of rich families. There are nearly 50,000 students going to these schools and those students are not necessarily rich people's children. There are middle-class, salaried people also whose children are going and this rate which has been increased from Rs. 4.5 per km to Rs. 9/-, the parents are finding it very difficult. As it is, the fees are very high. In the public school, the average fees is Rs. 400/- per month and no the top of it, this is an extra burden.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: The college students are paying only Rs. 12/- for their pass. If you want to increase the fare, will you consider their request and increase it gradually, that is, from Rs. 4.50 per KM. to Rs. 6 or Rs. 6.50 or Rs. 7/- instead of Rs. 9/-?

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I have given reply to the question raised by Shri Madan Lal Khurana that the cases of bus passes will be taken into consideration. However, DTC will not, at any cost, provide buses at cheaper rates to any of the public schools.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Question period is over.

12.11 hrs.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Stock Exchanges

*927. KUMARI UMA BHARTI:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA
KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Stock Exchanges are operating in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, without the approval of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to ban the operation of such Stock Exchanges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e). According to sub-section 1 of Section 13 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956, no person shall, except with the permission of the Central Government, organise or assist in organising or be a member of any stock exchange (other than a recognised stock exchange) for the purpose of assisting in, entering into or performing any contracts in securities. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the Act, the Government have issued a Notification on 8th September, 1962 appointing the

8th day of September, 1962, as the date on which Section 19 shall come into force in those States and areas where that section is not already in force.

(2) In view of the above provisions of the Act, Stock Exchanges other than recognised Stock Exchanges are prohibited under the Act. In case instances of establishment and functioning of Stock Exchanges without the approval of the Government as required under the Act are brought to the notice of the Government appropriate action in the matter will be initiated.

[English]

Family Planning Through SETUP and SEEU

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

(a) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the commercial banks to give priority in disbursement of loans under the scheme of Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor and Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth to those applicants who adopt small family norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

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

Export Credit Growth

*929. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of export credit has been sagnant/negative during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export credit; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that the exportable goods conform to the international standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). According to the latest date available for the Reserve Bank of India, export credit outstandings as on the last Friday of December, 1991 stood at Rs. 10,554.93 crores as against Rs. 9,479.98 crores as on the last Friday of March, 1991. This shown an increase of 11.3% during the period March-December 1991. The export credit outstanding as on the last Friday of March, 1990 was significantly lower at Rs. 8,645.50 crores.

(c) The Government have taken a number of steps to increase export credit availability by introducing new schemes like post-shipment export credit denominated in dollars and pre-shipment credit in foreign currency at lower interest rate. Export credit refinance facility by the RBI to commercial banks and running account facility for all export items also enable provision of adequate export credit by the banks.

(d) The Government recognises the need to facilitate export products adhering to international standards. The Export Inspection Council exists with a network of 5 Export Inspection Agencies for quality control inspection. Quality standards are prescribed by the Government for all notified commodities. The new Exim Policy aims at encouraging a quality awareness campaign, assist State Government in launching similar programme, assist in modernisation and upgradation of Test Houses and laboratories to bring them at par with international standards and to recognise and reward manufacturers who have acquired the ISO 9000 (series), the BIS 14000 (series) or any other internationally recognised equivalent certification of quality.

[Translation]

Payment for Newsprint

*930. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of the newsprint purchased before the devaluation of rupee;

(b) whether the payment was made after the devaluation of rupee as a result of which the Government had to pay more in rupee;

(c) if so, the extra amount that had to be paid; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). Short term foreign currency borrowings for imports of newsprint were availed of by the STC. These liabilities were paid on the due dates, which were in the post devaluation period and consequently entailed additional rupee cost to the tune of Rs. 60.63 crores.

As on 1.7.91, the loans in foreign currency outstanding amounted to US\$ 91.68 million (FOB value) for a quantity of 1.55 lakh MTs of newsprint.

Pursuant to the discussions with the Members of the Newsprint Industry, the industry agreed to bear Rs. 29.20 crores out of the additional rupee cost.

[English]

Jobs of Dependents of Deceased Defence Employees

*931. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the dependents of deceased Defence employees to whom employment has been given during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) the number of cases outstanding under this category at present and the number of persons likely to get employment during 1992-93; and

(c) the other steps being taken by the Government to remove the sufferings of the family members of deceased Defence employees?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) 1914 and 1837 dependents of deceased Defence employees were given compassionate appointments during 1990-91 and 1991-92, respectively.

(b) 2819 cases were outstanding at the beginning of 1992-93. It is not possible to indicate the exact number of persons likely to get employment during the current year.

(c) Other welfare measures to reduce the sufferings of families of deceased Defence employees include sanction of family pension, death gratuity, group insurance, encashment of balance leave, and medical treatment under approved schemes.

Construction of Roads/Bridges

*932. SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI: SHRI V. N. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the Schemes/project for construction of roads bridges under the Central Loan Assistance Programme for roads of inter-State or economic importance to be undertaken during Eighth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir, as the Eighth Plan is not yet finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

NTC Mills in M. P.

*933. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Textile Corporation units in Madhya Pradesh are facing great difficulties in production of cloth due to non-supply of cotton yarn;

(b) if so, the details of the demand of cotton yarn made by the above units; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of cotton yarn to these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) All the units of NTC (M. P.) are Composite Mills, which weave cloth from the yarn produced out of the respective spinning sections. Therefore, the non-availability of cotton yarn does not arise.

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

[*English*]

Export of Electronic Goods

*934. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of electronic goods exported during 1990-91;

(b) the percentage of increase likely to be made in the next financial year; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The value of electronics goods exported during 1990-91 is Rs. 995 crores as per the data maintained by Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council.

(b) The percentage of increase likely to be made in 1991-92 is 34.4%.

(c) The total export as per Electronics and Compute Software ECP in the year 1991-92 is of Rs. 1337 crores.

Functioning of ICICI

*935. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations regarding the management of the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the action taken to streamline the management of the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Government has not received any general complaints with regard to the mode of functioning of the management of the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) during the last two years.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Cotton

*935-A. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gap between demand and production of cotton has increasingly widened during the last three years;

(b) if so, the actual demand and produc-

tion of cotton during each of the three years in the country;

(c) whether the Government have reported to import of cotton to meet the increasing demand; and

(d) if so, the actual value and quantity of cotton imported during each of the last three year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the cotton seasons 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, there was no import of cotton by the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Trade with Asean Countries

*936. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present volume of trade with Association of South East Asian Nation countries;

(b) the value of exports made to each of the ASEAN countries during the last year; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase exports to these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per DGCI&S's statistics, the present volume of Trade with Association of South East Asian Countries during the first 10 months of the financial year 1991-92 (April '91-January '92) has been of the order of Rs. 4201.30 crores.

(b) The value of exports made to ASEAN Countries during 1990-91 has been as under:-

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Country	Exports
Brunei	1.22
Indonesia	195.44
Malaysia	267.75
Philippines	49.13
Singapore	679.07
Thailand	442.76

(c) Besides increasing the competitive strength of our industry through various policy measure, these include periodical review of bilateral trade, participation in international fairs/exhibitions, exchange of business delegations, market surveys and the like.

Tissue Culture In Tea Gardens

*937. Dr. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to adapt tissue culture in tea gardens to agment the production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the project identified for tissue culture during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Scientists of premier institutes of tea research in India like the Tea Research Association at Jorhat, Assam are already engaged in tissue culture research. However, the research is still at laboratory stage. Since the strategy for tea development envisages rapid increase in production and productivity, research in Tea, including the tissue culture research, has a significant role to play in achieving the objective of producing 1000 Million Kgs. of tea annually by 2000 AD.

Apart from the ongoing projects being conducted by TRA, UPASI and Tatas, an advanced scheme on Tissue Culture with an outlay of Rs. 40 lakh during 1992-93 is under the consideration of the Government.

Import of DISH Antennae and Components

*938. SHRIM. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Bombay have recently unearthed a major racket in the import of dish-antennae and components used in receiving satellite transmission;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken or propose to take steps to check such illegal import of dish-antennae and components in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the seizure of 6 pieces of computer synthesized satellite receivers with remote control valued at Rs.2.40 lakhs approximately, effected by the Bombay Zonal Unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on 19.2.1992. The goods were imported in 3 parcels which had arrived at Bombay from Hongong and were declared to contain one 'reserver' each to be delivered at an address in Bombay. On enquiry, this address was found to be ficti-

tious. A Show Cause Notice has already been issued and the case is pending adjudication.

The Customs authorities are vigilant against smuggling including that of electronic goods. Intelligence is targeted against such smuggling and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex body for the collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on smuggling, actively assists Customs authorities.

Manufacture of Textile Goods

*939. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of textile goods manufactured in the country during each of the last three year;

(b) the percentage of these goods manufactured in textile mills, powerlooms and handlooms separately, year-wise;

(c) the estimate number of workers employed in these sectors, sector-wise;

(d) the financial assistance given by the Government to each sector during each of the last three year; and

(e) the minimum wages fixed by the Government for the workers employed in these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). The quantity of cloth and the percentage share of Mill Sector, Powerloom Sector and Handloom sector in indicated below:

(Quantity in Mn. Sq. mtrs.)

Sector	1989-90		1990-91		1991-92 (P)	
	Quantity	Percentage Share	Quantity	Percentage Share	Quantity	Percentage Share
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mill	2781	14.86	2720	13.36	2488	12.42
Handloom	4537	24.23	4888	24.02	4805	23.98
Powerloom	11404	60.91	12746	62.62	12743	63.60
Total	18722	100.00	20354	100.00	20036	100.00

(c) The estimated employment of workers in these sectors during 1991-92 is as follows:

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Employment (Lakhs/No.)</i>
Mill	11.07
Handloom	96.57 (P)
Powerloom	62.92
Total	170.56

(d) Financial assistance given to Mill Sector under the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme for the last three years is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount of assistance disbursed (Rs. crores.)</i>
1989-90	173.72
1990-91	185.53
1991-92	106.09

(Upto Feb., 92)

In respect of Powerloom Sector no financial assistance is given by the Government.

The financial assistance given to Handloom Sector during the last three years is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount of assistance disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1989-90	22032.12
1990-91	21540.38
1991-92 (P)	20836.47

(e) The minimum wages for the workers of these sectors are not fixed by the Central Government.

Illegal Operations in Foreign Exchange

940. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are examining a package of measures to eliminate illegal operations in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details of the measures proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Measures to eliminate illegal operation in foreign exchange are continuously under consideration. Government has already taken several measures which reduce the incentive for illegal transaction and ensure effective enforcement of existing rules relating to foreign exchange transactions. Liberalisation of unnecessary controls on trade and foreign exchange inflow/outflows is expected to reduce the scale of illegal operations.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Medicines

*941. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenous systems of medicine like Ayurvedic, Unani and Sidha are in great demand in European countries;

(b) whether Government have made concerted efforts to increase export of such medicines to these countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Although many of the Ayurvedic, Unani and Sidha medicines have found favour with European Countries such as Netherlands, Switzerland, U. K. Germany, Belgium and Italy, etc., exports of these medicines have not been very significant, particularly due to problems connected with lengthy and cumbersome procedure for registration of drugs laid down by the health authorities of oversea countries. Moreover, the manufacturers of Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines do not have the same kind of clinical data to back their products up as is available for allopathic medicines. Many countries have restrictions on use of this group of medicines because of presence of metal oxides in them.

In order to popularise the use of Ayurvedic medicines in overseas countries, the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetic Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Bombay, in association with a renowned Ayurvedic Research Centre have prepared a monograph on 'Selected Medicinal Plants' for publicity abroad and printing literature in different foreign languages. The Council are also undertaking all other usual export promotion measures such as sending promotional teams abroad and arranging buyer-seller meets etc. to boost exports from this sector.

Imports and Exports by MMTC

*942. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of import and export items have been taken away from the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details of such items;

(c) whether this decanalisation is likely to cause heavy loss to MMTC and, if so, the estimated amount thereof; and

(d) the number in which the Government propose to offset loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Export items, namely Iron ore of Redi origin, Coal and Bauxite and import items, namely Fluorspar, Platinum & Palladium, Non-ferrous Metals (Copper, Zinc, Lead and Nickel), Iron & Steel, Asbestos, Sulphur, Rock, Phosphate, Ammonia and Phosphoric Acid are no longer canalised through MMTC.

(c) and (d). The national loss in MMTC's turnover on account of decanalisation of above items during 1992-93 is estimated at Rs. 2,183 crores. Though decanalised, MMTC may also trade in these items. Besides, MMTC has plans to make up for the loss in turnover by increase in trade in non-canalised items.

Pre-Shipment Inspection of Textiles

*943. SHRI RABIRAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced relaxation in the requirement regarding compulsory pre-shipment inspection of textile items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of liberalisation allowed in respect of compulsory pre-shipment inspection of Textiles Committee are as under:-

(i) All the Star Trading Houses, Trading Houses and Export Houses have been totally exempted from the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection of Textiles Committee.

(ii) Pre-shipment is now not neces-

sary provided the exporter has a firm letter from the overseas buyer stating that the overseas buyer does not want pre-shipment inspection from any official agency.

- (iii) The exporter two has attained the average level of exports during the last three years @ Rs. 1.5 crores per annum is now allowed to export without Textiles Committees inspection provided Textiles Committee has not received any quality complaint against him from the overseas buyer and the exporter is capable of testing this products prior to exports in his own premises of using by common testing facilities.
- (iv) In regard to units where self certification has been allowed, Textiles Committee would restrict its role only to the level of a study.

2. The Textiles items manufactured by 100% Export Oriented Units and Units located in Export Processing Zones have already been exempted from the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection by the Textiles Committee.

Achievements of Rubber Board

*944. SHRI THAYIL JOHNANJALOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the activities undertaken and the results achieved by the Rubber Board during each of the last three years in Kerala; and

(b) the action plan drawn up for development of rubber plantations in Kerala during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.

CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The activities undertaken during the last three years by the Rubber Board for increasing production and productivity from the existing mature areas under rubber in Kerala include:—

- (i) Perfecting the rubber tapping system by educating rubber tappers on the practical aspects through refresher courses.
- (ii) Tapping during rainy months by fixing rain guards on tapping panels of rubber trees.
- (iii) Persuading rubber growers to tap rubber trees during summer months against the usual practice of resting the trees in summer.
- (iv) Popularisation of prophylactic spraying of fungicide for control of disease has particularly the dreadful disease called abnormal leaf fall.
- (v) Discriminatory fertilizer application by testing the soil and leaf of rubber plants so as to ensure nutritional balance and enhanced yield.
- (vi) Selected application of chemical yield stimulants on tapping panels of rubber trees for boosting yield.
- (vii) Regular transfer of technology to the grass-roots through rubber producers' societies.
- (viii) Extension of rubber plantation and replantation of uneconomic rubber holdings.

The achievement of new planting and replanting during the year 1989-90 to 1991-92 under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme in Kerala are as follow:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Replanting (Hectors)</i>	<i>New Planting (Hectares)</i>
1989-90	4500	8400
1990-91	5400	6000
1991-92	4900	5400

During these years, the achievements exceeded the target envisaged in the Scheme.

(b) Rubber planting in Kerala is attaining a saturation point. Emphasis is, therefore, being laid on rehabilitating the old and unecomic units. During 1992-93, it is estimated that 6000 hectares will be replanted and 4000 hectares will be covered under new planting. Further, the schemes for improving production and productivity will also be continued. Quality improvement of raw rubber by popularising the modern method of processing the rubber latex into sheets, etc. is also under operation in Kerala.

Expressway Network

9499. DR. AMRITLAL KALIDAS
PATEL:
SHRI SHANKERSING
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study by the Asian Development Bank has revealed that India would need an Expressway network of roughly 10,020 kms by the year 2015.

(b) if so, the action plan drawn in this regard; and

(c) the time schedule fixed thereof?

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

(b) and (c). No action plan has been drawn up on the basis of the said study so far, since it would depend on finalisation of the 8th Plan and overall availability of resources.

Pay Scale of Joint Director Level Officers of Indian Economic Service

9500. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Joint Director level officers of the Indian Economic Service were recently given the scale of Rs. 5900-6700;

(b) whether this was done by promotion or upgradation and in the latter case whether the criteria of seniority etc. was followed;

(c) whether these upgradation have been notified in the Official Gazettee just as is done in the cast of promotions to the higher grades, and if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). 17 officers in Grade I of the Indian Economic Services were promoted to the Senior Administrative Grade in the pay scale of Rs. 5900-6700.

(c) and (d). The notification if under issue.

**Central Training Centres for
Personnels Engaged in Inland
Navigation**

9501. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing training centres and facilities being provided for training personnel engaged in inland navigation;

(b) whether there is any Central Training Institute for advance level training of senior managerial as well as supervisory personnel engaged in inland navigation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There are three existing centres for training crew of inland vessels. These centres located at Betim (Goa), Chandbali (Orissa) and Guwahati (Assam) are run by the respective State Governments.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Tax Arrears Against Industrial
Concerns**

9502. SHRI V. S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the top ten industrial concerns which are in arrears of each of the Central taxes;

(b) whether the Government have decided to provide investment opportunities in the new industrial order to only those concerns which are not in tax arrears;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The names of top 10 industrial concerns against which maximum tax demand was outstanding, are as under:

Maximum income-tax/wealth tax demand outstanding as on 31.12.1991:

1. Oil & Natural Gas Commission.
2. G. T. C. Industries Limited.
3. Peerless General Finance & Investment Company Limited.
4. Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
5. State Bank of India.
6. Hindustan Cables Limited.
7. Dunlop India Limited.
8. Continental Construction Limited.
9. National Organic Chemical Industries Limited.
10. Aditya Finance and Inv. (I) Limited.

Maximum Excise Duty demand outstanding as on 31.1.1992:

1. Oil and Natural Gas Commission.
2. I. T. C. Limited.
3. Oil India.
4. I. P. C. L.
5. Indian Oil Corporation Limited.
6. Burn Standard Co.
7. B. E. M. L. Limited.
8. Steel Authority of India Limited.
9. Bombay Tyre International Limited.

10. Utility Engineering India Limited.

The information regarding top 10 industrial concerns against which maximum demand of Custom Duty was outstanding, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Under the new Industrial Policy, Industrial licensing has been abolished for all industries except a short list of specified industries, irrespective of levels of investment. In the matter of licensing, industrial undertakings which are in tax arrears are not distinguished from those which are not in arrears.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The tax demands may be outstanding because the same are disputed by the industrial concerns in appeals, etc. or the recovery thereof has been stayed or the payment has been allowed to be made in instalments.

[Translation]

Production of Opium

9503. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decrease in the production of opium in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to fall in the production of opium the foreign exchange earned therefrom has also decreased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof for the year 1989, 1990 and 1991, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of production of opium in

the country during the last three years are given below:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production of Opium in Tonnes AT 90% Consistence</i>
1988-89	491
1989-90	437
1990-91	379

(c) There has been no decrease in foreign exchange earnings as India has been exporting opium from the stock accumulated over the years.

(d) The figures of foreign exchange earnings (converted to Indian Rupees) during the financial years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 on account of export of opium are Rs. 17.76 crores, Rs. 41.36 crores and Rs. 63.56 crores respectively.

Export of Ayurvedic Medicines

9504. SHRI JAGMIT SINGH BRAR:
SHRI V. N. SHARMA:

Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, drug export to Europe co up" appearing in the Economic Times date February 11, 1992;

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

(c) whether India Ayurvedic system of medicines is becoming popular in other countries of the world;

(d) if so, the incentive provided by the Government to promote this system of medicines in the country during the last three years; and

(e) the value of Ayurvedic medicines exported to each of the foreign countries during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Export of ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines etc. for the period 1988-89 to 1991-92 April-March have been as under:

<i>(Source: EPC)</i>	<i>(Rs. in Crores)</i>
1989-90	Rs. 2.92 Crores
1990-91	Rs. 7.29 Crores
1991-92	Rs. 6.13 crores (Provisional)

Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha medicines are being exported to the European Countries like, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, U. K., Germany, Belgium, etc. These medicines have also good export potential in U. S. A., USSR, Malaysia, Srilanka, Nigeria and other countries.

Export of these medicines have not been very significant particularly due to problems connected with lengthy and cumbersome procedure for registration of drugs laid down by the health authorities of overseas countries. Moreover, the manufacturers of these medicines do not have the same kind of clinical data to back up their products as is available for allopathic medicines. Many countries have restrictions on use of this group of medicines because of presence of metals Oxides in them.

Case Compensatory Support at the rate of 5% which export of certain medicines were enjoying prior to 3.7.91 has since been suspended. After suspension of CCS and expansion of import replenishment scheme in July, 91 these products were made eligible for exim scrips at the rate of 30%. At present export of these medicines are entitled to the benefits of the partial convertibility of rupee, recently announced by the Government under the new package of financial and trade reforms.

In order to popularise the use of Ayurve-

dic medicines in overseas countries, the Basic Chemicals, pharmaceutical and Cosmetics Export promotion Council, Bombay, in association with a renowned Research Centre have prepared a comprehensive "Monograph of Selected Medicinal Plants", which is under printing for publicity abroad.

The Council is undertaking all usual export promotion measures such as sending promotional teams abroad and arranging buyer-seller meets etc. to boost exports from this sector.

Theft of Arms and Ammunitions from Ordnanced Depots

9505. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of the incidents of theft of arms and ammunition have been reported from the various arsenals/ Ordnance Depots in country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrest was made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). Only one case of theft of arms/ammunition has been reported during the last three years, from the Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The officer concerned was intercepted while he was in unauthorised possession of certain items. A Staff Court of Inquiry has been instituted.

(e) Comprehensive instructions exist in all the Depots, in the form of Depot Standing Security and Fire Orders, which cover all aspects relating to security, including security measures against theft, pilferage etc. These orders are periodically reviewed for further tightening security.

[English]

Linking of High Courts through Computer Network

9506. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating set up a national computer network all the High Courts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c). The National Information Centre of the planning Commission in pursuance of discussions of

Conference of Chief Justices held in 1991 is proposing to set up a national computer network linking all the High Courts. The computer system will help dissemination of information about case dates, judgement, etc. It is also proposed that, in the first phase, all the High Courts may be equipped with required hardware and application software and subsequently they may be inter-connected via nation-wide satellite-based computer communication network.

Export of Mangoes and Mango Products

9507. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mangoes and mango products are exported; and

(b) if so, the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity and value of mango and mango products exported during the last three years is as under:

Qty: Mts

Value: Rs. lakhs

Item	1988-89		1989-90		1990-91	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
Mangoes	16389	2211	12008	1675	20990	3121
Mango products.	26026	3022	21423	2393	22282	3130

Export of Diamonds, Gold Jewellery Precious Stones

9508. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of diamonds, gold jewellery, precious and semi-precious stones and pearls has almost been stagnate during the last three years and the targets fixed could not be achieved;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problems of the trade, such as lack of strips, wires, necessary instruments and equipments like sheet making machines, raw material and high rates of interests and also in sufficient facilities for training inspite of

greater demand for these items abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The export of gem and jewellery items declined in 1990-91 vis-a-vis 1989-90. However, there has been an increase in exports in 1991-92. The details of exports as compared to the targets set are as below:

Year	Exports of Gem and Jewellery	(Rs. Crores)
		Targets
1989-90	5749.37	5500
1990-91	5360.24	5950
1991-92	7193.50	6500

(Source: Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council)

The above performance has been a result of recession in the major markets with a consequent decline in demand for diamonds. Government has been providing support for the growth of these exports. Raw Material is provided exporters under various schemes specified in Chapter VIII of the Export-Import Policy through, inter-alia, imprest, replenishment and advance licensing. Machinery and Equipment for this sector is freely importable under OGL. Training Facilities for artisans and technical personnel is available in Government supported institutes like the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat; Gem Artisan Training School, Jaipur; and Jewellery Product Development Centres in Delhi and Bombay.

Overseas Civil Construction Contracts

9509. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of overseas civil construction contracts in hand of India parties as on April 1, 1987;

(b) the total value of additional contracts secured by the India parties during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) the total value of works executed during the same period;

(d) the value of the un-executed contracts in hand as on April 1, 1992;

(e) whether any contract were subsequently rescinded by agreement or otherwise, during this period; and

(f) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMANKHURSHED): (a) to (c). As reported by the EXIM Bank of India, the total value of overseas civil construction contracts in hand on 1.4.1987 was Rs. 5,132 crores. The total value of additional contracts secured during the seventh five year plan (1985-90) was Rs. 889 crores and the total value of contracts execute/short concluded during the same period was Rs. 4606 crores.

(d) The value of contracts in hand on 1.4.1992 was Rs. 401 crores. (This includes

Iraqi contracts valued Rs. 575 crores which had to be abandoned with the onset of gulf crisis and would be resumed after completion of negotiations with the client on settlement of claims, upon lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Value of Rupee

9510. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of decline in the purchasing power of a rupee as per its value in 1960;

(b) the comparative exchange rates of rupee with major foreign currencies in 1960

and as on March 31, 1992 respectively; and

(c) the reasons for heavy decline in the purchasing power of rupees in comparison of the major foreign currencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Internal value of Indian Rupee, measured as a reciprocal of the All India Consumer Price Index for industrial Workers at 1960 prices, works out to 8.9 paise in March 1992 and reflects a decline of 91.1 per cent over 1960 level. The external value of the Indian Rupee vis-a-vis leading currencies of the world as on end of 1960 and end March 1992 was as indicated in the table below. The decline in the internal value of the Rupee reflate the secular rise in the level of consumer prices. In a regime of floating exchange rate where the exchange value of the Rupee is linked to a basket of currencies, frequent adjustments in the exchange value vis-a-vis other currencies is a normal phenomenon.

Rupees per unit of foreign currency

<i>Currency</i>	<i>End December 1960</i>	<i>As at the end of 31.3.'92 Market Rate*</i>	<i>Official Rate</i>
US Dollar	4.76	31.22	25.89
Pound Sterling	13.33	53.69	44.95
Deutsche Mark	1.14	18.85	15.73
Japanese Yen	0.01	0.23	0.199

* As indicated by Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India. (FEDAI)

Losses to Jewellery Industry

9511. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jewellery industry is incurring heavy losses due to the Exim policy;

(b) whether a condition has been laid to carry out all dealings of this industry in dollar;

(c) whether the Government propose to remove this condition;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). The Handbook of Procedures of the Current Export and Import Policy issued on May 1, 1992, has clarified in Chapter VIII that invoices of import and export shall be in US-dollars of any other convertible currency.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Changing World of Fashion

9512. SHRI ARUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the National Institute of Fashion Technology is functioning well according to the fast changing world of Fashion;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the funds invested during the last three years and propose to invest in the current year for the modernisation programme in the National Institute of Fashion Technology.

(d) whether the exporters have expressed their willingness to run the industry itself rather than by the Government; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government

in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) offers professional programmes of relevance of the fashion industry as under:—

- (1) Three years course in Fashion Design.
- (2) Two years course in Apparel Merchandising and Marketing.
- (3) Two years course in Garment Manufacturing Technology.
- (4) Two year course in Accessory Design.
- (5) One year certificate course in Production Technology.

The curriculum and teaching at NIFT are constantly updated to bring it at par with international standards. The industry is offered in-service training by way of continuing education programmes in Delhi, Bombay, Tripura, Madras and Bangalore.

(c) According to the NIFT, total expenditure incurred on procurement of machinery, equipments, resource centre acquisition, library and conducting of educational/training programme is as following:—

Year	Expenditure (in/Rs. lakhs)
1989-90	141.50
1990-91	69.89
1991-92	74.54 (approx)
1992-93	87.00 (estimated)

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Export of Cotton

9513. SHRIBAPUHARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requite from the Maharashtra Government for the export of cotton bdes abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much cotton q-uota has been given to the State for export purpose;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the agitation led by the cotton growers for giving low procurement price under the Monopoly Cotton Purchase Scheme by the State Government to them; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). The Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. has requested for an export quota of two lakh bales of cotton for the Federation.

(c) No Export quota of cotton has been given to the Federation during the current cotton second.

(d) and (e). The Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Ltd. has not reported any agitation for higher procurement price under the Monopoly Cotton Purchase Scheme in the state.

Import of Caprolactum

9514. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the demand production of caprolactum in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to allow the import of a limited quantity of caprolactum;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the caprolactum manufacturing units in the country do not face a crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) During the year 1992-93, the production of caprolactum in the country is expected to be of the order of 62,000 tonnes as against the demand of 91,000 tonnes.

(b) to (d). In terms of the Export and Import Policy for 1992-97, import of caprolactum is freely allowed which will take care of the gap between the demand and indigenous production of the item.

Closure of Office of CCE&E

9515. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (CCI&E);

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether this move has been opposed by the officers and staff of the CCI&E;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. However, the CCDI&E Organisation is being restructured in the light of the new Trade Policy.

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

[*Translation*]**Export of Banana and Mangoes**

9516. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has exported banana and mango on arge scale during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps purposed to be taken by

the Government to discourage the export of these fruits and make it available easily to the common man in the country at cheaper prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). With a view to earn foreign exchange and to provide remunerative prices to the farmers, Government encourages exports of fruits. However, a very insignificant percentage of production of mango and banana is exported, as indicated below:

Year	%age exports of production	
	Mango	Banana
1988-89	0.15%	0.023%
1989-90	0.12%	0.006%
1990-91	0.22	0.005%

Moreover, the foreign exchange earned from these exports contributes to imports of items of mass consumption like edible oils, etc.

Corruption Cases in NTC

9517. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the number of cases of corruption in the National Textile Corporation that came to the notice of the Govern-

ment during each of the last three years alongwith the punishment awarded to the persons invclved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): There is a Vigilance set up in National Textile Corporation which looks into the cases of corruption. A Statement showing the number of cases of corruption alongwith punishment awarded to the persons involved therein, is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Number of cases of corruption in National Textile Corporation and punishment awarded during the last three years

Year	Number of cases	Punishment awarded	
		Major Penalty	Minor Penalty
1988-89	31	10	8
1989-90	27	10	5
1990-91	26	6	20

Streamlining of Procedure for Hiring Ships

9518. SHRI N. J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government with regard to delicensing the procedure for obtaining ships to operate on profit earning routes and to streamlining the procedure of hiring foreign and Indian ships;

(b) the time by which the procedure would be streamlined; and

(c) the total profit likely to be earned by streamlining the said procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Government have taken the following steps to streamline the procedures:

- (i) Automatic approval is accorded to shipping companies for acquisition of bulk carriers of 10-30,000 DWT, if the vessels are proposed to be acquired by the ship owning companies as per the age norms prescribed by the Government. This procedure will remain vague for a period of one year and may be revised there after.
- (ii) It has been decided that if a shipping company holds a valid approval for acquisition of a ship, it can utilise the approval for acquiring the vessel by charter-cum-demise method. However, the shipping company would have to approach the Reserve Bank of India for clearance to the payment terms as also clearance from foreign exchange angle.
- (iii) It has also been decided that in future the proposals for replacement of existing tonnage would not be placed before Ship Acquisition

Licensing Committee, if the replacement proposal is within 25% in excess of the tonnage to be replaced.

- (iv) The Government have decided as an experimental measure for one year, to dispense with the requirement of prior approval of Director General of Shipping for time chartering out of Indian flag vessels to foreign companies. In the case of voyage charter also, no permission would be required from the Director General of Shipping.

(b) Streamlining of the procedures is a continuing process.

(c) The earnings and profit in shipping operation depend upon a number of factors and it is not possible to segregate the effect of streamlining the procedures on earning and profit.

[English]

Involvement of Foreign Nationals in Gold Smuggling

9519. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign nationals were found involved in smuggling of gold at Indira Gandhi International Airport during April, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of gold seized; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). 13 foreign nationals have been found to be involved in the

smuggling of gold at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, by the Customs authorities during April, 1992. 9 of them have been penalised in departmental adjudications apart from the confiscation of the gold. 4 of them have been arrested and produced in the court for prosecution.

Approximately 29.4 kgs. of gold has also been seized at this Airport during the same period.

Removal of Manual Scavenging System in Cantonment Boards

9520. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the several Cantonment Boards including those at Allahabad and Kanpur have been avoiding to implement direction of the Government in regard to removal of annual scavenging system existing in their civilian areas on one plea or the other;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government in this regard;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

Sainik Rest Houses

9521. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA

KHANDURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for setting up of sainik rest houses;

(b) the names of places where sainik rest houses are situated in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to set up more sainik rest houses in the country including one at Kodwar;

(d) if so, the places decided for this purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Sainik Rest House are constructed by the State Governments/UTs either out of their own funds or with financial assistance from the Central Government on a 50:50 sharing basis. These Rest Houses are generally located at District headquarters or other convenient places which have sizable population of ex-Servicemen.

(b) A list is attached.

(c) to (e). The proposals for setting up Sainik Rest House emanate from the State Governments. Only one proposal relating to setting up of a Sainik Rest House at Roop Nagar, in Punjab, was received from the State Government recently, for which Central Government has agreed to bear its share of the expenditure. No proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of a Sainik Rest house at Kotdwar.

STATEMENT

LOCATION OF SAINIK REST HOUSE

1. Andhra Pradesh

Gunture, Kakinada, Visakhapatnam, Ananthapur and Hyderabad.

-
- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 2. Assam | Kamrup (Gauhati), Cachar (Silchar), Karbi Anglong (Diphu) and Goyalpura. |
| 3. Bihar | Bhojpur, Chapra, Ranchi, Gaya, Dumka, Danapur, Bhagalpur and Monghyr. |
| 4. Gujarat | Rajkot |
| 5. Haryana | Ambala, Jind, Rewari Panchkula, Bhiwani, Karnal, Jhajjar, Sonapat, Faridabad, Kurukshetra, Kosli, Gurgaon, Rohatak, Dadri, Bhadurgarh, Hissar, Narnaul, Mohindargarh, Loharu and Sirsa. |
| 6. Himachal Pradesh | Bilaspur, Simla (2), Solan, Hamirpur (2), Reckong Peo, Palampur, Una (2), Nurpu, Keylong (under construction), Ghumarwin, Dehra, Nahan, Mandi, Chamba, Chowari, Kullu, Kangra, Dharamshala, Jawala-Mukhi and Parwanoo. |
| 7. Jammu & Kashmir | Jammu, Kathua, Rajouri, Udhampur, Doda, Srinagar, Leh, Sambha, Reasi, Kishtwar, Poonch (under construction), Baramula (under construction) and Kupwara (under construction) |
| 8. Kamataka | Belgaum, Karwar, Madikeri, Athani (Belgaum Distt) and Banglore (under construction) |
| 9. Kerala | Calicut, Trivandrum Trichur and Alleppy. |
| 10. Madhya Pradesh | Bilaspur, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, Morena, Raipur, Shopal, Sagar, Bhind and Chhindwara; |
| 11. Maharashtra | Ahmednagar, Ratnagiri, Shrigonda, Chiplore, Akola, Dipli, Amravati, Khed, Buldana, Kudal, Dhulia Malwan, Maded, Savantwadi, Mangoora, Deogad, Paladapur, Satars, Kolhapur, Sangola, Nasik, Kapargaon, Malegaon, Sangli, Pune, Solapur and Gelegaon. |
| 12. Manipur | Imphal |
| 13. Orissa | Cuttack Berhampur |
| 14. Mizoram | Aizawal |
| 15. Punjab | Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Bhatinda, Patiala, |
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	Ropar, Jillundur, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, Chandigarh and Faridkot.
16. Rajasthan	Ajmer, Jaipur, Alwar, Jodhpur, Bharatgaur, Shergarh Bhim, Kota, Bikaner, Nagaur, Bundi, Pali, Beawar, Sikar, Churu, Udaipur, Jhunjhunu and Pokharan.
17. Sikkim	Gangtok, Namchi, Geyzing and Jorthong.
18. Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Dharampuri, Madurai, Nilgiris, North Arcot, South Arcot, Ramanathapuram, Madras, Tiruchirapally, Thanjavur, Selem, Tirunelveli, Kamarajar and Madras.
19. Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh, Almora, Azamgarh, Balia, Bareilly, Bulundshahar, Deoria, Etah, Etawah, Faizabad, Farrukhabad, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Lansdowne, Pauri (Garhwal), Mainpuri, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Pratapgarh, Pithoragarh, Rai-Baareli, Sahjahanpur, Sultanpur, Varanasi, Agra, Allahabad, Bahraich, Banda, Barabanki, Basti, Badaun, Chamili, Dehradun, Fatehpur, Gonda, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalon (Orai), Jaunpur, Jhansi, Khri, Lucknow, Mathura, Mirzapur, Moradabad, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sitapur, Tahri Unna, m Uttar Kashi Nainital and Kundraghat.
20. West Bengal	Calcutta, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Burdawan and Midnapur.
21. A & N Administration	Port Blair and Cambell Bay
22. Chandigarh, UT	Sector 21-D, Chandigarh

Air Accidents at Airbase, Bareilly

9522. SHRISANTOSHKUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of air accidents occurred near the airbase at Bareilly during the last three years;

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

(c) whether hundreds of birds are being killed every week by the airmen; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARED PAWAR): (a) There was no major accident near the air base at Bareilly during the last three years. There were, however, a number of incidents, as given below:—

	Year	Number
(a)	1989-90	11
(b)	1990-91	05
(c)	1991-92	05

(b) One Canberra aircraft had to land on its belly because its under carriage did not extend due to hydraulic failure. All other incidents were caused due to bird strikes.

(c) All birds pose serious hazard to aircraft operation. In addition to several measures taken to prevent bird hits to the aircraft, the birds are shot at by specially authorised airmen for flight safety reasons.

(d) The following measures have been taken to reduce accidents due to bird strikes:-

- (i) Roosting and nesting places of the birds have been removed from within the airfield.
- (ii) Sanitary and hygienic conditions within the airfield have been improved.
- (iii) Regular observation posts are positioned to caution pilots of bird activity.
- (iv) Regular liaison is maintained with the civil administration to reduce bird menace in the areas outside the airfields.

[English]

Export of HPS Groundnuts

9523. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Southern States which are producing HPS groundnuts in large quantities alongwith the manpower engaged in it; and

(b) the scheme formulated to promote the export of HPS groundnuts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka accounted for over 50% of groundnuts produced in the country in 1989-90. Details of manpower engaged in this production are not readily available.

(b) No specific scheme has been formulated to promote the export of HPS groundnuts. However, all facilities outlined in the Budget proposals for 1992-93 and the Policy guidelines outlined in the new Export Policy announced on 1.4 1992 will be applicable to the export of HPS groundnuts also.

Promotion of IES Grade I Officers

9524. SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KONATHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have promoted officers of the Indian Economic Service, Grade I to Non-Functional Selection Grade during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reason for not changing the designation of Non-Functional Selection Grade;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the anomalies in various Ministries with same designation but different scales of pay; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No change in designation of officers is contemplated as the scale is given to officers in-situ on a non-functional basis.

(c) and (d). Since IES posts are borne on the strength of several Ministries there is no uniformity in designation. Government is looking into these variations.

[Translation]

Consumption and Production of Cloth

9525. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
SHRIMATI. VASUNDHARA
RAJE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita annual demand/consumption/production of cloth in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the cloth is being produced

as per the requirement of the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to increase the production of cloth; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed for the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The estimated per capita consumption of cloth during 1987, 1988 and 1989 (for which figures are available) is 16.35, 14.87 and 15.07 meters respectively.

The estimated per capita production of cloth during the last 3 Years is as following:

Year	Per capita production of cloth (mtrs)
1989-90	20.23
1990-91	21.49
1991-92	20.65

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise..

(d) and (e). Government policy of liberalisation and modernisation of the different sectors of Textile Industry is expected to give further impetus to the production of cloth to meet the requirement. The target for cloth production by the terminal year of English Five Year Plan, 1996-97 has been fixed at 29,600 mn. sq. meters.

[English]

Import of Gold by State Bank of India

9526. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the propose to import gold by the State Bank of India on behalf of the Non-resident Indians (NRIs) was under the consideration of the Government;

(b) whether the proposal has been approved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Suggestion for importing gold through State Bank of India and other commercial banks on behalf of NRIs to obviate the need for physical carriage of gold by the latter have been received and these are still under consideration.

[Translation]

Shortage of Currency Notes

9527. SHRI SIMON MARANDI
SHRIMARI BASAVA RAJES-
WARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of currency notes in commercial banks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make up this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The two existing Note Printing Presses at Nashik and Dewas do not have adequate production capacity to fully meet the ever increasing demand of Reserve Bank of India for fresh notes resulting in shortage to fresh currency notes. To bridge the gap between the demand and supply of currency/bank notes, following steps have been taken:-

- (1) The existing two Note Printing Presses at Nashik and Dewas have been put on two shifts working.
- (2) Two new Note Printing Presses—one at Salboni (West Bengal) and the other at Mysore (Karnataka) are being set up by Reserve Bank of India.

- (3) A decision has been taken to coin-
ise Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denomi-
nation notes in a phased manner
so as to utilise the capacity so re-
leased for printing of higher de-
nomination notes.

[English]

Appointment of Notary Public

9528. SHRI KRISHANDUTT SUL-
TANPUTI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUS-
TICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have
fixed any minimum qualifications for appoint-
ment of Notaries in the country, and

(b) the number of Notaries appointed by
the Government so far in the country, State-
wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COM-
PANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN
KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The qualifica-
tions for being appointed to the office of
notary are specified in the Notaries Act,
1952, and the rules made thereunder.

(b) As on 30-4-92, the Central Govern-
ment have appointed 323 notaries for the
whole country and the state-wise break-up
of notaries is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union territories	No. of notaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Bihar	4
3.	Delhi	34
4.	Goa	1
5.	Gujarat	18

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union territories	No. of notaries
6.	Haryana	18
7.	Karnataka	28
8.	Kerala	4
9.	Madhya Pradesh	4
10.	Maharashtra	55
11.	Punjab	24
12.	Rajasthan	49
13.	Tamil Nadu	8
14.	Uttar Pradesh	26
15.	West Bengal	47
Total		323

Steps to Protect Investors

9529. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India propose to take steps to safeguard the interest of investors in capital market as reported in the Hindustan Times of April 18, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992, stipulates, *inter alia*, that it shall be the duty of the SEBI to protect the investors in securities. The SEBI has been attending to investors' grievances by pursuing their

complaints for quick redressal. Further, SEBI has also been referring serious cases of default to the Office of the Controller of Capital Issues and Department of Company Affairs for initiating action against erring companies, whether necessary.

[Translation]

Foreign Exchange Earnings by Export Oriented Yarn Spinning Mills

9530. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export oriented yarn spinning mills during the year 1990-91;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to set up more such mills in the country; and

(c) if so, the proposed location of these mills and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) According to the information received from the 100% Export Oriented Yarn Units, the exports of yarn under the Scheme amounted to Rs. 38 crores during 1990-91.

(b) and (c). 100% Export Oriented Units can be set up in places of the choice of entrepreneurs subject to locational policy of the Government.

[English]

D. T. C. All Route Concessional Passes for Students

9531. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DTC has stopped issuing all route concessional passes to the school going children who are staying within the area of six kilometers from the place of their school;

(b) if so, whether this is applicable to college going students also;

(c) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons for discrimination in providing all route passes to college students; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide all route passes to the School going students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

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

Supply of Cotton Yarn to Weavers of Andhra Pradesh

9532. SHRI DATATRAYA BANDARU:

DR. R. MALLU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to supply 4000 bales of cotton yarn to the weavers of Andhra Pradesh every month through the South Indian Mills Association;

(b) if so, whether the said quantity of cotton yarn are available to the weavers of Andhra Pradesh at present;

(c) whether the prices of cotton yarn, dyes and chemicals have increased abnormally making it impossible for the weavers to purchase these items from the open market without the Government assistance;

(d) if so, whether any step has been taken by the Union Government to assist the handloom weavers of Andhra Pradesh to save them from the worsening situation and starvation deaths; and

(e) the assistance provided by the Government to the weavers of Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While it is a fact that prices of cotton yarn, dyes and chemicals have increased specially during the last year, these commodities are subject to regular variations in prices. Even within yarn and dyes and chemicals prices vary from mill to mill. There is no Government regulation on the prices and these depend on market forces of demand and supply. The off-taks of these products by weavers also varies from season to season depending on various factors, like, demand for cloth etc. There are no reports of shortage of these items nor complaints on the point of availability.

(d) A number of steps were taken by the Union Government to assist the handloom weaver of Andhra Pradesh as a measure of relief in response to reports on deaths of handloom weavers. These include:

- (i) Allocation of additional target for janata production of 5 million square metres and release of advance subsidy for undertaking the same amounting to Rs. 127.50 lakhs for 1991-92.
- (ii) Market Development Assistance at the rate of 8% for procurement of additional non-janata cloth over and above the existing procurement to the tune of Rs. 2 crores for which Government's share of Rs. 8 lakhs was released to Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) Pilot scheme of Group Insurance to provide an insurance cover to 12,000 weavers in Andhra Pradesh for which Government of India's share of Rs. 7.20 lakhs was released to Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) A total of 12 training centres were opened in Prakasam and Guntur Districts which involved an expenditure by the Central Government amounting to Rs. 10.17 lakhs.

(e) Assistance provided for the the development of the handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

1989-90	2041.40
1990-91	2477.23
1991-92	2631.17
	(Provisional)

Coffee Collection Depots in N. E. Region

9533. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coffee collecting depots in North-Eastern region;

(b) whether these depots are sufficient for pooling coffee produced in various states in that region;

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that coffee growers are not harassed in any respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is only one coffee collecting depot of the Coffee Board functioning at Halfong in North-Eastern region.

(b) The total production of coffee in North-Eastern region is approximately 175 to 200 tonnes per year. In addition to the Coffee Board's coffee collecting depot at Halfong, one Curing Works viz. Assamplantation Crop Development Corporation at Guwahati is also functioning, the curing capacity of which is 1110 metric tonnes. One depot and one Curing Work in the North-Eastern region is considered adequate for collecting/processing coffee.

(c) With a view to ease the difficulties for pooling coffee, the Board has introduced a new scheme of reimbursement of transport charges to small growers who pool coffee directly to the Curing Works.

(d) No specific complaint of harassment has been received from the growers of North-Eastern region.

Regional Centres for Design and Technology

9534. SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA):
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRIMATI RITA VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the location of each regional centre for design and technical development;

(b) the total number of designs dealt with in each regional centre during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(c) the percentage of designs accepted by the trade, during the above period;

(d) whether any evaluation of technical

wings of these centres has been made;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK
GEHLOT): (a) to (c). The information is tabled
below:—

Location/Year	Bangalore	Bombay	Calcutta	Delhi
1	2	3	4	5
1. Total number of Design Dealt.				
1990-91	173	69	110	95
1991-92	225	95	150	115
2. Percentage of design accepted by the trade	75%	55%	60%	45%

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The working of the technical wing of the Regional Design Centres is evaluated from time to time. An Action Plan is drawn up every year giving direction to the Technical wing in respect of areas where new tools need to be fabricated. Besides, a scheme is already in operation to supply improved tools to artisans at subsidised rates. In a recent seminar held in the Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, New Delhi, a decision has been taken to extend the benefit of new tools developed to artisans on a large scale and to ensure that artisans understand their needs.

(f) Does not arise.

Non Insuring of Properties in Silchar, Assam

9535. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance companies have stopped insuring the properties of traders, businessmen and other at Silchar in Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

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

Way-Side Amenities on National Highways

9536. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI THITHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to Refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6853 on April 10, 1992 and state;

(a) the names of the private entrepreneurs to whom the work of providing wayside

amenities along the National Highways has been allotted;

(b) the mode of selection of these entrepreneurs; and

(c) the nature of work entrusted to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) List of entrepreneurs to whom letters of intent have been issued for development of these facilities under the private sector is given the statement attached.

(b) Selection of entrepreneurs is being done by an inter-Ministerial group, having regard to the suitability of the site, adequacy of the proposal, financial soundness of the party etc.

(c) Under the scheme, entrepreneurs are required to provide basic facilities like snack bar/restaurant, drinking water, toilets, petrol retail outlet, kiosks, rest rooms parking area, landscaping and access roads.

STATEMENT

List showing names of private entrepreneurs to whom letters of intent have been issued by Ministry of Surface Transport

1. Sh. A H. Khan
2. Sh. Anil Dutt Kaushik
3. Sh. Vimlesh Chandra Tripathi
4. Sh. P. K. Jain
5. Sh. Vinod Kumar and Anil Kuamar
6. Sh. Rajinder Singh Gyani
7. Sh. R. Ravindran
8. Sh. Surendra Paul
9. Sh. P. C. Sharma

10. Sh. K. D. Gupta
11. M/s. Kevadia Enterprise
12. Sh. Navin Jain
13. Sh. Rattan Singh
14. M/s. Motel Raigarh
15. Sh. Janardhan Singh (Cachhot)
16. Sh. Pritam Singh
17. Sh. Shabir Ahmed Naik
18. Sh. Bhima Pravashi
19. Sh. Ishwar Chand Bansal
20. Sh. Raghuvir Singh Rajendra
21. Sh. Sugriv Singh and Vijay Kumar
22. Sh. Dipanker Manna
23. Sh. M. K. Mittal
24. Sh. Balwinder Singh
25. Sh. V. K. Singh
26. Sh. Arun Kumar Biswas
27. Sh. Abdul Rahim
28. Smt. Renu Gupta and Ashok Aggarwal
29. Sh. N. Ashok Kumar
30. Sh. Shiv Shankar Mal and Satish Chand Verma
31. M/s. G. M. Enterprises

Insurance Cover Beyond 70 Years

9537. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation propose to provide insurance cover to its policy holders beyond the age of 70 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). LIC is already operating whole life plans. If the policy in respect of whole life plan is kept in force, insurance cover is available throughout life. No separate plan is proposed to cover a person beyond the age of 70 years.

Central Pension Accounting Office

9538. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to set up Central Pension Accounting Offices on each States' capital;

(b) whether some offices have already been set up;

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

(d) whether these offices will also deal with the pension cases of the employees of railways/P&T/defence;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up Central Pension Accounting Office in each State Capital apart from the Central Pension Accounting Office already setup in New Delhi in 1990.

(b) to (e). No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Idle Coining Machines in Mints

9539. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coining Machines in Bombay, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Noida Mints are lying idle since long;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any investigation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, 3 machines at the Noida Mint are out of service because of some defects. Manufacturers have been approached for rectification of these defects.

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

Loan By NABARD for Water resources

9540. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to adopt the old policy, existing prior to 1988, instead of new for providing loan by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to the States for the development of water resources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The National Bank for

Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not provide any loan to the State Government for development of water resources. However, it provides refinance to banks for financing minor irrigation works by individual/cooperatives/State Corporations. NABARD has reported that there is no basic change in the policy for providing refinance to banks in this regard since 1988 as stated.

Complaints About SPA Programme

9541. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received by Rural Electrification Corporations from NABARD and other commercial banks participating in Special Project Agriculture (SPA) Programme that the SPA Schemes are sanctioned on the basis of wrong certificates on the coverage of project area by other schemes;

(b) if so, the number of such cases;

(c) whether NABARD and commercial banks have given notice to withdraw their financial participation in SPA Programme;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that a complaint was received by them regarding wrong certification and other financial irregularities in implementation of Special Project Agriculture (SPA) Scheme, in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (e). The financial support to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) programme

has not been discontinued by NABARD. However, as the REC Programme is considered to be in the nature of infrastructure support to State Electricity Boards (SEBs), NABARD have decided to gradually phase out the refinance assistance to the programme during the 8th Five Year Plan in order to lend increasing support for other priority sectors.

Export of Food Commodities

9542. SHRI SANDIIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the exports of good Commodities such as poultry, meat and meat prod-

ucts, frozen sea foods, frog legs and spices during each of the last three years;

(b) whether some of the above Commodities were also rejected by the importing countries during the above period;

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

(d) the loss suffered by the Government on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRISALMAN KHURSHED): (a) The details regarding export of spices, marine products and meat and meat products (including poultry) are given below:

(Rs. Crores)

S.No.	Commodity	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1	Spices	276.98	233.94	362.04
2.	Marine Products	687.18	960.01	1365.68
3.	Meat & Products	113.70	139.84	195.00

(NOTE: Figures for 1989-90 and 1990-91 based on DGCI&S compilation. Figures for 1991-92 based on reports received from Spices Board, MPEDA and APEDA).

(b) to (d). As per information received from the Export Inspection Council of India, the following table shows the complaints

received and the value of claims settled during the years 1989-90; 1990-91 and 1991-92;

		No. of claims	Value of Claims settled (Rs. crore)
A.	1989-90		
	(a) Black Pepper	10	0.27
	(b) Marine products	4	0.12

	<i>No. of claims</i>	<i>Value of Claims settled (Rs. crore)</i>
(c) Meat and Meat Products	1	0.03
B. 1990-91:		
(a) Black pepper	1	0.10
(b) Marine products	1	0.007
(c) Turmeric	1	0.004
C. 1991-92:		
(a) Dried Ginger	1	0.004
(b) Turmeric Finger	1	0.004
(c) Chillies	1	0.002
d. (d) Marine products	5	0.17
(e) Sesame seeds	1	0.06

**World Bank AIDED Welfare Schemes
for SCs/STs**

9543. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSH-
MANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be
Pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Bank aided
schemes for the upliftment of scheduled
Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) the areas likely to be benefited by
this assistance;

(c) whether some States have requested
to the Union Government for possible World
Bank assistance for their upliftment projects
for SCs/STs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR
THAKUR): (a) and (b). World Bank have not
so far extended any assistance specifically
for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes in the country.

(c) A Project Profile "Andhra Pradesh
Poverty Alleviation Project" primarily intended
to benefit SCs/STs and Backward/classes in
Andhra Pradesh for possible World Bank
support has been received in the Ministry of
Finance only from Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The project proposed by Govern-
ment of Andhra Pradesh includes invest-
ments in agriculture and related sectors,
irrigation, forestry, horticulture, sericulture,

fisheries, education, Women and child development, health etc. sectors.

(e) Further project processing including size and scope of the project, suitability, timing and extent of World Bank assistance would depend on mandatory clearances from the concerned administrative ministries from technical, feasibility angle and the Planning Commission from resource angle, detailed project preparation including preparation mechanism of World Bank and donor preference and availability of committable funds with donor agency.

Running of Jute Industry on Cooperative Basis

9544. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from Orissa to run the jute industry on cooperative basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

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

Opening of office of Mauritius Export and Investment Authority in India

9545. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mauritius Export and

Investment Authority has opened an office in India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which trade between the two countries has been or is likely to be improved by the opening of this authority; and

(d) the items identified for the trade between the two countries?

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

(b) Mauritius Export and Investment Authority has recently opened a representative office at General Assurance Building, 2nd Floor, 232 Dr. D.N. Road, Bombay-1.

(c) The above authority is expected to help in augmenting trade between the two countries though it is premature at this stage to judge the extent of improvement.

However, as an indicator it may be mentioned that Indian export to Mauritius have been increasing. It increased by 115.77% in 1990-91 over 1989-90 and by 46.66% during April 91 January 92 over the corresponding period of previous year.

(d) Area of trade cover fields like Light engineering goods, Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Gem & Jewellery etc.

[*Translation*]

Taking Over of Appu Ghar

9546. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Appu Ghar situated at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi is being operated

by the Government;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to take over the Appu Ghar;

(c) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be taken over;

(d) if not, the benefits accrued to the Government in the present system of its operation; and

(e) the details of the amount received from renting out this place?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALWAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Does not arise.

(d) India Trade Promotion Organisation a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce is earning revenue by way of licence fee, sharing of gate money etc. apart from saving expenditure on the maintenance and upkeep, electricity and water charges, local taxes ect. of the area licensed out for Appu Ghar.

(e) Income accrued to India Trade Promotion Organisation from renting out this place during 1991-92 is as under:-

- (i) Licence fee of Rs.24.38 lakhs.
- (ii) 50% share of the gate money Rs.25.95 lakhs.
- (iii) Rentals of shops set-up by Appu Ghar R.3.60 lakhs.
- (iv) Display of hoardings in Appu Ghar for 3 months w.e.f. 1-1-92 Rs.0.05 lakhs.

[English]

Conversion of D.T.C. Depots into Office/Shopping Complex

9547. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Transport Corporation is considering to convert its certain depots into office/shopping centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of depots to be converted into office complexes; and

(d) the revenue likely to be earned therefrom?

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

(b) and (c). The Delhi Transport Corporation proposes to develop 40 out of 44 Bus Depots in Delhi as commercial complexes.

(d) It has been estimated that the additional earnings to the D.T.C. would be over Rs.500 crores.

Family Courts.

9548. SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARAYA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the family courts set up in the country are functioning properly;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to review the working of these courts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government also propose to amend the Family Court Act, 1984 for better functioning of these courts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e). Once the jurisdiction of the Family Courts Act, 1984 is extended by the Central Government to a State/Union Territory through a notification, it is the responsibility of the State Government/Union Territory Administration to set up the Family Courts in the State/Union Territory. The various State Governments/Union Territory Authorities have been requested to review and assess the working of the Family Courts and to let the Central Government have suggestions, if any, for improving the system. We have no information which would suggest that the family courts are not functioning properly.

(f) and (g). There is no such proposal to amend the Family Courts Act, 1984.

Recruitment of Local People in Hall, Belt

9549. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and percentage of local people working in different units of Hindu-

tan Aeronautics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited in the Country;

(b) whether the percentage representation is below the prescribed percentage;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is a persistent demand from local people for providing preference to them in recruitments in these units;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to recruit more local people in these units in future;

(f) if so, the details of the proposal in this regard, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) A statements is enclosed.

(b) and (c). There is no prescribed norm for level of representation to local persons.

(d) Representations have occasionally been received for recruitment of local people at the various units.

(e) to (g). Recruitment of personnel by HAL and BEO is dependent on order book position. Manpower planing and functional requirements ate the various units. Since HAL have surplus manpower, there is a ban on recruitment except in specialized areas. BEL plans to make some recruitment in the current year. As per Govt. guidelines, executives in Groups A & B will be recruited through open advertisements in national dailies and personnel in groups open advertisements in national dailies and personnel in Groups C & D will be recruited through the local employment exchanges.

STATEMENT

HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED

Location of Unit	Total no. of employees	No. of local employees	Percentage
1	2	3	4
Bangalore Complex	16959	12827	75.63
Lucknow	3721	3096	83.20
Kanpur	3032	2280	75.19
Korwa	1188	973	81.90
Nasik	7643	6148	80.43
Koraput	4073	3134	76.94
Hyderabad	3720	3243	87.17
Total:	40336	31701	78.60

BHARATELECTRONICSLIMITED

Bangalore Complex	12100	9134	75.49
Ghaziabad	2979	2150	72.17

<i>Location of Unit</i>	<i>Total no. of employees</i>		<i>No. of local employees</i>		<i>Percentage</i>
	1	2	3	4	
Kotdwar		739	632		85.52
Panchkula		671	504		75.11
Poona		257	209		81.00
Taloja		499	401		80.36
Hyderabad		372	326		87.65
Machhalipatnam		786	765		98.7
Madras		276	244		88.40
Bangalore Co		224	209		93.30
Total		18503	14574		78.76

Rise in Price of Cotton Yarn

9550. DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rise in price of cotton yarn has been due to continuance of export of cotton and devaluation of rupee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the various sectors affected due to export of cotton at present; and

(c) the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

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

NTC Run Model Mills, Nagpur

9551. SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the chawls of the Model Mill, Nagpur run by National Textile Corporation are in the most dilapidated conditions and are likely to collapse at any time endangering the lives and property of employees and their family members;

(b) if so, whether the N.T.C. have received a number of representations from the employees in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the alternate measures being taken by the Government to provide suitable accommodation to the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK

GEHLOT): (a) to (c). Outside Modes Mills, Nagpur there is a plot of about 5.6 acres with dilapidated chawls. There are instances of portions of chawls giving way in every monsoon. Mill management is displaying notices on all chawls every year informing the occupants that these are in dangerous condition and they should vacate the same. Nagpur Municipal Corporation has also served notice for vacating the chawls in view of the dilapidated condition. The chawls being beyond repairs and cannot be repaired nor can the Mill provide any alternative accommodation to occupants.

The 70% of occupants of the chawls are not the employees of the Mill. The financial condition of NTC in general and this Mill in particular do not permit at the present moment any possibility of alternate accommodation being provided by the Corporation.

[*Translation*]

Export of Tobacco

9552. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which tobacco was exported during the year 1991-92;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase its export during 1992-93;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) The main countries to which tobacco was exported during the year 1991-92 are United Kingdom, Belgium,

USSR, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Nepal, Netherlands and Libya.

(b) The value of exports of tobacco and tobacco products during 1991-92 is Rs. 385.74 crores.

(c) to (e). The tentative target for tobacco exports during 1992-93 is Rs.450 crores.

Repair of N.H. in Bihar

9553. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ramgarh to Bokaro, Ormanjhi to Kodarma and Bagodarto Champaran sections of the National Highway in Hazaribag district of Bihar are not in traffic-worthy condition; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government to repair the aforesaid portions of the National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYILER): (a) and (b). Sections of National Highways from Remgarh to Bokaro (NH 23), Ormanji to Kodarma (comprising NH 33 & 31) and Bagodar to Champaran (NH 2) in Hazaribagh District of Bihar are being generally kept in traffic worthy condition within the limitation of available funds. During 1989-90 to 1991-92, flood damage/special repair works costing Rs.70. 455 lakhs, and im-

provement works costing Rs.1018.985 lakhs, were sanctioned on these stretches. This is in addition to the allocations for normal maintenance for which an amount of Rs. 2053. 44 lakhs was provided to Bihar Public Works Department during the above period for all National Highways put together including the stretches referred to above.

[English]

Transport Facility to Government Officers

9554. SHRI HARCHAND SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers in the rank of Joint Secretary and above are provided transport facility between their home and office;

(b) if so, whether any payment is required to be made by them for it and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to extend this facility to officers in the lower ranks also;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHAN-TARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b). Officers of the rank of joint Secretaries and above are permitted use of staff car for journeys from residence to office and back on payment at prescribed rates as under:-

(i) Joint secretary	- Rs. 75/-per month.
(ii) Addl. Secretary & above	- Rs.100/-per month.

The above charges are to be recovered every month from the salary of the officers who avail of this facility.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to extend this facility to the officials below the level of Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

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

(e) Senior Officers of the level of Joint Secretary & above have been permitted use of staff car as mentioned in reply to (a) and (b) above keeping in view the nature of duties and responsibilities at that level.

Advance Increments to Delhi Higher Judicial Service Officers

9555. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw the irregular advance increments allowed with effect from January 1, 1986 to a few of Delhi Higher Judicial Service Officers, in pursuance of the directions issued by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c). The matter of rectifying error involved in sanctioning of advance increments with effect from 1st January, 1986 to some Delhi Higher Judicial Officers has been taken up with the Delhi Administration and Registry of the Delhi High Court. A reply is being awaited from them.

C&AG Report on Induction of Heavy Transport Aircraft in I.A.F.

9556. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General in his Report No.11 of 1990 presented on May 10, 1990 for the year ending March 31, 1990 has made some observations about the induction of heavy transport aircraft in Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the induction planning including a strong maintenance element in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. However the relevant Report of C&AG relates to the year ending March 31, 1989.

(b) The observations made in the C&AG's report relate to:

(i) delay in the finalization of the contract;

(ii) lower utilisation rate;

(iii) premature withdrawal of engines/rotables;

(iv) non-establishment of indigenous repair facilities on the basis of cost benefit analysis; and

(v) non-inclusion, in the team of

specialists deputed by the supplier, of experts to provide training on bay-servicing of aggregates in laboratory.

(c) to (e). The observations made in the Report have been examined and the 'Action Taken Note' indicating, *inter-alia*, the remedial measures taken, duly vetted by the concerned Audit authorities, has been forwarded to the Lok Sabha Secretariat (PAC Branch). No inquiry was conducted, as it was not considered necessary to do so in the circumstances of the case.

NCC Units

9557. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI
BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units of various wings of National Cadet Corps working, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish more units of National Cadet Corps;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Information is furnished in the annexed Statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Raising of new units is not being considered due to paucity of resources.

NO. OF UNITS OF VARIOUS WINGS OF NCC-STAEWISE

Sl. No.	State	Army	Navy	Air	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43	7	7	57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	-	1
3.	Assam	22	2	2	26
4.	Bihar	40	1	2	43
5.	Goa	2	1	-	3
6.	Gujarat	29	3	3	35
7.	Haryana	14	1	2	17
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10	1	1	12
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	1	-	9
10.	Karnataka	38	5	6	49
11.	Kerala	32	5	1	38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	45	3	3	51

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Navy</i>	<i>Air</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Maharashtra	51	5	3	59
14.	Manipur	2	-	1	3
15.	Meghalaya	4	-	-	4
16.	Mizoram	1	-	-	1
17.	Nagaland	3	-	1	4
18.	Orissa	19	3	1	23
19.	Punjab	23	2	4	29
20.	Rajasthan	29	2	4	35
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamilnadu	41	5	5	51
23.	Tripura	5	-	-	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	114	4	4	122
25.	West Bengal	44	2	4	50
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1	1	-	2
27.	Chandigarh	2	1	1	4
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
29.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-
30.	Delhi	14	2	2	18
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	3	1	1	5
	Total	640	58	58	756

[*Translation*]

**Amount Provided for Maintenance
of National Highway No. 23**

9558. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amount provided by the Government for the maintenance and improvement of National Highway No. 23

during the last three years; and

(b) the amount surrendered out of it during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER):(a) The details are indicated in the attached statement.

(b) There has been no surrender of funds during the last three years.

STATEMENT

Statement Referred to in Reply to Part (A) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 9558 for Answer on 8th May 1992 Regarding Amount Provided for National Highway No. 23 by Shri Lalit Oraon

AMOUNT PROVIDED FOR NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 23

Year	Improvement (Rs. in lakhs)		Maintenance (Rs. in lakhs)	
	Bihar	Orissa	Bihar	Orissa
1	2	3	4	5
1989-90	40.775	245.00	83.734	78.67
1990-91	113.740	141.00	71.075	92.34
1991-92	116.635	228.00	66.332	78.72

[English]

Life Insurance Corporation of India

9559. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHARS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has sought exemption from the purview of the Consumer Protection Act of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

STA Permits

9560. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA:
SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA
MUNDA:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS-

PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the applications for grant of S.T.A permits to private buses in Delhi have since been scrutinized;

(b) if so, the number of applications received, category-wise such as General, SCs/STs and ex-serviceman etc;

(c) the quota fixed for these categories;

(d) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of permits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The grant of STA permits in Delhi is done by the State Transport Authority in the Union Territory of Delhi in exercise of the powers vested in them by the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. According to information furnished by the Delhi Administration, the scrutiny of applications has been completed.

(b) The details are as under:-

General	..	6959
Scheduled Castes	..	2311
Scheduled Tribes	..	41
Ex-servicemen	..	932
Cooperative Societies	..	104
Total	=	10347

(c) The Delhi Administration have fixed the quota of reservation for Scheduled Castes as 15% and for Scheduled Tribes 7.5%. Other conditions being equal preference shall be given to applications for permits from Ex-servicemen and Cooperative Societies.

(d) The Delhi Administration has intimated that they have no proposal at present to increase the number of permits.

(e) Does not arise.

Interest on Loans From NABARD

9561. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment of interest on loans from NABARD for financing the priority sector like horticulture and plantation crops during gestation period is deferred and no interest on deferred interest is to be levied; and

(b) if so, the gestation period allowed for rubber plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that, normally, in respect of NABARD refinanced schemes deferment of interest is permissible on loans for schemes involving long gestation period and as per the present policy no interest on deferred interest is to be levied at the beneficiaries level by the banks. However, in deciding the issue of repayment of interest during gestation period, merits of each case depending upon cash flow are taken into account and where adequate income generation during gestation period, is expected, banks are allowed to collect interest.

(b) The gestation period allowed for

Rubber Plantations developed with polybag saplings is upto 6 years and those developed with stumps is upto 7 years.

Production of Missiles

9562. SHRI BJOY KRISHNA HAN-
DIQUE:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the missiles proposed to be produced in the country and the time-frame fixed in each case;

(b) the reasons for the delay in the production of some missiles as per schedule; and

(c) the budget allocations made for the production of each missile?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The following 4 missile systems are being developed by DRDO under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) :-

PRITHVI- Surface to Surface missile with 150 km range.

TRISHUL- Surface to Air missile with 9 km range.

AKASH - Medium range Surface to Air missile.

NAG - Third Generation Anti Tank missile.

TRISHUL & *PRITHVI* missiles are in advanced stage of development and are likely to be productionised in 1992-93 after the completion of users trials. *AKASH* & *NAG* missiles are expected to be productionised in 1995. Production of anti-tank

missiles MILAN and KONKURS are already under progress.

(b) The work for establishing limited series production facilities for the production of the above missile systems is progressing as per schedule.

(c) As part of IGMDP programme, Rs. 246.41 crores have already been sanctioned for establishment of Developmental Fabrication Facilities and Limited Series Production Facilities. Additional funds have been sanctioned to produce missiles in required numbers. It is, however, not in public interest to disclose the details regarding production plans for each missile to meet Service requirements.

Seizure of Gold at Madras Airport

9563. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of gold seized at Madras Airport during 1991-92 ;

(b) the number of persons, both Indians and foreigners found involved in the smuggling of gold during the above period; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). About 158.3 kgs. of gold valued at Rs.2.92 crores approximately have been seized by the Customs authorities at Madras Airport during 1991-92

and 87 Indians and 12 persons of foreign nationality were arrested by them for being involved in the smuggling of gold during the same period. Prosecution proceedings have been instituted against the arrested persons. Out of the above number of persons arrested 18 Indians and 4 persons of foreign nationality were also detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1947.

Inland Waterways Authority

9564. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU:
SHRI R. DHANUSKODI
ATHITHAN:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of meetings held by the Board of Inland Waterways Authority during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation regarding the working of this authority; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to streamline the working of the authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISHTYTLER): (a) The number of meetings held during the last three years are given below:-

1989	-	Five meetings
1990	-	Four meetings
1991	-	Four meetings

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The government has been closely monitoring the working of the authority through its nominees on the authority. With a view to streamlining the working, among other things, it has been decided to abolish the post of Vice-Chairman and down grade the post of Member (Finance).

Smuggling of Pulses From Raxaul, Bihar

9565. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of smuggling of pulses from Raxaul, Bihar have come to the notice of the Government during last year and also in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the value and quantity of pulses seized in each case during the above period;

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(d) whether customs and other Government officials have also been found involved in the above smuggling; and

(e) if so, the detail thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Smuggling of pluses from Raxaul, Bihar have been noticed during last year and also in the current year. The casewise details of the same are as follows:-

(i) *DURING 1991:*

1. Seizure of 784 Kgs. of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.11,450 including

Cycles seized.

2. Seizure of 4 quintals of Khesari Dal valued at Rs.4,800/-.
3. Seizure of 2 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.2,400/-.

(ii) *DURING 1992:*

1. Seizure of 1 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.1,200/-.
2. Seizure of 4 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.4,000/-.
3. Seizure of 2095 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.20,15,750/- and 181 Quintals of Chana Dal, Urad Dal valued at Rs.1,81,390/-.
4. Seizure of 142 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.1,42,500/-.
5. Seizure of 142 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.1,42,500/-.
6. Seizure of 11 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.11,400/-.
7. Seizure of 11 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.11,400/-.
8. Seizure of 157 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.1,57,700/-.
9. Seizure of 130 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.1,30,500/-.
10. Seizure of 142 Quintals of Masoor Dal valued at Rs.1,42,500/-.
11. Seizure of 3 Quintals of Massor Dal valued at Rs.6,000/-.
12. Seizure of 10 Quintals of Masoor

Dal valued at Rs.1,00,000/- loaded on a Truck valued at Rs. 3,00,000/-

(Quantities and value are approximate and provisional).

(c) Offence cases have been registered and penal action will be taken against the persons involved in the smuggling of pulses as per the provisions of law.

(d) and (e). Involvement of Customs or other Government officials have not been reported in the above mentioned cases.

Export Growth Rate

9566. SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the collapse of the erstwhile Soviet Union had imposed "major Constraint" on India's export growth rate this year as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 1992;

(b) if so the facts thereof;

(c) the extent to which the export growth rate has declined; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The disintegration of the former Soviet Union had imposed a major constraint on India's export growth during the financial year 1991-92. According to the provisional figures, India's exports to Rupee Payment Area, in which

former USSR was the major constituent, declined by 42.7 percent from US.\$ 2871 million during April-February 1990-91 to US \$ 1646 million during April-February, 1991-92. In Rupee terms, they declined by 21.7%.

(d) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the budget for 1992/93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and compress imports through the price mechanism by making them dearer. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import policy announced on 31st March 1992, which, inter alia, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. Besides, the government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing simplification of procedures for export, activation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisation of Trade and Industry, etc. In addition, the Government has opened a dialogue with the newly formed Republic of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and signed bilateral agreements with a number of them already.

National Port Authority

9567. SHRI M.G. REDDY:
SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KON-
ATHALA:
KUMARI PADMASREE
KUDUMULA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question Number 5900 on September 6, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the government have taken

a final decision to set up 'National Port Authority';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT(SHRIJAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Committee of Secretaries has decided not to pursue the proposal to set up National Port Authority.

(c) Does not arise.

Import of COCO

9568. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRI-
YAPPA:
SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Coco imported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether a number of companies have increased the import of Coco in the recent times;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this increase in the import of Coco has resulted in its distress sale by the Indian growers; and

(e) if so, steps proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise or restrict its import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Quantity of Cocoa imported during last three years for which data are available are as under:

Year	Quantity(intonnes)
1986-87	41
1987-88	44
1988-89	09

(b) and (c). Foreign Trade Statistics of India are not maintained company-wise.

(d) and (e). There is no increase in the import of coco as seen from the above figures.

Seizure of Gold and Silver in Gujarat

9569. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of smuggled gold, silver and other contraband items seized in Gujarat since January 1, 1990 to March 31, 1992;

(b) the details of persons involved in the smuggling; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The quantity and value of smuggled gold, silver and other contraband items seized in Gujarat since January 1, 1990 to March 31, 1992 is given in the table below. 260 persons were arrested in connection with these cases.

ITEM	QUANTITY* (in kgs.)	VALUE* (Rs. in crores)
Gold	999.6	34.8
Silver	82093.5	59.6
Other contraband) items	---	62.4

* Figures are provisional.

(c) Customs authorities are vigilant against smuggling including that of gold and silver. Intelligence is targetted against such smuggling and field formations alerted suitably. Sophisticated equipment such as X-ray, baggage machines, Metal detectors, Night vision binoculars etc are being increasingly used. Close co-ordination is also maintained between all the agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

9570. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have achieved the target fixed for export of textiles during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) if so, to what extent and the revenue earned, including the foreign exchange, by the Government during the above period, year wise;

(c) whether there is any scope to boost the export of textiles; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the limit of export of textiles during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Target fixed and the corresponding achievement in respect of export of Textiles (including Coir, Jute and Handicrafts) during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 were as under:

Year	Target (Rs/Cr.)	Export (Rs/Cr.)
1989-90	6270	7818
1990-91	8820	9932
1991-92	13202	14379 (Provisional)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have taken several steps to boost textile exports. These include:

(a) Under the new Export-Import Policy for 1992-97:

- (i) all textile machinery items have been placed outside Negative list.
- (ii) imports of second-hand textile machinery items have been allowed. While Garment machines do not require any licensing, Import of textile machinery items are subject to licensing.
- (iii) Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme liberalised. In addition to the original scheme of allowing imports with a concessional Customs duty of 25% subject to 3 times export obligation of the CIF value of imported machinery to be undertaken in 4 years, another scheme with concessional customs duty of 15% with export obligation of 4 times the value in 5 years introduced for enabling speedy modernisation of production facilities.
- (iv) EPCG scheme extended to components of capital goods with a concessional customs duty of 15%.
- (v) Advance Licensing Scheme Procedure further liberalised.
- (vi) EOU Scheme and EPZ scheme further liberalised.
- (vii) Definition of deemed exports streamlined.

(b) Under the Textile Export Entitlement Distribution Policy, two new systems have been introduced. The Non-Quota Export

Entitlement has been introduced with a view to encourage exports of non-quota items to quota countries and to non-quota countries. Powerloom Export Entitlement system has been introduced with a view to encourage exports from powerloom sector which is mainly concentrated in the decentralised sector.

(c) Partial convertibility of Rupees.

(d) Organising of Buyer-Seller Meets, Fairs and exhibition in overseas markets etc.

[English]

Export of Onion

9571. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of bumper crop of onion in Maharashtra in 1991-92 season, the Government propose to liberalise the export of onion in place of canalised export at present to earn maximum foreign exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the canalised export of the commodity made during the year and the countering to which exported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). To help export of onion the procedure for export of this item has been simplified. Anyone desirous of exporting onion is free to do so without any limit on quantity. NAFED will issue No Objection Certificate to registered exporters across the counter. The exporters will also be free to undertake exports against LC in own name. The only exception would be the four countries of Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Mauritius & Maldives where the imports are

regulated by their Government/State agencies. In case of these four countries the exports will be undertaken exclusively by NAFED.

(c) During the year 1991-92, a quantity of approximately 4.16 lakh MTs of onion valuing around Rs. 180 crores was exported to Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Maldives, Seychelles, Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai, Bahrain, Damman, Jeddah, Muscat, Doha, Kuwait and Reunion. The exports were undertaken by NAFED and approximately 400 other private exporters registered with NAFED as associate shippers.

Visit of high level Trade Delegation to US

9572. SHRI B.N. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-level delegation headed by him visited the United States to create as awareness about the new Indian economic policy, making it an attractive "investment destination" as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated April 4, 1992; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the issues discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). In connection with India's participation at the international electronic fair, COMDEX SPRING '92 SHOW in Chicago, Minister of State for Commerce visited USA from 5-10 April, 1992. Prominent Indian electronic companies participated in the fair. During the course of his visit, he also addressed the US business community at several fora to explain to them the liberalisation measures being undertaken by India to attract foreign investment. The liberalisation measures have been widely welcomed in USA.

Office of DU, CCI&E at Baroda

9573. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an office of the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports was formally opened at Baroda in March, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the office has since started functioning;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a proposal to open the office of Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports at Surat was also received by the Government; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). A decision to set up the office of Dy. Chief Controller of Imports & Exports at Baroda was taken, but the office has not yet started functioning formally due to non-availability of office accommodation.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. However, in view of the decision to set up an office of the Organisation at Baroda which will have jurisdiction over Surat District as well, it has not been found feasible to open another independent office at Surat.

Prosecution Launched Against Tax Evaders

9574. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of prosecutions launched and convictions made in respect of income tax, excise duty and customs evasion, separately, during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-

WAR THAKUR): The information in respect of income tax is as under:-

Year	No. of tax evasion prosecutions proceedings launched.	No. of tax evasion convictions proceeding made.
1991-92	1234	63
1990-91	844	19
1989-90	595	23

The information in regard to excise duty and costumscvasion is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

State Repayment of Amount Deposited under National Savings Scheme

9575. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the depositors, who had deposited their money under the National Savings Scheme during the year 1988-89, are being paid back only the principal amount and not the interest thereon;

(b) if so, the reasons thereon; and

(c) the time by which interest money is likely to be paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Under the National Savings Scheme Rules 1987, withdrawal is permitted only once in a year, provided that the amount of such withdrawal shall not exceed the balance (inclusive of interest) at the end of the fourth preceeding financial year, less withdrawal, if any, already made.

Export of Castor Oil

9576. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy demand of Castor-oil abroad;

(b) whether production of this oil has increased during this year;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase its exports;

(d) the quantity of Castor-oil exported during the last year and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(e) the target fixed for its export during the correct year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total world import of castor oil is around 2 lakh tonnes and with average price of \$ 1000 per tonne, the world market is around 200 million dollars. The market for derivatives is estimated around 1.5. to 2.5 million US dollars.

(b) The details of production of castor seeds and castor oil in India is given below.

(Qty. in tonne)

Year	Production of Castor seed	Production of Castor oil
1989-90	508.000	200.000
1990-91	650.000	260.000
1991-92	550.00	225.000

The slight fall in the production during the year 1991-92 has been attributed to a poor Monsoon.

(c) In addition to the usual export promotion measures, like sending Trade delegations, arranging buyer-seller meets etc, the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals &

Cosmetics Export Promotion Council are planning to sponsor a high powered delegation consisting of experts from Castor oil Industry to Brazil, USA, France and Netherlands for boosting exports of this commodity.

(d) The quantity of castor oil exported during the last two years and the foreign exchange earned is as under:

(e) Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council have envisaged a target of Rs.250 cores during the year 1992-93.

[English]

Rice Deal With Cuba

9577. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed rice deal with Cuba has since been put off; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Sale of output by Agricultural and Allied Units

9578. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow agricultural and allied units set up under export processing zones and export oriented outs to sell 50 per cent of their output in the domestic market;

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

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom; and

(d) the advantages or concessions proposed to be provided by the Government to such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHI-

DAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

Taking up of Jobs Abroad by Defence Officers

9579. SHRI IARIT BARAN TOPDAR: DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govt. allow the defence officials incharge of sensitive projects to take up jobs in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the names of such persons who were allowed to take jobs in foreign countries during the last three years;

(c) whether some officials have expressed their desire to take up job in foreign countries in near futthre;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to prevent such important Defence officials from going outside the country in view of national security; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Maintenance of N.H. No.31-A in Sikkim

9580. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stretch of National Highway No. 31 -A from Rangpo to Rorathang in Sikkim is in dilapidated condition; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to repair and renovate this stretch ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Government of India is essentially responsible for development and maintenance of roads declared as National Highways only. Since the stretch from Rangpo to Rorathang in Sikkim does not form a part of National Highway 31-A, it is the responsibility of the State Govt.

Centre for Advance Coffee Technology in Karnataka

9581. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a Centre for Advance Coffee Technology in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the site selected for the proposed Centre; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). In a meeting of

various interests of the coffee industry, viz., plantation owners, traders, curers, exporters, manufactures of instant coffee etc. on 25th May, 1990 at Bangalore, the proposal to establish a Centre of Advance Coffee Technology, preferably in Karnataka was discussed. However, no concrete steps have been taken after the meeting nor is such a proposal under the consideration of the Government. Consequently, question of laying down any time frame does not arise.

Export of Bananas

9582. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of bananas, both fresh and dried, exported during the last three years and the countries to which exported;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the export of fresh and dried bananas; and

(c) the actual price received by the banana producers while exporting bananas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The export of bananas, both fresh and dried, to Nepal, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, etc., during the last three years was as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>value</i>
*1988-89	1369 MT	Rs.2171 lakhs
**1989-90	365 MT	Rs. 18.99 lakhs
*1990-91	290 MT	Rs. 6.34 lakhs

Source: * DGCI&S

** Returns filed by exporters with horticultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

(b) For boosting export of agricultural products, including banana. APEDA has a number of Schemes which can be availed of by the exporters.

(c) The unit value realisation of export of banana during 1990-91 has been reported to be Rs. 2.18 per Kg.

Price of Natural Rubber

9583. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average price of different varieties of rubber in the open market and its cost of production during each of the last three years:

<i>(Rs./Quinta)</i>					
<i>Year</i>	<i>RMA-1</i>	<i>RMA-2</i>	<i>RMA-3</i>	<i>RMA-4</i>	<i>FMA-5</i>
1989-90	2264	2216	2171	2131	2057
1990-91	2276	2225	2182	2129	2046
1991-92	2285	2235	2179	2141	2081

The cost of production varies from unit to unit depending on yield rate agricultural practices' adopted, etc. However, the bench-

(b) whether the study on the cost of production of natural rubber and the study on its prices by the Cost Accounts Branch have since been examined by the Government;

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

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fix support or floor price of natural rubber at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The average price of different varieties of natural rubber during the last three years, is as under:-

mark price fixed for RMA-4 grade of natural rubber during the last three years is as follow:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>RMA-4</i>
1989-90 and	Rs. 17800 per MT
1990-91	Rs. 17800 per MT
1991-92	Rs. 21450 per MT

(b) to (d). The present Bench Mark Price of Rs. 21,450/- per metric tonne for RMA-IV was fixed on 1st January, 1991 on the basis of the recommendations of the Cost Ac-

counts Branch. Due to reported increases in the Cost of various inputs a fresh cost study has recently been carried out and the same is being examined by Government.

Narcotic cases

9584. SHRI ANANDRATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases decided so far and the number of those still pending for trial; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy trial of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The details of number of cases registered in respect of all Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances covered under the NDPS Act 1985 during the last three years by all the drug law enforcement agencies in the country are as under:

1989	1990	1991	1992 (upto March)
7323	3894	5299	680

(b) Since 1989 upto March, 1992 as many as 15863 persons were reportedly arrested all over the country under the NDPS Act, 1985. Altogether 13911 persons were

prosecuted, 1656 convicted and 3436 acquitted during the same period. Year-wise break-up of these since 1989 is as under:

1989	1990	1991	1992 (upto March)	
No. of persons arrested	5485	4302	5300	776
No. of persons prosecuted	3694	4299	5546	372
No. of persons convicted	255	511	855	35
No. of persons acquitted	251	1160	1940	85

(c) All the States and Union Territories have been requested to review the adequacy of existing infrastructure vis-a-vis pendency of cases under the Act and create adequate number of special courts on the basis of accumulation of cases and incidence of drug offences, for exclusively trying narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances cases.

GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries which have trade relations with India; and

(b) the details of the trade agreements made by the Government with each of these countries during the last three years?

Trade agreements

9585. SHRIVILASRAO NAGNATHRAO

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). India has trade

relations with almost all the countries of the world.

During the last three years trade agreements have been signed with Czechoslovakia, Romanis, Poland, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Russia and Rwanda. The trade agreements signed with Czechoslovakia and Romania provide for trade in non-convertible Indian rupees. The trade agreements with other countries provide or trade in free currency.

Supply of Imported Cotton Yarn to Handloom weavers

9586. SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR
JANARITHANAN:
SHRI JAGMEET SINGH
BRAR :
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed to import cotton under the Duty-free Cotton Scheme to the opening mills for making yarn and to supply in to the handloom weavers,

(b) if so, the terms and conditions fixed by the Government before allowing the import of cotton;

(c) the present rate of yarn in the open market in the country;

(d) whether the price of cotton in the international market has gone up;

(e) if so, whether this will affect that rate at which it will be made available to the handloom weavers;

(f) if so, the further steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(g) the details of agencies notified by the Government to ensure proper supply of yarn to the weavers and the number of weavers benefited by this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government has decided to allow import of upto 2 lakh bales of cotton free of import duty by Spinning Mills for supplying Hank Yarn to the Handloom Sector.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The prices of Hank yarn in the domestic market as on 24th April, 1992 were as follows.

Counts	Rupees per Kg.
20s	57.25
30s	63.24
40s	68.23

(d) The prices of some varieties of cotton in the International market have shown a slight upward movement.

(e) and (f). No, Sir. However, Government will review the Scheme from time to time and make appropriate modifications as may become necessary.

(g) The Notified Agencies under the Scheme to import upto 2 lakh bales of cotton free of import duty are as follow-

1. The National Handloom Development Corporation.
2. State Handloom Development Corporation/Apex/Regional Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies.

3. All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society.
4. Handloom Agencies other than these, include primary handloom societies can also qualify for this purpose subject to specific clearance by DC (Handlooms).

As the Scheme has been announced recently, supply of Hank Yarn under this scheme has not yet commenced.

STATEMENT

Terms and conditions laid down by Government for import of cotton.

- (i) Spinning Mills will be allowed to import cotton for conversion into Hand Yarn and this yarn will be made available through notified agencies at a price 12% lower than the prevailing price on 10th March, 1992.
- (ii) For every 12 bales of cotton (each of 170 Kg.) imported by a spinning mill, it will be required to supply 9 bales (each of 181.6 Kg) of yarn.
- (iii) This authorisation for import will be allowed to the mills only after depositing the specified quantity of yarn to the notified Handloom Agencies and after the satisfaction of the Government that the rates offered are as per the discounts specified.
- (iv) The entitlement will be issued on first-come first served basis, subject to fulfilment of above mentioned conditions. Issue of entitlement will also take into account the spinning and reeling capacity of spinning mills, equitability of distribution in the country and local demand from handloom weavers.

- (v) This supply of hank yarn will be in addition to the normal hank yarn obligation of the mills.

Licences for Import of Electronic Sub-Assemblies

9587. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant freely transferable licences for import of specified electronic sub-assemblies against specified electronic exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Details in this regard are confined in Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. B-ITC(PN)/92-97 dated 10.4.92, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Exodus of MNS Cadre Officers From Army

9588. SHRI M. RAMANNARAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the exodus of MNS cadre officers from the Army to the outside the corps;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of MNS cadre officers gone out during the past three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such exodus in future?

THE MINISTER DEFENCE (SHRI

SHARAD PAWAR): (a),(b) and (d). There is no exodus of MNS officers from the Army.

(c) *The number of MNS officers who were released prematurely is as under:-*

Year	Release on grounds of marriage	Release on other grounds	Total
1989	11	115	126
1990	17	157	174
1991	8	116	124

The release of MNS Officers on grounds of marriage is as per Service rules.

Foreign Tie-Ups

9589. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to widen the scope of foreign tie-ups;

(b) whether the rules on foreign participation have been relaxed;

(c) if not, the steps taken in the matter; and

(d) the details of the programme drawn up by the Government in this regard for 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). As spelt out in the statement on Industrial Policy tabled in both Houses of Parliament on 24th July, 1991:-

(i) The Reserve Bank of India accords automatic permission for direct foreign investment upto 51% foreign equity in high priority industries (Annex III to the Statement on

Industrial Policy). Such clearance will be available if foreign equity covers the foreign exchange requirement for imported capital goods. The Payment of dividends would be monitored through the Reserve Bank Of India so as to ensure that outflow on account of dividends payments are balanced by export earnings over a period of time;

(ii) Majority foreign equity holding upto 51% equity is also allowed for trading companies primarily engaged in export activities by the Reserve Bank of India.

(iii) The Reserve Bank of India also accords automatic permission for foreign technology agreements upon a lumpsum payment of Rs. 1 crore, 5% royalty for domestic sales and 8% for exports, subject to total payments of 8% of sales over a 10 years period from date of agreement or 7 years from commencement of production.

(iv) All other proposals for foreign equity participation and technology agree-

ments require clearance of the Government according to usual procedures.

- (v) A special empowered board namely; the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIBP) has also been constituted to invite and facilitate direct foreign investment from international firms. The proposals of such firms are considered in totality, free from pre-determined parameters or procedures.

Closure of Dealing Centres of S.B.I. Overseas Branches

9590. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India propose to close down the Dealing Centres at Bombay, Madras, and New Delhi overseas branches and to abolish the posts of Dealers by replacing them with Rate Centres and Rate Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

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

Transfer of PSU's to Banks

9591. SHRI PANDURANG PANKLIK FUNDKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan outstanding with the Government to be redeemed to commercial banks to this year;

(b) whether the Government propose

sell the equity of public sector undertaking to commercial banks to meet the redemption cost of Government securities maturing this year; and

(c) whether the Government propose to transfer PSUs shares to banks in exchange for the matured securities or sell equities and utilise the proceeds of the sale for redemption of the securities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The securities have a secondary market and these can also be transferred not only from one bank to another but also to LIC, Provident Funds and other parties. This being so, the quantum of repayment to commercial banks to be made this year cannot be precisely determined at this point of time. However, the total maturities which fall due for redemption to parties other than Reserve Bank, namely commercial banks, LIC, GIC, Provident Funds etc. amount to Rs. 1057.97 crores.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Government would redeem the maturing loans as already provided in the Budget for 1992-93 without linking them to sale of shares of public sector undertakings.

Customs and Excise Duties Exemption to Export oriented Units

9592. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 100 per cent Export Oriented Units are exempted from Payment of customs duty and excise duty for the imported and indigenous capital goods;

(b) whether the customs duty on imported scapula goods is lived at the time of debonding on the depreciated value treating old plant and machinery as used cars and

whereas the rate of depreciation is subjected to over-all limit of 70 per cent only and not full as per the income-tax rules thus requiring the 100 per cent Export Oriented Units to pay duty on 30 per cent of CIF value of imported machinery;

(c) whether the excise duty is also levied at the time of deboning without depreciation; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the hardship being caused to 100 per cent Export Oriented Units as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) For assessment of imported capital goods at the time of deboning depreciation is the value of the goods is permitted on a graduated scale depending upon the period of use subject to a maximum depreciation of 70%

(c) Excise duty is levied on the unused indigenous goods at the time of deboning without without depreciation.

(d) The existing concessions applicable to capital goods for assessment at the time of deboning are considered adequate and no further reliefs are considered necessary.

Trade Agreement with USA

9593. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreement has been signed with U.S.A. during 1991-92 and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the goods proposed to be exported to and imported from U.S.A.?

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

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

[Translation]

Increase in Price of Cotton

9594. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of cotton stock at the end of December, 1991 in the country as per the last cotton season (September, 1991);

(b) whether the Government have made any study to find out the difference in revised estimates of cotton stock;

(c) if so, the comparative figures thereof;

(d) the number of times the prices of cotton were increased during the last six months;

(e) whether this increase has adversely affected the yarn and textile industry;

(f) whether the Government propose to reduce to reduce these prices; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Cotton Advisory Board (CAB) at its meeting held on 23rd December, 1991 estimated that the opening stock of cotton during the 1990-91 cotton season

was 33.84 lakh bales against its earlier estimates of 30.79 lakh bales. Consequently the closing stock at the end of 1990-91 cotton season was estimated at 22.64 lakh bales as against 19.39 lakh bales of earlier.

(b) and (c). The revised estimates, as per details in (a) above were adopted by the Cotton Advisory Board on the basis of a survey conducted by a group constituted by the CAB.

(d) The prices of cotton are determined by market forces which change from time to time resulting in upward and downward trend in prices.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g). It has been decided to allow import of upto 2 lakh bales of cotton free of import duty by spinning mills for supplying hank yarn to the handloom sector at prices 12% lower than the invoice price on 10th March, 1992. This decision is having a sobering effect on the domestic cotton prices.

[English]

Deposits under Indira Vikas Patra scheme

9595. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount deposited under the Indira Vikas Patra Scheme during each year since its inception till date;

(b) the amount, out of the above, refunded or withdrawn by the depositors, year-wise.

(c) whether the Government have made any appraisal as to the element of black-money thus invested under this scheme, which has been converted into 'white'; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Indira Vikas Patra was put on sale from 19.11.86. The total amount deposited and that withdrawn under this scheme are indicated below:

(In crores of Rs.)

Year	Deposit	Withdrawal
1986-87	834.80	---
1987-88	1010.80	---
1988-89	1707.07	---
1989-90	2684.57	0.04
1990-91	2468.82	0.18
1991-92	1375.69	665.69
(Upto Feb'92)		

(c) No, Sir, Indira Vikas Patra is not intended to mop up black money and does not provide for any immunity.

(d) Does not arise.

Urban Cooperative Banks

9596. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Urban Cooperative Banks in the country as on April 1, 1992, State-wise;

(b) the total number of licensed branches of these banks, State-wise;

(c) the total number of banks with branches only in the district or metropolitan area of operation or within the State concerned with the names of such banks and number of their branches, State-wise; and

(d) the total number of banks with branches outside the State of origin with the names of such banks and the number of such branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). There were 1401 Urban Cooperative Banks functioning in the country as on 1.4.1992. The total number of branches of these banks as on 30.6.1991 were 3433. The State-wise break up of Urban Cooperative Banks and their branches are given in statement-I attached.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the area of operation of the Urban Cooperative Banks is usually limited to the district of their registration and the branches are permitted only in their area of operation. However, 13 Urban Cooperative Banks have 21 Branches outside their State of origin. the names of such banks are given in Statement-II attached.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise number of Urban Cooperative Banks and the number of branches of these banks.

S. No.	Name of States	No. of Banks (as on 1-4-92)	No. of branches (as on 30.6.91)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	66	107
2.	Assam	8	8
3.	Bihar	5	8
4.	Goa	6	40
5.	Gujarat	293	606
6.	Haryana	8	11
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4	4
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	8

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of States</i>	<i>No. of Banks (as on 1-4-92)</i>	<i>No. of branches (as on 30.6.91)</i>
9.	Karnataka	215	417
10.	Kerala	59	173
11.	Madhya Pradesh	42	65
12.	Maharashtra	386	1501
13.	Manipur	5	11
14.	Meghalaya	2	2
15.	Mizoram	1	1
16.	Nagaland	-	-
17.	Orissa	14	27
18.	Punjab	6	7
19.	Rajasthan	26	53
20.	Tamil Nadu	137	190
21.	Tripura	1	1
22.	Uttar Pradesh	47	70
23.	West Bengal	48	73
24.	Delhi	17	47
25.	Pondicherry	2	3
Total		1401	3433

STATEMENT-II

Names of the Urban Cooperative Banks having branches/offices outside their State of origin/registration.

S. No.	Name of the Urban Cooperative Bank
1.	Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd., Bombay.
2.	Shamrao Vithal Cooperative Bank Ltd., Bombay.
3.	Bombay Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd., Bombay
4.	Development Cooperative Bank Ltd., Bombay
5.	Jain Sahakari Bank Ltd., Bombay.
6.	Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank, Ahmedabad.
7.	Cooperative Bank of Ahmedabad Ltd., Ahmedabad.
8.	Ahmedabad Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd. Ahmedabad.
9.	Eastern North East Frontier Railway Cooperative Bank Ltd., Calcutta.
10.	Eastern Railway Engineering Cooperative Bank Ltd., Calcutta.
11.	State Bank of India Staff Association Cooperative Society Ltd., Calcutta.
12.	Andhra Bank Employees Cooperative Bank Ltd., Hyderabad.
13.	North Eastern Railway Employees Primary Cooperative Bank Ltd., Gorkhpur.

Investment by Financial Institutions in U. P.

9597. SHRI V. N. SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited in Uttar Pradesh in small savings schemes, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Unit Trust of India, Nationalised Banks and other deposit schemes during each of the last three year and upto March, 31, 1992;

(b) the amount invested in various schemes Uttar Pradesh out of the deposits;

(c) whether the Government propose to invest three-fourth of the deposits only on the development projects of the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

[Translation]

Safety Audit of Defence Organisations

9598. SHRI GOVIND RAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a scheme for the safety audit of defence organisation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). Safety Andit Inspection of major defence establishments handing explosives/ammunition is already being carried out to ensure the required

safety of personnel and allied infrastructure.

found out the Reasons for such overdraft;

[English]

(c) if so, the details thereof;

Overdraft by Government of Bihar

(d) the advice, if any, tendered by the Reserve Bank of India to the Government of Bihar to check overdraft?

9599. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of overdraft by the Government of Bihar in its accounts with the Reserve Bank of India for every week during the months of February and March, 1992;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Government of Bihar was in overdraft with the R. B. I. on five occasions during the months of February and March, 1992 as indicated below:

(b) whether the reserve Bank of India

Month	From	To	No. of consecutive working days	Maximum overdraft (Rs. crores)
February, 1992	22.2.92	28.2.92	4	144.75
March, 1992	3.3.92	9.3.92	6	237.28
	11.3.92	16.3.92	4	146.17
	20.3.92	25.3.92	5	82.38
	27.3.92	30.3.92	3	106.62

The overdrafts on all the above occasions were cleared by the State Government within the time frame stipulated under the Overdraft Regulation Scheme.

State Government as soon as its availing of ways and means advance exceeds 75% of the aggregate limit and advise the concerned State Government to take corrective steps to rectify the imbalance so that the State Government should not emerge in overdraft.

(b) and (c). Government of Bihar has been sanctioned limited of Rs. 39.20 crores and Rs. 14 crores for normal and special Ways and Means advance respectively. State Government emerge in overdraft with Reserve Bank of India as a result of their payments exceeding receipts beyond the sanctioned limits of Ways and Means advance.

Under the overdraft regulation scheme currently in force, the State Governments are not allowed to remain in overdraft with the R. B. I. for more than seven consecutive working days. If the overdraft persists on the eighth consecutive working day the Bank has been authorised to suspend payments on behalf of the State Government till the overdraft is cleared. As the overdrafts in

(d) Reserve Bank of India cautions the

question were cleared by the Government of Bihar within the stipulated time frame, the question of suspending the payment did not arise.

Income Tax and Excise Duty Outstanding Against Multi-National Companies

9600. SHRIMOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount of income tax and excise duty is Outstanding against various multi-national companies operating in India;

(b) if so, the names of such multinational companies and the amount outstanding against each of these companies and since when;

(c) the reasons for which the amount due has not been recovered so far; and

(d) the measures taken to recover the outstanding dues from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). As there is no clear universally accepted definition of the term 'multi-national', it is not possible for this Ministry to furnish the information sought for in the Question. However, if the Hon'ble Member is interested in information about any particular company or companies, the same can be collected and furnished.

It may be mentioned that most of the outstanding excise duty demands are linked with Court cases and the Collectors of Central Excise have been advised to monitor personally important Court cases and take appropriate steps for their expeditious disposal. Similarly, recovery action in all cases of large outstanding income-tax demands is

periodically monitored at level of Commissioner of Income-tax and above.

[*Translation*]

Subsidy Provided to State for Janata Cloth

9601. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy provided to the State Governments for janata cloth during each of the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the number of weavers and cooperative societies benefited thereby and whether is Central of State agency to review their working; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Under the Janata Cloth Scheme, Central subsidy is released State-wise and not district-wise. The State Governments for janata cloth production during the past three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) & (c). Approximately three lakh weavers are benefited by the Janata Cloth Scheme. In all 46 handloom weavers Apex/Regional Cooperative Societies and Corporations spread in as many as 19 State and one Union Territory are currently implementing the scheme. The scheme is governed by a comprehensive set of guidelines issued by the Central Government. The Directors-in-charge of Handlooms in each implementing State are the nodal agencies responsible for its effective implementation and the State Level Implementation Committee function-

ing under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary/Secretary-in-charge of Handlooms with members drawn from Department of Civil Supplies, Non-Government organisations, consumer representatives and other experts

etc., carry out number of functions including monitoring the performance of production and distribution arrangements in their respective States.

STATEMENT

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 9601 for 8.5.92 by Shri Dau Dayal Joshi.

Released of subsidy under Janata Cloth Scheme (Non-Plan)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1516.42	1767.02	1882.37
2.	Karnataka	815.37	1053.22	931.55
3.	Kerala	4.25	0.57	Nil
4.	Tamil Nadu	1669.14	518.32	1257.42
5.	Pondicherry	0.93	0.31	Nil
6.	Madhya Pradesh	505.11	489.32	543.70
7.	Uttar Pradesh	2621.32	3812.05	3275.70
8.	Bihar	865.27	409.54	475.92
9.	Orissa	635.60	890.92	1025.43
10.	West Bengal	1401.17	1412.77	17.92
11.	Gujarat	378.77	404.12	118.12

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1	2	3	4	5
12.	Maharashtra	1252.98	952.96	1455.31
13.	Tripura	87.87	79.58	9.23
14.	Rajasthan	274.03	279.52	310.51
15.	Assam	877.80	921.97	1278.82
16.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	Nil
17.	Haryana	-	-	Nil
18.	Manipur	-	-	Nil
19.	Punjab	-	8.12	Nil
20.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.90	-	Nil
Total:		12913.93	13000.31	12582.00

Vacant Posts of Solicitor General of India

9502. SHRI N. J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the post of Solicitor General of India is lying vacant;

(b) the reasons for delay in filling up this post; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: (a) to (c). the post of Solicitor General of India is not lying vacant. Shri Dpankar Prasad Gupta has been appointed as Solicitor General of India with effect from 7 April, 1992.

[English]

Issue of Secured Premium Notes by Tisco

9603. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO) have proposed to issue Secured Premium Notes (SPNs) worth Rs. 350 crore to its shareholders;

(b) if so, the whether the Central board of Direct Taxes; Controller of Capital Issues and the Department of Company Affairs have opposed the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c). The Controller of Capital Issues has given his consent on 31.3.1992 to M/s. TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY LIMITED (TISCO) for issue of capital of the value of Rs. 443 crores (nominal value) which includes issue of Secured Premium Notes (SPNs) of Rs. 300/- each with attached equity warrants for cash at par to their existing shareholders, for a total value of Rs. 330 crores. The proposal was not opposed by Department of Company Affairs. Central Board of Direct Taxes have informed that as approval of CBDT under Direct Tax Laws is not required, the question of approving the proposal does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Fruits

9604. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the fruits exported by India;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage the producers of fruits in hilly areas of Uttar-Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh for promoting their export;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The main fruits exported from India are Mangoes, Grapes, Pomegranate, Chickoo, Cutard Apples, Ber, Citrus Fruits, Banana, etc.

(b) to (d). While there are no specific

schemes for promoting exports of fruits from hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has a number of schemes to offer for development of exports which can be availed of by the exporters, growers, etc., including those from hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

Export Targets

9605. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export targets fixed during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the targets were achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the targets for exports fixed for the current year and the steps taken to achieve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The export targets fixed for the year 1989-90 and 1990-91 were Rs. 28000 crores and Rs. 36000 crores respectively. No export target for the year 1991-92 was set. The export performance for the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and April-February 1991-92 was Rs. 27681 crores, Rs. 32553 crores and Rs. 38930 crores respectively. The shortfall in achievement of export target set for 1989-90 was marginal. However there was substantial shortfall in achievement of the export target set for 1990-91, which was due to slow down in the world economy, gulf crisis, recession in global diamond trade and tightening in import licensing regime due to critical balance of payments situation, etc.

(d) No export target has been set so far for the current financial year 1992-93. However, with a view to enhance our exports several changes in trade policy were introduced since July 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the Budget for 1992/93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and compress imports through the price mechanism by making them dearer. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import Policy announced on 31st March 1992, which inter alia, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of India industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisation of Trade and Industry, etc.

[Translation]

Two-Way Traffic G. T. Road

9606. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert one-way traffic into two-way traffic on Grand Trunk Road (G. T. Road) with a view to facilitate smooth traffic movement on this road; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Widening of G. T. Road (N. H. No. 1) from two lanes to four lanes is being undertaken progressively between Delhi and Jal-

andhar. Four-landing has already been completed in 144 kms length and is in progress in another 112.5 kms. Four landing in the balance length of 115.50kms, fromKernal (in Haryana) to Sirhind (in Punjab), is included in 1992-93 Annual Programme for sanction.

[English]

Revitalisation of Tea Gardens

9607. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tea gardens in the

country where the life span of the bushes have been either over or half crossed;

(b) whether the Government propose to plant new bushes in these tea gardens therefor; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to revitalise these tea gardens so as to increase tea production in due course of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF HE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The optimum age of a tea bush vary between 40-50 years. The age profile of the existing tea area in the country is as follows:

Age group	Percentage of the area under tea
Below 20 years	25.50
21 to 40 years	23.66
41 to 50 years	8.06
Above 50 years	42.78

(b) to (d). The Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes for increasing tea production and productivity. These schemes provide for long-term loan, subsidy and grants-in-aid for the pur-

pose of new planting, replanting, rejuvenation and infilling creation of irrigation facilities, procurement of processing machineries, etc. The present scale of financing of some of the subsidy schemes are as follows:-

Name of the scheme	Rate of subsidy (per hectare)
Replantation Subsidy Scheme	(a) Rs. 10,400/- for plains gardens
	(b) Rs. 12,400/- for guardians in hills other the Darjeeling.
	(c) Rs. 15,000/- for Darjeeling gardens.
Rejuvenation and In filling Subsidy Scheme.	(a) Rs. 3,000/- per ha for pruning and infilling.

Name of the scheme	Ra of subsidy (per hectare)
	(b) Rs. 4,000/- per ha for pruning, infilling and inter row planting.

Realisation of Export Potentials

9608. SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for not realising the export potentials of the country as per the World Bank report 'Global economic prospects and the developing countries;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fully realise the country's export potentials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The World Bank Report entitled "Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries, 1992" is the second edition in annual series of staff report analysing the global economic prospects for development. It focuses on the main international, economic linkages, with an emphasis on developing countries. According to the Report, the key international variables offer a mixed outlook for developing countries, but improved policies in developing countries themselves hold out the promise of higher growth. The Report further stated that the export performance of developing countries would depend on reduction of trade barriers in the high income economies, on improved growth in the industrial countries and the ability of developing countries to strengthen international links to exploit opportunities in our increasingly integrated

and competitive global business environment. With specific reference to India, the Report mentioned that "India is expected to continue its reform efforts, and restore growth momentum in the latter half of the decade for an average growth rate of nearly 5 percent a year".

(b) The World Bank Report is based on certain assumptions about global conditions and domestic economic policies of the countries world over. The factors mentioned in the World Bank Report in respect of growth of exports from developing countries conform to the independent assessment of the Government in respect of global trading environment.

(c) Several changes in Trade policy were introduced since July 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the Budget for 1992-93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and compress imports through the price mechanism by marking them dearer. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import Policy announced on 31st March 1992, which, inter-alia, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which, include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activation of the Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisation of trade and industry, etc.

Coffee Production in North-Eastern Region

9609. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coffee in the North-Eastern region has been encouraging; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Coffee Board to further expand the coffee cultivation in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The production of coffee in North-Eastern region has been only marginal. The total area estimated to be under coffee in North-Eastern region is not more than 8000 hectares located in all the 7 North-Eastern States. From these area under coffee, the production coming into the coffee pool has been negligible so far. This has been due to several reasons pertaining to organisational, technical and other constraints.

(b) In view of the present surplus global coffee stocks of coffee, the Coffee Board is not proposing any special scheme to bring more areas under coffee. However, several steps are being taken by the Board to consolidate the existing areas in the North-Eastern States in order to improve their productivity atleast to reasonably minimum standards. These steps include provision of research, extension and other technical support as well as financial support to the agencies involved in coffee cultivation in the North-Eastern States as well as individual tribal growers.

Sale of Coffee by Board

9610. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some quantity of coffee was sold by the Coffee Board during 1991-92; without auction at the price lower than the prevailing price in the open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the price of the coffee so sold, per tonne; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The Coffee Board is selling coffee through export auction and internal auction. In the case of internal auctions, coffee are sold with reserve prices based on the minimum release price fixed from time to time and are not sold below the minimum release price. A limited allotment to local sale dealers and cooperative institutions at lower prices have been continuing for many years and limited quantities only were being allotted. The Coffee Board had, however, decided in January 1992 to allow coffee to Departmental Pool Sales Depots for selling to local sales dealers and cooperative societies at the average internal auction prices plus 10% prices. In respect of the cooperative societies, 5% and 2 1/2% discount was allowed in nontraditional and traditional areas respectively. There is, however, a stay from the Hon'ble High Court of Tamil Nadu against the Order of the Coffee Board to charge 10% over and above the auction prices to local sales dealers of all States.

Coffees are also sold through Promotion Department to the Coffee Board at present an overall average prices plus Rs. 5/- per kg. from January 1992 onwards. Earlier, the selling prices through the Coffee Board's Promotion Department outlets was at MRP

plus 5% overhead charges.

Institutional Loan Agriculture

9611. PROF. UMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of per-hectare institutional loan extended to agriculture sector during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) whether the per-hectare institutional loan has not increased for compensating the hike in inputs in agriculture, sector during the recent past;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase institutional loan facilities to agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their informational system does not generate per-hectare bank loans disbursed. The total amount of loans disbursed towards direct finance to farmers by commercial banks during the last three years ended June 1988 and 1990 (latest available) were as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)
June 1988	2,945
June 1989	3,187
June 1990	3,530

(b) and (c). Under the production oriented system of lending, a technical group is constituted for each state/district which fixed the scale of finance based on the changes in the prices, level of inputs, cost of cultivation, etc. The scale of finance is reviewed annu-

ally, and there is a built-in system in the institutional credit machinery to take care of increase in prices, inputs, etc.

(d) As a step towards increasing bank credit to agriculture a separate target has been fixed for agriculture. Bank are required to attain a level of 18% of their total advance as direct finance to agriculture (including allied activities). Further banks were also instructed to provide 25 per cent of their priority sector advances or 10 per cent or that bank credit to weaker sections comprising small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers, share croppers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans, etc. In addition a number of steps have been taken with a view of increasing the flow of credit to farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers. The important ones are:

1. The interest on crop loans upto Rs. 7,500/- is kept low at 11.5% p. a.
2. The interest rate for any investment credit availed of by small and marginal farmers upto Rs. 7,500/- is 11.5% p. a. only.
3. In the case of crop loans availed of by small and marginal farmers, the interest debited is not to exceed the principal amount.
4. In the case of crop failure, amount due should be rescheduled over a period of 3 to 5 years and fresh loans should be given to farmers.
5. No third party guarantee or collateral security is to be insisted upon for loans upto Rs. 10,000/-.
6. There should be no compounding of interest on current dues in agriculture sector.
7. Delegation of appropriate sanction-

ing powers to the rural Branch Managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at branch level itself.

Setting up of Institute of Plantation Management in Kerala

9612. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have requested the Union Government for setting up of a Institute of Plantation Management in the State and have also offered land of the proposed Institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). There was a request from the Government of Kerala for setting up the proposed Institute of Plantation Management in the State. The Government of Kerala has also offered all necessary assistance for this purpose. However, the Institute is to be set up the Plantation Industry and not by the Government. The body identified by the Industry for coordinating all the activities regarding setting up of the Plantation Management Institute would decide on the location of the Institute after taking into account all the relevant factors in the matter.

Export of Iron Ore

9613. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce a fresh policy on iron ore exports;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to ban the export of high grade Bailadilla iron ores;

(d) if so, the manner in which Government propose to honour the export commitment with Japan; and

(e) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be lost by the country is iron ore is not exported to Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). As per the Exim Policy for 1992-97, export of iron ore except iron ore of Goan and Radi origin and iron ore concentrates and pellets produced by KIOC is canalised through MMTC. Iron ore on Goan origin when exported to Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, china and Europe and of Redi origin to all destinations, is allowed directly subject to registration of constricts with Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association. KIOCL is allowed to export its products, namely, iron ore concentrates and pellets directly.

(c) and (d). Government has decided the commitments already made are allowed to be honoured.

(e) Iron ore worth about Rs. 839 crores is estimated to have been exported to Japan during 1991-92.

[Translation]

Export of Iron Ore

9614. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI. MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to control the export of high grade iron-ore in future;

(b) if no, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the reserves of iron ore are in abundance in the country and if so, the total quantity assessed thereof;

(d) the annual production of iron-ore in the country during the last three years and the export made out of total production;

(e) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(f) the average percentage of high grade iron-ore exported during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

Year	Production (in MTs)	Exports (in MTs)	Value] (in Rs. crore)
1989-90	55.4	35.56	927.56
1990-91	54.8	32.49	1,049.13
1991-92 (April-Dec. 91)	39.5	21.05	1,032.22

(f) The average percentage of high grade iron ore exported during the last three year was as under:-

1989-90	16.27%
1990-91	15.57%
1991-92 (Provisional)	14.51%

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). As per Exim policy 1992-97, export of iron ore except iron ore of Goan and Redi origin and iron ore concentrate and pellets produced by NIOCL is canalised thro' MMYC. Iron ore of Goan origin when exported to Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, China and Europe and of Redi origin to all destinations, is allowed directly subject to registration of contracts with Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association. KIOCL is allowed to export its products, namely, iron concentrates and pellets directly.

(c) Recoverable reserves of iron ore as on 1.1.1985 (both hematite ore and magnetite ore) are estimated at 11,976.62 million tonnes.

(d) and (e). Production and exports of iron and the amount foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are estimated to have been as under:-

[English]

Production of Picture Tubes by Bcs

9615. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of picture tubes in Bharat Electronics Limited during the last three years vis-a-vis total production in the country and imports;

(b) the details of guidelines for distribution of picture tubes by BEL and precautions taken to ensure fair utilisation of picture tubes among small scale and other manufacturers of TV in the country;

(c) the details of steps taken for equitable distribution of picture tubes among small-scale units;

(d) whether the BEL has taken or propose to take steps for effective involvement

of small scale units in the production of electronic goods or equipment of prescribed standards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) manufactures Black & White picture tubes. The production of these tubes by BEL vis-a-vis total production in the country during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Production by BEL	Total production in the country (in lakh)
1989	6.4	45.7
1990	5.8	38.5
1991	4.4	34.2

BEL has not imported any picture tubes.

(b) and (c): Bulk of the Black & White picture tubes from BEL are directly supplied to the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM). Small quantities for replacement are marketed through BEL's Regional Marketing Centres. Currently, due to the excess production capacity in the country, there is not problem of availability of tubes.

(d) and (e). Small scale units have been established for the manufacture of cathodes, heaters & stem required for TV picture tubes. Complete requirement of BEL is met by the production from these units.

[Translation]

Pension of Families of Soldiers Killed in Operation Blue Star

9616. SHRI RAM TAHAL CH-
OUDHARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of soldiers killed in the Operation Blue Star;

(b) whether there is any provision to grant pension to the families of the soldiers killed in this operation; and

(c) the number of the dependents of deceased soldiers who have been provided with a pension on the basis of the last pay drawn?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Total number of Army personnel killed in the Operation Blue State is 134.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) In 130 cases the dependents of deceased Army personnel have been provided with a pension equal to the last pay drawn. There officers, being bachelors, their

parents have been given Dependent's Pension at 2/3 the last pay drawn. In one case the family of the deceased has been given Special Family Pension.

[English]

Capital Owned Abroad by Indians

9617. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Total quantum of capital owned abroad by Indian citizens as per information available with the Reserve Bank of India/the Government;

(b) the particulars of top twenty persons amongst them;

(c) the quantum of property owned in foreign countries by exrulers of India alongwith their names and also the names of the respective countries where they own the property;

(d) the particulars of top twenty industrialists who have sent their capital abroad through proper declarations; and

(e) the details about the quantum of personal capital and company's capital held abroad by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e) Attempts are being made to collect the requisite information from the concerned Agencies.

[Translation]

Treaties and Accords with Gulf Countries

9618. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHAF FATMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State in his Ministry visited the Gulf countries recently;

(b) if so, the names of the projects in respect of which treaties and accords were signed during the visit; and

(c) the progress made so far in implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Minister of State (Revenue) visited Oman and United Arab Emirates.

(b) No treaty or accord was signed during the visit. The visit was aimed at promoting the Foreign Remittances Scheme and the India Development Bond Scheme, 1991 among non-resident Indians living in the above mentioned countries.

(c) Excellent progress was made in mobilising foreign exchange remittances in these two countries as a result of the visit. Out of the \$362.84 million worth of India Development Bonds (\$ series) purchased throughout the Middle East, \$273.24 millions were mobilised from the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Import of Gold

9619. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold imported during 1990-91;

(b) whether it was supplied to the goldsmiths in time for making ornaments during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Till the introduction of the scheme recently for import of gold by

NRIs and returning Indians, no import of gold was being allowed except for export production. The quantity of gold imported by SBI, MMTC and HHEC for this purpose during 1990-91 is given below:

(In Kgs.)

S. B. I.	M. M. T. C.	H. H. E. C.
5204	900	957

(b) ~~to~~(d). The gold imported during the above period was supplied to eligible units for export production in accordance with the Schemes for Export of Gold and Silver Jewellery and Articles, notified by the Government.

[English]

Production of Hank Yarn by Mills

9620. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue statutory direction that Mills must produce hank yarn to the extent of 50 per cent of their marketable yarn;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) ~~and~~ (b). Government has already issued notification imposing Hank Yarn obligation on any producer of yard to pack not less than 50% of the total yarn packed for Civil consumption in hank from and to produce 80% thereof in counts 40s and below.

(c) Does not arise.

Nabard's Assistance to Mills in Tamil Nadu

9621. SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has decided to advance funds for cooperative and public sector mills in Tamil Nadu which are facing severe liquidity crunch; and

(b) if so, the details of such mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has no proposal to advance funds for any co-operative or public sector mills in Tamil Nadu facing severe liquidity crunch.

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

Liberalisation of Gold Policy

9622. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

SHRI ARJUN SINGH SETHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new gold policy has evoked little interest among Non-resident Indians especially in the Gulf countries to send gold to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further liberalise its gold policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The latest trends in imports under the scheme do not support the view that the scheme has evoked little interest among non-resident Indians.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As a measure of liberalisation, the import duty on gold to be imported under the new gold policy was reduced from Rs. 540 per 10 grams to Rs. 220 per 10 grams on 30.4.1992.

S. T. A. Permits under D. T. C. Operation

9623. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will

the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Transport Authority permits granted to private bus operators to run their buses in Delhi during each month of the last twelve months and the procedure adopted in granting such permits;

(b) whether State Transport Authority has issued these permits without calling for applications from the general public;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the S. T. A. has also issued permits to some of the people who had applied under the scheme of issue of 3000 permits; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). The S. T. S. A., Delhi Administration granted 88 permits during the last 12 months May, 1991 to April, 1992. The details are as under:-

No. of Permits Issued.	Months of Issue
9	Sept. 1991.
1	Oct. 1991.
6	Dec. 1991.
5	Jan. 1992
11	Feb. 1992
29	March. 1992
27	April, 1992.
Total	88

Normally, applications are invited from the Public. The applications are scrutinised and if there are more eligible applicants than the number of permits available, then the selection is made by draw of lots.

Except 33 permits given to ex-service-men, on a reconsideration of their case ordered by the STA tribunal, all other permits have been issued, after public notice in newspapers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Dose not arise.

Export Orders Received by Coffee Board

9624. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and value of orders for export of coffee received by the Coffee Board during 1990 and 1991;

(b) whether all these orders have been fulfilled; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The abstract of year-wise quantity contracted, the actual quantity exported and the value realised are furnished in the table hereunder:—

Year	Green Coffee			Instant Coffee		
	Contracted quantity in tonnes	Qty. actually exported in tonnes	Value realised in Rs. Crores	Contracted qty. in tons	Qty. actually exported in tonnes	Value realised in Rs. crores
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1990	50000	50000	154.99	5000	5000	40.83
1991	30000	35250	104.93	4000	676	7.50

+
(Optional 10000 Tonnes)

(b) and (c). As against the quantity contracted entered into with the erstwhile USSR for 1990 for export of 50,000 tonnes of green coffee and 5000 tonnes of instant coffee, only a quantity of 40,000 tonnes of green coffee and 5000 tonnes of instant coffee was exported to the country during the fiscal year 1990-91. The shortfall of export of 10,000 tonnes of green coffee in 1990-91 was on account of the very poor crop of 1,17,000 tonnes in 1989-90 which was available for sale in 1990. However, this quantity of 10,000 tonnes of green coffee was subsequently exported to erstwhile USSR of 1990-91.

Regarding the contract for 1991, the entire quantity of 30,000 tonnes of firm contracts was exported to erstwhile USSR during the fiscal year 1991-92. But the optional quantity of 10,000 tonnes of green coffee was not exported.

As regards instant coffee, owing to the reasons that the buyers could not obtain the import licence for import of the contracted quantity of 4000 tonnes until November 1991, only a quantity of 676 tonnes of instant coffee could be exported during the fiscal year 1991-92. However, in view of the shortfall in exports of instant coffee an additional quantity of 3250 tonnes of green coffee was exported to erstwhile USSR making the total

quantity of raw coffee exports amounting to 33,250 tonnes in 1991-92.

Mahila Banks

9625. DR. SHRIMATI K. S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where Mahila Banks are functioning at present, State-wise; and

(b) the names of places where the Government propose to open more such banks, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As on 30.4.1992, 39 Mahila Banks, which are Urban Cooperative Banks, were functioning in the country. The names of these mahila Banks State-wise/Districtwise are given in the Statement attached.

(b) The Government or Reserve Bank of India (RBI) do not open such banks. The proposals for registration/licence of urban banks are received by RBI, duly recommended by the Registrar, Cooperative Societies of the State. RBI considers such proposals keeping in view the extant policy for the opening of such banks.

STATEMENT

Name of Mahila Banks, State-wise/District-wise

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Name of Mahila Bank</i>
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	1. Andhra Pradesh Vardhiman (Mahila) Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.
	Vijaywada	1. Durga Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	1. Ahmedabad Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd. 2. Mahila Utkarsh Nagrik Sah. Bank Ltd. 3. Shri Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank Ltd. 4. Shree Laxmi Cooperative Bank Ltd.
	Baroda	1. Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd. 2. Uma Cooperative Bank Ltd.
	Surat	1. Surat Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd.
Goa	Goa	1. Womens' Cooperative Bank Ltd.
Karnataka	Bangalore	1. Mahila Cooperative Bank Ltd.

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Name of Mahila Bank</i>
1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	Bijapur	1. Bijapur Mahalaxmi Urban Cooperative Credit Bank Ltd.
Maharashtra	Tumkur	1. Sri Sharada Mahila Cooperative Ltd.
	Indore	1. Shubhlakshmi Mahila Cooperative Bank Ltd.
	Ahmednagar	1. Ambica Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Akola	1. MAA Sharda Mahila Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Amravati	1. Amravati Zilla Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Aurangabad	1. Indira Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Bombay	1. Indira Sahakari Bank Ltd.
		2. Shalini Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Dhule	1. Indira Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
		2. Indira Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Jalgaon	1. Pratibha Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Kolhapur	1. Ichalkaranji Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
		2. Kolhapur Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.

Name of State	District	Name of Mahila Bank
1	2	3
	Nagpur	1. Priyadarshini Mahila Sahakar Bank Ltd.
	Nasik	1. Nagpur Mahila Nagri Sahakari Bank Ltd.
		1. Nasik Jila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Nanded	2. Nasik Zilla Mahila Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Parbhani	1. Bhagya Laxmi Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Pune	1. Ahilyadevi Mahila Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd.
		1. Bhagini Nivedita Sahakari Bank Ltd.
		2. Jjamada Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Sangli	1. Shree Laxmi Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Satara	1. Ajinkyatara Mahila Sahakari Bank Ltd.
	Sholapur	1. Indira Shamik Mahila Nagri Sahakari Bank Ltd.
		2. Sholapur Zilla Mahila Sahakari Bank Miyamit.
	Vareaha	1. Ashirwad Mahila Nagri Sahakari Bank Maryadit.
Manipur	Imphal	1. Manipur Womens' Cooperative Bank.

Restructuring Plan for Jute Mills

9626. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures proposed to restructure the five jute mills in the public sector;

(b) the time by which these measure are likely to be taken; and

(c) whether the Government propose to take any other specific measures to restructure jute industry in the country including National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. mills.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Some of the measures proposed to be taken to restructure the six jute mills in the Public Sector relate to modernisation, voluntary retirement scheme for surplus workers, production of diversified value added products, especially yarn for the export market and handing over to workers cooperative if feasible.

(c) Government have taken several measures for restructuring the jute industry in the country which include *inter alia* creation of Jute Modernisation Fund of Rs. 150 crores to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry, establishment of Special Jute Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores, grant of financial support for R&D activities and product diversification programmes, encouragement of diversification by providing facilities of excise exemption, concessional import duty and marketing support namely, Inter Marketing Assistance and External Marketing Assistance Scheme.

Issue of NRI Bonds by Andhra Pradesh

9627. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has south permission from the Union Government to issue NRI bonds for the construction of irrigation projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the projects which are included in the scheme and the total amount proposed to be raised by issue of these bonds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The proposal has not been agreed to.

Dumping of Foreign Goods

9628. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HAN-
DIQUE:
SHRI CHANDULAL CHAN-
DRAKAR:
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARD-
WAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scope for dumping of goods in the country by the foreign companies in the wake of import liberalisation has increased;

(b) whether the Government have assessed its effect on Indian industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check dumping of foreign goods in the Indian markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. Dumping refers to the sale of good at less than their

normal value. the import policy does not contain any provision which increases the scope for dumping.

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

(d) The Indian Customs Tariff Act, 1975 was amended in October, 1982 to enable Government to take measures against dumped imports by levying anti-dumping duties. The Act empowers the Government to impose anti-dumping duties in those cases in which dumped imports are found to be causing material injury to the domestic industry. Before such a duty can be imposed, an authority designated by Government has to make a finding on the existence of dumping and injury. The designated authority shall normally initiate an investigation only upon receipt of a written request by or on behalf of the affected domestic industry.

Government has notified the designated authority before whom the application has to be filed and has put in place detailed procedures to enable the domestic industry to lodge complaint against dumped imports.

[*Translation*]

Supply of Yarn to Weavers

9629. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of yarn demanded by handlooms and powerlooms during the last three years; year-wise;

(b) the sources from which the demand was met and the quantity thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to increase the supply of yarn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). In view of the decentralised nature of production in Powerloom Sector and the handloom and the excess weaving capacity in the country, the levels of weaving activity in this sector change from time to time, depending upon the prices powerlooms sector and the excess weaving capacity in conditions in different States. The demand pattern for yarn also varies accordingly. It has not, however, been possible to quantify the demand for yarn in the decentralised handloom and powerloom sectors as the yarn in requirement is mostly met by the private sector spinning mills scattered throughout the country. During the year 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 the spun yarn delivered by spinning mills in the country for consumption in the decentralised weaving sector was 1008 million kgs, 1057 million kgs and 1159 million kgs respectively. As on 31st March 1991, there were 26.53 million spindles located in different parts of the country.

(c) National Handlooms Development Corporation (NHDC) has been directed to augment yarn supply and has been released a sum of Rs. 95 lakhs in the year 1991-92 for this purpose. NTC mills have been directed to increase production of counts of 40s and below and to open depots for supply of yarn at ex-mill rates in areas of weavers concentration. Constant dialogue is being maintained with apex associations of the spinning mills in private sector to impress upon them to follow a policy of moderation in yarn prices. Government has decided to import 2 lakh bales of cotton free of duty for conversion into hank yarn supply at reduced rates to the handlooms weavers through apex handloom cooperatives, handloom corporations and other notified agencies.

[English]

Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone

9630. SHRI M. G. REDDY:
SHRI RAMA KRISHNA KON-
ATHALA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been set up or is proposed to be set up for award of plots and sheds to investors under the Export Processing Zone at 'Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its composition?

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

(b) Does not arise

[Translation]

Agents of Small Savings Scheme

9631. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the award passed in 1988 by the High Court of Hyderabad declaring the persons working as agents for various Small Savings Schemes of the banks as appointed employees of the banks, has not been implemented so far;

(b) whether the Government now propose to implement the said award; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIDAL BIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that in terms of the Award given by the Industrial Tribunal, Hyderabad in I. D. 14/80, deposit collectors have to be given option to get absorbed in regular cadres in the bank after passing a selection test at part time employees. Those who do not for regular appointment have to be given higher commission and other benefits. The I. B. A. has reported that on behalf of the affected member banks, it filed a writ petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court against the Award and has obtained a stay. At present, the matter is subjudice.

A. D. B. Loan for Roads

9632. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank as a loan to India for the improvement of roads during the current financial year;

(b) the terms and conditions laid down for the loans provided; and

(c) the amount allocated for Uttar Pradesh out of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) During current financial year, no loan agreement has been signed by Government of India with the Asian Development Bank. However, a loan amounting to US \$ 250 million was signed last year in May 1991 for improvement of selected National Highways/State Roads.

(b) The terms and conditions of the loan are broadly as per the 'Ordinary Operations Loan Regulations' or the Asian Development Bank dates 1st July, 1986.

(c) An amount of US \$ 30.92 million is earmarked for works in Uttar Pradesh under the above mentioned loan.

[English]

Utilisation of Services of Retired Judges

9633. SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to utilise the services of retired Supreme Court/High Court Judges to reduce the pendency of cases in Supreme Court and High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c). There is no proposal to utilise the services of retired Supreme Court/High Court Judges to reduce the pendency of cases in Supreme Court and High Courts. However, the process of consultation with concerned Constitutional authorities for filling up the vacancies have been expedited.

[Translation]

Disparity in Pay-Scales of Central Government Employees and Employees of Public Sector Enterprises

9634. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVI

2. The composition of the Committee of Experts shall be as follows:-

(i) Shri H. N. Ray	: Chairman
(ii) Shri V. Atal	: Member
(iii) Shri B. Swaminathan	: Member

SINGH PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a committee to look into the disparity in the pay-scales of the Central Government Employees and the employees of Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c). A Committee of Experts has been set up on the 6th April, 1992. A copy of the orders indicating, inter-alia, terms of reference, etc. is enclosed in the statement.

STATEMENT

Copy of Government of India, Ministry of Finance Department of Expenditure, New Delhi O. M. No. F. 1 (19)/91-EII (B) Dated 6th April, 1992.

The Government of India have decided to constitute a high level Committee of Experts to study and examine the structure of employments, viz. pay, Dearness Allowance and other allowances including perquisites admissible to the employees in the Central Government, Public Sector Enterprises and Nationalised Banks, etc. *inter alia* for preparing a document to enable the Government to take a view on the trends of wages of employees in these sectors and to consider evolving a common formula for the grant of Dearness Allowance.

3. The terms of reference of the Committee shall be as follows:—

- (i) To study the Dearness Allowance and wage structure of Central Government employees and the employees of the Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalised Banks, Statutory Corporations, etc. including principles governing Dearness Allowance and pay.
- (ii) To analyse the gap in emoluments of the Central Government employees vis-a-vis employees of Public Sector Undertakings etc. giving the weightage to the difference in job contents for the posts similar in nature.
- (iii) Based on the study and examination, prepare a document for consideration of the Government to take a view on the following aspects:—
 - (a) The trend for wage revision and narrowing down the gap in implements in the Central Government vis-a-vis employees for Public Sector Enterprises keeping in view the economic conditions and resource constrains:
 - (b) To evolve a common formula for grant of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees as well as employees of the Public Sector Undertakings, Nationalised Bank and Statutory Corporations, etc. keeping in view the wage structure, allowances, perks and terminal benefits, etc. available to different employees in different sectors:

- (c) The principles, policy and formula for Dearness Relief to the Pensioners;
- (d) The periodicity of revision of wages, dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief.

4. The Headquarters of the Committee will be at New Delhi. The Committee will devise its own procedure and may call for such information as considered necessary.

5. The Department of Expenditure will provide the Secretariat for the Committee.

6. The Committee will submit the document to the Ministry of Finance within a period of 4 months.

—Sd—

(P. G. LELE)

Addl. Secretary to the Government of India.

[English]

Statutory Status to the Wool Development Board

9635. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to give statutory to the Wool Development Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK
GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It is proposed to constitute a Wool Development Board by an act of Parliament for the overall promotion and development of the wool sector. The function to the Board would be to promote growth, better marketings, stabilising the price of wool, standardisation of woollen products, quality upgradation and coordinating activities of various agencies operating in the wool sector etc. It is expected to be finalised by march, 1993.

Regional Office of Controller of I & E at Jaipur

9636. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand from the exporters of Rajasthan to open a Regional Office of Controller of Imports & Exports at Jaipur;

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

(c) the time by which this office is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A regional office of the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports Organisation headed by Jt. CCI&E is already functioning at Jaipur in Rajasthan State.

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

Export of Flowers and Fruits

9637. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of flowers and fruits exported during 1991-92;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the amount likely to be earned from the same during the year 1992-93?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMANKHURSHEED): (a) and (b)). The requisite information is as under:

Item	Quantity	Value
Floricultural Products		Rs. 1003 lakhs
Fruits	24800 tonnes	Rs. 2985 lakhs

(c) As per projections, the exports of Floriculture and Fresh fruits are estimated at Rs. 15 crores and Rs. 60 crores respectively.

Pending Court Cases of IFCI

9638. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of legal cases/petitions/suits etc. Against All India Industrial Finance Corporation Employees' Association pending in High Courts/Supreme Court; and

(b) the total amount of legal expenses incurred by Industrial Finance Cooperation of India on these legal cases during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has reported that there is only one case filed by it against the All India Industrial Finance Corporation Employees Association (AIIFCEA) which is pending in the High Court of Delhi. The High Court has granted an injunction in the case. Some members of AIIFCEA allegedly committed a breach of the court injunction against which IFCI has filed an application for Contempt of Court. This application is also pending.

In addition, AIIFCEA has filed five cases against IFCI. Of these, two cases are pending in the Delhi High Court and one each in the Supreme Court, Allahabad High Court and Central Government Industrial Tribunal, New Delhi.

(b) The total legal expenses incurred by IFCI, in the cases filed by it against AIIFCEA, during the last three years are Rs. 14,268.25. The legal expenses incurred by IFCI in the cases filed by AIIFCEA are Rs. 1,36,876.

Poaching in Indian Waters

9639. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching in the Indian waters are on the increase in recent times;

(b) whether the Regional Eastern Command for coast guards has given any information to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). Incidents of

poaching by foreign fishing trawlers in the Indian EEZ are invariably reported by the respective regional headquarters to the coast Guard Headquarters and, thereafter, to the Ministry of Defence, on a regular basis. While there have been a number of apprehensions during 1992 of vessels found poaching in the Indian EEZ by the Coast Guard, it is not possible to say whether this indicates an inverse in poaching activities.

(d) Coast Guard ships and aircraft maintain a constant vigil in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, especially in the areas prone to poaching by foreign fishing vessels, to deter poaching activities.

Construction of Bridges on N. H. No. 49

9640. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the bridge proposed to be constructed on National Highway No. 49 particularly on Cochin to Muvattupuzha and Muvattupuzha to Neriamangalam stretch during the current year;

(b) the present stage of these projects; and

(c) the steps taken to widen this portion of National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). There is no proposal for construction of any bridge on National Highway No. 49 during Annual Plan 1992-93.

(c) In order to improve this National Highway in a phased manner, Survey and investigation is being carried out. A sum of Rs. 200 lacs has also been provided in the Annual Plan 1992-93 for widening and im-

provement of selected stretches of National Highway 49.

Declaration of Wool as Agricultural Commodity

9641. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAYRYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to declare the wool as agricultural commodity as demanded by the Wool Development Board;

(b) if so, the facilities to be given after such declaration; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After wool is declared as an agricultural commodity, it will get all the concessions given to other agricultural commodi-

ties,

(c) Does not arise.

Arrest of Foreigners

9642. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreigners arrested under Customs Act, 1962 during the last three years;

(b) whether any diplomats have also been found involved in smuggling during the above period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The number of foreign nationals arrested under the provision of the Customs Act, 1962 during the last 3 years are given in the table below:—

Year	Number of foreigners arrested
1989	398
1990	496
1991 (upto 24.4.92)	133 (Provisional)

(b) and (c). Available reports do not indicate the involvement of any foreign diploma in these cases.

[Translation]

Study on Organisational Structure of N. T. C.

9643. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study to determine the organisational structure and the requirement of manpower in the National Textile Cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have studied the recommendations made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). Government have not made any study in this regard. However, NTC got a study done by SITRA (South India Textile Research Association) which out excess labour employment in all NTC Mills. Based on the studies, various steps have been taken by NTC to rationalise the labour force, wherever found excess, by offering compensation under Voluntary Retirement Scheme. This is applicable both to workers as well as Officers and staff.

[English]

Japanese Collaboration/AID

9644. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Japan recently;

(b) if so, the nature and extent of Japanese aid, collaboration and cooperation sought by him during this visit; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Japan was requested to significantly increase the level of aid as also to give a substantial proportion of this as fast disbursing assistance. The new

economic policies of the Government were explained to leading Japanese businessmen at a Seminar.

(c) There is appreciation in Japan, at both political and business levels, of India's economic reforms programme. The current assessment of the Japanese business community about India's economic prospects is formable. There is recognition that countries implementing major economic reforms may face transitional problems requiring international support. Japanese authorities are sympathetic of India's case for quick disbursing aid and are considering our request in this regard. They also assured continued support to India's case in the IMF and the World Bank.

Age Limit for Appointment to Managerial Posts in Companies

9645. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether age limit for appointment to managerial posts in companies have been relaxed by the Government recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). Appointment of managerial personnel, i. e. Managing or Wholtime Director or Manager (as defined in sub-section (24) of Section 2 of the Companies Act, 1956) in a public limited company or a private limited company which is a subsidiary of a public limited company is regulated by the provisions of Section 269 read with Schedule XIII of the Act. In accordance with sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule XIII which came into

force on 15.6.88, no person who had not completed the age of 30 years or had already attained the age of 65 years was eligible for appointment as managerial personnel unless the approval of the Central Government to such appointment was obtained. With a view to enlarging the scope of delegation of powers to companies in regard to such managerial appointments, the Central Government, by Notification No. So 723 (E) dated 18th September, 1990 published in the Gazette of India, revised the lower age limit of 30 years to 25 years and the upper age limit of 65 years to 70 years.

Performance of State Trading Corporation

9647. SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
DR. Y. S. RAJASEKHAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of State Trading Corporation under the IMPEX Policy (April 1992-March 1997);

(b) whether there is a sharp decline in the performance of the State Trading Corporation as reported in the Indian Express dated April 13, 1992; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The total turn over of STC during 1991-92 is estimated at Rs. 1252 crores compared to a turnover of Rs. 1756 crores for the year 1990-91. However, exports during 1991-92 are estimated at Rs. 623 crores as against an export turnover of Rs. 369 crores during 1990-91. The decline in STC's turnover for 1991-92 is largely because of a sharp decrease in

canalised imports.

In the context liberalised trade policy measures effected in the current EXIM Policy, wherein certain export and import items have been decanalised, STC has re-formulated its corporate objectives with the approval of Government with a view to becoming an international trading house functioning in a competitive environment principally based on non-canalisated trade. In the context of reduced turn over due to decanalisation, STC is also seeking to reduce its overhead expense by way of redeployment of surplus manpower in the new areas of business.

Import of Iron Scrap

9647. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA
URS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imported iron scrap during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the quantity imported and the countries from which import was made;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent for the import of the same during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to avoid import of iron scrap during 1992-93 so to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd. (MSTC), a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Steel, has imported approx. 2.80 lakh tonnes of carbon steel melting scrap during 1991-92 for use by the secondary steel sector. The scrap has been imported from USA and some countries in Europe including Czechoslovakia.

(c) These imports have been made by utilizing about Rs. 106 crores of free foreign exchange and Rs. 20 crores of RPA exchange from the allocation made to MSTC by Government.

(d) A special thrust is being given to increasing indigenous production of sponges iron which is a partial substitute of scrap. Presently, the installed capacity for production of sponge iron is about 1.4 million tonnes and this is likely to increase to 5-6 million tonnes by the end of the VIII Plan.

Share Prices

9648. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that people desirous of investing in shares are facing great difficulties in obtaining information about share prices in different Stock Exchanges on previous day, as most of the newspapers report the share prices providing long back without mentioning the date on which that price was prevailing; and

(b) if so, the details taken or proposed to be taken by the Securities and Exchanges Board of India in this regard and to make the general public aware of various investor protection measures and remedies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Information on share prices in Stock Exchanges of the

previous day are published in a large number of daily newspapers. Prices of shares as on the previous day or as on the last day in which transactions took place are generally published by the Stock Exchanges and Financial Dailies. The Securities and Exchange Board of India has recently published a booklet on Investor Grievances Rights and Remedies".

Production of Janata Cloth

9649. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVISINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achieved in the production of janata cloth during the each of last three years;

(b) whether the Government have proposal to increase the production of janata cloth during 1992-93;

(c) if so, the target fixed for the production of janata cloth during the above period and the funds earmarked for this purpose; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The target fixed and achievement made in the production of janata cloth in the country during the last three years have been as follows:—

(in million square metres)

Year	Target	Achievement
1989-90	600	503.80
1990-91	600	477.15
1991-92	450	433.14 (estimated)

(b) and (c). For the year 1992-93 a target of 450 million square metres has been fixed under this scheme and a sum of Rs. 137.91 crores has been earmarked in the budget estimate during the current year for release as subsidy.

(d) The State Level Implementation Committee functioning in each implementing State regularly review the performance of production by the implementing agencies in each State with a view to achieve the targets set for them.

Construction of Bridges Near Gunpur Town in Orissa

9650. SHRI GOPAL NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the work done so far for the construction of a bridge on the river Vanasadhara Near Gunpur Town of Koraput District in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government have already released the money for the construction of the bridge under inter-state and economic importance programme;

(c) if so, the fund allocated so far; and

(d) by when the work on the bridge is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The work done so far for the construction of a bridge on the river Vanasadhara near Gunpur Tow of Koraput District in Orssa is about 60%.

(b) and (c). The entire amount of Rs. 108 lakhs being the share of the Central Government for the construction of this bridge under the scheme of Economic and Inter-State Importance has already been re-

leased. Apart from this the State Government have also spent an amount of about Rs. 401 lakhs on this bridge till the end of March, 1992.

(d) The work on the bridge is likely to be completed by March, 1993.

Foreign Exchange Earnings for Textiles Sector

5651. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is much potential in the country to earn huge foreign exchange by promoting export in the textile sector;

(b) whether the 20 per cent of the total industrial production in the country is being made in the textile industry sector;

(c) if so, the details of the special facilities provided to this industry for promoting export during the last two years; and

(d) the additional quantity of the goods produced and exported as a result of these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There is good potential in the textile sector for increasing exports.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Government have taken a number of steps to increase textiles which includes: allowing of import of textile machinery at concessional duty, organising Buyer-Seller Meets and fairs abroad, providing adequate encouragement to manufacturer exporters and non-quota exporters through appropriate Quota Policy measures etc. Textile exports increased from Rs. 9932 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 14379 crores (Pro-

visional) in 1991-92 representing an increase of 44.8%

Maintainence of India's Hold in Foreign Tea Market

9652. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the study published in Tea Time magazine China is likely to overtake India as the largest tea producer in the world by the end of this century and sideline India in the world tea markets soon; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to maintain its hold in the foreign tea market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). According to the study published in Tea Time Magazine, production and export of tea in China by the end of this century is projected at 700 m. kgs. and 250 m. kgs. respectively, as compared to 1000 m. kgs. and 275 m. kgs. in India as worked out by the Tea Board. As such, China is unlikely outstrip India in production and export by 2000 AD. India has drawn up intensive plans to increase production of tea not only to meet domestic

requirements but also retain the international market share. There include bringing new areas under tea plantation, replanting of old tea bushes with new high yielding varieties, adoption of improved cultural practices, etc.

Finance Assistance Civil Under Seeuy

9653. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases sanctioned by the banks and amount disbursed under the SEEUY scheme since its inception, upto March 31, 1992, year-wise in the country as a whole, in Bihar and Araria; and

(b) the total amount recovered under the scheme, for the country as a whole, for Bihar and for the three districts upto March, 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The number of cases sanctioned and the amount sanctioned by the banks under the Scheme for providing Self Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) in the country as a whole and in the State of Bihar since its inception i.e., 1983-84 and upto 1990-91 (latest available) are:

Year	All India			Bihar	
	No. of cases sanctioned	Amount sanctioned		No. of cases sanctioned	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3		4	5
1983-84	2,42,405	40154.05		14,230	2278.54
1984-85	2,28,800	42952.72		14,806	2674.97
1985-86	2,20,724	42999.22		26,376	5055.03
1986-87	2,16,956	46990.78		22,560	5460.78
1987-88	1,20,224	25976.44		12,025	2826.84
1988-89	1,91,958	40460.61		19,669	4904.94
1989-90	1,06,561	22481.04		9,176	2342.91
1990-91	1,00,100	22097.07		11,545	3005.63

The similar information for the districts named is being collected for the past years and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

(b) The data reporting system does not generally recovery performance Statewise and Districtwise. However, the percentage of recovery to demand under the Scheme for the country as whole, works out to 26.15% at the end of June, 1989 and 20.82% at the end of July, 1990 (latest available.)

Settlement of Claim Cases by LIC in Maharashtra

9654. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claim cases pending for settlement from Maharashtra in respect of which the Life Insurance Corporation of India has entered into litigation;

(b) the number of claim cases pending for settlement for more than one year, two years and three years, separately;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the settlement of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 203 cases are pending before various courts in Maharashtra of which 22 cases are before Consumer Forums/Commissions.

(b) and (c). 2,484 claims are pending for over one year and 1,815 claims for over 2 years for a variety of reasons such as non-fulfilment of procedural requirements; claimants/policyholders not being available at the addresses given by them; and pending investigations and also on account of legal, exchange control and other matters. The

statistics of cases pending for over 3 years is not maintained as such cases are very rare.

(d) In order to expedite the settlement of cases, the Corporation constantly explores the possibility of out-of-court settlement in long pending cases. The Corporation has also an in-built mechanism to review from time to time cases pending investigations for over 6 months and individual cases, where settlement is not affected within a year. Further, the Regional Managers during the tour to Divisional Offices take up review of cases which have been repudiated by the Divisional Office to ensure fair deal to claimants.

Employment to Trained Apprentices

9655. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trades in which apprenticeship facilities are available in the various Defence Institutes of the country;

(b) the amount spent thereon during last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of the trainees passed out from these institutes during this period;

(d) the number of the trained apprentices who were provided employment in the Defence Institutes during this period; and

(e) Government's plan to provide employment to all the trainees who have passed the trade apprenticeship?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) Amounts spent during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 are Rs. 95.12 lakhs,

Rs. 107.19 lakhs and 115.07 lakhs respectively.

(c) Number of trainees behind in these three years are 1487 in 89-90, 1268 in 90-91 & 1318 in 91-92.

(d) Number of trained apprentices employed in the concerned undertakings are 225 in 89-90, 393 in 90-91 & 585 in 91-92.

(e) There is no obligation on the part of the Govt. to provide employment to all the apprentices trained under the Apprentices Act 1961. However subject to availability of vacancies, the trained apprentices are considered for employment.

STATEMENT

A. Ordnance Factorles

1. Fitter
2. Turner
3. Machinist
4. Pattern Maker
5. Moulder
6. Sheet Metal Worker
7. Welder
8. Wireman
9. Carpenter
10. Tool & Die Maker
11. Instrument
12. Mechanic (Motor Vehicles)
13. Tailor

14. Footwear Maker
 15. Armature Winder
 16. Mechanic-Sewing Machine
 17. Finished Leater Maker
 18. Plumber
 19. Optical Worker
 20. Millwright Maintenance Mechanic
 21. Boiler Attendant
 22. Switch Board
 23. Furnace Operator
 24. Steel Melting Hand
 25. Electronic Mechanic
 26. Electrician
 27. Mechanic Maintenance (Chemical Plant)
- #### B. Army Base Workshops
1. Vehicle Mechanic
 2. Engineering Equipment Mechanic
 3. Tele-Communications Mechanic
 4. Instrument Mechanic
 5. Electrician (Vehicles)
 6. Fitter
 7. Armourer
 8. Machinist
 9. Millwright

10. Grinder Percision
11. Turner
12. Tool Maker
13. Tin & Copper Smith
14. Welder
15. Electrician (Power)
16. Diesel Mechanic
17. Computer
18. Draughtsman

14. Machine Control Fitter
15. Sonar Fitter
16. Electronic Fitter

Issue of Fout Shares

9656. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to permit the Minerals and Allied Machinery Corporation, the Chittarnjan Locomotive works and the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. to float equity shanes in the captial market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final desision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-
WAR THAKUR):

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

Study on India's Economic Reforms

9657 SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have commissioned a study on India's economic reforms vis-a-vis reforms of other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE

C. Naval Dockyards & Base Repair Organisation of Navy

1. Electrician
2. Gas Turbine Fitter
3. Fitter
4. Turner
5. Diesel Mechanic
6. Crane Operator
7. Welder
8. Rigger
9. Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
Mechanic
10. Shipwright & Maintenance
Mechanic
11. Engine Fitter
12. Ship Fitter
13. Radar Fitter

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-
WAR THAKUR):**

(a) and (b). The Government have not commissioned any study covering all aspects of India's Economic Reforms vis-a-vis reforms of other countries.

However, the Ministry of Industry (Deptt. of Industrial Development) have commissioned a Research Study titled "Foreign project investment (FID) Incentives and Restrictions". The Study Project envisages study of foreign direct investment in the light of the policy environment in countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea, etc.

Another study on 'Liberalisation (Economic & Financial) to Integrate the Indian Economy with Global Economy has been commissioned by the Planning Commission. It would, inter-alia, study the experiences of the liberalisation process in Newly Industrialising Economies (NIEs), the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and successful Latin American countries and to recommend the policy measures to forge closer links with the global financial markets and enhance India's ability to take competitive advantage of the increasing international opportunities for trade, industry and finance.

Export of Steel

9658. **SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
DR. MAHADEEAK SINGH
SHAKYA:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the rise in profit percentage which the country would earn by exporting steel rather than iron-ores;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage rise of the profit so assessed; and

(c) the efforts made or proposed to be made by the Government to reduce the export of iron-ore and increase the export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Export earnings per tonne of export of mild steel was higher than that for iron ore during the last two years as the following figures would indicate:

Rs./Metric tonne

<i>Year</i>	<i>Iron Ore</i>	<i>Mild Steel</i>
1990-91	330	5820
1991-92	490*	7401**

* upto December 1991

** upto January 1992

(c) With a view to boost export of steel, the Govt. have taken the following steps:-

(i) Reduction in import duty on raw

materials and intermediates for steel making.

(ii) Allowing import of modern equip-

ment and technology for quality improvement and cost reduction of steel producers.

- (iii) Duty free imports of raw materials for export production through advance licensing scheme as per policy.
- (iv) Conversion of 60% export earning at market rate of foreign exchange.
- (v) Complete decontrol of all steel exports.
- (vi) Delicensing and deregulation of iron and steel to create competitive environment leading to over all efficiency.

Export of High Value Added Products.

9659. SHRI MOHAMMD ALL ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRIARJUN SINGHYADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the high value added manufactured goods in the total exports of the country during the last two years; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government to promote the export of these goods during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The value added manufactured goods accounted for about 81% of our total exports during the Year 1990-91 and April-January 1991-92.

(b) Several changes in trade policy

were introduced since July 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the Budget for 1992/93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and export of value added items. These have been further consolidated in the new Export- Import Policy announced on 31st March 1992, which inter alia, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities-ties Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activation of Board of Trade bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisations of Trade and Industry, etc.

[English]

Export of Leather

9660. SHRSI K. PRADHANI :Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and value of orders for export of leather and its products received by the Government during 1990-91;

(b) whether all the orders have been implemented;

(c) if so, the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). The export orders are received and contracts are entered and executed by the individual exporting companies contracts being entered into or executed. However, according to information

received from the Council of Leather Exports all contractual obligations have been met on time by the exporters concerned. The

exports of leather and leather products in terms of value, during 1990-91 were as follows:

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Export(in Rs. Crores)</i>
1.	Semi Finished Leather	3.97
2.	Finished Leather	765.62
3.	Leather Footwear	221.15
4.	Footwear Components	575.29
5.	Leather Garments	579.20
6.	Leather Goods	408.62
Total:		2553.85

(Source: Council for Leather Exports)

Out of the total export of Rs. 2553.85 crores, Rs. 2221.33 crores were to General Currency Area earning a foreign exchange to the tune of US dollar 1233.44 million.

including Jasmine flowers are exported mainly to USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Oman, Netherlands, UAE, etc. Details of exports during the last three years are as under:-

Export of Jasmine Flower

9661. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

*1988-89	- Rs.92.45 lakhs
**1989-90	- Rs. 27.30 lakhs
* 1990-91	- Rs. 260.29 lakhs

(a) whether Jasmine flower is being exported from India;

Source: * DGCI & S

** Returns filed by exporters with Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

(b) if so, the names of the countries to which exported; and

(c) the value and the quantity of export made during the last three years, State-wise?

Export figures are not maintained variety-wise/state-wise, and hence are not separately available for jasmine flowers.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies in Orissa

9662. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(b) and (c). Cut flowers and flower-buds

(a) The number of primary weavers cooperative societies in Orissa at present;

(b) whether any complaints have been received regarding the non-availability of raw materials in the State; and

(c) If so, the steps taken by the Government to make available the raw materials to the societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) There are 774 primary weavers cooperative societies in Orissa at present.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

U.T.I."S Master Share Plus Unit Scheme

9663. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India is investigating a suspected Rs. 2.5 crore rip-off by some of its leading agents in subscribing to the shares of its recently concluded growth scheme Mastershare Plus;

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

(c) whether the investigation of agents of the Unit Trust of India who have been blacklisted;

(d) if so, the particulars of agents of the Unit Trust of India who have been blacklisted;

(e) whether some employees of the Bank have also been found involved in this

bungling;

(f) whether it is proposed to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of investigation to find out the facts; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (g). The Unit Trust of India is investigating the matter. The Delhi branch of UTI received 897 applications for the Master Plus Unit Scheme, 1991 after the closure of the scheme on the 31st December, 1991. The value of cheques involved in these applications amounted to Rs. 2.51 crores. The UTI has advised all those whose applications were received after the closure date that their applications, prima facia, cannot be accepted. The UTI has terminated 45 agents who had canvassed the applications which were received after the closure of the scheme. Suitable investigation has been initiated against some employees of New Delhi office who were found prima facia, involved in the matter. As the Vigilance Cell of the Unit Trust of India is already investigating the matter, it is not proposed, at present, to handover the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Construction work At MES, Cochin

9664. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received regarding quality of civil work in MES at Cochin;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to improve the quality of civil work in MES at Cochin;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made regarding the accident of helicopters brought here for repairs; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d). No complaints have been received regarding the quality of civil works in MES at Cochin. However, there was recently an accident at the construction site of a Hanger at Cochin which is being investigated by a Board of Inquiry. There have been no accidents to helicopters under repair at Cochin which can be attributed to unsatisfactory quality of civil works executed by the MES.

Opium Production

9665. **SHRI BJOY KRISHNA HAN-DIQUE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the opium production in the country generally remains in excess of the requirement specified by the Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the excess production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-WAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Opium is produced in India mainly for export purposes though a part of it is also used in the Government Opium and Alka-loid works for extraction of alkaloids. Indian exports of opium were adversely affected during the last decade due to emergence of alternative cheaper raw material, i. e. concentrate of poppy straw (CPS). The demand for opiate raw material did not grow as expected in the international market resulting in a serious imbalance between production and consumption and consequent stockpile of opium in India. The area under poppy cultivation was therefore substantially reduced over a period of time. This has helped to check the excess production and we have now reached a situation where the annual production of

opium in the country is not in excess of the annual requirement.

[*Translation*]

Ship Transport Facility on National Waterway

9666. **SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether ship transport facilities are yet to be provided on National waterway No. 1 under the proposal of 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken so far to make available these facilities; and

(c) the time by which travel facilities are likely to be made available to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). During the year 1990-91, navigational channel of 1.5 metre depth and 45 metres width was provided in the Haldia-Ballia Stretch of the waterway. The navigational channel was marked for day navigation. Terminal facilities at Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Patna were maintained to facilitate loading/unloading of cargo. A scheme for construction of one general cargo berth at Patna at an estimated cost of Rs.4.90 crores was sanctioned in September, 1991. The scheme is scheduled to be completed in a period of three years. However, facilities for operation of vessels for shipping and navigation on the National Waterway are already existing.

[*English*]

Export Potential of West Bengal

9667. **SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Fair Authority of India has conducted a survey on the export potentials of West Bengal;

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Appointments/Transfer of Judges in Supreme Court/High Courts

9668. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new appointment of Judges made in the Supreme Court during the last eleven months; and

(b) the details of transfer of judges between different High Courts during the above period, court-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAIN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

1. Appointment of judges made in the Supreme Court of India with effect from 1-6-91 till date :-
 1. Shri Justice S. Mohan
 2. Shri Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy
 3. Shri Justice G. N. Ray
 4. Shri Dr. Justice A.S. Anand
 5. Shri Justice R.C. Patnaik
2. Judges appointed/transferred as Chief Justices as well as Puisne Judges transferred from one High Court to another with effect from 1-6-1991 till date:-

S.No.	Name of Judge	Appointed/transferred	
		From	to
	S/Shri Justices		
1.	Gokal Chand Mital	P & H	(CJ) Delhi
2.	Smt. Leila Seth	Delhi	(CJ)Himachal Pradesh
3.	U.L. Bhat	Kerala	(CJ) Gauhati
4.	M.J. Rao	Andhra Pradesh	(CJ) Kerala
5.	B.P. Singh	Karnataka	Patna

S.No.	Name of Judge	Appointed/transferred	
		From	to
6.	B.C. Varma	Madya Pradesh	(CJ) P&H
7.	M.K. Mukherjee	Calcutta	(CJ) Allahabad
8.	S.P. Bhaurucha	Bombay	(CJ) Kamataka
9.	B.P. Saraf	Gauhati	Bombay
10.	M. Rama Jois	Karnataka	(CJ) P&H

(CJ): Chief Justice

Violation of Rules by Banks

9669. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the nationalised banks have been violating the provisions of the Banking Regulations Act, 1949 and the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 by over-lending without insisting on the necessary cash reserve ratio and liquidity ratio; and

(b) if so, the details of the banks which have violated the said Acts during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some of the banks were not able to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) as prescribed by RBI from time to time. RBI has further indicated that it would not be in the public interest to disclose

the details of defaults by any individual banks which failed to maintain the Statutory Liquidity Ratio or Cash Reserve Ratio.

Detection of False Exim Bank's Realisation Certificates

9670. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madras office of the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports have detected a case relating to Exim Bank's false realisation certificates during March, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any officials have been found to be involved in these transactions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. Exim Bank, as reported, is not issuing any foreign exchange realisation certificates.

(b) to (e). Do not arise. However, the Office of the JCCI&E Madras have detected 49 cases where Exim Scrip Licences have been issued on basis of the documents subsequently found to be forged. These licences have been cancelled. The matter has also been reported to the police for appropriate action.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Authorised Foreign Exchange Dealers

9671. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has issued any guidelines to ensure that the authorised foreign exchange dealers are able to run their business proficiently under the new liberalised Exchange Rate Management System;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) when these guidelines were issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The original guidelines in pursuance of Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System were issued by the Reserve Bank of India to the authorised dealers on 29.2.92. A number of supplementary instructions have also been issued thereafter clarifying the various issues raised by authorised dealers and exporters/importers. The salient features of these guidelines are as under:

(i) The banks authorised to deal in

foreign exchange have been directed that they shall not make any demand on the Reserve Bank for foreign exchange except for meeting their payment obligations for import of specified goods to the extent authorised by Ministry of Finance under the following heads:

(a) Government departmental needs, specifically approved by Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs).

(b) crude Oil, Diesel, Kerosene,

(c) Fertilizers

(d) Exchange for imports against Exim Scrips and other import licences which are considered on par with Exim Scrips to the extent of the value thereof.

(e) Exchange to the extent of 40% of value of imports made against advance licences import licences and imports for replenishment of raw material for gem and Jewellery exports.

(f) Imports of life saving drugs/equipments as approved by Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs)

(ii) All receipts under current account transactions (both merchandise exports and inviable receipts) will be required to be surrendered to banks authorised to deal in foreign exchange. Of those 40% will have to be surrendered at the RBI official rate and 60% at the Market determined rate. The authorised dealer will correspondingly surrender 40% of their purchase to the RBI at the official rate. The balance 60% can be retained by them which can be sold for all permissible transactions at free market rate.

(iii) All payments including payments for imports (except those covered by item (i) above) will be at the market rate.

(iv) All transactions relating to IMF will be at the official rate.

(v) Receipts & Payments on capital account will be at the free market rate.

(vi) All forward commitments and swap liabilities as on 29th February 1992 would be honoured at contracted rates.

(vii) Rates of Exchange for transactions with ACU countries will be fixed as hitherto.

(viii) Transactions with countries in the bilateral group will be conducted as hitherto in non-convertible rupees.

(ix) The recipients of foreign exchange on account current transactions will be allowed to retain 15% of their receipts in foreign currency accounts. Balances in such accounts can be utilised for all current account purposes.

(x) The Reserve Bank of India may at its discretion undertake foreign exchange operations at the free market rates.

[English]

Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

9672. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of Dearness Allowance with relation to pay and that of dearness relief in relation to the quantum of pension payable to the Central Government employees are comparatively much less than that payable to corresponding employees or pensioners of different State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the

reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps contemplated to bring the Central Government employees at par with those of State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c). The Central Government has its own scheme of grant of Dearness Allowance to serving employees and Dearness Relief to pensioners, which is based on the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission. This scheme is independent of the schemes adopted by different State Governments for grant of D.A. and Dearness Relief to their employees and pensioners. There is no mechanism for maintaining comparative rates of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief admissible to Central Government employees/Pensioners viz-a-viz Employees/Pensioners of various State Governments.

Export Orders Bagged by STC.

9673. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the export orders bagged by the State Trading Corporation during the last three Years;

(b) whether no major export order has been received by the State Trading Corporation during the last six months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the State Trading Corporation a profitable trading house?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Export turn-over of STC

during the last three years is given below:-

Year	(Rs. crores)
1989-90	752
1990-91	369
1991-92 (Estimates)	623

(b) and (c). The export turnover of STC during the last six month period ending March, 1992 amounts to approximately.

(d) By virtue of its operational activities in the areas of export, import and domestic trading, STC is a profit making company.

Peerless General Finance and Investment Company

9674. SHRIMATI CHANDRAPRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested by the public in the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited; and

(b) the number of Government nominees on the Board of Management of the above Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that according to the balance sheet as on 31.03. 91 of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited the company has shown a liability under the sociale Welfare Scheme Fund of Rs. 1134.19 crores. The total liability under the said Fund in the balance sheet of the company does not however indicate the total deposit liabilities of the company as it has been following the concept of contractual liability in terms of the Calcutta High

Court Order dated 23rd March, 1990. After the Supreme Court Judgement dated 30th January, 1992, RBI have advised the company to furnish its total deposit liability as on 31st January, 1992.

(b) There is no Government nominee on the Board of Management of this company.

Collaboration with Foreign Shipyards

9675. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited foreign Shipyards to enter into partnership with Indian Shipyard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The Government have not invited foreign shipyards to enter into partnership with Indian Shipyards. However, Mazagon Dock limited, Bombay, has signed a protocol of intention in September 1991 with a Russian firm for the establishment of an Indo Russian Joint venture for designing, building and exploitation of Tourist Submersibles and Support Ships in India. The detailed proposal is still to be finalised. The actual registration of the new company would be done only after the viability of the project is finally cleared.

[Translation]

Export of Cars/Jeeps.

9676. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to

promote the export of cars and Jeeps; and

(b) if so, the facilities proposed to be provided by the Government therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to promote exports including those of cars and Jeeps.

(b) Facilities provided by the Government for export of cars and jeeps include:

- (i) making available inputs for export production at international prices under the Duty Exemption Scheme and International Price Reimbursement Scheme;
- (ii) provision for import of capital goods for export production at concessional import duty in lieu of an export obligation;
- (iii) provision for partial compensation of high premium of product liability insurance to cover product liability of exports to developed markets;
- (iv) exemption of whole of income derived from export from levy of income tax;
- (v) provision of convertibility of 60% of export earnings at market rates of exchange introduced in the recent budget also provides incentive for export.

[English]

Rise in Price of Janata clothes

9677. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the abnormal increase in the prices of Janata clothes:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the prices of janata cloths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Government of India with a view to providing greater flexibility to implementing agencies of Janata cloth production programme, only fixes the maximum ceiling price while giving flexibility to State Government to revise periodically the actual selling price which depends on various factors like offtake of Janata cloth as also the yarn price and periodic wage revisions paid to the weavers by the implementing agencies. Provision of ceiling price is to guard against abnormal increase in selling price of janata cloth of which there are no reports.

(c) In view of resource constraints and Government's Policy to cut down subsidy in all areas, it may not be possible to increase the rate of subsidy commensurate with increasing cost of production of Janata cloth. Government has, however, prescribed that overheads of the implementing agencies should not exceed 25% of the production cost with a view to peg the selling price of janata cloth at reasonable levels.

Export and Import of Timber.

9678. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and FOB value of

timber exported and CIF value of timber imported during each of the last three financial years;

(b) the names of the major suppliers and buyers; and

(c) the break-up of the imported timber by quality or end use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Data on actual exports and imports of various items (Including Timber) are published in the "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. I (Exports) and Vol. II (Imports) brought out by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta copies of which are available in the parliament Library.

(b) and (c). Foreign Trade Statistics are not maintained by giving a break up of suppliers, buyers, quality or end use.

Gold Smuggling

9679. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Gold smuggling on the rise" appearing in "The Hindustan Times," New Delhi dated April 17, 1992;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have made any assessment about the extent of check on gold smuggling and hawala transactions after the introduction of the gold import policy; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Government is aware of the news item.

(b) and (c). After introduction of the gold import policy from 1st March 1992, there has been 14 seizures of contraband gold weighing 40.1 kgs* valued at Rs. 1.20. crores* during March, 1992, and 34 seizures of 51.29 kgs.* of contraband gold valued at Rs. 1.53 crores* during April, 1992 at Indira Gandhi International Airport. These seizures were made from Indians as well as from foreign nationals.

(d) and (e). It is still too early to make an assessment about the extent of check on gold smuggling and hawala transactions after the introduction of the gold import policy with effect from 1.3.1992. However, a major step taken very recently is to reduce the customs duty on gold being brought as baggage under certain condition, from, Rs. 450 per ten grams to Rs. 220 per ten grams in convertible foreign currency.

Complaints Regarding Non- Refund/ Interest on Application Money by Companies

9680. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government during 1989-90, 1990-

91 and 1991-92 regarding nonrefund of application money together with interest after ten weeks of the last date of application for shares/debentures from the investors, company-wise;

(b) the number of cases in which the Government took action in this regard;

(c) the number of cases in which the erring companies were prosecuted; and

(d) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGARAJAN KUMARAMANGLAM): (a) and (b). The Department of company Affairs and its field offices have been receiving a number of complaints including those relating to non-refund of application money and interest thereon. However, no separate statistics are centrally maintained in respect of complaints of the nature referred to. On receipt of complaints against any company, the matters were processed for ascertaining the factual position and for obtaining the reply of the company, to initiate further appropriate action under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) and (d). In terms of Section 73 (2A) of the Companies Act, action for prosecution in respect of companies has been undertaken in the respective Courts by the Registrar of Companies under the directions of the Department of Company Affairs.

[*Translation*]

Legal Aid Assistance to Bihar

9681. SHRIMOHAMMADALIASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE

AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the legal aid assistance provided by the Union Government to Bihar for the purpose of providing legal assistance to the poor people in the State during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 was lower than the assistance provided in the Year 1988-98; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM): (a) Financial assistance is given by the State Government for the purpose of providing legal assistance to the poor people. No request was made by the Bihar Government to the Central Government for financial assistance in this regard during the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91.

(b) Question does not arise.

Foreign Exchange Outflow on Dividends

9682. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp rise in foreign exchange outflow in the form of dividends on foreign investments as reported in the 'Financial Express' of March 17, 1992;

(b) if so, the total capital invested by foreign companies in the country during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details of such foreign exchange outflow during the aforesaid period?

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

[English]

A D. B. AID

9683. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SMRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide on billion US dollar project aid during 1992-93;

(b) if so, the projects on which the aid is likely to be spent; and

(c) the amount earmarked in respect of Andhra Pradesh out of this aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The Asian Development Bank has agreed to a total commitment level of US 950 million during the calendar year 1992 for any four of the five projects under processing. All these five projects in 1992 pipeline are central sector projects, covering Power, Energy Conservation Petroleum and parts Sectors and a possible Programme Loan for financial sector.

Export of fireworks/Crackers

9684. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to export fireworks/crackers;

(b) if so, the details of the exports proposed to be made during the current year; and

(c) the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

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

(b) and (c). The estimated exports of fireworks/crackers during the year 1992-93 would be Rs. 25.0 lakhs.

Fire at Cochin Port

9685. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation into the fire accident which had taken place in October, 1991 at Cochin Port due to spilling of Naphtha from SCI ship has since been completed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) the details of similar fire accidents which took place in Cochin port during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken for the effective control of fire in Cochin Port;

(e) the compensation paid to the trawl-

ers of the Integrated Fisheries Project which got damaged i the Naphtha fire in Cochin waters; and

(f) the compensation given to the next of kin of victims of this fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A similar fire accident had taken place in July 1990. The cause for the fire was Naphtha which leaked from the cargo tank into the segregated ballast tank of M .V. Dadabhai Naoroji and got discharged into the channel by the ship while deballasting of the segregated ballast tanks. The Naphtha so discharged had flown down the channel towards the sea via Cochin Oil Terminal and part of it got stagnated in the waters between the rear of the Cochin Oil Terminal and the bunds connecting the sand Banks

(d) Inspection of all oil tankers specially ships carrying Naphtha or spirit has been intensified. Additional fire fighting equipment have been provided. Action has been taken to strengthen Marine Pollution Department.

(e) No compensation has been paid for the trawlers of the Integrated fisheries Project.

(f) One person died in the fire accident which took place in October 1991. The next of kin of the victim has been paid a compensation of Rs. 25,000/- by the Cochin Port Trust on humanitarian consideration.

Import of Wheat, oil and Cotton.

9686. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMECE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to import wheat oil and cotton during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other commodities proposed to be imported during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM): (a) and (b). Although the Government has decided to import 10 lakh tonnes of wheat, no order has been placed for its procurement. Import of edible oil and determination of its quantity is an on going process based on relevant factors like availability of edible oil locally, its prices etc. 2 lakh bales of cotton has been allowed for import during the current year.

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

Computerisation of Rajasthan High court

9687. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to increase the working hours of courts especially in Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir High Courts for expediting the disposal of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal to provide sophisticated computer facility in courts especially in Rajasthan High Court is also under consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). No Sir, The working hours of High courts including Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir High Courts are regulated by these courts themselves.

(c) to (e). The State Governments have been request to examine in consultation with the High Courts, the feasibility of installing computers and other modern electronic equipments in courts to facilitate speedier disposal of cases. This is basically a matter for the State Governments and the High Courts to decide.

Assistance by NBH under scheme of Land Development and shelter Projects

[Translation]

9688. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount distributed under the Land Development and Shelter Projects Scheme (L. D. S. P.) of the National Bank (N.H.B.) during the last year, State-wise and project-wise; and

(b) the amount distributed by the Punjab National Bank Housing Finance Limited under the said scheme in March, 1992 in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The disbursement of refinance by National Housing Bank (NHB) under the Land Development and Shelter Projects (LD&SP) through Banks/Housing Finance Companies during 1991-92 (April-March) is given in the statement.

(b) PNB Housing Finance Ltd. , has reported that it has not disbursed any amount in March, 1992 in the State of Gujarat under LD & SP scheme.

STATEMENT

Statement showing the disbursement of refinance by National Housing Bank (NHB) for land Development and Shelter Projects (LD & SP) through Banks/Housing Finance Companies during 1991-92 (April- March)

<i>Executing Agencies</i>	<i>Amount Disbursed (Rs. crores)</i>
(A) Public Agencies (Project)	
1. Meerut Development Authority	3.18
2. Allahabad Development Authority (Katju ki Bagiya) (Kalindipuram)	4.03 1.77

<i>Executing Agencies</i>	<i>Amount Disbursed (Rs. crores)</i>
3. Gorakhpur Development Authority (Vikasnagar Scheme)	2.42
4. Agra Development Authority (Kalindivihar Project)	3.00
5. U.P. Housing and Development Board (Vasundhara project)	17.64
6. Karnataka Housing Board	2.00
7. Goa Housing Board (Kurti Ponda Project)	1.83
8. Ghaziabad Development Authority (Indrapuram)	5.00
9. M.P. Housing Board (Hirapuri, Raipur) (Sultanabad) (Damatri, Raipur and Laharpur,	1.87
Total (A)	42.74
(B) Rental Housing Projects Gujarat State Police Housing Corporation (Vadodara)	0.30
(C) Professional Developers Satyam Home Private Limited 0.70 (Hyderabad- Andhra Pradesh)	
Total: (A) +(B) + (C) :	43.74

[English]

Visit of Israel Business Mission.

9689. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Israeli business mission

visited India recently:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the discussions held with them; and

(c) the assessment made about the trade potential with that country during the ensuing year in particular and in the long run in general?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). An Israeli Business Mission led by Mr. David Litvak, Director General of Israel Export Institute had visited India and were in Delhi on 30th and 31st March, 1992 as reported by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry & Confederation of Indian Industry. The Business Mission had discussions with the members of above mentioned industry Associations. The discussions related to possible areas of cooperation in the fields of trade and industry. These discussions were exploratory in nature and at this stage it is difficult to make an assessment about the trade potential with Israel based on such preliminary discussions.

Loss on Sale of Shares of Public Sector Companies.

9690. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI PANDURANG PUN-
DLIK FUNDKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of shares of public sector companies sold by the Union Government so far;

(b) whether the Government have suffered huge loss thereon;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the criteria adopted by the Government for evaluation of the shares of these public sector companies; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for non-recurrence of such losses in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-

WAR THAKUR): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Japanese Assistance for Various Projects

9691. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-level meeting was held in Delhi during the last month with the representatives of the Japanese Government and the prospects of Japanese assistance for various projects including the Bakreswar power project were discussed; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) We had posed a long list of proposals for the 1992 Japanese OECF loan package. The Japanese Government Mission short-listed 12 of these projects, including the Bakreshwar Project for further discussion. The Mission had detailed discussions with the respective Administrative Ministries and Project authorities. This Government Mission will be followed by the OECF Appraisal Mission in May, 1992. Thereafter, the loan package will be finalized and announced by the Government of Japan at the Aid India Consortium Meeting to be held in June, 1992.

Removal of Consumer goods From Negative List of Imports

9692. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a). whether the Government have decided to start the process of removing consumer goods from the negative list of imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also informed the industrialists that no request to include any item in the negative list of imports will be entertained;

(d) if so, by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(e) to what extent this decision is likely to be helpful?

HE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Under the Export and Import Policy (1992-97), consumer goods are under restraint. The intention of the Government is to keep the Negative List of Imports under review and to prune the list from time to time as exports gather momentum and the economy gains strength.

Export of Handloom Garments from Tamil Nadu

9693. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state::

(a) whether the handloom garments and hosiery goods made in Tamil Nadu are in great demand in the International market;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of these items; and

(c) the details of the agencies which are involved in the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Hosiery goods manufactured

in Tamil Nadu are exported in large quantities; Handloom garment exports are not very substantial.

(b). The Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy Provides for reservation of certain quotas for hosiery items and for such quantities, separate floor prices are fixed.

The Apparel Export Promotion Council has established an Apparel Training & Design Centre at Tirupur (Tamil Nadu) for imparting training in manufacture of hosiery items. The Council also runs a knitwear service centre in association with the South India Textile Research Association for testing of fabrics etc..

(c) Export Promotion of garments including handloom garments and hosiery items is handled by the Apparel Export Promotion Council.

Export of Onion.

9694. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to export onion through NAFED;

(b) if so, the countries to which onion export is proposed to be permitted through NAFED and by other exporting agencies;

(c) whether the other exporting agencies are proposed to be permitted to export onion at the minimum rate fixed by NAFED;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether these agencies are required to obtain a no objection certificate from the NAFED in this regard;

(f) if so, the norms to be followed by the NAFED before issue of such certificates?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a). The export of onion continues to be canalised through National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED).

(b) to (e). Under the new Export Policy NAFED will export onion to Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Seychelles & Maldives exclusively. Export to all other countries is open for other exporting agencies as well subject, however, to minimum export price to be fixed by NAFED and grant of no Objection certificate across the counter for which the procedure has been liberalised. This has been done with a view to maximise export while keeping the commodity competitive in the International market as also ensure optimum foreign exchange earnings.

(f) Anyone desirous of exporting onion will have to register oneself for the purpose with NAFED. This will be only a one time requirement. Those already registered with NAFED need not get themselves registered

again. The export of onion will be subject to Minimum Export Price as fixed by NAFED from time to time. The exporter will have to obtain No Objection Certificate from NAFED for each export consignment. The exporter will furnish to NAFED details such as quantity to be exported, the rate at which the export is being undertaken the port of shipment, destination and details of L.C. NAFED will grant No Objection Certificate across the counter to such exporters.

9695. SHRI GURUDAS KAAMAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Jute Mills in West Bengal have been locked out;

(b) if so, the details thereof, millwise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Following Jute Mills are lying closed in West Bengal at present.

Name of the Mills	Date of Closure	No. of Workers affected
1. BUDGE Budge JUTE MILL	18.3.88	3400
2. ANGLO-INDIA	20.5.91	5500
3. AGARPARA	28.1.92	3400
4. BARNAGORE	28.1.92	4176
5. SHREE HANUMAN	28.1.92	3675
6. TIRUPATI	28.1.92	1200
7. EASTERN MANUFACTURING COMPANY	28.1.92	2100

Name of the Mills	Date of Closure	No. of Workers affected
8. KANKINARAH	27.3.92	4205

Out of the above two Jute mills namely Budge Budge and Anglo- India have been under lockout since a long period of time. Other five mills named Agarpara, Bnrriagore, Shree- Hanuman Tirupati and eastern Manufacturing Company were closed from 28.1.92 due to statewide strike in jute Industry in West Bengal. After wage Settlement signed on 17.3.92 strike in Jute Mills in West Bengal was withdrawn from 17.3.92 but these five mills could not be reopened in view of non-implementation of wage settlement in their mills. Another mill namely Kankinarah was closed with effect from 27.3.92 due to their inability to pay wages according to wage settlement.

(c) Matter is being looked after by the State Government of West Bengal and in some cases by BIFR. Several meetings have been held by State Government to find a solution on this point.

Grant- In- aid Loan to States

9696. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total grant-in aid and disbursed by the Union Government to each State/ Union Territory during 1991-92;

(b) the total repayment to the Union Government by each State/Union Territory including principal and interest, on account of the outstanding loans, during 1991-92;

(c) net flow of financial resources from the Centre to each State/Union Territory; and

(d) net flow to each State/Union Territory per capita of population (mid-year estimate) and per square kilometre of area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHAN-TARAMPOTDUKHE): (a) to (d). Statement-I regarding informing in respect of States and Statement-II regarding Union Territory, are enclosed.

STATEMENT-1

Sl. No.	States	(Figures in crores of Rupees)					Figures in Rupees)		
		Total grants and loans released during 1991-92 under State Plan, Hill Area Developmental Programme, devolution of resources recommended by the successive Finance Commissions and loans against small savings collections	Loans	Grants	Total	Total re-payment of Principal and interest during 1991-92	Net flow of financial resources Column (5)-(6)	Net flow of resources per capita	Per Square Kilometre of area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	872.39	359.03	1231.42	563.82	667.60	100.61	24272.39	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23.99	272.59	296.58	14.54	282.04	3285.68	33679.23	
3.	Assam	133.48	887.65	1021.13	100.26	920.87	413.05	117401.00	
4.	Bihar	798.53	498.33	1296.91	787.35	509.56	59.02	29305.77	
5.	Goa	48.88	48.32	97.20	59.33	37.87	324.06	102296.06	
6.	Gujarat	1072.52	263.28	1335.80	632.95	642.85	156.13	32794.45	

Sl. No.	States	<i>(Figures in crores of Rupees)</i>									<i>(Figures in Rupees)</i>	
		Total grants and loans released during 1991-92 under State Plan, Hill Area Developmental Programme, devolution of resources recommended by the successive Finance Commissions and loans against small savings collections			Total grants			Total			Total re-payment of Principal and interest during 1991-92	Net flow of financial resources Column (5)-(6)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7.	Haryana	250.31	56.35	305.66	235.73	69.93	42.86	15918.97				
8.	Himachal Pradesh	98.17	376.78	474.95	127.32	347.63	680.15	62441.40				
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	110.97	868.68	979.65	364.74	614.91	796.65	27669.23				
10.	Karnataka	500.68	151.15	651.83	427.60	224.23	50.04	11691.37				
11.	Kerala	365.11	197.50	562.61	324.23	238.38	82.11	61338.55				
12.	Madhya Pradesh	574.35	409.69	984.04	501.11	482.93	73.02	10890.39				
13.	Maharashtra	1492.16	243.95	1741.13	1122.06	619.07	78.61	20118.42				

Sl. No.	States	(Figures in crores of Rupees)					(Figures in Rupees)		
		Total grants and loans released during 1991-92 under State Plan, Hill Area Developmental Programme, devolution of resources recommended by the successive Finance Commissions and loans against small savings collections	Loans	Grants	Total	Total re-payment of Principal and interest during 1991-92	Net flow of financial resources Column (5)-(6)	Net flow of resources per capita	Per Square Kilometre of area
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
14.	Manipur	21.15	245.37	266.52	35.94	230.58	1262.27	103274.06	
15.	Meghalaya	23.81	197.84	221.65	21.05	200.60	1139.37	89437.78	
16.	Mizoram	18.16	224.70	242.86	10.24	232.62	3389.89	110345.81	
17.	Nagaland	32.38	242.42	274.80	38.52	236.28	1918.77	142517.64	
18.	Orissa	366.13	334.27	700.40	361.19	339.21	107.64	21785.15	
19.	Punjab	952.40	95.18	1047.58	311.08	736.50	364.77	146241.21	
20.	Rajasthan	518.74	459.63	978.37	448.60	529.77	120.73	15479.53	

Sl. No.	States	(Figures in crores of Rupees)					(Figures in Rupees)		
		Total grants and loans released during 1991-92 under State Plan, Hill Area Developmental Programme, devolution of resources recommended by the successive Finance Commissions and loans against small savings collections	Loans	Grants	Total	Total re-payment of Principal and interest during 1991-92	Net flow of financial resources Column (5)-(6)	Net flow of resources per capita	Per Square Kilometre of area
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
21.	Sikkim	9.97	98.35	108.14	9.67	98.47	2423.33	138768.32	
22.	Tamil Nadu	825.06	268.47	1093.53	499.04	594.49	106.85	45709.61	
23.	Tripura	34.46	279.49	313.95	41.00	272.95	994.42	260299.45	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2093.51	1351.74	3445.25	1359.68	2085.57	150.01	70838.73	
25.	West Bengal	838.42	348.12	1186.54	788.67	397.87	58.53	44829.41	

Note: Population figure used is provisional for 1991

STATEMENT-II

Sl. No. Union Territory	(Figures in crores of Rupees)					(Figures in Rupees)		
	Total grants and loans released during 1991-92 under Union Territory Plan and for meeting the non-plan gap	Total repayment of Principal and interest during 1991-92	Net flow of financial resources Column (5)-(6)	Net flow of resources per capita	Per square kilometre of area			
	Loans	Grants	Total					
1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1. Pondicherry*	53.52	96.91	150.43	28.84@	121.59	1506.61	2471341.46	

*Grants-in aid and loans are released to the Union Territory of Pondicherry (with legislature) only. Other Territories are not in receipt grant and loan.

@ Tentative figure.

Note:- Population figure used is provisional for 1991.

Promotion of Drawing staff

9697. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-GAVA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 4534 on August 31, 1988 and state:

(a) whether the Drawing Staff eligible for promotion have been promoted to the post of workshop officer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). As there is no provision in the existing Recruitment Rules for the Promotion of Drawing Staff i.e. from Chief Draughtsman to Workshop Officer, Group 'B' a proposal has been made to incorporate the necessary enabling provisions in the Rules. As per the Prescribed procedure, the Draft Recruitment Rules were required to be approved by the Department of Personnel and Training and the UPSC. The Draft Recruitment Rules have since been approved by the Department of personnel and Training and await approval of UPSC.

Visit of Defence Minister to Usa

9698. SHRI RAMCHANDRA GHANGARE:
SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI:
SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited USA in April, 1992; and

(b) if so, the main objects of the visit and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The primary objective of the visit was to promote mutual understanding and exchange views on the security concerns of both countries. This was achieved during meeting with US Government leaders and officials.

[Translation]

Caving In of Nizamuddin Bridge

9699. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI MADANLAL KHURANA:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some portion of the Nizamuddin bridge collapsed recently;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons found guilty;

(e) whether the people coming from Trans Yamuna areas are in acute distress due to caving in of a part of the bridge;

(f) if so, the time by which the repair work is likely to be completed and the bridge is made operational for use by public;

(g) the amount spent on the repair of

this bridge since January 1, 1992; and

(h) the precautionary measures proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a). No, Sir. only a portion of the road in the immediate approach of the bridge on the eastern side had caved in.

(b) to (d). A Technical Committee has been set up by the Government of India to inquire into the causes of the mishap. The Committee has been asked to give its report by the end of May, 1992.

(e) and (f). Urgent repairs to the damaged portion of the approach road have been carried out and the bridge has already been opened to light vehicular traffic on the evening of 23rd April, 1992.

(g) The estimated expenditure on repairs to the damaged portion of the Eastern approach to the bridge is about Rs. 5 lakhs. Apart from this an amount of Rs. 51.37 lakhs has been spent since January 1, 1992 on the rehabilitation of the bridge which is in progress under a sanctioned scheme.

(h) The leak in the bend of the water mains at the location where the caving-in of the approach road took place, has been plugged and is being kept under watch. Further measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents will be finalised after the find-

ings of the Technical Committee are known.

[English]

Development Schemes in Haryana

9700. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any programmes for introducing development schemes with the assistance of the world Bank and some other international organisations in the State of Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated costs thereof; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SSHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). A list of development schemes likely to be introduced with the assistance of the world bank and other International organisations in the State of Haryana and their estimated cost is attached as a statement.

The projects which would finally be tied up, the extent and timing of commitment would depend on detailed project preparation and donor preferences and commitment availability.

STATEMENT

List of Development Scheme likely to be introduced in the State of Haryana with assistance of World Bank and other International Organisations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Likely Aid	Likely Doner
1	2	3	4
1.	Second National Highway Project (Multi-State)	Rs. 156.3 Cr.*	World Bank
2.	Water Resources consolidation Project (Multi-State)	To be determind	Wrold Bank
3.	Child Survival and safe Motherhood project (Multi-State)	US \$ 214..50 Mil.*	World Bank
4.	National Aids Control Project (Multi-State)	US \$ 84.00 Mil.*	World Bank
5.	Afforestation of Wasteland Agroforestry in Haryana	Rs. 60 Cr.	EEC.
6.	Haryana Integrated Women Population and Development Project	To be determind	EEC.

* These are Multi-State project with a component in Haryana. The figures relate to the entire project.

EC Aided Projects

and

9701. SHRIR. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:

(c) the amount likely to be invested in each of these projects?

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) whether the European Community propose to finance some major projects of India;

(b) and (c). The details of the projects being considered for financing by the European Community under their Development cooperation Assistance Programme are:

(b) if so, the details of these projects;

S. No.	Name of the project	Amount likely to be invested by EEC (in ECU million)	Brief details
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
1.	Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation Project in Rajasthan	45.00	The project proposes to finance investment in an irrigation net-work to feed the Sidhmukh and Nohar areas of Rajasthan.
2.	Kerala Minor Irrigation	11.80	The project aims to increase water availability of second crop cultivation on 11,500 ha of tank irrigation schemes involving 459 tanks spread over entire Kerala and increase water availability for second crop cultivation on 8,700 ha of lift irrigation schemes involving 81 schemes mainly spread over Trichur and Mallapuram districts.
3.	Orissa Minor Irrigation	11.23	The project aims at rehabilitating 16 large schemes and a number of small schemes (about 15) with a gross ayacut of around 20,000 ha.
4.	Saline Land Reclamation Phase-II Maharashtra	10.70	The project aims at reclaiming saline land in 83 schemes involving about 12,000 ha of Kharlands in Maharashtra.

S. No.	Name of the project	Amount likely to be invested by EEC (in ECU million)	Brief details
(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
5.	Agriculture Markets in Tamil Nadu	Not Yet	The main thrust of the project is to indicate strengthen and upgrade the regulated markets for agricultural produce in Tamil Nadu.
6.	Coconut Rehabilitation in Kerala Karnataka	Not Yet indicated	The aim is to improve the release of quality planting material adoption of improved planting materials at farm level and drafting a five year research and development programme.
7.	Andhra Pradesh Water Supply	Not yet indicated	The aim is to provide adequate drinking water to the population of Uddanam area of Srikakulam district of A. P.

Mutual Funds by State Finance Corporations and Industrial Development Corporations

9702. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Finance Corporations and Industrial Development Corporations have been urged by the Union Government to set up mutual funds and to reduce their dependence on the Industrial Development Bank of India for refinance;

(b) if so, the other suggestions made by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the number of the SFCs and Industrial Development Corporations succeeded in getting the credit from the foreign countries; and

(d) to what extent the Union Government have approved the proposals made by the State Finance Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR
SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) *Does not arise.*

(c) The Industrial Development Bank of India has reported that no State Financial Corporation or State Industrial Development Corporation has received any direct credit for its own lending operations from foreign countries.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Industrial labour under Group Insurance Scheme

9703. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR

RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers covered by Group Insurance Scheme, state-wise;

(b) whether there is any scheme to bring the child labourers and agricultural labourers also under the Group Insurance scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR
SINGH): (a) to (d). A group insurance scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers was introduced by the Government of India on the 15th August 1987 to cover ALL the heads of the landless agricultural labourers' families between the ages 18 and 60 for a sum assured of Rs. 2,000/-. This Scheme which was initially financed by the Central Govt. is now being financed by the LIC from the Social Security fund with effect from 1st April, 1990. Under this Scheme, the entire annual premium cost is borne by the LIC.

There is no specific group insurance scheme to cover exclusively child labourers or other labourers. However, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has set up a social Security Fund with an entail Corpus of Rs. 100 crores and formulated various group insurance schemes to cover the labourers of the unorganised sector. Under these schemes, 50% of the premium is payable by the beneficiary and the balance 50% is met out of the Social Security Fund. The Scheme envisages payment of Rs. 3,000/- to the legal heirs of the Insured on the normal death of the Member of the Scheme and Rs. 6,000/- in case of an accidental death. The workers under various occupations, covered under these schemes include bidi workers, carpenters, handloom weavers, rickshaw pullers, fishermen, Safai Karma-

charis, forest workers etc. Under these schemes, 23,91, 927 lives have been covered upto 1st March, 1992 (the latest figures available).

[English]

Excessive Profit by Drug Companies.

9704. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating penal action and policy changes to prevent pharmaceutical companies from importing disproportionately large quantities of inputs for the export of drugs;

(b) the names of companies which have made excessive profits by drawing heavily from the country's foreign exchange reserves;

(c) whether the Government have by now been able to quantify the amount of benefits accruing to various companies by misuse of foreign exchange and availing of excessive duty drawback;

(d) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(e) the nature of penal action contemplated to be taken against the carrying drug units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a). The Import and Export Policy 1990-93, provided for a number of routes to import inputs for the production and export of drugs and pharmaceuticals viz. Open General Licensing, Supplementary Licensing, Replenishment Licensing and Advance Licensing. The pharmaceutical companies could make any amount of im-

ports allowed under open central licensing. Under the supplementary Licensing regime, the companies could procure the inputs both for domestic production as well as export production. It is under the Advance licensing regime where the duty free inputs had to correlate with the export production. The Export and Import Policy 1992-97 has abolished the Open General Licensing Regime and supplementary licences. Imports have been made free except for the items mentioned in the Negative list of Imports. Pharmaceutical companies can import any amount of inputs for their domestic of export production. Advance licensing Regime has also been divided into two parts viz. Value Based Advance licensing Scheme and Quantity Based Advance Licensing Scheme. Under Value Based Advance Licensing Regime, the exporting pharmaceutical company may import a particular input without any quantitative restriction but subject to the value of the licence. Under the quantity but subject to the value of the licence. Under the quantity based advance licensing scheme, however, the exporting pharmaceutical company has to correlate the inputs with the outputs as per the norms notified.

(b) No company-wise data of imports and exports is maintained.

(c) (d) & (e). Do not arise in view of position explained in (a) above.

Economic freedom to the States

9705. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for granting monetary autonomy/economic freedom to the States; and

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

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: (a) and (b). Some State Governments have suggested to the Commission on centre-State relations as also in the meeting of the Inter-State Council that more economic powers be given to the States. The matter is under consideration.

Import Duty on P. S. F. and V.S.F.

9776. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of polyester staple fibre and viscose staple fibre being produced in India monthly at present;

(b) whether there has been a growing demand to allow import of viscose staple fibre to bring the price of imported fibre at par with that of indigenous one;

(c) the details of the manufacturers of viscose staple fibre in the country;

(d) whether the prices of dyed viscose fibre have been increased recently; and,

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) On an average, 11042 Tonnes of polyester staple fibre and 13043 Tonnes of viscose staple fibre per month was produced during 1991-92.

(b) In order to ensure adequate availability of viscose staple fibre to the mills at reasonable prices the government has not imposed any restriction on import of this item.

(c) There are, at present 2 manufactur-

ers of viscose staple South India Viscose Ltd.

(d) and (e). The price of this fibre is governed by market forces. During the last 6 months there has been only a marginal increase of Re. 1.00 per kg. in the price of viscose staple fibre (block dyed).

Import of Diesel.

9707. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of diesel again likely to be canalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). A Public Notice No. 9-ITC (PN)/92-97 was issued on 20. 4. 1992 by the CCI&E canalising the import of High Speed Diesel Oil (HSD) through the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. A formal amendment to the Export and Import Policy will be made by the Government and issued separately.

Admission In Chartered Accountancy

9708. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of LAW, COMPANY JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether qualifications for admission to Chartered Accountancy course have been altered from the current academic Year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF

PARLIAMENTARY DESTATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS(SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). A candidate for the Chartered Accountancy Course is required to register as an articled clerk under a Chartered Accountant. The qualifications for such registration have been amended recently to enable students who have passed senior Secondary School Examination to join the Chartered Accountancy Course by enrolling for the newly introduced Foundation Course. Such students after clearing the Foundation Course Examination conducted by the Institute become eligible to join Articleship for the professional course of Chartered Accountancy. Registration for the Foundation Course has started with effect from 7.5.1992. Prior to the revision of the regulations, only a graduate who had either cleared the Entrance Examination conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India or was exempted from passing the Entrance Examination on account of having secured a minimum of 50% of total marks with Accountancy, Auditing, Mercantile or Commercial Laws as subjects in the case of Commerce graduates and a minimum of 55% of the total marks in the case of other graduates who could register themselves as articled clerks. The modified regulations also exempt Commerce graduates with Accountancy, Auditing, Mercantile and Commercial Laws securing in the aggregate, a minimum of 50% of the total marks in the examination or other graduates other than Commerce graduates who have passed the graduation examination with Mathematics as one of the subjects securing in the aggregate, a minimum of 60% of the total marks in the examination or graduates other than Commerce graduates who have passed the graduation examination with subjects other than Mathematics securing in the aggregate a minimum of 55% of the total marks in the examination, from passing the Foundation Course examination. These graduates are permittees to register them-

selves as articled/audit clerks to receive practical training prescribed under the regulations.

Visit of High Level Team From Japan

9709. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level team from Japan has visited the country to identify projects which are likely to qualify for the quick-dispersing assistance to India;

(b) if so, the projects identified by the team and the quantum of assistance likely to be provided to those projects;

(c) whether any project of Andhra Pradesh has qualified for the assistance; and

(d) the time by which the amount is likely to be provided to India for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) A Japanese Government mission led by a Director in the Loan Aid Division of their Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India during April 1992 to discuss the 1992-93 OECF aid package.

(b) The mission shortlisted 12 projects, including a request for fast disbursing assistance from out of the long list of proposals submitted by Government of India for further study and discussion. During the discussions, Government of India requested the Government of Japan for sizeable increase in the quantum of aid as compared to last years also for channelling a large proportion of it in the form of fast disbursing assistance.

(c) The tranche aid for Srisaïlam Hydro Electric Project and the Chilarkaluripet-Vijayawada section of NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh have been short listed by the mission for detailed discussions. These proposals, however, do not fall in the category of fast disbursing assistance.

(d) the decision of the Government of Japan will be announced during Aid, India Consortium meeting to be held in June, 1992.

Training Schools for Smugglers In Asian Countries

9710. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any information regarding training schools for smugglers in a number of Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some recently arrested smugglers have confessed to have been trained in some of these schools; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to remedy the situation?

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

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr.

Speaker, Sir, what happened to my privilege notice ?

MR. SPEAKER: I now call Dr. Amri Lal Kalidas Patel to speak.

DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the shortage of drinking-water, foodgrains and fodder has so far been the main complaints from the drought-hit areas of Gujarat. But Gujarat and particularly Mehsana District is facing a peculiar problem, that is, the shortage of currency notes. This shortage has created hurdles for the trade, commerce and for payment of labour wages. This is because of the fact that the SBI is not giving currency notes to Cooperatives and the Scheduled Banks. During the normal days, they do not accept the small denomination notes. This has created problems. I therefore request the hon. Finance Minister to direct the SBI to give currency notes freely to Mehsana District.

Sir, for example, the Mehsana District Cooperative Bank has deposited more than Rs. 125 crores in SBI. Last week they wanted to draw only Rs. 7 crores and they could not get it. Because of that, the farmers are suffering.

In this connection, I request the hon. Finance Minister to do the needful immediately.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State Government of Orissa has been very much indifferent and unfair to my Parliamentary constituency, Phulbani. It has shown step-motherly treatment by excluding Phulbani from being recommended for the construction of Kharda-Bolangir line via Phulbani railway-line. Last year, that is, 1991, the State Government has sent the proposal to the Government of India in which Phulbani has been excluded. So, I would like to request Shri, C.K. Jaffer Sharief, the Minister of Railways to give priority to this. Further, he has already inaugurated a function at Kharda Division for the

purpose of conducting a survey of the railway-line, that is, the Kharda-Bolangir line via Phulbani Railway-line. I am making this request because Phulbani District is a backward and tribal District. Also, there is no industry. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that priority should be given to include the Phulbani District in the Railway Project of Kharda-Bolangir line via Phulbani.

Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani): Sir, you are aware the House is going to adjourn very soon and only two working-days are left. You are also aware that a Delegation of NIC and Members of Parliament had gone to Ayodhya last month on the 7th and that Delegation submitted a report to the Home Minister on the 27th of last month. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government and demand that keeping in view the opinion of the entire House the report should be placed on the Table of the House. Further, before the House adjourns, the matter should be discussed in Parliament. This report should be discussed in Parliament. It is very important. Effort has to be made to see that it is discussed in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: This matter was discussed and we wanted to know from the Home Ministry whether this is going to be discussed on the floor of the House. What was told to me by the Home Minister was this is exactly the point on which the Committee had gone there and made a report—there is a Contempt proceedings pending in the Court. He wanted to know from me whether this can be discussed or not.

We tried to solve this problem. And I was told that on 8th, the Supreme Court or High Court, was going to hear the contempt proceedings. And if the same thing is involved in it, we rather that we should not take it up, at least, upto 8th. And after the decision is given, within two days time, we can decide as to what is to be done.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): It is a matter that...

MR. SPEAKER: I just explained it to you.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, I entirely agree with you. In view of this contempt proceedings pending in the Supreme Court or High Court, one can understand that the issue should not be discussed on the floor of the House. But it does not bar the presentation of the report on the Table of the House. After a long discussion, on the basis of consensus of this House, it was decided that a Parliamentarians Committee along with the National Integration Council's Sub-Committee should go and visit the spot. Now that report has been submitted. Now the attitude which the U.P. Government is taking is that they are openly coming out, almost every week in the press, that they do not attach any importance to that Committee's report they will not cooperate with that Committees. They did not fully cooperate in giving the necessary papers and map which the Committee wanted to know.

Therefore, what I am requesting is that, today is 8th and may be the Supreme Court or High Court will take a view. You should direct the Home Minister to place the report on the Table of the House, in case the House decides to discuss it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: You can say what you want to say.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Their allegations are politically motivated.....(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: I am not levelling any charges, I am stating the facts.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): A false propaganda is being carried out. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, the report had to be submitted, otherwise everything becomes a mockery. We want the report to be placed on the Table of the House. Otherwise, the Parliament becomes meaningless.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, that day Vajpayeeji had said that they were prepared for a discussion. Let their report come and our report should also come and the entire decision should be taken according to those...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If any statement comes and it is refuted by one member then it is enough. You have done that.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this house should not be used to make any allegation against any party. But this is being done repeatedly...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right you have refuted it. This is enough. You are complicating it, without any purpose. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, on this issue, kindly give me one minute.

SHRICHANDRAJEET YADAV: Therefore, my request is that let the report be placed on the Table of the House. And in the light of the judgement of the Supreme Court, if necessary, we discuss it either on 10th or on 11th. Therefore, let the report be placed on the Table of the House. That is my demand. And I am asking for the report to be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir there was a meeting of the Leaders of various parties and in which it was decided that the Government will present the report and as far as I remember even the leader of the Opposition was not against it and it was the opinion that the report should be presented.

SHRI LAL KRISHNA ADVANI (Gandhinagar): I said at that time that

[English]

"If it should be laid on the Table, then both reports should be laid. Normally, it is not a Parliamentary Committee, and, therefore, it cannot be laid."

It was agreed that both will be circulated.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I had put one condition, but I said that they were not against the laying of this report.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: We had an objection regarding holding a discussion on it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, both the committees had given their reports in March and these have not been on the Table till now. It was a sponsored committee from the Government side. The report has come. The home minister has no objection to it. On that day, we had said that this should be decided as to how a discussion will take place on it, or should there be no discussion at all. But when the report has come and its gist has been published in all the newspapers, we do not know whether that gist is right or wrong, authentic or not authentic. In such circumstances.....

MR. SPEAKER: Paswanji, if you listen to me then there will be no need to ask all that

whatever you are asking. They have told me that requisite number of copies are being made and are being kept in the library also. These copies are being sent to all the members also.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What is the difficulty in presenting it here.

MR. SPEAKER: After that, if it is necessary it can be presented here as well after 8th of this month.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: When this report can be kept in the library, then what is the difficulty in laying it on the table of the House, we are not able to understand this. What objection does the Government have in laying that report here on the table?

MR. SPEAKER: The Report is being sent to all the members as well.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAK KHURANA: Mr. Speaker Sir, you allow to hold a discussion, but such a thing should not happen. You should gest both the report discussed over here. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may kindly sit down. I have not allowed you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When I am on my legs you may sit down. All the time you do like that. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): There is no doubt that the Home Minister has offered to place it in the Library. It must be placed here, on the Table of the house also. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: After 8th May, we will see, what is to be done.

(Interruptions)

SHRIBASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why can this report not be placed on the Table of the House? The Government should clarify this.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have your portetion and I would like to make a request regarding one of our colleagues. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sahi, I am not allowing this. Please take your seat. This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why can this report not be placed on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Please sit down. Shri Acharia. All the time you are doing like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translations]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you that I am not allowing anyone to say anything about any lady whether she belongs to this House or is an outsider and if she does not come within the purview of Governmental activities, then I would not like to say anything about her. I shall made sure that the floor of this house is not used for such a purpose. It is my request to you not to raise this kind of a matter here.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you can understand this. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Parliamentary Affairs Minister clarify as to why this cannot be placed on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: After 8th May, we will see, what is to be done.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to draw your attention to a very big incident...*(Interruptions)*...

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA (Seoni): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say something on this subject...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This question is not related to any lady...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: The Cariappa Marg in the Varanasi cantonment area, which was a thoroughfare earlier has been closed for General public. This path has been there since the Vedic period...*(Interruptions)*...*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. Madam, you should sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS (Mysore): They are not worried about the safety of our colleague, a lady Member of this House. But, we are worried about her safety.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not necessary. It can necessary. It can be said against anybody. It should not be allowed like this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: This parts has been there not only since Vedic times, but since ages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not as if any lady will get insulted merely by your saying so. You try to understand this delicate matter, nobody knows it better than you.

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why don't you listen to me *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I know it, as you have come and tole me in my office what you are going to say, but I am not allowing you to raise it. You should listen to me... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, why are you so serious at the fag end of the session.

MR. SPEAKER: If anything is said about you, I must get serious.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I am talking about Cariappa Marg in Varanasi. This road has been there since the Vedic times. In the 'Kashi' chapter of the 'Brahma Purana', this road has been known and has been famous as Panchkosi and Antargrahi. Even today, every year, every day tow-there lakh people go through this road and they fulfill their religious rituals. Besides this, those people who come to Kashi from the various parts of the country, travel through this route and fulfill their religious ceremonies.

Sir, a temple of the goddess Phoolshwari is situated here. It is the only temple of its kind in Uttar Pradesh. There is a pond. There goes a saying about the pond that if a man takes a bath in this pond, his skin diseases like leprosy are cured. Thousands of people come here to have a darshan. People from foreign countries like Mauritius,

Thailand, England come here and get rid of their skin-diseases.

Sir, it is a matter of great sorrow that under the instructions of the Ministry of Defence or somebody else this pond also has been covered up. There was a holy site of Hindus where thousands of people visited through this path. There is a holy shrine of Muslims, the tomb of Kharbooja Shaheed Nasaruddin Shaheed Shaheb where thousands of Muslim brethren pay visit. They pass this way and offer their prayers.

Sir, Fulwaria, Imaliadhad, Badauli, Døendayalpur, Barthara, Kotwa and other villages are located on this route. Probably in 1900 this was declared a military area. The Britishes also attached importance to this route and Religious activities were never obstructed. In British time the Hindus, Muslims and all others used to pass through this route freely. During the First World war in 1914, the Second World War in 1945 and Indo-Pak war in 1965 the most dangerous weapons were kept here. Nobody had any objection. The military men and officers never closed this route. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I mean to say is that extremely fatal arms were used to be kept here and today the military people say that there will be a breach of confidence so they will not allow four-wheelers to pass through here. They say that they will allow rickshaws, tempos, bicycles but not cars. They will not allow cars because it will endanger their secrecy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, A Brigadier who is posted there at present keeps this path closed whenever he is present there. Sir, I would like to inform you that when late Shri Rajnarayan was the Minister of Health he was prevented from going by this path. Not only that, just four days back, hon. Defence Minister ordered to pen this path immediately. In spite of his orders the local Brigadier is not opening the path. The local people are being badly treated by him.

Sir, nearly twenty lakh people of Banaras are very much worried due to it. Through you, I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Defence to issue orders again and stern action should be taken against the Brigadier if he is not obeying the orders of the Ministry of Defence.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, I would like to give a chance to many hon. Members. Now, let us see how it is possible.

12.28 hrs.

RE: MISUSE OF PUBLIC FUNDS BY CERTAIN BANKS

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent turmoil in country's share market has been mentioned in the House. It has also been mentioned as to how a notorious shar-broker of Bombay has played a Successful trick with the country's entire Banking system. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir the incident of the 5th May is a novel thing in the history of banking. All of us know that the National Housing Bank is a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India and the Life Insurance Corporation in which a Japanese agency is also associated. Its subscribed capital is Rs. 200 crore, but its authorised capital is Rs. 1000 crore. An unusual incident took place on 5th May 1992. The National Housing Bank had to deposit Rs. 30 crore in the Mutual Fund of the Canara Bank. But the National Housing Bank could not deposit the amount in the Bank. It turned into a defaulter. Such a situation has never been there previously. The money could not be deposited because the National Housing Bank settled a bargain of Rs. 340 crore with that very stock-broker and that amount was blocked there. The Bank had no additional money. An amount of Rs. 30 crore could not be deposited. Mr.

Speaker, Sir, what comments are being passed on it?

[English]

"According to sources of National Housing Bank, it has caused deep embarrassment in the Reserve Bank of India since this is probably the first time that the subsidiary bank of the Central Bank has defaulted."

[Translation]

The subsidiary bank of the Central Bank could not deposit Rs. 30 crore because there is bungling in the Bank. The Bank is linked with that broker. It is a serious case. That day the hon. Minister of Finance said that investigation will be made into it, but the investigation will last three months. It is impossible to say what will happen in the share market and the banking system in three months. There should be immediate investigation. The outcome of this investigation should come forward within 24 or 48 hours and the most stringent action should be taken in this case.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, liberalisation does not mean to give concessions to the brokers (*Interruptions*)... If it is going on, it is wrong. Perhaps you will take advantage of it and oppose liberalisation. I am not opposing.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur): It is liberalisation for the brokers.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It cannot be liberalisation for brokers. There is liberalisation in America, but if somebody commits such crime in the banking system, he is penalised. Fine upto crores of rupees is imposed on him. The hon. Minister of Finance has sought three months, time. I am in favour of an early investigation. The results should follow immediately and such black sheep should not be given any opportunity to rob those people.

SHRIGEOGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice to you on this issue. Besides, supporting the points raised by Atalji, I also take exception to this fact that while Finance Bill was being discussed here the day before yesterday, I had put up all these issues before the House. I also urged the hon. Minister of Finance to give some concrete facts and information which he had about culprits, and Bank officials. I repeatedly said that he had information. Every day we are getting information from the sources outside the House. We get information that he has the knowledge and we are saying it inside and outside the House. Even then, if no action is taken in this regard, I feel very sorry to say that we are doing great injustice against those people who are still fooling themselves by investing money in shares which you call the stock market boom.

Today is the 8th of May. I would like to quote a sentence from the article about share-boom published in the "Fortune" just for the information of the House. It says that the name of the so-called institution is

[English]

Morgan Stanley Investment.

"Another 'bust' candidate is India."

[Translation]

This has been written about stock market.

[English]

"...where the stock market has doubled since the beginning of the year.

We are now only in the fifth month of the year.

"...when the Government instituted major economic reforms.

[Translation]

It means that if it is not the responsibility

of the Government, at least it is a liability on it.

[English]

Says Morgan Stanley Investment Strategist, Barton Biggs:

"It is getting towards bubble proportions, with the 20 biggest stocks selling at 50 times earnings. People are buying stocks because of their names rather than their valuations..."

For example, Tata Iron & Steel, which the investors have driven upto 80 times the earnings since Government decontrolled steel prices. Morgan Stanley's India expert, Vinod Sethi warns:

"Import duties on foreign steel are also coming down and international prices are low, plus the company makes poor quality steel."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the position. In spite of all these scandals, Shri Atal ji supports the liberalisation policy adopted by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given you a notice this morning. I was late by two minutes due to traffic jam. My notice has reached your office at two minutes past ten. I have understood the point. So, I gave this notice. The State Bank of India scandal is not limited to Rs. 620 crore only. The Bank had paid sum of Rs. 620 crore to a broker. It paid Rs. 200 crore to another broker called Pandeya, a mention of whose name I made yesterday. I am making this submission with great distress. This scam involves Rs. 2000 crore or Rs. 3000 crore. The Government is conducting an enquiry by people who are themselves involved in it. Not only the Ministry of Finance, but also the Reserve Bank of India and even the entire banking system is opposing the enquiry to be conducted by the

CBI. They want to conduct the enquiry under their own supervision. Mr Speaker, Sir, this is your responsibility. I mean the House is responsible to take a decision in this regard... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very thankful to you. You are making me omnipotent.

[Translation]

SHRI GEROGE FERNANDES: Sir, when the matter is raised here the Government does not give any reply to it. The hon. finance Minister had himself been present all through the debates. When I have given concrete information to the House he did not utter a single word except that

[English]

"We will take effective action."

[Translation]

Today I am making this allegation because neither the officials of the Finance Ministry, nor the Government is prepared to hold the enquiry by the CBI. The case of individual Ministers is different. I know there are Ministers who individually, are in favour of an enquiry by the CBI but the Government is not in its favour. The Reserve Bank of India and the Banking sector are also not prepared for it. The National Housing Bank had made a promise to construct houses for the rural poor but the Government entrusted this work to Shri Pherwani whose records are well known to the world. He immediately invested that money in 'satta bazar.' Now that money is lost. Banker's receipt worth Rs. thirty crore have not been honoured. It is a fact well-known not only in Bombay but also all over the country.

[English]

bankers, receipts are not even worth the piece of paper on which they are written because they are all bogus receipts. I ask the

Finance Minister. Is it or is it not a fact that your bankers' receipts are not worth the piece of paper on which they are issued?

[Translation]

The hon. Finance Minister is present here. I would like to seek a reply from him.

[English]

Is he not aware of it? Still he is not talking any steps.

[Translation]

The Government is still allowing that big bull to indulge in this dirty game. He is doing it every day. I was very distressed. That is why I said that it is the responsibility of the House. Poor man's money is being drained out from banks and misappropriated. Only two days are left for the session to end. A meeting of the officers of the banking sector and the Chairmen has been convened for the 16th. You may please ask the hon. Finance Minister that if possible the should make a statement in the House in this regard today. If it is not possible today, then it should come on Monday. Now I seek your permission to raise the Bofors issue.

MR. SPEAKER: How many matters will you raise?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This is not a different issue. I am raising the issue today which was under discussion yesterday...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today Shri Chandrajeet or somebody else said just now that it is your responsibility. I would like to know from you as to who should be asked what is happenings in the country. When these policies were being framed we had warned that these will have disastrous consequences. I had pointed out that policies are being implemented at the instance of external forces and the Government of India does not follow the policies which are conducive to the

circumstances of the country. Evil effects have started emerging within three months. Let Shri Atalji support the liberalisation policy. But the dangers apprehended at that time have now reached a point where bungling of thousand of crores of rupees is taking place. The Government says to investigate the matter in three months. Why should the enquiry take three months? To understand this, on need not be an economist. Bank accounts are made upto date everyday and one can have information about these accounts daily. It is even said that this bungling has been going on for last six months or one year. If the rise and fall in share prices in Stock Market has taken place during the last three months, it means that the bungling took place in three months. They require three months to investigate the matter, I am not doubting the intentions of the Government, but I am at a loss to understand if Shri Atalji means it to be liberalisation. Hon. Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister, I am not against corrupt people as Shri George Fernandes is. I am against selling the country. In corruption, the country may, at best, suffer a loss of rupees fifty, or hundred crores. But here the country is being sold. I am making this allegation deliberately with full responsibility. It seems that a conspiracy has been hatched to sell this country and that conspiracy is being exposed today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, he has used the words that "the Government is entering into a conspiracy". That is highly objectionable.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I am again saying that the Government is conspiring to sell away the interests of this country.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this irresponsible statement is coming from a responsible Leader.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bansal, I will give you a chance to refute it, if you want.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I am just saying that a very irresponsible statement is coming from the responsible Leader.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Where are those documents? Where are those books? Why are they not sealed? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I speak in Hindi only. Those who do not understand Hindi will have to understand it, otherwise they cannot understand anything about the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it is not a fact, why is the Government silent? I would apologise if my statement proves to be wrong or hurts anyone. They do not at all feel concerned when scams worth crores of rupees is taking place. The hon. Finance Minister should say why three months are required to investigate the matter. You have been in the Government for quite sometime. Should the Government take three month's time to verify such a matter? In my opinion men of Economic Intelligence or the CBI can give a report on this in twenty four hours. I would like to know as to why the Government is maintaining silence over this question? Is not there any conspiracy behind all this?

[*English*]

If there is no conspiracy behind the whole affair, then why the Government is not coming out with the facts and arrest these persons who are responsible for these things?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Where are the books and records? This is very important. Serious charges are being made on the floor of the House and there is no response from the Government except some sort of an assurance of an inquiry which will take three months. What is happening to the books and the records? What about the persons? Has any case been

lodged uptill now? These are very very serious matters. If those books and documents remain in the custody of these people, Sir, what will be the sanctity of the inquiry also? Crores and crores of rupees are involved. Outsiders are involved in the name of liberalisation which is going on. Therefore, these are serious matters and we expect that immediate response should come from the Government on these matters. We cannot just wait indefinitely.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, on this point, I have given a notice.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, again and again the C&AG has reported that their bank accounts are not reconciled for two to three years.

MR. SPEAKER: Nirmalji, I will call you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, on that the C&AG has made severe strictures. That Vajpayeeji knows. Therefore, we demanded that the bank accounts be made transparent and secrecy clauses be eliminated. They are always responding negatively. Let them answer all these questions.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We have been told that a large number of ex-officials of several banks and the financial institutions are on the Board of Directors of these industries and organisations run by the big bulls. They have been operating in the State Bank of India, the NHB etc.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They are not giving any money for the purpose of rural housing.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, we on this side of the House are equally concerned. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We will know how they are responding.

SHRI A. CHALES: We are equally concerned about what has happened. But

one unfortunate thing is, that on every issue the Opposition is trying to give a message that we are selling out the country. That is rather unfortunate.

AN. NON. MEMBER: You prove it through your actions.

SHRI A. CHARLES: This House is not meant for the Opposition alone. Every day, they are trying to hijack the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let me regulate. Shri Charles, you are a very good parliamentarian. They have made very valid points. You validly reply to them. Do not charge them like this.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I understand. I am one of the Members who participated in the discussion on the SEBI Bill. It is on record, that we suggested, we recommended that the shareholders should be protected. That is our interest. I something wrong has happened, it should be found out who exactly is responsible and whether some officers are involved. The word 'conspiracy' is unfortunate. Anyway, we have to see what happened and want an impartial inquiry to be conducted. If anybody has done something wrong purposefully or with negligence, or some mistake is committed, it is a wrong thing. We condemn the whole matter. We also want an impartial inquiry to be conducted and what exactly has happened, everything, has to be brought out. But I must say that the whole destabilisation has started one morning when we engaged the Fairfax. Our friend, Shri Chatterjee then criticised it. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): He is telling something. Please listen to him.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I am totally supporting all actions to find out the truth and to book the culprits and to start suitable action. The interests of the shareholders should be protected. We cannot imagine how one bank has given so many crores of rupees. We have to understand the truth and what exactly has happened. The official should be punished and we are for that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): How much time does the Government take to find out the truth?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, one of the members of the Government is trying to reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): A number of issues have been raised. (*Interruptions*) Why do you listen? God has given us two ears to listen. We never listen. That is the problem. (*Interruptions*) A number of issues have been raised. I am grateful to Shri Vajpayee for pointing out that God has given us two ears and one mouth.

I have great respect for Shri Chandra Shekhar. In fact, he holds me in affection and I have great respect for him. But I think that the basic differences in ideology and approach cannot be taken to the extent of charging people with insincerity and conspiracy. Let us acknowledge one thing. There are differences between the Congress Party and the Congress Party's approach to economic issues and the Left Parties. There are differences between us and I think some aspects of what Shri Chandra Shekhar believes. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): You can give your comments later on.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have said, on an earlier occasion, when briefly replied to the Commerce Ministry's demands, I said that, despite these differences I believe that

there is also as consensus on some aspects of policy and I think that there is a consensus among the major political parties including, what I humorously referred to as responsible sections of the Janata Dal, on some aspects of the policy. But the point is, there is no point in carrying these differences to an extent when you say that the Government is selling out this country. I recall what Shri Vajpayee had said a couple of weeks ago. He said that this country is too big, the people of this country are too proud, and too strong for anyone to sell out this country to anyone.

I do not think that anybody can sell this country. (*Interruptions*) I most sincerely and humbly request Shri Chandra Shekhar not to carry these ideological and policy differences to a point where he will charge that the Government is selling out the country.

Sir, on this specific issue, I recall what the Finance Minister had said in this House. I have just tried to understand exactly what he said. I am told, what he said was that the RBI being the Central Bank must first inquire into this matter. And the RBI has been asked to inquire into this matter. The RBI is doing so. We expect the facts to be found out by the RBI ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is it a regular feature? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I cannot give you the details.

If the RBI finds facts which lead to further inferences and further action to be taken, appropriate agencies will be asked to look into this matter.

On the question of what is happening in the stock market, Sir, we are all aware of what is happening in the stock market. In fact in Bombay, I think, about three or four weeks ago, I said that this is very irrational behavior. This is one of the reasons why, we think, that the stock market, require our to be regulated. This is one of the reasons why, I think, SEBI is being strengthened. I think, a Bill has been passed. But to say that this

liberalisation has a cause and effect betrays a poor understanding of economics and a poorer understanding of the situation in which we are finding ourselves. I think, what we have done is correct. Since last July, our policies have retrieved this country from the brink of an economic catastrophe. Sixteen months of non-Congress Government left this country on the verge of default. We have retrieved this country from the brink of an economic catastrophe and there is growth today ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Liberalisation does not help. We have fed up with your economics ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You may be fed up with the country. The country was fed up with what you did. The country was fed up with what your ideology did throughout the world. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, he is giving a lecture on their economy. Here specific issue has been raised and he is giving a lecture ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The ideology which Shri Somnath Chatterjee wants to espouse has been rejected in every part of the world. An there is no reason why we should accept this.

I have great respect for Chandra Shekharji. I think, many aspects of Chandra Shekharji's policies are correct. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is this an answer to the issue that has been raised here?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: In fact I still remember Chandra Shekharji's eloquent reply to the Motion of Confidence, which he moved, where he laid down some elements, which every body should accept. Sir, there are differences? But to take these differences to a point to say that the country is being sold out by liberalisation, we reject that charge. Sir, you will see that this kind of

opposition comes from a very narrow segment of this House. And that narrow segment of this House has a difference with us. We acknowledge that difference. But we do not charge them with conspiracy and equally they should not charge us with conspiracy.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing personal in it. I have been telling from the very beginning - I would agree with my friend, Shri Chidambaram, for whom I have great respect - that we see diametrically in the opposite direction. He thinks that he has been able to revive the country from the economic chaos. I think, he has landed the country in a position where every week, three times we are getting the threat from a country which considers that they are determining the destiny of the country. This has never happened in the history of India nor in the history of any nation in the world. This is why, selling away the interest does not mean that you are selling the furniture of Parliament House. The country is being threatened, not by Mr. George Bush, not by Mr. Baker, but by an Under Secretary and you are not able to answer. I shall request, Mr. Speaker, Sir, my GURU, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, that he should also understand where is that great country, for which he has the great pride that this country cannot be sold away by anybody. Countries are not sold away in furniture; in assets, in factories, but the country's self-respect is sold away and that has been ably achieved by my friend's party and the Government, not by you personally or by any one of you during the last three or four months. This is the point. I can understand the differences on economic policy. I can understand your liberalisation taking the country to a point from where we cannot return. But, this question involves misappropriation of funds by the Government bank of thousand crores of rupees. (*Interruptions*) Why these officers should be protected? I know the rules that RBI should look into it; that somebody will go from here then only CBI will come. It means by that time everything will be hushed up I shall request, my friend, Mr. Chidambaram that they should take up this matter

urgently. They should not go into all these technicalities. Technicalities do not make a nation nor mar a nation. You are shattering the will power of this country and you are shattering the hope in this Government. People have apprehensions all around. If you do not answer these questions squarely in Parliament, you do not come clean about these officers who are guilty. If you say that they are not part of the Government, then I say that the Government is not selling away the country, but these officers are selling away the country. In my understanding of Parliamentary Democracy, if the officers are selling away the Country and the Ministers are keeping quiet, I am well within my right that the Government is selling away the country. This is why I have said and I did not mean anything personal. I have great affection and regard for you. But, again I say that you people are guilty of dereliction of duty, if you are not doing this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I agree entirely with the last part of he observation of the hon. Member, Shri Chandra Shekhar. (*Interruptions*). Please listen. I assure this House on behalf of the Government that no officer will be protected. The Government will take action against any officer howsoever high he may be. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI TARIYT BARAN TOPDAR (Barackpore): Mr. Speaker ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He has no business to shout like that. He does not understand the the responsibility of a Member of Parliament. He is not only rude to me but he is rude to the whole House. We are not dogs and cats here. He has no business to shout like that. He must be told how to behave (*Interruptions*). I have great respect for Shri Chandra Shekharji. We endorse that last part. There will be acted upon. If any officer is found guilty, action will be taken and you will find that Government taken action against them. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: The

question is whether you will order an investigation or not.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one thing after hearing Shri Chidambaram. The whole House is of the opinion that R.B.I. is interested in a cover up. Through you I would like to remind the congressmen of a historical event in this House which may perhaps help them in understanding the gravity of the present situation... (*Interruptions*)

When Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India the Mundhra Scandal was exposed by Late Shri Firoze Gandhi who belong to congress and was a Member of this House. But this scandal exposed by Shri George Fernandes is far grave than that. Though the scandal which was exposed by late Shri Firoze Gandhi did not involve crores of rupees, but even then the Prime Minister had agreed with Shri Firoze Gandhi and constituted a Commission headed by most illustrious judge justice Chagla, who was later a Member of this House and also a Minister. You might be aware that because of the findings of the Chagla Commission, a leader of stature like Shri Krishnamachari had to resign from the Cabinet. Shri Chidambaram and other Minister are present here, I would therefore like to submit that there should be a judicial enquiry into this matter by a commission which should be assisted by C.B.I. It is only then you will come to know the sincerity of what is being said by Shri Chidambaram otherwise it has no sincerity. I would like to conclude with this last sentence. Our country has become a colony without occupation. Earlier it was under the occupation of East India company, and now it is under the dominance of International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This is the only difference.

[*English*]

There is no occupation but we have been reduced to a colony by the acts of commission and omission of this Ruling Party.

13.00 hrs

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, those who are responsible for this misappropriation of money have been entrusted with the task of inquiry. Then what will be the fate of the inquiry?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kodikkunil Suresh

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, in Kerala at Traivandrum, one of the public undertaking companies, that is, Hindustan Latex, which comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has totally regretted promotions and other facilities to SC/ST employees. The employees belonging to SC/ST categories had started relay *satyagraha* in front of the Hindustan Latex one months before.

There are five hundreds SC/ST employees working in that company. The management of the company has not invited the agitated employees and discussed their serious and important issues so far. I request the Government, through you, that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should intervene and give proper directions to the management of the company to settle their problems at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vandayar. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRINKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Let me make a submission, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Let others also speak... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR (Thanjavur): Sir, in Tanjore, there is a Railway Colony Middle School functioning for the last thirty five years. This school caters to the need of 309 boys and 189 girls. There are nearly fifteen to twenty teachers. The Railway authorities, without rhyme or reason, have abruptly asked them to vacate the

school before 30th April, 1992. In the interest of the Tanjore Railway Employees this school should be allowed to continue without prejudice. The Railway Minister should take immediate action for the survival of the school without any delay.

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Sir, on 27th April, 1992, in Parakasam District of Andhra Pradesh in Chimakurth village, three *Dalit* women were allegedly raped and murdered and their bodies were found in the premises of Pallava Grante Company's water pond. The deceased are: (i) B. Ramalamma, aged thirty; (ii) Ravura Anjamma, aged twenty-three; and (iii) Padhulayamma, Aged fourteen.

The Andhra Pradesh Police have so far not arrested the accuses involved in this crime and also not given any proper financial assistance to the victimised families. This is not only one incident happened against the *Dalits* in the State of Andhra Pradesh, openly these atrocities are being committed on SC/ST people due to the failure of law and order machinery.

Through you, Sir, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home minister, Government of India, to direct the Government of Andhra Pradesh to appoint judicial enquiry and also entrust the case to the CBI/CID and trial this offence in the Special Court. I also request the hon. Prime Minister to grant financial assistance of Rs. five lakhs to each deceased family from the Prime Minister's Fund.

[*Translation*]

SHRI D.J. TANDEL (Daman & Diu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that when the fishermen of Gujarat, Daman & Diu go into the sea to catch fish, they are arrested by the Pakistani police and are sent to jail as the sea border line between India and Pakistan has not been decided so far. Similarly, we also arrest the Pakistani fishermen. This all has been going on for the last eight to ten years. I had raised this issue in the Ninth Lok Sabha also. I have also raised it day before

yesterday and reported several times to the Ministry that due to the lack of a sea border line these incidents happen repeatedly. But the Government is taking no steps in this regard. Even though our fishermen have not committed any crime they are forced to languish in jails for two years. As a result our fishing business has become sick. The agro-based industries have also become sick. I would like to inform the House that on 24th January the Pakistani coast guards caught the Indian fishermen. Our national flag was hoisting on that boat. They brought it down and took it on their boat. They played a cassette and forced our fishermen and seamen (Khalasi) to dance. The fishermen of Gujarat and Daman-Diu and other organisations reported this matter and made numerous representations in this regard but no step has been taken by the Government so far.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I demand from the Government that the sea borderline should be decided immediately or an arrangement should be made which can stop both the Pakistani and Indian Fishermen from violating the border. I demand an immediate action from the hon. Minister in this regard.

Secondly, I have received many Letters from my constituency wherein it has been stated that fishermen of Daman and Gujarat were registered at Umargaon in Balsad district of Gujarat for last many years. But a new order has been issued recently that the registration would be done at Verawal in Saurashtra which is 1000 Kms. away. How is it possible for these fishermen to reach there? These bureaucrats issue orders while sitting in air-conditioned rooms. They have little knowledge of the area or the practical difficulties. The hon. Minister of Surface Transport is present here, and he should therefore take steps to improve the situation by revoking this order and maintaining status quo.

SHRI VISHWANTAH SHASTRI (Gazipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a grave crisis of petrol and diesel has hit Eastern Uttar

Pradesh. This crisis can be guessed by the fact that while daily average consumption of diesel in this region is more than 60 to 70 thousand kiloliters, the daily supply is only 12 thousand kilolitres at present. The supply of electricity in this region is being done only for name sake since last one and a half month. In many district headquarters of this region electricity is not supplied for several hours at a stretched. Sometimes Gazipur city which falls in my constituency faces black out for 8 to 10 hours. On the one hand the power supply, is erratic whereas on the other hand there is crisis of petrol and diesel which has made the farmers desperate. The crops have not been threshed as most of the threshers have closed down because of diesel crisis. Similarly, most of the pump sets have become useless. Thus agriculture has been affected. Diesel operated passenger vehicles have also been affected.

I, therefore, demand that immediate steps be taken to tackle the diesel and petrol crisis in Eastern U.P, particularly in Gazipur district and ensure the sufficient supply of diesel in that region so that the farming activity is not hampered in any way.

[English]

SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY (Adilabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than 1,000 villages in my constituency in Adilabad district are affected by severe drought. People are not getting even drinking water, not to talk of water for irrigation. Certain borewells and open wells are already identified and the list is submitted to the Government of India and pending for the last one year. But, so far, not a single paisa has been sanctioned for the borewells. The cattle and domestic animals are already dying of starvation. Our Zilla Praja Parishads and the Mandal Praja Parishads have already passed unanimous resolutions urging the State Government and the Central Government to come out with massive assistance and programmes for drought relief activities in our area. There is no work for labour for the last one year due to drought situation. Some labourers are migrating to neighbouring State- Maharashtra-

to earn their livelihood and to save themselves from starvation and death. Our district is inhabited mostly by tribals and Scheduled Castes and backward people and they are all suffering because of the neglect of the Government.

I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture, through you, to immediately release Rs. 10 crores for the drought relief programmes like Food for Work programmes etc. to save the starving masses from further sufferings. I also request the Government of India to release Rs. 5 crores immediately for the purpose of sinking bore wells and other wells for drinking water to our people who are mostly tribals and Scheduled caste and backward classes.

I urge upon the Government of India to swing into action immediately and to provide funds for the drought relief works.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise a subject of India's most famous wetland, which is internationally famous and which has been made into that of national importance. I refer to Chilka lake. It is the largest lagoon in South Asia and it is the umpire ecosystem and the breeding ground for migratory and resident birds. Apart from that, one lakh of fishermen-folk families numbering half-a-million draw their sustenance from this Chilka lake water-body. Sir, there is a move by the State Government to widen the entrance of the sea water into Chilka lake to ensure that boats can come into a place near Magarmukh.

Sir, deepening and widening of this channel will not only affect the carrying capacity and productivity of this lagoon because some project for prawn cultivation is going to come up in that area. This will affect half-a-million fishermen who are drawing their sustenance and their avocation from that. Apart from that, those dealing with the business of aqua-culture will be affected. Already there are agitations by the fishermenfolk and before an impact analysis on ecology and environment is done by an expert

body, this internationally and nationally important wasteland should not be allowed to be destroyed by the State Government and since Environment is a Concurrent subject, through you, Sir, I would like to move the Government of India to put a stop to this project before an impact analysis on the ecology and environment and the rehabilitation programme is taken up. The question of rehabilitation of these fishermenfolk will give rise to social tension which is happening at the moment. It has also been discussed in the Orissa State Legislative Assembly, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serial on the life of Ambedkar is telecast from 12th April at the prime time on every Sunday at 9 p.m. Till now two episodes have been telecast and there are eight episodes in all. After seeing two episodes, I feel that there is a possibility of conflict all over the country if this serial continues. The facts have been distorted. Any person, who makes a serial on the basis of History in which there is distortion of time and place about Ambedkar is not good more so when we know certain facts about Ambedkar. Keeping in view the dress Shri Ambedkar has been portrayed as wearing half pants and shirt when he was young. School going children of those days have been shown wearing half-pant and shirts. I would like to tell you something about the screen-play of this serial. Talking to her brother the sister says, "I will just now tell this news to brother Satpal." When Satpal is her brother, she will say "brother" only. How a boy speaks to his uncle—"uncle, I am Ramji Satpal". It means the writer felt that Ramji Satpal is only a name. On this, uncle says, "You are Ramji Satpal."

The incident which took place in Bombay, when he was studying there was depicted to have taken place at Satara. Ambedkar's father was a teacher in Lashkar. It is true. He was very sedate person but he is presented in such a way that not only ordi-

nary persons but internationally reputed person like Day Pawar said he was a dacoit.

MR. SPEAKER: Who has said so?

SHRI RAM KAPSE: He said that in the serial he looks like a dacoit, and the person who contributed this article in "Lok Saptah" says that he resembles General Zia. He was a teacher in Lashkar. It is a new thing. His photograph is also available, still he is being presented in such a manner.

MR. SPEAKER: Has it been shown and said on T.V.?

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Yes Sir, a serial on his life is being telecast. Shri Daya Pawar has reviewed the serial.

MR. SPEAKER: Daya Pawar should not say all these things, if her depiction is false.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: The most improper thing is that Vasant Moon, who edited the articles of Shri Ambedkar, about whom it is said that he is the advisor of this T.V. serial. In its reply he immediately said that he has no connection with this serial and its televising should be stopped as soon as possible. Savita Ambedkar was his wife. She also gave an ultimatum that if its telecast is not stopped within two days, the result would be a conflict.

Not only this, the people of North India are shown participating in music, pop music and konkani music. Similar is the position of writing, direction, music and photography. Acting in the serial leaves no impression. Therefore, it is a great insult and humiliation to Shri Ambedkar. This serial has 8 episodes. Out of which two episodes relate to the childhood and perhaps we will not find the real philosophy of Ambedkar, which we want to watch on the TV.

MR. SPEAKER: It should not be distorted. He resembles a dacoit etc.

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: It is the Statement of Daya Pawar.

Whatever word I have said, I stand by it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not necessary to refer to it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I feel that this serial is not telecast in the manner it ought to have been and I am speaking here because I did not like it. I oppose that and request the hon. Minister to reconsider about this serial. He will come to know that discontentment will increase among the people and if this serial continues it may give rise to conflict. Therefore, suspend it for some days. I would like that the hon. Minister should make a statement in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said about the serial on the life of Baba Sahib Ambedkar is right but I am not in favour of suspending this serial. When we formed a centenary committee, we certainly wished that a serial should be made on the life of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Assigning the job to a professional in the field that serial should be made on the same lines as that on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Since Baba Saheb Ambedkar was the father of our Constitution, therefore, an excellent film of international level should be made on him. Though we had thought of it but it could not mature. We agree that the Government made some selection and it is showing those episode to us. If once its telecast is stopped abruptly it will not be telecast again. I support it if it is retelecast after making some changes here and there and making it more appealing.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Shri Shyam Benegal is also ready to make a serial on the life of Baba Saheb.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If the telecast is suspended once it will be stopped

permanently and it would be difficult to resume, because the intentions are not good. Still I would like to say that we have also seen that serial and certain such things are there e.g. the way his father is presented and the death scene of his father are some of the scenes depicted with a high emotional impact. There is no such thing that the face of Baba Saheb does not appear real to us. Now the question is of the form in which it should be portrayed...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): How can we help if sonul one says that Ram Vilasji resembles a dacoit.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: How can we help, at least if Atalji says so, that cannot be replied. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should look into the objectionable portions. Whatever is accepted and admitted by all should certainly be shown. All of us in the House wish that the Government ought to spend a sufficient amount of money on it. It is a matter of deep regret that the Government knew that the centenary year of Baba Saheb Ambedkar is at hand and we have been demanding in this house since 1980 that an excellent film should be made on the life of Baba Saheb. But no good film could be made even after 10-12 years. Now, when the film is made and there are other lacunae, these may be rectified and the film may be telecast. But the telecast of the film should not be stopped. If the telecast of the serial is stopped, it may create some other problems. That is what I mean to say.

[English]

SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN (Amroha): Mr Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Indian archer Shri Limba Ram for equalling the world record for the 30 metres event being held at Beijing in the China International Archery Tournament, 1992. It is commendable to note that Shri Limba Ram scored 357 points out of the possible 360 points in the tournament, thereby equalling the world mark set by Matsushita Takaishi of Japan in 1987. It is a matter of great pride that Limba Ram is leading in the over-all individual qualifying

rounds by scoring 1,296 points out of possibly 1,440. His achievement has brought Indian archery on the world map. We hail the achievement of this young man for bringing laurels and glory to the nation.

I am sure the House will join me in congratulating him.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. We will join you. I am asking the dynamic Sports Minister to congratulate him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): I am grateful to Shri Chetan P. S. Chauhan. I think the House should pass a resolution to congratulate Shri Limba Ram.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. We would congratulate him.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Everybody should congratulate him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to raise a very important question of public interest. In my State Bihar, Sasaram-Buxur road leads to Ballia and Gorakhpur. There is a one way traffic on this road. Hundreds of trucks pass through it and it is a very busy road. As there is one way traffic on it the road is very narrow, generally accidents take place on it. Some times these accidents are even fatal. I request the hon. Surface Transport Minister through you that this 300 kilometres long road should be declared as National highway.

[*English*]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL (Jabalpur): I am informed that a most serious explosion has taken place in the

Filling Section of the Ordinance Factory of Khawaria in Jabalpur.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do not you talk to the hon. Minister first? Why do you depend on that? Are you sure about it? If you are, I will allow you. Otherwise, you talk to the hon. Minister.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: At least one person has been killed so far and several others have been grievously injured.

This is not the first time that this kind of an incident has taken place in the factory at Jabalpur which is run by the Central Government. The police investigations reportedly revealed negligence in maintaining safety measures. Of late, there has been increase in negligence on the part of officers who are entrusted with supervision of ammunition and explosive Department. In fact, several instances of lack of proper supervision and control have been reported in the local press.

Many cases of pilferage of very sensitive material with the connivance of superior staff have also come to light.

I, therefore, urge upon the Defence Ministry to appoint a high-level Enquiry Committee to go into such negligence and pilferage and take appropriate action against the careless officers and to give compensation to the family of the deceased workmen and to give proper medical treatment to all those workmen who were injured in the explosion and to take adequate safety measures in future.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREMDHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Air Traffic Control Officers of National Airports Authority have resorted to work to rule from 1st May while the hon. Minister has told in the House that it is not causing any loss, but the facts are contrary to it. The pilots who pilot the aeroplanes are required to fill the journey log-book and the engine log-book. They are showing this work to rule by traffic control officers as the cause

of delay of their flights. The higher authorities have also admitted that one minute delay in flight leads to the wastage of fuel of 5 thousand rupees. In this way, the Government is suffering a loss of 4 crore rupees just on fuel.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit through you to the Government that talks should be held with these officers. These officers had given due notice. They had given their charter of demands and had informed that they would resort to work-to-rule from 1st May. Even then the Government is not paying any heed to them and the loss of fuel is being suffered and the air-traffic is also being delayed. Therefore, my submission, through you is that they should be invited for talks.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHRIA (Bankura): I have given notice on this.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Sir, you will recall that the hon. Minister of agriculture had given an assurance to this House that he will send a Central team to Maharashtra to review the drought situation and to see whether Central assistance is to be given or not. It is more than ten days. It is not on one occasion but the hon. Minister gave the assurance on two occasions in the House. The team has not gone to Maharashtra yet. Maharashtra Government is waiting for some communication from the Centre. However, there is no communication. It is my understanding that the team has not even been formulated. I also understand that the hon. Minister of Finance is not willing to associate himself with the Central team. Unless the Ministry of Finance associates, the whole exercise will be infructuous. I also understand that the two teams which have gone to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat also did not have anybody from the Ministry of Finance. The Nine Finance Commission very clearly says that in case of severest of severe calamities, adequate Central assistance will come in the form of 25 per cent advance from the next year's allocation. So, I would request that a state-

ment should come stating why the team has not gone to Maharashtra. This is a very specific assurance which has been given twice. I request the hon. Minister to let us know about it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, about the air Traffic Controllers' agitation, I have given a notice. Please allow me to mention about it.

Sir, all the flights are being delayed since 1st May. The Air Traffic Controllers are on agitation. They have resorted to work-to-rule. They have been appealing to the National Airports Authority for improvement in their promotional prospects and for other remuneration and perks commensurate with their job responsibility and accountability. The job of Air Traffic Controllers has been recognised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as also by the world experts as unique with heavy responsibility and it requires instant decision-making capability. The ILO has opined that keeping in view the responsibility, the Air Traffic Controllers more closely resemble with that of the Pilots and hence it recommended the remuneration and perks should be comparable with that of the remuneration and perks of the professional pilots. Further, the Air Traffic Controllers Guild has been appealing to the management to concede their demands. but the management is silent on that. The management is not talking to Guild, to the association.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government that the Civil Aviation Minister should send instruction to the management so that the management could talk to the Air Controllers to end the agitation, which was resorted to by the Air Traffic Controllers. Because of that agitation, all the flights are being delayed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I would like to say something on the drought situation prevailing in Maharashtra. The people of Maharashtra are waiting for the Central team just like to chatak' bird waiting for the rain. In order to protest against the

apathy of the Central Government, the people of Maharashtra are observing a band today. I have just confirmed at 12.30 p.m. There is a total band in Maharashtra. The people are worried and agitated. That is why I demand that the Central team must go immediately. It is not only the Central team but the Prime Minister must also go and visit the places. As demanded by the State Government, Rs.500 crores should be given.

Sir, you are aware the by-elections in Maharashtra have been specifically postponed because of the drought conditions. It is such a serious matter and still the Government is not sending the team. So, I demand that a team must be sent and the Prime Minister must also visit Maharashtra immediately. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDV (Vijaywada): Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of the sugar-cane growers in Andhra Pradesh. The cane-growers are not paid their cane-dues for the cane supplied. Many of the private sugar factories as well as the cooperative sugar factories are not paying the amount and as a result of which, the Cane-growers, who have to pay for the harvest-charges, transport-charges, are facing problems. Also, this is the time when the bankers are pressing them for the recovery of their loans. Moreover, the Revenue Department is pressurising these people and even coming to take physical possession of the goods in respect of the arrears relating to the Irrigation Cess and the revenue arrears. In that way, the farmers are suffering. So, I draw the attention of the Government to take immediate steps to see that the cane prices are paid by the factories. Also, the additional cane prices payable by the factories to the growers depend on a factor called "L". Until the Central Government communicates that factor "L" which is in the Bhargava formula for additional prices payable by the factories, the State Government will not take action.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Today, we want to allow many members.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, I am concluding. For the last four years-1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92- the additional cane prices are not being paid to the cane growers. And I urge upon the Government to look into this aspect and take immediate steps to see that the prices are paid to the cane growers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Ferozepur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the labourers of Punjab who are victims of the system of contract. The labourers, whether they are in F.C.I. Labour Union, Punjab Labour Union, or in Food and Supplies Union, are given wages by the contractors. The labourers who work from dawn to dusk, are not given full wages by these contractors. They give them wages according to their wish. When the labourers are not given full wages it means their sweat is not compensated for. The system of contract of paying wages to labourers which is in vogue in Punjab should be put to an end immediately. As in the other States of the country, the system of contract of paying wages to the labourers has been abolished and the labourers get wages directly. Likewise the system of contract in Panjab should also be abolished and the labourers should get wages direct. Besides it, the three F.C.I. depots, which are located in Amritsar, Ajnala and Navansher have been made *Pucca* and the rest of 125 kutch a depots of Punjab should also be made *pucca*.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from Bihar. The regional news are not telecast by television in our State but these news are not telecast in the whole State. There is a low power T.V. tower due to which this telecast does not reach all the districts. therefore, more powerful transmitter should be set up there. Besides, the demand of broadcasting a news bulletin in Bangla-language has been lying pending since long. Bangla speaking people are living in 10-12 districts of Bihar. Their demand should be fulfilled and a news bulletin should be broadcast in Bangla language.

[English]

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORIY (Howrah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue that I want to raise is about the Bills passed by the State Legislatures, awaiting with the Centre for its approval and assent.

We all know that any successful functioning of this polity of ours depends on mutual understanding and cooperation and on the assurance of the Centre that the Bills that are sent to them will be passed or assent will be given to them within a specified period of time. Any delay in such matters causes disbelief.

We would all surely agree that we should avoid that position.

Many States have sent certain Bills which are pending with the Central Government. I do not know the details of Bills of other States. But, Sir, so far as West Bengal is concerned, some seven important Bills are pending. The Trade Union (West Bengal) Amendment Bill, 1983, it has been received by the Centre on 22.11.1983. The Calcutta University (Amendment) Bill, 1984, Rabin-dra Cultural Institute (Taking over of Management) (Amendment) Bill, Howrah Municipal Corporation Bill, (Second Amendment) Bill, The Asansol Municipal Corporation Bill, Chandernagore Municipal Cooperation Bill and Siliguri Municipal Corporation Bill are awaiting approval from the Government.

Therefore, I shall request you to direct the Minister to take necessary steps in this regard so that these Bills get the assent without any delay.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Citorgauh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier in the day, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri George Fernandes and Shri Chandra Shekhar raised an issue, involving several thousand crores of rupees as a scam from the banking system of the country, including the National Housing Bank. The Government with some alacrity-Shri Chidambaram and indeed the Finance Min-

ister had responded and had been attempting to satisfy both Shri Chandra Shekhar and Shri Atalji. The public utterances in Parliament was satisfied or not, I do not know. Perhaps, they have managed to satisfy Shri Atalji and Shri Chandra Shekhar.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): You are assuming that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am assuming that. In a similar fashion, we have raised the issue of Bofors, for the whole day yesterday. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you allow other Members to make their points please, at least in the last two, three days? I will allow you also to raise that matter at the end. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasaragod): Sir, the General Secretary of All India Passport Employees Association is on an indefinite hunger strike since 22.4.1992. The demands of the association appear to be just.

Even though the Passport applications rose from 13 lakhs to 35 lakhs from 1980 to 1992, the number of employees remain static at 1449. The chances of promotion is also almost nil. The service condition is also not satisfactory.

I call upon the Minister of External Affairs to interfere and settle the issue amicably and avert catastrophe. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I am constrained to with your permission-raise a matter with regard to an officer of a Central Public Sector Undertaking who has been victimised only because I have raised an issue concerning that undertaking. It has been suspected by the Ministry that that officer was responsible for passing on the information.

Sir, for six years, Mr. A. K. Moitra was

the Chairman and Managing Director of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation. I am happy that the Minister is here.

His case was approved by the Public Sector Enterprises Selection Board. The vigilance angle was also looked into and there was a clearance from the vigilance Commission. After six years, he was given an extension in June 1980, for another three years because of his outstanding service. The trouble began after there was an attempt by the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, to sell the Major undertaking, the National Jute Mills, to a private industrialist. We got the information and I raised it in the House. Ultimately, the Minister had said, "No, there is no such proposal". Sir, Mr. Wadhwa of Chapdhani Industries seems to be too powerful. What happened is this. The Chairman and Managing Director was directed by the Ministry to pass on the information particulars, records, documents of this Company to the proposed purchaser, a private industrialist. After an objection was raised here, what happened is that, the Chairman and Managing Director was directed to pass on the information to the Ministry so that the Ministry could pass it on to them. The Chairman refused to do that. Then, the trouble started. He was being victimised; he was insulted; Deputy Secretary and ordinary officers were giving him orders; money was not being released for this Company; he was not being given interviews here. He has come here expecting to meet the officers. Ultimately what happened? He got fed up; he tendered his resignation on 31st January 1992, to be effective from 30 of April 1992. On 29th of April 1992—a day before that—he was issued a Charge-sheet. The Charge-sheet was confidential.

Sir, I will take only one minute more. The issue is very important. How is the Government functioning?

On the 29th of April 1992, a confidential Charge-sheet was given and he accepted it. On the very same day, that was pasted on the Notice Board of a multi-storied building, where he is occupying one of the upper flats.

A confidential charge-sheet is being pasted on a notice board so that everybody could see in that house. It is just to humiliate him before the people who are occupying that multi-storied building.

The main witness is the Jute Commissioner. In the charge-sheet, it is mentioned that he is the principal witness. What is the charge? The charge is that you have not retrenched employees. Secondly, you have given ESI benefits to the employees. According to the Government, he was not authorised.

MR. SPEAKER: Generally, we do not discuss these matters.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We have been requesting the hon. Minister that he is being victimised. This is the way. That Jute Commissioner has now been given this additional charge. He has gone to the Press. The charge-sheet is issued on the 29th. On 30th, his resignation is accepted. On 30th, this Jute Commissioner holds press conference in Calcutta and makes out the particulars of the charge-sheet. The objective is to humiliate the officer. This matter was raised in the House. After it was raised in the House, the trouble started for him. I would like to know: Is this the way the Government behaves? Can't we raise any matter? Will the officers and employees be threatened like this?

We requested the Minister that the Joint Secretary is against him. He wants his blood-fond of flesh. He said: "I am very sympathetic." This is the way the sympathy is being shown! How do we expect that the public sector industry would be run properly in this country when he is a person against whom no charge about personal integrity is made? The charge is: Why have you not dismissed workers? Why have you given ESI benefits they were not entitled to get?

Is this the way the Government will function? Why I am concerned is that it is not about 'A', 'B' or 'C'. The question is about the method of functioning. In matters like this,

they could not deny. They had to retrace their steps in selling a major undertaking to a private industrialist.

MR. SPEAKER: We are not allowing such matters.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: When the Minister is here, he should respond and see. His resignation has been accepted but his dues are not being paid.

Have you ever heard about a press conference being held about the charge-sheet, that a confidential Charge-sheet is pasted on a notice board of a multi-storied building? Has it ever happened? He is being threatened that he has to vacate the House. His telephone line is being sought to be disconnected just because he has not now-towed to them, just because. *(Interruptions)* he has not agreed to the transfer...*(Interruptions)*

You are aware that there was a jute strike for a number of days. He averted that strike in NJMC. That is why the big high-ups in the Ministry got annoyed because they wanted to show that NJMC was running at a loss so that they could sell off to the private industrialist. This is happening.

I strongly protest against this. I request the Minister. He is here. He should at least say that he would be sympathetic. I hope he was not misleading us. If he really intended to be sympathetic, he should take immediate action. Let him avert it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, you said, you don't allow this type of matter to be raised here. I think, it has a bearing on our functioning also. We raise matters connected with Public sector organisations. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You don't raise matters relating to individuals-appointments, etc.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Now we will be afraid to raise matters....*(Interruptions)* Time and again we raise matters. Somebody will be victimised again. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BAR-RACKPORE): Sir, I can prove, if the hon. Minister desires. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is a newspaper report: NJMC CMD charge-sheeted. Is this the way the Government of India is functioning? How does he go to the Press?

[Translation]

THE STATE MINISTER OF TAXILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the officer, about whom they are talking was charge sheeted on the recommendations of the Central Vigilance Commission. As far as his resignation is concerned, he has resigned and we have accepted his resignation and the enquiry is being conducted in regard to the charge-sheet given to him. We will take steps according to the reports of the enquiry. We are not prejudiced against anyone. I will collect information about his alleged victimisation after the matter was raised in the House as the hon. Members are saying and I will also ascertain the information in regard to convening of the press conference.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: The officers of that organisation have convened a press conference.

[English]

....*(Interruptions)*... I had raised it in the Consultative Committee meeting. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is your reaction to the Press conference? I

have got that newspaper. This is not the way to deal with this matter. What happens if a charge-sheet is pasted on the notice board of a multi-storied building? I would like to know whether this has ever happened in this country. Who authorised whom to do it? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This matter was raised earlier on the floor of this House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This will discourage the officers and the employees. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. speaker, Sir, the D.R.D.A. employees, are on agitation throughout India in support of their genuine demands. D.R.D.A. is an organisation set up by the Central Government in which more than one lakh employees are working. This organisation has been running the programmes sponsored by the Centre at the district level for the last many years. The Central programmes like IRDPWD, A.G.R.A., TRY SOME, Rural Development, Cleanliness Programme and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. are being run by these employees. These employees have been struggling hard for the last 10 years in support of their demand to improve their service conditions. They have also given seven point memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Rural Development Minister demanding pay scales and other facilities equal to the State Government employees, better promotion avenues, regularisation of daily wage workers, reversion of deputationists to their parent departments, provision of full facilities for the dependents of the deceased employees etc. The additional secretary, Rural Development, Government of India had held talks with the representatives of these employees two years ago and found that their demands were Justified.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submissions that you should take personal interest in finding

the solution to this problem since the employees are neither considered the Central Government employees nor are they enjoy the facilities available to the State Government employees. In this way the future of nearly one lakh people is very bleak. My submission is that their demands should be accepted immediately and a policy should be formed in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have risen earlier to make a request. The Government has responded to an issue of very substantial public importance raised by Atalji, Chandra Shekharji and Shri George Feruaudes about the scam in involving thousands of crores of rupees. In a similar fashion, would the Government respond to what they are doing about Bofors, even with half of that alertness? (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (MADHUBANE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, the office bearers, leaders and activists of All India Kisan Sabha are on a dharna at the Boat Club to lodge their protest against Government's policy on farmers and seek improvements in it. It is a very important demand. The cuts made in the Budget in respect of rural development has put the on-going projects in doldrums. It is evident from reports received from various States, the procurement of foodgrains being made by the Government through the Food Corporation of India is a further more critical issue. The farmers complain that wheat is being sold at higher rates in the market than the price they are being paid. In this connection strike was held twice in Punjab. The militants have a hand in the strike. I am not making a demand to raise the price. But the trouble starts when we sell the foodgrains to traders at double the rate of what we pay o farmers. the farmers who are on a dharna demand that there should be a difference of maximum 15% to 20 (a limit should be fixed) between the price paid to farmers and the the price the consumers pay. The producers as well as the

consumers are being looted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large part of the country is facing drought. Various projects aimed at supplying water, containing flood and generating electricity are at stake.

It is about Bihar, Maharashtra and Punjab. If S.Y.L. project is implemented in Punjab, the water dispute between Punjab and Haryana could be resolved. Both the States are not in good terms over this issue.

The Kosi barrage Dam will bring radical change in Bihar. It is the biggest project in the world. It is to be completed by the Government of India. The Teesta project is located in North of Bengal. After the execution of this project, electricity will be available in the area at cheaper rates. It will help resolve power crisis. The Government of India has to take initiative to accelerate the pace of work. The State governments are not capable enough to complete these projects. Land ceiling and land consolidation should be implemented for the purpose of land reforms. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH:
.....(Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will count and say whether it is for the tenth or eleventh time we are discussing the Bofors issue in the house. I would like to know particularly about the Solanki episode in Bofors case. The House had to be adjourned thrice yesterday in connection with the Solanki episode. The proceedings were stalled. There were discussions on it three to four times. We have not taken up anything extreme with the Government during that discussion. We have only asked the Government as to what it was doing India has become a subject of popular ridicule over the Solanki episode. It has created a sort of ill-feeling, and the proceedings of the house have been stalled. The business of the House should be resumed. It is not that our worries have been lessened. We expect that the Government should rise to occasion and say something. I appreciate the promptness shown by Atalji, Chandra

Sekhrji and George Fernandes ji in raising the security scam issue involving Rs.2000 to Rs.3000 crore. The hon. Finance Minister came immediately and tried to explain the position. He should have shown half that promptness in Bofors case. There is nothing to hide in the Solanki episode. I want to know as to why the Government does not say anything in this regard.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I initiated the discussion yesterday itself, not much progress was noticed in the matter. I want to touch one of the points of the case. When the discussion was held in the House on 23rd, the hon. Prime Minister while making a statement did not make any mention of this point. He said that they would be giving a written reply on the issue. I have an objection to the information that has been received by me. I want to place it before the Government and the House. The hon. Prime Minister has given us in writing in a letter which is in my possession now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There should be a regular discussion on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Why should there be a discussion. The hon. Prime Minister has misled the House over this letter. The Editor of the Indian Express has written in its front page..... (Interruptions) These people are not allowing me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Is there no other issue for discussion?

DR. R. MALLU (NAGAR Kurnool): Sir, he is taking a lot of time. The Prime Minister has given a reply. How many times will he repeat the same thing?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: I want to say that when Shri George Fernandes speaks, three M.Ps stand and interrupt his speech. It is not proper. You have allowed him to speak. You should prevent them from making interruptions. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I expect senior Members to go according to rules and not to raise matters only in zero hour.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not prolong the discussion. (*Interruptions*)

DR. R. MALLU: Mr. Fernandes was given the maximum time (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): Sir, he is a senior Member, he should understand this that there are other Members who also want to raise their points.

MR. SPEAKER: Within a short time, it will be over. Please take your seat.

Please be brief.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNADES: I want to make a point before you. That is, what happens if the matter is not fully explained. I received this letter the day before yesterday. I gave it to the press at 2.30 p.m. Several newspapers have published the entire text of the letter. Today, an English daily published from maximum centres in the country, without mentioning the name of its editor, has written that the hon. Prime Minister was not shown the letter on the 25th. He was apprised of the matter on the 27th. (*Interruptions*) You should understand my point of view. How the hon. Prime Minister is presenting himself before the country today? The truth must come out in regard to the question being raised by me. The entire

Bofors case is a separate issue while the Solanki episode is different. I as well as the entire country want to know the facts of the Solanki episode. The Government is not prepared to reply the question raised by me to bring out the facts. Therefore, I suggest that the Government should take initiative to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee. I have already told the Government this thing. If they don't want to bring out the facts, they should set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee. We will place the information before the Committee. We request you to help us in the matter. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, your leniency has been exploited by the hon. Members. Sir, let there be a discussion under any rule for four or five hours. We are also hon. Members of this House. We also have the right to raise our points.

SHRI A. CHARLES: We also have the privilege of raising the issues. This is very unfortunate that some of the Members are misusing the floor of the House everyday.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir...

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cutack): Sir, yesterday, we were given to understand by the Chair that an all-Party Meeting is going on in your Chamber to sort out this problem. When we raised this matter in the House, then, there was an explosion from the treasury benches that this issue should not be raised. Then, we insisted that, let the Prime Minister come to this House and answer the queries which were raised by the opposition. The latter which was sent to Shri George Fernandes... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why don't you come under some rule? You are all senior Members. Everytime, you are coming and raising matters in the Zero Hour only.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: When the Deputy Speaker was in the Chair, he told the House that, in the Speaker's Chamber, meeting of all Party Leaders is going on. We want to know now what exactly had happened in that Meeting.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, Mr. Vajpayee said it and it was also said by several others. I understand that it is our responsibility to brief the House about the discussions we held in your Chamber on any serious matter. Either you should inform the House or have it done in some other way. If you kindly permit me, I will brief the House about the discussions we held with you today and yesterday. We did not discuss anything illegal. The discussions were held twice. The hon. Prime Minister has himself said in the House. After those two discussions the House has been convinced that the Government is conducting inquiry into the Bofors case and the Solanki episode is also linked with that Bofors case. Many questions arise out of it. We don't have an answer to them. It is not known to us till now as to who gave this letter to him. Who was that unidentified and unknown lawyer? We are not aware of it till today. Who told Mr. Bonant that it was given at the instance of the hon. Prime Minister. We have come to know from the discussions held in your Chamber that the Government still has no knowledge of it. We made a request that if the Government is not able to collect the information, it should be entrusted to the House which will do it through a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Going a step forward, I have suggested, and many other have shared my view that in order to remove the bottleneck the hon. Prime Minister should assure the House that he will gather information from who was the person who passed the message to Mr. Bonant and who was that unidentified and unknown lawyer and who introduced the lawyer to Shri Solanki. Because I know that the hon. Prime Minister as well as the Government want to pursue the Bofors case. But there is some lobby which wants to stall the proceedings. It is the

same lobby which handed over that note through Mr. Lolanki. The Government should show as much eagerness as we are to expose the lobby and identify the lawyer. The inquiry to expose that lobby should be conducted either by a Parliamentary Committee or by the Government.

14.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are the two suggestions I would like to make. The Government should give assurance to the House. It seems to me that the Government is giving thought to the points on which we held discussions in your chamber.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Since Shri Advani, with your permission, has sought to give a summary or the essence of what was discussed in your Chamber, and I also had the privilege of being present in that meeting, I would just like to supplement what he has said. I agree with him when he says that the proposals which were made on behalf of the Opposition leaders were eminently reasonable.

The main grievance of the spokesmen of the Government is that this matter is being raised to often on the floor of the House and that it is leading to a great waste of time a lot of argument, counter argument, charges, counter charges, altercations and nothing is coming out. We are also of that view—that is what we stated in the meeting in your Chamber—that what we wanted was to get at the truth relating to all these circumstances—mysterious circumstances I should say—concerning the Solanki episode. But what is happening in the House now for several days is not throwing any light on these matters. Therefore, we had suggested—and the country also, I believe and the public outside also feels—that this argumentation is not leading anywhere and we are accusing the Government of not being serious about pursuing the inquiry into these matters regarding Shri Solanki. I am not referring to the earlier main Bofors investigation which is

being carried on by the CBI. We do not want to interfere in that. Let it go on. But now, after this Solanki episode, we felt that if you do not want the matter to be raised continually here in the House and if proper replies are not given, to the questions which had been raised, to which we believe the Prime Minister has given only partial replies in his letters to Shri George Fernandes and Shri Jaswant Singh, if those replies were to be obtained and the identity of those persons concerned is to be established, then, let the whole matter be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Then the matter will not be raised here every day. You can proceed with your normal business. We are quite ready for that and the Parliamentary Affairs Ministers need not every day be so agitated and jumping about saying, that we have raised it nine times, ten times, more will not be allowed, and so on. We do not want to raise it. But there must be some method by which we can get at the bottom of what has happened, in the matter which has cost one Cabinet Minister his job and which led to an unsavoury implication of the Prime Minister's name in this whole affair and although more than a month has passed, nobody knows, who that unknown person was who handed over that note to Shri Solanki.

So, we suggested that this Joint Parliamentary Committee may be set up. Let its terms of reference be decided by consultation and agreement and let it be time-bound so that it does not go on for ever. Let it be time-bound and let all parties be associated with that Joint Parliamentary Committee. We think that this is a reasonable proposal and to go on saying 'No' is not correct. But, Sir, what is this? We must have some remedy.

MR. SPEAKER: My difficulty is at three O'Clock the Private Members Business has to start.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I know.

MR. SPEAKER: If we are rising for lunch for one hour, it should be started at two O'Clock. I have some difficulties. That is why

I am trying to do something.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Shall we continue our submissions on Monday? Do you want us to continue our submission on Monday?

MR. SPEAKER: If senior Members want to do it, who can stop them?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The Session cannot be adjourned without something coming out of this, on this issue.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I am only on a question of procedure.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: How can the matter be left hanging? What I am saying is this. Now there are two ways open. Either the Government should agree and Co-operate with others in agreeing to the formation of this Joint Parliamentary Committee or if they are dead against that, the only other remedy is-it is a sort of compromise proposal on our side-that the Prime Minister should come here and made a statement assuring the House about these two matters particularly regarding that note which was handed over to Shri Solanki. We do not know about that note except what has appeared in one daily paper. That note has not been recovered by the Government. We do not know what exactly are its contents. He should tell us that this matter is being seriously pursued and it will be investigated. Second is the identity of that person, of the so-called nameless lawyer, who handed over the note to Shri Solanki. Clues have also been given regarding that. But nothing is being followed up. It is not such a matter that it cannot be found out. All these various agencies are investigating and finding out many things and they cannot find out the identity of that person. We believe that a JPC can do it. We have some clues in our possession. we are sure that unless some body is vitally interested in concealing the truth, it is possible to find out. If it is found out, then further clues will be available as to what was behind that man; who were the people who put him upto it; who were the people interested in hiding the truth. Is it not

in the Country 's interest" Is it not in the Government's interest? Do they prefer to go around under a cloud of suspicion indefinitely? It is better that one proposal is objectively and dispassionately considered and the Government agrees to our proposal so that the daily scenes in the House can be avoided. We do not want that to go on . The alternative is the formation of a JPC. Why do they not agree to this?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I support this formation of a JPC. We also said this in the meeting. I wish to emphasise two things here..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I did not say anything in the meeting. I just heard you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I said that it was said in the meeting. Sir, whoever gave that note was interested in suppressing the inquiry or swttlaig the inquiry and cover up the whole matter. And that person obviously was instrumental in making over the note through an unnamed lawyer to Shri Solnki. Sir, this is nothing to do with Bofors. The whole attempt is being made as if we are trying to raise again and again the Bofors question. This is nothing to do with Bofors. Sir, the External Affairs Minister of this country had to resign. Is it a very simple matter? It is an ordinary routine matter? Now the story that is being said is that the Extern. Affairs Minister was given a document by somebody, whom he does not know and who made over that document. This is nothing but an Alice in Wonderland story. It is impossible for anybody to believe. Therefore, we are saying that these two facts should be made known and should be ascertained; as to who was the person who took the trouble of informing Mr. Bonaut that the Prime Minister has sanctioned the giving and handing over of the note. Sir, the country's interest and country's good name are involved here. Why is the Government taking up this attitude, I do not know.

Apart from Bofors, about which we have made our submissions earlier, this is a Solnki episode. This is a different chapter alto-

gether. The Minister had to lose his job, he had to resign. Sir, please go through the letter of the hon. Prime Minister. I am sure that many eminent draftsmen were utilised for this purpose in producing whatever product you may have produced. Many hours must have been spent on this. Not a single word about any attempt to find out the identity of that lawyer, the identity of the person who introduced that lawyer to Mr. Solnki, has been mentioned in that letter. It cannot be that an unknown person giving a document in Davas or wherever it was. An Indian lawyer goes to Switzerland and makes over a document to the External Affairs Minister and he very obligingly makes it over to his counterpart in Switzerland. This is very difficult to swallow. We can accept that situation. Therefore, we want the facts to come out. Now, they are not obliging. Therefore, in stead of leaving it to us to obtain clues from outside, they want that we should give them clues. With all their agencies, with all their might, Government of India, which its RAW, with its CBI, with its IB, foreign agencies etc. etc., they cannot find out the clues.. They have to wait and depend on us to give them clues. This is nothing but a deliberate attempt to suppress to truth. Therefore, we strongly support this demand for a JPC. Let all parties try to find out the truth in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the demand of JPC that has just now been sought by Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Somanath, Shri Advani and Shri George Fernandes, it will help the Government as well. Keeping in view the manner in which questions are being raised in the country, it would be better for the Government to concede soon with the demand of J.P.C. rather than allowing the clouds of doubt to hover. It will rather create an atmosphere of faith that the Government does not intend to hide anything. If the Government fails to obtain something within 6 weeks, it should refer the matter to the House for their approach so that at least the Members and the House will have the con-

solution that maximum possible is being done. The point is why do we raise the matter here again and again what should be brought before the House and what should not be brought is the question. We are being given to accept that a letter was given to a Minister of India by an Indian National or a lawyer or an advocate and the Government of India is so far unable to know the name of that person. That person is not a foreign national where our law does not apply, there he (the hon. Minister) had talk not with another person: he is the citizen of this very country who held talks with our hon. Minister. It is a wonder that Government of which the hon. Minister has been a part, itself states that it has not been able to know the name of that person even after six weeks. Then without knowing his name how did you come to know that the said person is an advocate, a lawyer.

It is quite surprising. That is why this question is raised here again and again. Who has introduced him? It is quite right that these people might be the same persons who are associated with that person and they are now much interested in suppressing the facts and preventing them from coming to light.

Sir, for the first time we made an effort once, other than allegations and taking it as a case, to bring the Bofors money from the A.E. Services to this country and also the concrete documents duly sealed by the court. This is for the first time that a man has been traced, those document have been traced, this is for the first time that a man came into contact of a Minister of the Government; if we want to show our sincerity to go to the root of this matter, we must catch that person and take action against him.

So far as question of time of the House is concerned, Sir, if J.P.C. is constituted, it will not only save the time of this House, rather it will also remove the doubts that are reared against the Government. It will serve both the purposes. So the demand of J.P.C. should soon be accepted by the Govern-

ment. As they have said that the Hon. Prime Minister comes somebody gives an assurance that we would try to know about that person and about the document, then we take it that what has been Published is true, now I cannot say about the noting, handwriting etc. through which something can be known. We should try to know about that, but I do not want to indulge in any kind of speculations, I do not want to encourage that. But the J.P.C. will help in saving the time of the house and the Government will also get clearance. If you assure that you need time, then it is okay, let you fix a time period. They should bring out the name within that period. If they are unable to do so, they should give an assurance that the J.P.C. will be doing so because we see that we have arrived at a reality of the assurance in 3 to 4 years. We have atleast reached upto A.E. Services and Jordan till yesterday. Now, it is upto you how for you push the matter from Jordan. Let us go ahead.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: (Dumdum): Sir, only two aspects I want to raise... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: This is becoming a regular debate. It is not necessary. Please take your seat...

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I will not repeat, Sir. When the Government tries to convince us, at the same time, please admit that there are forces operating against Government's intention, and yet the Government does not try to crack them down. This is the reason which leads us to say... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please take your seat. All the time you are imposing yourself on the House. You should speak

with the permission of the Chair. All the Members have made the points very clearly.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I will not repeat, Sir. My point is that can you imagine a situation when a government discovers that a force is working against the government policy, it keeps quiet?...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you say all these things only in Zero Hour? Why don't you take resort to the rules?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Because you have raised this issue, on that question also I give the answer, Sir. It is repeatedly said that why raise it so many times. In fact, the record is whenever we have raised it, we have moved forward towards unravelling the mystery of Bofors. Initially it was stated that nothing has happened. Then it was admitted that yes, we were right. Then companies were mentioned. Finally, because we have raised it, the External Affairs Minister had to go. This is the justification why we raise it again and again. There is no doubt about the fact that if instead of the Government enquiring into it, a joint Parliamentary Committee is constituted...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: You should know that at three O'clock the Private Members' Business and to start. Those people who have given their notices will be deprived of the opportunity of discussing. The notices were discussed in the Committee, the time is fixed, and you, standing up in the Zero Hour, are not allowing them to take up that matter.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: We have allowed them so long. Had the issue not been important, this would not have been raised.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you please take your seat...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What to do Mr. Mohan Singh ji? you agree but he does not agree to sit down.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, with great respect to hon. Leaders and Members of this House, Those who have raised this question yesterday and today also, I would like to submit that as far as the Bofors case is concerned, only one word I will speak of that.... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

It is a great problem.

[English]

This is too much.

[Translation]

Do not force me to speak what you can digest

[English]

I will say that we have not stopped any investigation, nor are we interested in stopping or tampering with the process of investigation.

Yesterday, pointed questions were raised by hon. Members and the same pointed questions were raised by the hon. leaders in the meeting with the hon. Speaker. So, I would like to come to those two pointed questions.

As far as the Government is concerned, the Government has no hesitation in getting the copy of the note handed over by the former External Affairs Minister of India to the Swiss Foreign Minister. I think that should meet the point raised by hon. Members

yesterday and also today. As for the identity of the person is concerned, it is not only the hon. Members on the other side are keen but the Members of this side are also keen and the Government is equally keen to know the name and identity of the person involved. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: If it is not possible to know the name, let you know the physical features of that man. Whether he was a tall man like you or a short Dationed person like Shri Kumarmangalam, whether he was dark complexioned and fat. It becomes clear by physical features.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, I want to know when the former Prime Minister ordered Fairfax enquiry, did he know who were the officers and who were used to find out the economic offences. That was not even recorded on the file. There was no order on the file. It was only an oral order. Let us look into that matter also. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: As I have already stated, we are equally keen to know the name and identify of the person, the 'so-called lawyer-I will not say lawyer, because I do not know whether he was a lawyer' we have only read in the papers that he was a lawyer; I will only say the so-called lawyer. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Shri Solanki's statement says he was a lawyer. *(interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, unless we get any clue, it is very difficult to proceed further in the matter. But

still...*(Interruptions)* Please let me complete. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Why can you not prosecute Shri Solanki? You file a chargesheet against him today and you will get the truth tomorrow. You prosecute him. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Georgeji, will you please let me complete? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Why do you not prosecute Shri Solanki? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Therefore, whenever we will get any information or any clue, we will certainly proceed with this. As our hon. Member, our esteemed friend, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that he has some clue, I will welcome if he passes on that clue to us so that we can proceed with it. On our part whenever we will get any information or any clue, I will certainly say that, we will proceed with it.

I think, with this my hon. leaders and friends on the other side should be satisfied. I see that there is no reason for J.P.C. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: We are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. We will raise this issue again on Monday. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: We do not agree. We will give a notice in this respect and will be raising it again on Monday. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now take up Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

14.22 hrs

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of understanding for the year 1991-92 Between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1991-92 between the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence. [Placed in Library-See No. LT-1953/92]
- (2) Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1991-92 between the Bharat Dynamics Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence. [Placed in Library See. No. LT-1954/92]
- (3) Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1991-92 between the Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1955/92]

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1991-92 between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies Ministry of Defence. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1956/92]
- (5) Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1991-92 between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1957/72]

Notifications under Ruller Act 1947, Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the Working of the Tea Board, Calcutta for 1990-91 and Reasons for Delay in Laying these Papers etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRISALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, on behalf on behalf of Shri P. Chidambaram,

I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947:-
 - (i) The Rubber Board of India Financial Adviser and Project Office Recruitment Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 846(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October 1990.
 - (ii) The Rubber Board of India Financial Adviser and Project Officer Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1991 published in Notification

No. G.S.R. 358 in Gazette of India dated the 15th June 1991.

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt- 1958/92]

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

- (3)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91.

- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
(Placed in Library. See No. LT. 1959/92)

- (5) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam, for the year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1960/92]

Annual Report and Review on the working of the Jute Corporation of India Ltd., Calcutta for 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General etc. etc.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK
GEHLOT): I beg to say on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section(1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1961/92]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the National Textile Corporation Limited (Holding Company), New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National textile Corporation Limited (Holding Company) New Delhi for the year

1990-91 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1961/92]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1990-91 along with audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in library. See No. LT-1963/92]
- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in library. See No. LT-1961-63/92]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Calcutta for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the jute Manufacturers Development Council Calcutta, for the year 1990-91.
- (4) A statement (Hindi and English

versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1964/92]

- (5)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.
- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
[Placed in Library See No. LT-1965/92]
- (7) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government-(No.10 of 1991)-(Commercial)- National Textile Corporation (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe) Limited under article 151(1) of the Constitution.
[Placed in Library See No. LT-1966/92]
- (8) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-
- (i) Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1992-93 between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited and

the Ministry of Textiles,
Government of India.

[Placed in Library See No.
LT-1964/92]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding for the Year 1992-93 between the Cotton Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles.

[Placed in Library. See No.
LT-1968/92]

Notification under Major Port Trust Act 1963 Memorandum of Understanding for 1991-92 between the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. the Ministry of Surface Transport etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, on Behalf Shri Jagdish Tyelerl bag to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963:-

- i) G.S.R. 615(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October 1991 approving the Paradip Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Regulations, 1991.
- ii) G.S.R. 658 (E) published in Gazette of India dated

the 31st October 1991 approving the New Mangalore Ports Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Fifth Amendment Regulations, 1991.

- iii) G.S.R. 40(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January 1992 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Retirement) Regulations, 1992.

- iv) G.S.R. 52(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January 1992 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Employees (allotment of Residences) Amendment Regulations, 1992.

- v) G.S.R. 121 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February 1992 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust (Adaptation of Rules) First Amendment Regulations, 1992.

- vi) G.S.R. 122(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February 1992 approving the Tuticorin Port Employees (Acceptance of Employment after Retirement) First Amendment Regulations 1992.

- vii) G.S.R. 406 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April 1992 approving the Cochin Port and Dock Amendment Regulations, 1991..

- viii) G.S.R. 725 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December 1991 approving the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Festival Advance) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1969/92]
- 2) A copy of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (Adaptation of Rules) Regulations, 1991 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 6-IWA/Estt./4-90 in Gazette of India dated the 1st November 1991, Under section 36 of the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1970/92]
- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for the year 1991-92 between the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Surface Transport (Hindi and English versions).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 1971/92]
- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-
- (a)(i) Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for the year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for the Year 1990-91.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1972/92]
- (b)(i) Annual Accounts of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1990-91.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1973/92]
- (c)(i) Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the Year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the Year 1990-91.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1974/92]
- (5) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1972-74/92]

Notification under Income tax act, 1961; Central excess and salt Act 1944, and Customs Act, 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RA-
MESHVAR THAKUR): I beg to lay on the
Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules 1992 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 371 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March 1992 under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1978/92]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:-

(i) G.S.R. 371 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 175/86-CE, dated the 1st March 1986.

(ii) G.S.R. 383 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 7/92-CE, dated the 1st March 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1979/92]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Custom Act, 1962:-

(i) G.S.R. 409 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments

in the Notification No. 33/86-Cus., dated the 7th February 1986.

(ii) G.S.R. 410 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 136/90-Cus., dated the 20th March 1990.

(iii) G.S.R. 411 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe the rate of basic customs duty on goods (with certain exceptions imported through the courier mode at 105 per cent ad valorem.

(iv) G.S. R.354(E) to G.S.R. 363 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs Duty changes and exemption in the context of proposals announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 26th March 1992.

(v) G.S.R. 382 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of the Notification No. 52/85-Cus., dated the 4th March 1985 upto the the 31st March 1995.

(vi) The Project Import (Second Amendment) Regulations, 1992 published in Notifications No. G.S.R. 317 (E) dated the

10th March 1992 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1980/92]

The Notifications under cost and works Accountants Act, 1959 and Companies Act, 1956 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Cost and Works Accountants (Amendment) Regulations 1991 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. CWR (1)/91 in Gazette of India dated the 12th October 1991 under sub-section (5) of section 39 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1981/92]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 153(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February 1992 making certain amendments in Schedule Ten of the Companies Act, 1956 under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the said Act

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1982/92]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of

section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) The Companies (Fees on Applications) Amendment Rules, 1992 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 126 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1992
- (ii) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms Second (Amendment) Rules, 1992 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 312 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1992.
- (iii) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment) Rules, 1992 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 353 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 1992.

[Placed in Library See No. LY-1983/92]

- 4 (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.
- 5 A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1984/92]

- 6 A copy of the Twentieth Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the Execution of the Provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 or the period from the 1st January 1990 to the 31st December, 1990 under section 62 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT-1985/92]

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Union Government (No. 12 of 1991)- Commercial Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Chinta Mohan. I beg to lay on the Table:-

A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 12 of 1991) -Commercial Hindustan Insecticides Limited under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1986/92]

Notifications under general Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 and Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, etc

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESH-

WAR THAKUR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Dalbir Singh. I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:-

(i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Officers) (Amendment) Scheme, 1992 published in Notification No. S.O. 200 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 1992.

(ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of (Amendment) Scheme, 1992 published in Notification No. S.O. 201 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 1992. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1987/192]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:-

(i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Daily Allowance and Hotel Charges to Employees on Tour) (Amendment) Rules, 1992 Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 322 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 1992.

(ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Special Area Allowance) (Amendment) Rules, 1992 Published in Noti-

fication No. G.S.R. 23(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 1992.

- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India, Class-I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment Rules, 1992) (Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 324 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 1992.

- (iv) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Terms and conditions of Service) (Amendment Rules, 1992) (Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 325 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1988/92]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 328 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 1992 seeking to permit with effect from the 1st March, 1992 the bringing into India, of gold in any form, including ornaments and articles by a passenger being a person of Indian Nationality or origin as part of his baggage, while coming to India from any Country outside India, issued under section 13 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1989/92]

- (4) A copy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairman

and Members Amendment Rules, 1992 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 242 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1992 under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Board of India Ordinance, 1992.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1990/92]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 407 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 1992 providing permission to exporters who have obtained post-bid letters of approval from the Exim Bank on behalf of the Working Group on Project Exports or the Exim Bank or an Authorised Dealer within their deleted powers, in respect of export of engineering goods on deferred payment terms, execution of turn-key projects/ civil construction contracts abroad or for the export of consultancy, technical or other service abroad issued under section 16 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1991/92]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:-

(i) The Syndicate Bank (Officers) Service (Amendment) Regulation, 1991 published in Notification No 1046/S/90/PD:IRD (0) in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 1992.

(ii) The UCO Bank (Officers')

Service (Amendment) Regulations, 1991 Published in Notification No. PER/PCR/91/5122 in Gazette of India dated the 18th January, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1992/92]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Bank Act, 1973 :-

(i) The Post Office (Monthly Income Accounts) (Amendment) Rules, 1992 published in Notification No G.S.R.430 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1992.

(ii) The Post Office Time Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 1992 published in Notification No G.S.R.431 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1993/92]

- (8) A copy of the Kisan Vikas Patra (Amendment) Rules, 1992 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 432(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1992 under sub-Section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library See No-LT-1994/92]

- (9) A copy each of the following Ports (Hindi and English versions)

(i) Report of the Baitarani Gra-

mya Bank, Baripada, for the Year 1990-91 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1995/92]

- (ii) Report of the Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Diphu, for the Year 1990-91 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1996/92]

- (iii) Report of the Bhojpur-Rohtas Gramin Bank, Arrah, for the Year 1990-91 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1997/92]

- (10) A copy of the Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of the Two Rupees, Eleven Sides Coins Containing Copper 75 percent and Nickel 25 percent) Rules, 1992 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 281 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 1992 under subsection (3) of section 21 of the coinage Act, 1906.

[Placed in Library. See No LT-1981/92]

Annual Report and Review on the working of the India Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi for 1990-91 and statement for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): I beg to lay on the Table-

Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.
- (2) A Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in Laying the Papers mentioned at (1) above.
- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2001/92]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-II) for the year 1990-91.
- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1999/92]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) A statement regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Trade Fair

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2000/92]

14.23 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha :-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Provisions of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1992 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th April, 1992 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

14.23 1/2 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the

Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, of the following five Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 10th April, 1992:-

1. The Public Liability Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 1992.
2. The Destructive Insects and Pests (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1992
3. The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 1992
4. The Indian Red Cross Society (Amendment) Bill, 1992
5. The Securities and Exchange Board of India Bill, 1992

14.24 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUAIAH (Tumkur) : I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Second to Tenth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

14.24 1/2 hrs

INFANT MILK SUBSTITUTES, FEEDING BOTTLES AND INFANT FOODS (REGULATION OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF

YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Sir on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant food with a view to the protection and promotion of breast-feeding and ensuring the proper use of infant foods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"Leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of production supply and distribution of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant food with a view to the protection and promotion of breast-feeding and ensuring the proper use of infant foods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto." (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice. I want to raise two objections about this Bill. Though we welcome this Bill but we have two reservations. I would like to request the hon. Minister not to move this Bill today. There is a need to rectify two things in this Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You talk about the legislative competence.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am not raising the issue of legislative compe-

433 *Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods*, VAISAKHA 18, 1914 (SAKA) (*Regulation of production, Supply and Distribution*) Bill
tence but of discriminative provisions of the Bill.
[Translation]

[English]

This is a very discriminative legislation and I will take only one minute to show why it is discriminatory.

[Translation]

Still this Bill is being introduced. I have the copy of the code evolved by the World Health Assembly in 1981 regarding the Quality and type of milk to be made available to the children. In 1985 it was also endorsed by the Governments of India.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It will become a regular discussion.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I am not discussing the merits, I am only pointing out how this bill discriminates the Indian manufacturers of the milk products...

MR. SPEAKER: But the same thing can be done at the time of consideration.

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES: But it is discriminatory.

MR. SPEAKER: At the time of introduction you have to discuss the legislative competence.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: They are the multinationals. It discriminates against our manufacturers. (Interruptions). The whole purpose of the Bill is to favour the multinationals.

MR. SPEAKER: You have the complete freedom to speak on this Bill but only at the consideration stage.

[English]

At the time of introduction stage you shall have to consider only the legislative competence.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is a discriminative legislation.

MR. SPEAKER: When you are discussing whether any Fundamental Right is affected because of the discrimination...

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, with great respect I draw your attention to Rule 72 of the Rules of procedure, which says:

"If a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the Speaker, after permitting..."

Sir, your permission is necessary. That is always there for which we stand up.

"...if he thinks fit, a brief statements from the member who opposes the motion and the member who moved the motion, may, without further debate, put the question.

Provided that where a motion is opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House, the Speaker may permit a full discussion thereon"

That is for a full discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: (Ganshi Nagar)
There is no discussion here. He has the full right to oppose it on the ground that he has chosen and on that ground the Minister has to reply. So he has got every right to oppose, (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The points which you want to make, you can make at the consideration stage. At the time of introduction you shall have to tell us that this House is not having competence.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: No, Sir that is not the rule. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: If it is a question of competence of the House, then the Chair has to permit full discussion. But even without that competence issue, he can raise objections to the Bill on other grounds, to which the Minister has to reply. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1968 we have been continuously opposing Bills of this nature. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you because, the points raised by you are valid.

[English]

But at what stage you want to raise the point? Now, as a matter of fact you are raising it at the time of consideration by other also at the time of consideration. [Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I would like to tell you why I am raising these points at this stage? Indeed I am a supporter

of this Bill and wholeheartedly favour it but... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may be a supporter of this Bill, but the points that you have raised can be made at the consideration stage also.

[English]

You are preempting him.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I want this Bill to be...

MR. SPEAKER: There is a discrimination between you and other Members. Other Members do not have the same opportunity to raise this point. Why are you trying to make the point now at this stage?

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I want to oppose the Bill because there are some issues involved. Sir, I will tell any other Member who wants to raise, not to do it. I will not create any situation to discriminate any other Member.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Now, because you know this procedure, you are taking the opportunity and you are doing it. Let me know, and if nobody will object to you, it should be welcome and you should be congratulated. But at the time of introduction it is the legislative competence which is to be discussed.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: I am sorry, Sir. I respectfully submit that Rule 72 (i) says:

"If a Motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, brief statements from the member who moved the motion, may, without further debate, put the question."

437 *Infant Milk Substitutes, VAISAKHA 18, 1914 (SAKA) (Regulation of production, 438 Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods Supply and Distribution) Bill*

Now, this particular clause governs the present situation. After Mr. Fernandes has spoken, if I want to speak on the same subject, I cannot, because I have not given you notice. He has given you notice that on these grounds I want to oppose. So, he is entitled to raise it. Then the rule further says:"

"Provided that where a motion is opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House, the Speaker may permit a full discussion thereon:"

If that was the basis, then I also would have said that I would also like to speak on this and participated in the debate. But, so far as this particular point is concerned, it is perfectly valid that having given due notice, he is entitled to raise an objection to the Bill on the grounds he has mentioned, of course, with your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: He gives me the notice and he presumes that I have permitted him. He is a senior Member. Therefore, I do not object to him.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Sir, even I may point out that so far as the phraseology of all these rules is concerned, the Speaker has been given immense discretion, even if it were on the grounds of legislative competence Even then. It says that the Speaker may permit a full discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not objecting to his discussion and many times we have allowed the discussion also. But what happens actually is, because he is making use of this provision, all the points which could have been made at time of consideration are being made now.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir,

the point is, he is saying that he is supporting the Bill.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I said, I welcome the legislation, but I am opposing the introduction of this Bill unless the discriminatory aspect of this Bill is removed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing you, but please hear me, You are well within your rights to raise this issue, but the Presiding Officers who are sitting here have to consider other matters also. Supposing some item is coming up at 3 o' Clock and supposing we are not giving time in between, it is not good. It is not to shut it out, but to see that others also get the opportunity to discuss this>

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will not say anything beyond the two Points that I want I want to make.

MR. SPEAKER: How much time will you take ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will be very brief, Sir. I will not take more than five minutes under any circumstances.

[*Translation*]

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am raising the issue of discriminatory provisions on two accounts. The Bill propose to impose some kind of a restriction on the advertisements of baby-food. Most of the babyfood manufacturing companies in India are multinational companies with headquarters in America, Switzerland and other European countries. The programmes beamed by the news agencies like CNN, BBC, ITB and others have caught the imagination of the people in India in preference to the programmes of our Doordarshan. All the multinational companies controlling the major part of the babyfood market in India will continue to

[Sh. George Fernandes]

advertise their products on the international television network. Indian manufacturers like Amul are very small. There may be other enterprises also but only one or two names are worth mentioning. All these are being asked by the Government not to advertise their products. I am against the advertising of products. I am not saying that these products should be advertised but the provisions of this Bill are discriminatory against the Indian manufacturers because whereas the multinational companies will continue to advertise through international Chain of agencies to influence the psyche of Indians the Indian manufacturers are being forbidden to do so. Out of the total production of 60,000 tonnes of baby-food last year in the country, 40,000 tonnes of baby-food was purchased by the affluent people. Report about all this is available with the Government. What should the Small Indian Companies and Cooperatives like Amul Dairy Cooperative do in this regard? They are being discriminated.

Secondly, even the workers are being discriminated against by the Government. It has been mentioned by the hon. Minister in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill that the Government of India endorses the 1981 code of World Health Assembly. Wherein it was stated that:-

[English]

"Persons employed by the manufacturers and distributors-In systems of sale incentives for marketing personnel, the volume of sales of products within the scope of this code should not be included in the calculation of bonuses. Nor should quotas be set specifically for sales of these products."

[Translation]

Now, this has been distorted. It has been completely changed. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated that:-

[English]

"No person who produces, supplies, distributes or sells infant milk substitutes or feeding bottles for infant foods shall fix the remuneration of any of his employees, including the manufacturing employees or give any commission to such employees, on the basis of the volume of sale of such substitutes, or bottles or foods made by such employees."

[Translation]

Mr Speaker, Sir what will happen here now, the Government would do nothing except abolishing the system of giving salary on piece rate to the salesmen who take the material to the distribution shop. The government want to deprive the factory workers from the piece rate salary and thus to stop all incentives to encourage them. The Government had formulated world code later on which was rectified by the Government and under which this Act has been brought. Here the matter is concerned to bonus issue and not salary. Discriminatory attitude has been adopted towards the factory workers in this. Hence two discriminations have done in it We welcome the spirit of the Bill but at same time we would like the Government to give special consideration to these two discriminations and introduce the Bill in the House by Monday or Tuesday after making amendments into it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, My first submission is that in 1981 the World Health Code adopted a Bill. After that, in 1983 a working Group was set up in India and following its recommendations a Bill

441 *Infant Milk Substitutes, VAISAKHA 18, 1914 (SAKA)(Regulation of production, 442 Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods Supply and Distribution) Bill*

was introduced in Rajya Sabha in 1986. But due to the dissolution of the Government the Bill could not be passed. Again during the Prime Ministership of Shri V.P. Singh the Bill was again introduced in Lok Sabha on January 10, 1990 but after the dissolution of Lok Sabha the Bill could not be passed. In the last Parliament Shri Ram Naik brought a Private Member's Bill. He argued with me that when the international code can do it in the World Assembly then why not India. I admitted to him that the Government had committed a mistake. Shri George Fernandes has raised a question in this regard just now— I am greatly perturbed over the matter. Don't you want that the children of our country should be healthy and get nutritional food; if you really want them to get nutritional food, then you must support this Bill.

(Interruptions)

[English]

This is a very serious situation.

[Translation]

You must realise since the infant mortality rate is on the increase; it has become necessary to introduce this Bill. I would also like to submit that Shri George Fernandes has been raising the matter just to show how much concerned he is about the welfare of workers, but I have been fighting for it sincerely. *(Interruptions)* Production has not been banned rather the Bill makes provision to stop the advertisements in this regard because this is essential to give protection to infant milk, infant milk bottles, breast feeding and also for the good future of the country. Therefore I would like the House to support this Bill and help the Government to ensure the good future of the coming generations.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think you are quite persuasive:

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: At the moment I would not speak over it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It was a quite sportive and persuasive reply.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of production, Supply and distribution of infant milksubstitutes, feeding bottles and infant food with a view to the protection and Promotion of breast-feeding and ensuring the proper use of infant foods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Should we meet at 3 O'Clock?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Sir, if there is no lunch break, at least tea break should be there.

14.40 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to take immediate steps to cope with the situation arising out of drought at Idukki, Kerala**

[English]

SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW (Idukki): Sir the District of Idukki in Kerala is under threat of total ruin and we have been requesting for necessary action and steps for the last three years to improve the situation. The severe drought has completely ruined pepperwines, tea, coffee, cocoa, cardamom, coconut, rubber etc. have dried up and have been destroyed. All cultivations and greeneries are facing devastation. The poor peasants are panic-stricken, absolutely non-plussed. This situation, if allowed to continue, will lead to an economic havoc not only in Idukki but also in the entire State of Kerala. I therefore request the Central Government to take steps on a war-footing to meet the situation.

- (ii) **Need for early completion of Jagdalpur-Nizamabad National Highway No 16**

[Translation]

SHRI MANKU RAM SODI (Bastar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jagdalpur Nizamabad National Highway No: 16 was approved four years ago, but the working staff to the full strength has not been posted there so far. Due to non-filling of the vacant posts the progress of the work on that project is very slow. As far as my information is concerned even the regular workers as gangment have not been recruited. The distance between Jagdalpur which is on the border of Baastar to Bhopalpatham is about 220km. A sub-division in Bijapur should be opened in order to accelerate the work. Recently a subdivi-

sion has been opened in Godam which at a distance of about 61 km from Jagdalpur, whereas the length of road towards Bhopal-pattisnam from Godam is much more and the work could not be expedited due to the lack of control. A bridge is proposed to be constructed on the river Indrawati near Bhopalpatnam. Therefore it is necessary to open a sub-division at Bijapur.

Hence, the Central Government is requested to direct the State Government to expedite the work for the early completion of this National Highway.

- (iii) **Need to provide funds for the construction of flats for families affected by the communal in Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency, Orissa**

[English]

SHRI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh): Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to the miserable conditions of over fifty thousand Muslims residing at Nala Road in Rourkela. During the communal riots which rocked many parts of my Parliamentary constituency in 1964, thousands of Muslim families took shelter at Rourkela. Even after the riot, nay families stayed back and are now residing at Nala Road. Most of these families have hardly a room to accommodate their family members. The entire Nala Road areas have not been provided with bare necessities of life like drinking-water, light, and sanitation. There was a proposal by the Government of Orissa to construct flats to accommodate them but this could not be materialised as most of these families live from hand to mouth and are unable to pay the housing instalments. Sir, during the rainy seasons as the entire Nala Road area is low-land area of Rourkela township and there is no drainage system, the areas are affected by flood water. Many of them suffer from cholera. During the summer they do

not get water to drink as the area has of water supply facilities.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to sanction a substantial amount for construction of flats for these people on humanitarian grounds in order to resettle these families affected by communal riots.

(iv) Need to develop inland waterway from Kovalam to Kochuvell, Kerala

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): It is reliably learnt that the Government of India has selected a few projects for development of Tourism under the Central Sector. Kovalam is one such project in Kerala. The Kerala Government has submitted a proposal for the development of inland waterway from Kovalam to Kochuvelli where facilities are already available for water sports. If the Kovalam-Kochuvelli inland water way is developed it can attract tourist from all over the world. If this waterway is developed the tourists who land at the Airport can easily reach Kovalam through the waterway in less than half-an-hour. I, therefore, request the Central Government to implement the project within a time frame.

(v) Need to take steps for early completion of Daryaghat' railway line through Murdbad Tehsil of Thane district, Maharashtra.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): The survey for new railway line through Murdbad Tehsil of Than District, Maharashtra was made long back.

This railway line is not only the lifeline of this Tehsil but will be also a boon to southern India. It is reported that with the laying of this line the distance between Bombay to Vishakhapatnam will be reduced by 250 Kms., and that between Bombay and Ahmednagar will be 100 Kms.,

less than the existing railway route. The passengers travelling by the proposed route will not have to travel via Pune but can go directly from Bombay to Ahmednagar through Daryaghat. The poor villagers from Murdbad Tehsil are anxiously waiting for completion of this railway line called "Daryaghat Railway."

I urge upon the Central Government to take up the matter as it will be the shortest link between Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

(vi) Need for setting up an electronic telephone exchange at Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh

[*Translation*]

SR. P.R. GANGWAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, my whole constituency comes under Terain region, on the Borders of Nepal. This is a terrorist affected area. Many years ago, an electronic telephone exchange was approved for this area, but it has not been set up so far; due to which people have to face a lot of inconvenience. Besides, police force also it difficult to fight against terrorism due to the lack of communication facilities.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to open the aforesaid exchange in Pilibhit at the earliest.

(vii) Need to introduce direct tranins between North Bihar and South India

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Si-tamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the coaches of almost all the trains coming to Bihar, particularly to North Bihar are in worn out condition. So much so that even the doors and windows of the toilets in these trains are without bolts, and the taps broken. It is difficult to assess how much inconvenience

[Sh. Nawal Kishore Rai]

the passengers travelling on long routes have to face. The rates of eatables has been increased but the quality of those eatables has not improved. Due to the non-availability of water in the train people have to make their own arrangement for water. Therefore, these worn out coaches should be replaced by the new coaches at once so that the passengers are relieved of these difficulties. computer facility should have been provided in Muzaffarpur. Reservation office too, but it has not been provided to it. Under the new Railway policy, though the Railway department has linked the industrial and trading centres of West to those of South but North Bihar has not been linked. Therefore, I would urge the Central Government to start a direct train from Muzaffarpur in order to link North Bihar to South India.

(vii) Need to demarcate the boundary of buxar airport, Bihar and to modernise it

SHRITEAJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Buxar district of Bihar state there is an airport at Buxar which was made when the Britishers ruled our country. The ministers make use of that airport from time to time. The airport is built on nearly 50 acre plot of land. In old survey as well as in new survey the airport land is shown as agricultural land. But for the last few days the airport land is being encroached by some people. That is why I make a demand to the Government of India that the boundary of the Buxar airport should be demarcated and after the demarcation a boundary well should be constructed around it and the airport may be modernised.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House stands

adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

14. 50 hrs

The Lok Sabha than Adjourned for Lunch till Thirty minutes past Three of the Clock.

15.35

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Private Members' Business. Shri-mati Basava Rajeswari is not present. Shri Anna Joshi

ALL INDIA COUCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 10)

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987."

The Motion was Adopted.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : I introduce the Bill.

15.35 1/2 hrs

DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS (REGULATION OF MIGRATION TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES) BILL*

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the migration of doctors and engineers to foreign Countries."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the migration of doctors and engineers to foreign countries."

The Motion was Adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I introduces the Bill.

15.36 hrs

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES (FOR CHILDREN OF ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD PARENTS) BILL*

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to Introduce a Bill to provide for special educational facilities to children of economically backward parents.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special educational facilities to children of economically backward parents."

The motion was adopted

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 1/2 hrs.

COLLEGE EDUCATION BILL*

[English]

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN (Chidambaram): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of adequate number of colleges in every district in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of adequate number of colleges in every district in the country".

The motion was adopted

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

RESERVATION OF POSTS FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES) BILL*

[English]

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN (Chidambaram): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in higher category of posts in Government Services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in higher category of posts in Government Services."

The motion was adopted.

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: I introduce the Bill.

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Substitution of New Section for section 115)

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deog-

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

the Bill.

arh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I introduce the Bill.

15.38 1/2 hrs

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) BILL*

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of employment and conditions of service of construction workers and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of employment and conditions of service of construction workers and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I introduce

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 6A)

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA(Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce to introduce a Bill further the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I introduce the Bill.

15.39 1/2 hrs

OFFICIAL RESIDENCE FOR DIGNITARIES BILL*

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA(Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a permanent residence for persons holding high offices under the Government of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a permanent residence for persons holding high offices under the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I introduce to Bill.

15.40 hrs

UNORGANISED LABOUR WELFARE
BILL*

[English]

SHRIDWARKA NATHDAS (Kaimganj): I bet to more for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for protection and welfare of unorganized labour and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for protection and welfare of unorganized labour and matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIDWARKA NATHDAS: I introduce the Bill.

15.40 1/2

EX-TEA GARDEN LABOUR WELFARE
BILL*

[English]

SHRIDWARKA NATHDAS (Karimganj):

Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for protection and welfare of extra garden labour and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for protection and welfare of ex-tea garden labour and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIDWARKA NATHDAS: I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR (EQUAL PAY
FOR MEN AND WOMEN) BILL*

[English]

SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL (Nanded): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for equal pay and perks for agricultural labourers, both men and women, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for equal pay and perks for agricultural labourers, both men and women, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs

Shri L.K. Advani.

HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT IMPHAL) BILL

[*Translation*]

[*English*]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Since a permanent Bench of the High Court at Guwahati at Imphal has been established and functioning, the purpose of the Bill has been served. Hence, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Guwahati at Imphal.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am starting this discussion. I would only like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the several residents of Manipur are on hunger-strike for the last nine days on the question of the Manipuri language and the condition of one of them is serious. That is why. Though the House has held discussion twice on it on Friday and there is a consensus. I hope that the response of the Government will be favourable and it will be such a response that we may convey the opinion of the house to them and they may call off the hunger-strike. The condition of the one of them is quite serious and that is why I am rising to express my concern (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Guwahati at Imphal."

[*English*]

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, some Nepali people are also planning self-immolation.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: I withdraw the Bill.

[*Translation*]

15.43 hrs

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL-
CONTD.

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will Now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari on the 10th April, 1992, namely:-

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Hon. Advani ji has raised an issue in the House, it is my request that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present in the House.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Khurana ji, Advani ji has already spoken, what else is left now.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I had mentioned it here in the last few days that by bringing this Bill in the House hon. Dil Kumari ji has won hearts of all of us as also won the hearts of the people, who are living in all those States where they are resorting to agitational ap-

proach on the question of language. She has given us an opportunity..(Interruptions)..their name is not there. I would like to tell you that today we have got an opportunity in the House that we should not only confine this issue to Manipuri and Nepali alone, but we need to ponder over this issue more seriously. The reason for this is that there is a proposal before us to give constitutional recognition to languages like Nepali, Manipuri or Konkani. There can be no two opinions on this because today if the unity of the country has to be maintained, we shall have to think again on the language-policy.

All of us know that all the major languages in this country have been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. All of us also know that Hindi is the national language of this country and even on this there are no two opinions, nor is there any opposition to it. But in this country, even after 40-50 years of independence, people living in remote areas at different places and in backward areas have an attachment with their respective languages they speak, all of them want their own language to get ahead, but the apathy on the part of the Government towards those languages has created surprise and resentment among the people.

That is why I would like to submit to you that there are many minor languages in this country in each State which do not have their own script but people speak those languages and converse in them. Some languages such as Nicolabri language in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, has got no script of its own but the former Member of Parliament, Late John Bishop Richardson, who was elected to this House in 1952, made an effort to write it in Roman alphabets. He gave the Nicobari language of that place a written form and in this way translated it into a script. You may find many such languages in different parts of the country and we have no knowledge of these languages completely. That is why I want that research should be carried out in

respect of all such languages and they are brought to light from the point of view of the unity and integrity of the country as well as to make the nation strong. We should obtain complete information about such languages and we should ponder over the ways to get all those languages included in our Constitution.

The hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs is sitting in the House, he must be having information about many such languages. I would like to submit to him to constitute a Language Commission in the country and after its constitution, all the languages spoken in the country should be placed in a list. After that list is prepared, we should find out as to which languages do not have their own script. A separate list should be prepared for such languages and those languages which are spoken by people, which figure in the list and which have a script of their own should be placed in a separate list. In this way after a list is prepared of all such languages, there is a need today to frame a policy in a proper way with regard to the languages spoken by tribals and others throughout the country, but which have never been presented before us in a proper form.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the constituency that I represent, people belonging to every state and speaking all sorts languages of the country are living. We have three-language formula, First-Hindi, second-English and third-own mother tongue, all these three languages are also compulsory. If someone wants to receive education through his mother tongue, he has no, problem, Therefore, language has never become a bone of contention. At the time when an agitation was going on against teaching of Hindi in one part of the country, the people of my State were studying in the medium of English and their mother tongue-. Thus, no controversy ever reged on language in my State. It has maintained our language policy.

[Sh. Manoranjan Bhakta]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in various States of the country various controversies have been going on language issue for a long period. Therefore, taking all things into consideration, the review of the language policy becomes necessary. There is a Department of Official languages in the Ministry of Home Affairs but the Government has never given a thought towards a number of languages in the country. What has it done? It has taken no measures to encourage the official language. It has taken no measures to hold any discussion in this regard. I, therefore, realise that it is very essential to consider it anew. It is very essential for the sake of national integration as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the Government thinks that it has fulfilled its responsibility merely by encouraging Hindi, that will not serve the purpose. It is very essential to encourage Hindi. Undoubtedly, it is our national language and I am not saying it at all that Hindi should not be encouraged. Hindi must be encouraged, but the Government has to pay attention to the development and propagation of other 15 languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. It is true that every State Government is responsible for the progress of the language of the State, but besides it, there is no one to pay any heed to the dialects spoken as regional languages in the State and spoken by the majority of the people for their development. The Central Government owns the responsibility of propagating the Official Language and State Government does so in respect of the language spoken in that State but Nobody is there to develop the regional languages. Therefore, it is high time that we examined every issue and its every aspect properly. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to formulate a policy in the regard.

Mr. Chairmen, Sir, it is my demand to

the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that after the discussion is over, he should take some concrete steps to revise the language policy and also see that some steps are taken to encourage these languages. For doing all this funds are also required for the Government to implement its plans because nothing can be done without money. Similarly, work should be done for the development of Manipuri, Nepali and Konkani languages also. Recently, I found in Tripura that they have developed a separate language of their own. They have given certain name to it. They have evolved its script also. That is a Tribal language. The Government must pay attention to it. I think it is a genuine demand. You should make an announcement that the Government will bring forward a Bill in this regard by such and such date.

Just now, Shri Advani has said that the Manipuri students are on the path of agitation. We all want to request them that since it is being discussed in the House and the Government is aware of it, they should not launch agitation. Their purpose of drawing attention has already been served.

I support the move and conclude.

PROF. PREMDHUMAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Constitution (Amendment to the Eighth Schedule) Bill introduced by Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari. Our party leader Shri Advani has also supported this Bill fully. Nepali and Manipuri were promised to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in our election manifesto.

The purpose of language is to one's feeling and message to the other. Nepali and Manipuri are languages which are used to give expression to the feeling of many people of this country. There are already 15 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. These two languages should also be included in it and they should be recognised. In a democratic Government the Govern-

ment itself should understand the feeling of the people. Unfortunately, such circumstances were always created which have compelled people to resort to violent agitation to get their demand accepted. The Government has always ignored such issues presented through a resolution or negotiation. When it was expressed through violent agitation, the Government accepted it.

Today, the people of Manipur and Sikkim are lauding agitation to get their respective languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. As Shri Advani said some people are sitting on fast and the condition of one of them is serious. The Nepali students have threatened to commit self-immolation. I think that had the Government been vigilant towards the sentiments of the people, the moment the State Home Minister came to the House, he would have said that in the light of the support from every section of the House he accepts it and the agitation would have been called off at once. I fail to understand as to what does the Government lose if it does so.

The Government itself reconstituted States on the basis of language and it was accepted only when some of the people agitated for it. The people of Punjab went on demanding reorganisation of Punjab on the basis of Punjabi language. The Government opposed it and the intensity of resentment went on increasing. Violent agitation took place, then they were given a small State of Punjab on the Basis of Punjabi language. Punjab was divided. At present such agitation is going on in Manipur. The people of Manipur are opposing the Central Government and all other Indian languages. They say that unless Manipuri is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, they are not prepared to Schedule of the Constitution, they are not prepared to accept any other language. The Nepalese students threaten to agitate. They are sitting here on hunger-strike. After this, Since this Bill has

been brought by on hon. Member of the House and the entire House has supported it, the hon. Minister should not make further delay in accepting it.

Not only this, the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Tripura, West Bengal, and that of my own State, Himachal Pradesh have passed a resolution and sent it to the Government to include Nepali and Manipuri languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Recently the conference of the Bharatiya Janata Party was held in Gandhinagar (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Let the hon. Member say that the conference was held in Anayadaya Nagar-

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: It is better for the hon. Member not to speak on the issue which is beyond his comprehension. At that conference we said that not only Manipuri and Nepali but Konkani should also be included in it. Since the formation of Goa as a new State, the people have been demanding inclusion of Konkani in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. If the Government of India makes further delay on any pretext, it will be taken that it is being denied as the saying goes-

[*English*]

Justice delayed is justice denied.

[*Translation*]

If it is delayed for long, the public resentment will increase. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to accept the Bill for the inclusion of Nepali and Manipuri as it is and create a history. It is a very good Bill and all parties are supporting it. You are requested to treat it as Government Bill and include it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Many Members would like to speak on

[Prof. Prēm Dhumal]

it. So, once again I would like to say that prior to that the movement may turn violent you are urged to understand the feelings of the people and decide this matter respecting the norms of the democracy. As a member of your party Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has said that if this Bill is passed, the people will start believing that this Government has full faith in democracy and it understands the feelings of the people. You are requested to pass this bill and try to understand the feelings of the people and ours. Soon the good results of this Bill will come before us and I hope that you will adopt it.

With these words I support this bill and conclude.

[English]

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill which is of great interest to more than eight to ten lakhs of people of my constituency of Darjeeling and carries far-reaching implications for the future of India, its integrity and unity.

Many friends from all sides of the House have already spoken on the Bill. I have heard all of them with much interest, and if I might add, in some cases, with not a little concern.

Some here may be surprised at my use of the word 'concern'. Candidly, Sir, I have chosen to do so deliberately, I feel concerned because I find that some of the speeches sadly reflect what I have often described as the bane of present day India, a crisis of casualness. I get the feeling that adequate thought has not been given to the proposal to include Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule. Regrettably, the approach of some friends appears to be rather casual. Major developments have taken place in the

Darjeeling hills over the past few years. Surprisingly and regrettably, these have not been taken into account. Some friends have also slurred over recent developments which must be kept in mind before we take a decision on the legislation before us, a Bill which is not as simple as it appears to be in regard to the proposal for the inclusion of the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill needs to be viewed in the first place in the light of the agitation launched by the Gorkha National Liberation Front and its leader, Mr. Subash Ghisingh, for the establishment of Gorkhaland early in 1986 and its culmination in the historic Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Accord on August 23, 1988. This agitation was not just for a separate State of Gorkhaland within India's borders. Sir, it was a battle for identity by the Gorkhas of the Darjeeling hill areas who had come to India with the ceded land—as also a battle by the Gorkha National Liberation Front for forging a common national political platform for the 'settled Gorkhas' all over India.

Mr. Ghisingh and his supporters were not prepared to be labelled as Nepalis and, in effect, have the words "Reciprocal Nepalis" permanently inscribed on their foreheads under Article VII of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950. This article provides and I quote:

"The Governments of India and Nepal agree to grant on reciprocal basis to the nationals of one country in the territories of the other the same privileges in the matter of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce and privileges of a similar matter."

They, therefore, asserted that they were Indians and not Nepalis and demanded that they be formally recognised as Indians. In other words... (Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not yielding. I did not object when Mr. Upadhyay talked in terms of "We, the

*Bill (Amendment of*Nepalis..." (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has his point of view. Let him express. Do not disturb him.

SHRI INDER JIT: They, therefore, asserted that they were Indians and not Nepalis and demanded that they be formally recognised as Indians. In other words, they drew a sharp and clear distinction between those who were "settled Gorkhas" of India and Indians and those who were Nepali nationals residing in India in accordance with Article VII of the Indo Nepal Treaty and described as "reciprocal Nepalis". Basically they were eager to make one thing clear. They were will and truly Indians and had nothing to do whatsoever with Nepali.

To cut a long story short, Mr. Ghising and the GNLF fought hard and won their battle for identity. The Government of India acknowledged that Mr. Ghising and the "settled Gorkhas" of India were Indian citizens. Simultaneously, the Government of India issued on August 23, 1988, a Gazette Notification declaring all the "settled Gorkhas" to be Indians. I quote the Gazette Notification:

"Whereas it has come to the notice of the Central Government that there have been some misconceptions about the citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution of India of Certain classes of persons commonly known as Gorkhas, who had settled in India at such commencement.

And whereas it is considered necessary to clear such misconceptions; it is hereby clarified as follows:

- (1) As from the commencement of the Constitution, that is as from 26.1.1950, every Gorkha, who had his domicile in the territory of India, that is in the territories which on

26.1.1950 became part of or constituted the territory of India as defined in Article 1 (2) of the Constitution of India; and

- (a) who was born in the territory of India;
- (b) either of whose parents was born in the territory of India;
- (c) who had been ordinarily resident in the territory of India for not less than five years before such commencement;

shall be a citizen of India as provided in article 5 of the Constitution of India;

- (2) No such person as is referred to in paragraph
- (1) above shall be a citizen of India or be deemed to be a citizen of India if he has voluntarily acquired to citizenship of any foreign State as provided in article 9 of the Constitution of India..."

Sir, I will not bother you with more details of this Gezette notification. But it is very vital for our discussion.

Importantly and significantly the GNLF and its leaders did not rest at that. They insisted that the proposed Darjeeling Hill Council, which was to be an autonomous body and a little short of the full-fledged State demanded by them, be called the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. The West Bengal Government objected to including the word "Gorkha" in the name of Hill Council. Eventually, Shri Buta Singh, the then Home Minister, and I as one privileged to play the role of a mediator in the thorny and highly emotive dispute, were able to persuade both the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, and the West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr. Jyoti

[Sh. Inderjit]

Basu, to accede to the GNLF demand and give the proposed Council the name of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council,

The GNLF and its supporters in the Darjeeling Hill areas as also in the adjoining areas of Alipur Dooars are today proud of their Indian citizenship and identify. They are happy to have drawn a clear and sharp distinction between themselves as Indians and those who are "reciprocal Nepalis". They do not wish to be seen as having any link, even remotely, with Nepal and are eager to ensure that there is no scope for any doubt in regard to their commitment to their motherland India

In fact, not long ago, the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council and its Executive took another significant step to assert their Indian identity and separateness from Nepal. Both formally declared "Gorkha Bhasha" as their official language. This, it needs to be noted, was done by Mr. Ghisingh and his council at a time when some leaders in the region have been busy campaigning in a big way for the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule as one of India's National languages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall have to extend the time of this Bill as the time of the Bill is over. Shall we extend it by two hours?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR CHAIRMAN: The time is extended by two hours. Shri Inderjit, please continue.

SHRI INDER JIT: We must be clear about certain fundamental while viewing the Constitution Amendment bill before us. The Nepali language is today officially the national language of Nepal even as the Kingdom has many other languages spoken by

its various communities as the Rais, the Limbus and the Gurungs. I am told that Nepal had formally no national language until Kathmandu applied for the membership of the United Nations. Earlier, the ruling circles in Kathmandu used the Khas language. Subsequently, the name was changed to Parbatiya or the language spoken in the hills. (*Interruptions*) Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari can reply at the end. Please give me a patient hearing. Thereafter, it was called Gorkha Bhasha till Nepali language in Newari script was formally declared as the Kingdom's national language.

The Nepali language is at present not only the national language of Nepal, it is also the language of all the Nepalis abroad, including lakhs residing and working in India in accordance with Article VII of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950. In sharp contrast, Gorkha Bhasha, according to the GNLF and my understanding of the Darjeeling Accord, is the language of the "settled Gorkhas" of India who have been accepted as Indian citizens under the Accord and have been declared to be such by the Government of India Gazette Notification of August 28, 1988. (*Interruptions*). I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No disturbance Please.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Sir, he is misleading the House.

MR. CHARIMAN: You can reply and lead the House properly.

SHRI INDER JIT: The distinction between them is clear and marked—a distinction which we must underline and emphasize in India's best national interest and that of its unity and integrity. Shakespeare once said "What is in a name" and hastened to add: "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI:

You translate it in Gorkha language.

SHRI INDER JIT: Alas, this does not hold good insofar as a language is concerned! A language by any other name may not only not smell as sweet but could, in fact, turn out to be a thorny cactus. Every one in the Darjeeling hill areas has, for instance, great respect—I want you to note, Sir— and love for the Gorkha *bhasha*, presently described erroneously by some people as Nepali. They also have affection and regard for the Script. But they are not prepared to call it Nepali language as the name is identified with the nationality of another country, namely, Nepali...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, the Members are entitled to their views. I have my views. In fact, the GNLFF strongly opposes...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Chitta Basu, when have you joined the Congress Party? If you want to join, please apply for it. We will then consider.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member has freedom of speech.

SHRI INDER JIT: Sir, it is my privilege to represent Darjeeling and its Gorkha here. It is my privilege and my duty to put forward their point of view. It may be acceptable to people, it may not be acceptable to Members, but I have a right to express my view very freely and forthrightly, and this is all I seek.

In fact, the GNLFF strongly opposes the legislative enacted by the West Bengal Assembly declaring Nepali as one of the State languages. It also opposes its demand that the Centre should include Nepali in the Eighth Schedule. They want the State Act amended and the words 'Gorkha Bhasha' substituted for Nepali language. This was, indeed, my own stand also when I successfully contested the Lok Sabha polls of 1989 and 1991— the first at the invitation of the GNLFF as its candidate and the second as a

Congress(I) candidate with the full backing of the GNLFF. The point is...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHARIMAN: It is not proper to interrupt the hon. Member.

SHRI INDER JIT: Mr. Upadhyay, you have gone on record about your views on Nepali I am not going to enter into any argument now and I want to keep that out.

I would like to inform the House, and more especially fellow-Members of the Congress(I), that the last poll for the Lok Sabha and the West Bengal Assembly was fought on the basis of a clear and firm understanding between the Congress(I), then heroically led by the late Rajiv Gandhi, and the GNLFF. Both the parties backed each other's candidates...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can make your point at the end.

SHRI INDERJIT: Specifically, the GNLFF not only supported my candidature for the Lok Sabha but also the Congress(I) candidates for the West Bengal Assembly constituencies of Siliguri, Phansidewa was, Islampur and Chopra in the plains...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, the hon. Member, the mover, will have a chance to rebut all my arguments. Would the lady Member be generous enough and gracious enough to give me a patient hearing? At the end of it she can spurn all my arguments. It is upto her, but she must give me a patient hearing.

The Congress-I, for its part, fully supported the GNLFF candidates for the West Bengal Assembly from the hill constituencies of Darjeeling, Kurseang and Kalimpong. The GNLFF won all the three Assembly seats, defeating in one case a Minister in Jyoti Basu's Government. Importantly, the GNLFF put forward in its manifesto its strong opposition to the declaration of Nepali language as an official language of West Bengal and

[Sh. Inderjit]

demanded that the name Nepali be substituted by Gorkha Bhasha. .

The crucial importance of the Indian identity is basic to our argument. It is also fundamental to India's integrity and unity in view of the fact that our country is contiguous to Nepal and has a long unmanned border with it. What is more, the Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950 is unique. We have no such treaty with any other country. Mercifully, we have not extended such reciprocal facilities to any other neighbouring country. Some prominent leaders of Sikkim have been talking in terms of "Bharatiya Nepalese" and have put forward what I would call an absurd concept. Perhaps, we would also be confronted today with two other absurd propositions of "Bharatiya Bangladeshis" and "Bharatiya Pakistanis", had similar reciprocal facilities also been extended to Bangladeshis and Pakistanis. Please remember, we already have many more Bangladeshis residing illegally in India today than the "reciprocal Nepalese".

This leads us to the pertinent question: Would it be right and proper for the Parliament of India to include among the national languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution the Nepali language which is the language of the "reciprocal Nepal" people in India—persons who are here today and could be gone tomorrow. We can include the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule only if these Nepalis come to be declared as Indian citizens as in the case of the "settled Gorkhas" of India under the Darjeeling Accord of August 23, 1988 between the GNLF and the Government of India.

Therefore, I would like to ask the mover of the Resolution and all those who have supported the Bill—Where is the Gazette Notification which confers Indian citizenship on the "reciprocal Nepalis" in India? Kindly

produce this notification and I shall promptly withdraw my opposition to the Bill. In fact, I go a step further to inform the House that even the GNLF and its supreme leader, Mr. Ghisingh, will gladly extend support to the Bill if you can produce such a notification.

I know there is no such Gazette Notification of the Government of India till now. Therefore, I would strongly plead with all my friends here to pause and ponder. Please do not support the Bill. It is true that some parties have made certain commitments in their party manifestos for the last took Sabha poll. But their stand, in my view, has been unfortunate, unwise and even populist. I would urge them to remember that two wrongs have never added up to a right. They should take a fresh look at the issue in the light of the views put forward by me on behalf of my constituency and lakhs of its people.

There should be no question at all of including the Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule until and unless the "reciprocal Nepalis" are formally and officially designated as Indians through a Gazette Notification of the Government of India. Declaration of any language as a State language does not necessarily give the language the status and acceptability of a national language. The mover of the Bill should try to get the "reciprocal Nepalis" declared as Indians first.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already taken a lot of time of this august House. But I seek your indulgence for a little longer as I am the only Member presenting the other side of the coin in regard to the Nepali language. The entire exercise of those who are "reciprocal Nepalis" and are demanding inclusion of the "Nepali language" in the Eighth Schedule is to enable those people to claim that they are Nepalis and to that extent virtually exercise dual nationality. Would this be in our national interest at a time when leftist and other forces in Nepal are stridently urging Kath-

mandu to reclaim the Darjeeling hill areas upto Teesta river as its territory? In my view, we cannot deal with this serious matter rightly or casually. (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I urge with all the emphasis at my command that if the language of the Gorkhas of India is to be included in the Eighth Schedule then that language will have to be the "Gorkha Bhasha" and not the Nepali language. My suggestion would emphasize and underline the Indian identity of the Gorkha Bhasha as against the foreign identity of the Nepali language. I might add that the suggestion I am making is not a new proposition. We have in the past drawn up a sharp and meaningful distinction between various common languages spoken along our northern and other borders. We have given these languages on our side of the borders Indian names and Indian identity.

Take the case of Ladakhi, which is today the language of the people of Ladakh. This language is identical to the Tibetan language across the border. The script, too, is the same. But we have for long called the language spoken by the people of Ladakh as Ladakhi and the script used by them also as Ladakhi. This identifies the language as one belonging to Ladakh and, therefore, to India. Likewise, the Bhutias in Sikkim and the Darjeeling hill areas speak a language and use a script which is the same as Tibetan. But the Maharaja of Sikkim prior to the State's merger with India called the language and the script Sikkimese to draw a distinction between their language and the Tibetan language. In the Darjeeling hill areas, the language has been called Bhutia to assert its Indian identity. Thus, when you speak of the Bhutia language, you convey the clear view that the language is the language of the Bhutias of India, as distinct from the language of the Tibetans.

That, Mr. Chairman, is not all. Every country is and needs must be very clear

about the distinct identity of its national language. Two other instances may be cited. The people of India's emerald islands of Lakshdweep speak the same language and use the same script as those of the Maldives, namely, Divehi. But we wisely decided to emphasize the Indian identity of the language of Lakshdweep and gave the language and script a distinct Indian name of Mahal. Again, the Bangladeshis call their language "Bangla Bhasha" and not Bengali, as we do in India. This was done with an eye mainly on one thing: to draw a sharp distinction between Bangladesh's national language and Bengali, the language of neighbouring West Bengal and, therefore, a language of India.

Two other points require to be made in this context. First, today we are proud to have Urdu as one of our national languages. It is a fine and beautiful language which I chose as my Indian language for graduate studies. Urdu is also the national language of Pakistan. This enables the people of both our countries to share the joys of ghazals and mushairas. But I ask: Would we in India have included Urdu in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution if the language had been called Pakistani? Hence the rationale behind GNLFF's strong objection to the inclusion of Nepali as one of India's national languages in the Eighth Schedule. There would be no problem today if Nepal too had given or were to give to its national language the name "Gorkha Bhasha" which, like Urdu or, for that matter, English is not identified with any nationality. (*Interruptions*).

Sir, I am the only Member who is speaking against this Bill. So, I must have a chance to put across my view.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you sufficient time.

SHRI INDER JIT: Sir, I know. Just a few moments more, Sir.

[Sh. Inder Jit]

The second point is, as we all know, the British Raj greatly respected the prowess and fighting qualities of the Nepalis. Consequently, they recruited them in large numbers for their Army under the Raj- and continued to do so even after Independence. Importantly, however, they called these men Gorkhas and the troops as Gorkha regiments and Gorkha troops etc. They also called the Nepali language spoken and written by these Gorkha troops as Gorkhali, a point made by Col. Ram Singh on April 10 last when he happened to be in the Chair. Why? The answer is not far to seek. They did this because they wanted to draw a clear distinction between their own Gorkha troops and those of Nepal!

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall now wind up by drawing your attention to an interesting fact. The demand for the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule is not new. It has been raised time and again over the past many year. But Delhi has advisedly not acceded to it. The demand was raised initially during Indira Gandhi's time. But she refused to oblige. Mr. Morarji Desai as Prime Minister understood the problem very clearly. Characteristically, he bluntly told a delegation of the All India Nepali Bhasha Samiti at Darjeeling on September 29, 1977: "Nepali is a foreign language." Further, he said there was no question of including it in the Eighth Schedule. Indira Gandhi was again approached after her return to power in 1980. But she diplomatically declined to oblige. What is the reason? The issue is not as simple as has been made out by the mover and its supporters. It has serious, indeed, grave implications.

As the representative of the people of Darjeeling in this House, I have the greatest regard and affection for the language and script of the Gorkha, who are fellow Indians. I strongly believe that their language, the

Gorkha Bhasha, deserves, to be included in the Eighth Schedule. But I am totally opposed to the inclusion of Nepali language as one of our national languages in the Eighth Schedule. In fact, West Bengal needs to amend its earlier legislation and substitute the words "Gorkha Bhasha" for Nepali. The Sahitya Academy, too, needs to review its earlier decision of recognising Nepali as "one of the major Indian languages": in 1975 in the light of the developments between 1986 and 1988, culminating in the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Accord. Under this Accord, the Gorkhas asserted their Indian identity and refused to be seen as having any link with Nepal.

All that I have ventured to put forward also needs to be seen in the light of a significant but little-known experience in the Darjeeling hills. Quiet and clandestine efforts were made during the last census operation to get the people to declare themselves as Nepalis instead of Indians. They were also sought to be persuaded through various familiar means and pressures to declare Nepali as their language in preference to Gorkha Bhasha. In fact, we discovered during the last general election that many "reciprocal Nepalis" had managed to get their names included in the electoral rolls and had voted. This issue was subsequently taken up by Mr. Ghisingh with the Chief Election Commissioner in my presence in a letter personally delivered to Mr. Seshan on July 18, 1991.

Sri, as I said earlier, it is time to pause and ponder. We must avoid doing something in haste and then repent at leisure. Nothing must be done which goes against the letter and spirit of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Conical Accord and the Gazette notification of the Government of India, dated August 23, 1988 according Indian citizenship only to the "settled Gorkhas" and not to the "reciprocal Nepalis." Nothing must also be done which suits the surreptitious strategy of

those who are working for Greater Nepal from within our country and from across the border.

Sir, the talk of Greater Nepal is not the figment of anyone's imagination. The threat, howsoever, feeble today, is very much there. Remember, there are powerful forces who have not reconciled to the merger of Sikkim with India. There are also powerful forces who want to stop India from becoming strong and Playing its due role in the comity of Nations. Let not history accuse this Lok Sabha of doing something which goes against our best national interest and could very well put a question mark over India's integrity along its strategic and sensitive northern borders. We can ignore this warning only at our peril. (Interruptions) I think arguments must honourably be met by arguments only and not by shouting down.

Sir, I shall now conclude by sharing with the House, the text of an urgent telegram sent by the GNLF President, Mr. Subash Ghisingh to the Prime Minister yesterday with a copy marked to me as the Mp representing Darjeeling. (Interruptions)

PROF. SUSNATA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Sir, how can he read his speech like this for a long time?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not quote that telegram here. Please conclude quickly.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDER JIT: Sir, these Members should deal with the Chair and not with me. They should not interrupt me like this. I will not quote the telegram, but I will give a summary of that telegram. He says that if the Government of India is keen and determined to include the different Indian lan-

guages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, then the GNLF party extends its full support except in the case of the Nepali language as the said language is spoken by the reciprocal people directly covered by the Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950. He says that this must not be included in the Eighth Schedule. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Sir, he has asked for no man's land. Will you concede to that? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You have spoken for a long time. Shri Yaima singh will speak now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDER JIT: In the final analysis, I appeal to all the hon. Members and, particularly to the Government, to give serious thought to all that I have said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have crossed all limits of time now.

SHRI INDER JIT: Only three more sentences.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No please. No.

SHRI INDER JIT: Three more sentences.

I say that I and GNLF can never be a party to accepting Nepali language which is a foreign language as one of India's national languages.

MR. CHARIMAN: I have given you opportunity to conclude five times.

SHRI INDER JIT: I am going to take less than half-a-minute. Allow me to conclude.

MR. CHARIMAN: No.

SHRI INDER JIT: I seek your indulgence for half-a-minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have shown sufficient indulgence.

SHRI INDER JIT: I want to assure friends on all sides that there is no attempt whatsoever to divide the people of the area. The attempt is only to draw a sharp distinction between those who are Indians and those who are not Indians but Nepalis (*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. The hon. Member may now conclude. Nothing will go on record now.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to support the Bill in the name of Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari, the hon. Member of the House.

Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari has spoken earlier and dealt exclusively on the merits of the Nepali and Manipuri for inclusion of the two languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and I would like to leave it to her most of the points raised by Shri Inder Jit which she can clarify and refute in her reply.

So, I would like to devote more of the time in the case of Manipuri of which I have more ideas on it and I can give more information to the august House on this language.

In respect of Nepali, if I am allowed to say a few words, I think the hon. Member Mr. Inder Jit is very clever. He is trying to mislead the House by pointing out some irrelevant points in regard to this Indo-Nepali treaty. Those are irrelevant in respect of this Bill.

I would like to mention one instance. In

Manipur, there are many Gorkhals in Assam Rifles. When we ask them "What is your language," they simply say "Our language is Nepali." It is very clear. There might be Gorkhals but their language is Nepali. It is very clear. In Manipur, there are hundreds of thousands of Gurkhas. They say that their language is Nepali.

I do not know how Mr. Inder Jit manages to make treaties out of this. I leave it to the hon. Member in charge of the Bill to refute all that.

Now I come to Manipuri. In the case of Manipuri, I would like to ask why it was not included at the time when the Constitution was drafted or passed. Manipur was merged with the Indian Union only in 1949 on 15th October. So, she had not got a chance of sending her representative to say that Manipuri language also must be included in the Eighth Schedule because Manipur was not with the Indian Union. At that time, it was a native State under the British rule. Even during the British time, Manipuri was recognised as a language by the Britishers.

Now, I would like to come to the justification part that would be necessary to present the facts before the House. There are one million people in Manipur who speak Manipuri as their mother-tongue. There are more than half-a-million people living in the hilly areas who use this Manipuri language as their common language for communication purpose. So, by virtue of this, Manipuri is the *lingua franca* in the State of Manipur. Secondly, Manipuri has been the official language throughout. It has been the official language even before the British rule when Manipur was a native State. Manipuri was the official language and also the court language. Even now, Manipuri is the court language in Manipur. It is used in the courts which are subordinate to the High Court. It is

*Not recorded.

the official language. It is now being codified by the Manipur Legislative Assembly to make it the official language of the State. So, for all practical purposes, it is the official language; it is used in the courts which are subordinate to the High Court. It is the medium of instruction and examinations from primary-level upto the post-graduate level. These are produced in Manipuri in respect of Honours in Manipuri up to B.A. Post-graduation, M. Phil and Ph. D. There are provisions under the Manipur University Act for all these subjects. This language has been recognised by the Universities of Calcutta, Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Delhi and some other Universities which I cannot mention. It is, therefore, a major Indian language up to the Degree Course.

Sir, the Sahitya Akademi has recognised it as a major Indian language since the year 1971. All the Sahitya Akademi Awards have been awarded. Uptill now, more than 15 awardees of this language are there. It has its own script. We have got the Manipuri Script. At the moment, we use the Bengali script. But we do have the Manipuri script. It is being taught up to Class-VIII. Now it is coming up to Class 10th. The Manipuri script is very much improved now. For some time, it was not encouraged but now the people have taken up this very seriously, for improvement of this script. The doyen of linguists, Dr. Suneeti Kumar Chatterjee, who is no more, be once described that this Manipuri language is a most developed language of the Tibetan-Burman speech family of India. And we claim that.

At present, the languages under the Eighth Schedule, most of them are Dravidian, Indo-Aryan and Burman languages. And the language of Tibeto-Burman is excluded. Now it would be proper to include this Manipuri language from that consideration also.

As regards the richness of this language, I need not say much because all the

Members of this august House, they are very much acquainted with the richness of this language and almost all the Members, leaders of all the parties in this House, they are also agreeable to include Nepali and Manipuri in the Eighth Schedule, so that these two languages can be given national recognition. I need not elaborate very much on that. In stead of that, I would like to give much more time to our hon. other Members to speak on this. I would like to give these few justifications in support of inclusion of Manipuri language.

Now, I would like to come to the immediate problems being faced in the State of Manipur. We have been demanding for the inclusion of this Manipuri in the Eighth Schedule since 1949-50 because when it was merged with the Indian Union, it was anticipated by the people that after the merger with the Union, it will be respected and it will be honoured. So, it was a great expectation of the people of Manipur. And they have been demanding for this. When they have lost their patience, the people of Manipur, they have organized themselves and they deputed their representatives to meet the hon. the Prime Minister, the leaders of the nation. They have met Nehruji, Indirje. Rajivji, Shri V.P. Singh and then Shri Chandra Shekhar. All of them have given their consent. But they could not put up any Bill before this House, so that these languages can be included in the Eighth Schedule. It took time and it was unfortunate on our part.

But now the people, they are demanding and are agitated now. Earlier, the people including women population and people from all walks of life, they have resorted to hunger strikes. Thousands and thousands of people, they have resorted to hunger strikes and now the students-All Manipuri students-they have taken up the task. Now what they have done is that they have blocked; they have cut off, they have blacked out. Even, they went to the extent that they would not allow the

[Sh. Yaima Singh Yumnam]

schools to teach Hindi. They have gone to the extent of even not allowing the Hindi films to be screened. Any cassette of Hindi or any other language under the Schedule is not being allowed to be played. They have destroyed them. The whole population is supporting the student community. Now what they have done? Taking advantage of this, they have now resorted to even destroy, damage and even burn buses. A Central School bus was burnt. School buses, State Transport buses were burnt. As a result of this what happened is that the prices sore up. In Manipur, the prices of commodities are so high that it cannot be imagined. These are the sufferings. They are prepared to suffer because their demands are not met. Earlier, here in Delhi, a batch of persons resorted to hunger strike; and in support of them, the entire Opposition walked out, here. Now, three persons have resorted to indefinite hunger strike, that is, fast unto death. Yesterday, I went to the hospital. I met the Police people also. They have declared that their conditions are alarming and very critical. I am very much afraid of them. If they succumb to that, then Manipur will flare up. There are so much fear that people will suffer greatly and the law and order situation will be greatly affected. The extremists and the underground organisations like PLA, Per-Pak take advantage of this. The employees and youth are telling, "You have seen this. What is the use of merging with the Indian Union? So, come out and let us disintegrate and so on". They have taken advantage of this and more harm will be done. That is why, we are very much afraid of that.

The agitation is going on now and we are only waiting for the hon. Minister to reply to it. We are anticipation some positive reply from him so that this agitation can be called off and we can run smoothly.

I would not take much time of the House.

But, I would suggest one thing. A delegation including myself met the hon. Home Minister, some three or four days back and the hon. Home Minister was very much agreeable to the inclusion of Nepali and Manipuri in the Eighth Schedule. He also mentioned about the inclusion of Konkani also. He has suggested for convening a meeting of leaders of all the political parties for a consensus. I have also mentioned that all the parties in the country have agreed to the proposal. The Home Minister also replied that in principle he had agreed. However, to make it a consensus, he would like to convene a meeting of all the leaders of the parties.

Only the other day, I also with Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and some others met the hon. Prime Minister and made a request for the inclusion of Manipuri and Nepali in the Eighth Schedule. Hon. Prime Minister also gave us blessings. He informed that he is prepared for it. He is agreeable.

Today in the Press, we have seen that a delegation of the National Front and Left parties and also leaders of the BJP met the Prime Minister who assured that a Bill to this effect would be introduced in the next monsoon session. So, we are very grateful to the Prime Minister for this assurance. I am also grateful to all the hon. Members of this august House for expressing their support in favour of the two languages, that is, Nepali and Manipuri.

While concluding, I will say a few lines in Manipuri expressing my gratefulness to the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party and myself I support the Bill moved by Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari. I support this bill to include Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to argue but I would like to say that my friend Shri Inder Jit ji has raised such questions with hard labour, wisdom, and understanding which is unnecessary because Gorkhali and Nepali are the name of the same language. With the development of mankind the languages also progressed and in that process many languages became obscure and many new languages came into existence.

One of the oldest language of the world which has been found written in Mahanjodaro could not be read upto now because its reader ceased to exist so the language has also vanished. We are fortunate that the most ancient language like Sanskrit still exist in our time and it has a history of 5-7 thousand years. Several languages have developed, some have died, Hindi and been developing some-time before the freedom struggle to till now. Hindi, which we call Khari Boli, is the only language which is understood by most of the people of our country. Those who do not speak, can also understand it. So, our parliament has recognised it as a language which joins the people our country or as a national link language. Besides it, no other language is capable to take its place. We have not made so much efforts to develop this language as it should have been. The pace of its development has remained very slow. There is a need to accelerate it. But some people want that only the Hindi should prosper and all the other languages should not be given due recognition. I do not doubt on their wisdom. But it is like the same as if all the flowers from a garland have been taken away and only thread remains there. A country can not progress like this. Hindi is our most favourite language but India is more loved and greater than it. There are several ancient languages in India. If Hindi becomes a garland having the flowers of all languages and if it works to join the country, the country and Hindi itself can progress more.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the mother tongue has its own importance. Which is learnt by the children from their childhood without any effort. So, the place of mother tongue is first of all, the fact which has also been accepted by the Parliament and it has decided to accept it as a link language. Countries which have achieved 100 percent literacy have got it by using their mother tongue only. We can also make it link language in a certain period of time, if we have the intention to do this. My friend Shri Inder Jit has called Nepal a foreign country. Before the treaty of Sugrdi between Britishers and Nepal, according to which Britishers divided Nepal, my ancestors used to study there. He himself has now gone to Darjeeling. He made such a long speech which was not needed. This erudition was not needed. This erudition was not needed. Nepal is an independent country. We have to give full respect to an independent country. It is our friendly country. Our History, Geography, Nature, Culture and language is same. So why we should be afraid of Nepali language. It will work as a link language and as a bridge between the people of two countries. Why do we take it as language which will disunite the country? Even then, I do not want to be adamant on it. If all the people of Darjeeling and Sikkim want to give it some other name, I would be happy but there is no need of such an erudition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Maithili language belong to this Category only, which has been included in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution. Besides it, Maithili is the first language which was recognised by Sahitya Academy. It had been recognised by Calcutta University for post graduate courses in the beginning of this Century when Bihar even did not come into existence. At present it is taught in seven universities on post graduate level. Even after post graduation, all the students who are doing their Ph. D.

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

degree have chosen this languages as the medium of their studies. In the entire teral area of Nepal border Maithili is spoken by all the people there and it is a link language of people living on both the sides. It helps us. All people know the ancient Janakpur. The Dot-Dwara which was annexed with India after the Sugoli treaty by the Britishers is now in my constituency. But Dot-Dwara is regarded as a part of Cultural heritage by the people. The people go round of it. We need no passport to enter in Nepal. So we should treat Nepal as a friendly country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, constitution amendment Bill was introduced in this regard in this House for discussion in 1971. It was discussed for two fortnights, ultimately it was postponed on the request of Shri Raj Bahadur who was the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Because he assured that the Government would consider it. It is very unfortunate that the Government of India has adopted an anti-language attitude. This is not a case of opposing Maithili. It is a case of opposing language policy. In the census of 1921, 1931, 1951, 1961, these people were registered as Maithili speaking people. 1941 census was cancelled due to the Second World War.

I think that the Government of India has violated the Constitution? The persons who mentioned their mother tongue as Maithili but it has been written as Hindi. It is a different thing. The cases in which Maithili has mentioned as mother tongue have not even been published. Two years back I came to know that its publication had been stopped through a secret order. In my opinion, it is a mockery with the Constitution. It is a crime. You are talking of providing a new right but in the way, you are snatching away the existing right too. Who has the authority to snatch away the right during the publication of census. If I ask for my right. Can you refuse for it? I would like from the hon.

Minister when he will reply, he should keep all these things in mind and clarify also all these things. The Government of Bihar has also committed this mistake on the same line. The Government of Bihar has decided, not to allow the Maithili language for the examinations for Public Service Commission. In the late conference of the Communist Party of India, Bihar., it has been passed unanimously that the said decision is not correct and the Government should withdraw it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Maithili language has a rich literature since 12th century. Folk literature of Ludic and Shailsh is very popular. Shailsh means the Leader of the Mountains. People come from far of places and enjoy these folk songs. The people have been singing these songs for centuries. As I have already said that Maithili is taught in universities at post-graduate level. In view of these facts how the Government of Bihar has taken such a decision? I think that it will impede our development.

I hope that the Government of India as well as the Government of Bihar should change their decisions with regard to Maithili language. I hope that the entire House and the lovers of democracy will give their full cooperation in improving the situation. As far as the question of including it in the Eighth Five Year Plan is concerned we had also met the hon. Prime Minister. Our hon. friend has mentioned about Manipuri. I submit that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should give an assurance to the students who are sitting on hunger strike so that they may call off their strike. You should not give an opportunity to anyone to be an opponent of Hindi. On the name of Hindi language we should have Hindi as a national link languages. No non-Hindi speaking person should feel it like a burden on his shoulder. As far as Maithili is concerned: Maithili, Nepali, Oriya, Bangla, Assamese are all the languages of one family. For example we say 'jeachi' in Maithili, 'Janchu' in Nepali and 'Jachi' in Bangla. All these languages belong to the same family.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Min-

ister has also assured us that a decision will be taken early in this matter so that some action may be taken in this regard during the next session. I hope that the youths of Manipur who are on hunger strike, will call off their strike in view of this assurance, and we will solve that issue of language in the Eighth Five year Plan. I go beyond it. So I have given a notice regarding the Constitution Amendment. My Bill is till under consideration of this House. Last time it was on No. 4 in ballot but this time it is lagging behind. I have mentioned in this bill 20 or 25 languages are included in the Constitution, it will not be a surprise for our country having the population of more than 85 crore, because languages are the heritage of culture and the backbone of social life. The inclusion of these languages will make our country more prosperous and strong. No country can be stronger by repressing any mother tongue. It will weaken our unity and particularly when there is an external threat to our unity and integrity from foreign dividing forces. In the end I would like to point out to Shri Inderjit Gupta that there will be no objection if his voters from Darjiling and people of Sikkim decide to change the name. But don't create a foreign phenomena towards Nepali by constantly saying it a foreign language. The language is the same either you say it Nepali or Gorkhali, therefore 'foreign' world should not be used in it and the hon. Minister should assure the House about it. Again supporting this resolution I request that all the other deserving languages including Maithili may be included in the schedule. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (DEOGRAH): Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this debate. I also thank Mrs. Diikumarji, for having moved this Bill demanding inclusion of two languages-Nepali and Manipuri in the eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, there has been no opposition to this Bill in substance. There is only one dissenting voice that we have heard and that is of our learned friend honourable Shri Inder Jit. He, in fact, laboured hard to prepare his speech and put his argument for a different name.

But, as you know, Sir, there has been no opposition to this demand that these languages-Nepali or Gorkhali or Gorkha Bhasha-should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. These languages should be included in the Constitution as quickly as possible. It is rather overdue.

You know, Sir, Dr. Sunit Chatterjee was the famous linguist of our country. He was also the President of Kendriya Sahitya Akademi for quite some time. In his Report on the Official Language Commission, Dr. Sunit Kumar Chatterjee commended inclusion of other Indian Languages. Now, I will quote what he had said: "The other Indian languages are to be added in this Eighth Schedule following the wishes of their speakers and their importance, viz. Sindhi, and Nepali. "These two languages were recommended to the given berth in the Eighth Schedule. But, in 1967, Sindhi could be included and Nepali was left out. I do not want to go into the details. Nepali has been given recognition by different organisations including the Sahitya Akademi in 1974. When Sahitya Akademi accorded its recognition to the Nepali language as a major literary language and when there was merger of Sikkim with India, this language could also have been given this Constitutional status, visit could have been included in the Eighth Schedule.

In 1911, the Allahabad University had introduced Nepali as a vernacular subject. In 1921, the Calcutta University had introduced this. Later on the Banaras Hindu University introduced it. It offers Nepali as a subject for Post Graduat and PhD studies. There are several other Boards in other places which have provided this facility in education Take

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the example of Central Secondary Education Board. Not only this, thereafter, the importance or significance of Nepali is well-established by the fact that, it is the principal language of Gangtok and Kurseong Stations of all India Radio. A special programme is being broadcast by the Guwahati Station of All India Radio and an internal service news in Nepali is broadcast by the New Delhi Station also. The Calcutta Doordarshan Kendra telecasts a 15-minute Nepali programme every day and a few Nepali feature films are telecast, New Delhi at times. The News in Nepali are broadcast by BBC, Beijing, Moscow and Bangladesh Radios. So, the significance of this language is established. This is an old language. We had our first Census in 1871.

The predominant population of Darjeeling was shown as Nepali speaking population. Sahitya Akademi, West Bengal and also North East University, have set up Nepali Sahitya Akademi.

About more than 10 million people we have got in our country who speak Nepali either as their first or second language; it has rich literature. And particularly, as you know, language is a very sentimental subject, very sentimental issue. It is spoken in our border areas, hilly areas; and that also has its own strategy and significance. Sikkim, West Bengal, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, all the Hindi States, Assemblies have unanimous passed resolution for constitutional status to be given to this language. And I also quoted from Sunity Chatterjee's Report. In this background, it is now overdue that Nepali language should find a place, should be included in the eighth Schedule.

In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that, when the Constitution came into being, in the Eighth Schedule we had first 14 languages included; and later on the 15th member in this family was the Sindhi; Sindhi Language joined this group in 1967. What was the criterion of selecting these languages.

As you know, India is a unique country; it is a country of very large population, large area and also so many communities, castes, religions and languages; that way, it cannot be just called a country; it is much more than a country; it is a sub-continent; it is more than a sub-continent; I call it a mini world; India is a mini world with all varieties, culture, languages, it is our prime duty, all of us, to keep the country together in the midst of such diversity; to maintain unity, to ensure unity is a great problem. We have also got to address ourselves to this.

Language is such a sentimental issue that our leaders immediately after independence also had to think about it; and there was Reorganisation of States; on the basis of language. Of course, the wisdom behind it is now disputed by some. The wisdom that we should have gone for Reorganisation of States or formation of States on the basis of language. It gives rise in certain cases to lingual troubles and all those things. Therefore, the wisdom is disputed sometimes. But, anyway, we have given due importance to the language issue; and I would like to quote—I cannot resist my temptation to quote—a famous Oriya Poet of my area. Swabre Kavi Gangadhar Meher has written Matra Bhoime Matru Bhasha Reya hirudy Mamra Janamini; Taku Yadi Giani Panara Ganiba; Agyana Rahibe Kanhi. Although it is in Oriya, it is very lucid, very clear. One cannot claim himself to be educated, to be learned who does not develop liking, love, respect for, (1) Motherland and (2) mother tongue; Motherland and mother tongue are very dear to us, very close to our heart. Therefore, we all love our mother tongue; and in a country of India's size and with so many languages, it is our duty to develop a spirit of tolerance to all languages, not only tolerance but also to create a situation so that we respect also other languages.

We respect other languages. It is a question of co-existence of all languages. They should have their due place in the country, in the Constitution, in the Kendriya Sahitya Akademi, everywhere. So, I would

say, about the name, let us not do something in a hurry.

Shri Inder Jit has also come forward with his arguments. Nepali, it is also the ancient name, probably it is also Gorkhali, but it had got momentum after this agitation.

SHRI INDER JIT: Originally it was the 'Khas' language.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: The present nomenclature may be different. It is not a big thing.

The hon. Home Minister should sort out his problem and this cannot be allowed to go on for a long time; nor can we do something which will distance another section of the community. We have about ten million people who speak Nepali language. There is always a solution for any problem. The language can be Nepali, Gorkhali, or Gorkha Bhasha, anything. For language there is no opposition. Shri Inder Jit the hon. Member from Darjeeling has also supported this. There is no question about it. This problem can be sorted out.

Again, about Manipuri also there is no problem. It is the main language, or the official language of manipur. It is the first language of Manipur, we may say.

Similarly, Konkani also. Although there is no reference to it in the Bill Konkani is the main language of Goa. That also deserves consideration for inclusion in the eighth Schedule.

What was the criterion for including languages in the Eighth Schedule? Of course, the main languages are spoken by a sizeable population. Even on that consideration Sindi must have been considered. But now neither there is a Sindh Province in India nor is it the official language of any State. But there are a large number of people who speak that language.

Similarly, there are other languages, which on the same analogy, deserve consid-

eration for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

I will now conclude by mentioning one more point. As I said, about language, we should not be rigid. About the policy of the Government of India there should be some criteria. There should be some basis for consideration. Otherwise also, I am pained to understand that there is an agitation being carried on now, to pressurize the Government for inclusion of Manipuri. Who is supporting it? But at the same, I am afraid, a section of the population also is for another nomenclature, not Manipuri, but they are suggesting something else.

Therefore, there can be some discussion on this question and this can be sorted out and this language may be included.

Again, there are languages like Myhtily. Our hon. friend Shri Bhogendra Jha had also mentioned it. Also about Nicobari language also there was a reference by our friend, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta. It is time now to give a fresh look at these Things. these things cannot directly go to the Eighth Schedule. The Kendriya Sahitya Academy and the concerned State Sahitya Academy have to accord recognition to these languages first. It has to go step by step, ladder by ladder, phase by phase.

On Orissa, we have a language called "Sambalpur language". It may be called "sambalpur language" or "Kosali language". Every body talks about Sambalpur sarœ, Sambalpur music, etc. this language has got a rich Literature About 10 million people speak nepali and we are discussing about its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. The Sambalpur language also spread over large areas, five to six districts. And about one crore population speak this language. This language is different from the standard oriya language.

Now we are talking about removal of illiteracy and universalisation of primary education. the child 'is to be

Taught, is to be given education at the

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

primary stage, in his own mothertongue, which is naturally not the standard language of that place. In the tribal areas, many children are not attracted to schools and they treat the standard language as a foreign language. In the tribal belts, we should make arrangement for imparting education in their own mothertongue.

The Sambalpuri language is spoken by one crore population, spread over five western districts in Orissa. This language has a good and a rich literature. This language also should be treated as a separate language. The concerned authorities should give recognition to this language. First to start with Sahitya Academy should give recognition to this language.

I do not want to make a lengthy speech because several Members are interested to give their viewpoints on this.

Sir, language is a very sensitive issue and it is something which can be instrumental to strengthen our national solidarity. It is like atom. If not properly handled, it can do a lot of harms. The language issue is a very emotional issue and a sensitive issue. So, it is time to give a fresh look at these things.

According to Science of language, at a distance of every one hundred Kilometres, there is some change in the language. Even though substantially the same language is spoken, there are some variations. You may call it as dialect or something like that. But it is not the same language that is spoken throughout the State. And wherever is spoken by a large number of people, but it has a literature behind it, it has a distance features, of a separate language, then it is entitled to be called a separate language. Therefore, the concerned authorities should liberally consider these things. And in the process, our literature, our language and our much sought national solidarity, will be strengthened and not weakened.

With these words, I support this Bill. I

request the Government to sort out the differences with regard to its nomenclature by holding discussions with all concerned. It can be, as I said earlier, Nepali or Ghorkali or it can be both or anything, which is acceptable to everyone. If we accept something which is not liked by thousands and lakhs of people, then they will create trouble.

17.30 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

A problem like this cannot be solved in this way. The entire approach has to be changed. There should be a *via media* solution, in a country like India of vast dimension. Sometimes, we have to go through a process of compromise in a situation like this. (*Interruptions*). As I said, people are very much agitated; young people are agitated. As a result of the discussion today about the inclusion to the Manipuri language in the eighth Schedule, it is getting unanimous support of this House. There should be no reason for them to feel disappointed. I request all those who are leading the agitation to end the hunger strike.

with these words, I conclude.

17.31 hrs

[*English*]

RE: SHRI LIMBA RAM'S WINNING A
GOLD MEDAL IN ARCHERY IN
BEIJING

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, a news has just come that in Beijing, Shri Limba Ram has got a Gold Medal in archery. The Minister of State in the Ministry of human Resource Development (Department of youth Affairs and Sports and the department of Women and Child Development) Kumari Mamata Banerjee is here. We want to congratulate him. From the Chair let it go to the country and to him that the entire Parliament

is one in congratulating Shri Limba Ram, a tribal, for this success, who has brought glory to India. This is a very good news for the country. We should all congratulate him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING(SHRI AJIT PANJA): We must all congratulate him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it an authentic news? Well, I must say that this is a matter of great honour for the country that Shri Limba Ram, a tribal, in a very short duration has achieved such proficiency and such remarkable standards. It is a matter of great honour for the country. I am sure, the whole House agrees with me in expending our heartiness congratulations to Shri Limba Ram and also to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Youth Affairs and sports and the Department of Women and Child Development) under whose able guidance, this honour has been achieved by the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI M.M.JACOB): I think the Minister can go to Beijing and congratulate him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): I have already sent congratulations.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING(SHRI AJIT PANJA): Sir, at 5.30 P.M. this Half-An-Hour Discussion was fixed up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, the thing is that two and a half hours, I am told, is allotted for the Private Members Bill. It is upto the House. Shall we take up the Half-An-Hour Discussion and then continue with the private Members Bill?

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): The discussion was extended for two hours.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M.JACOB): I do not mind because this has started at 3.30 p.m. and they expended the time. I am prepared to sit any number of hours. But, I do not know whether the House will sit like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Half-An-Hour Discussion has been fixed. Normally, the time for the Half-An-Hour discussions should not be changed. The House is supreme. Shri Ajit Panja, what would you like that first we do Half -an- House Discussion?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I think, the point is very short. It is regarding one AIR Station and delay in opening it. If the hon. Member is present here, I can inform him that we have arranged to open it and here may not be any need of having any discussion. I think the hon. Member is right in drawing the attention of the House in this matter and we have arranged to open it on the 15th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I suggest that the hon. Member will say something first. Mr. Udayingrao Gaikward.

SHRI UDAYSINGH RAO GAIKWAD: We will finish within five minutes.

17.35 hrs

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

AIR Station Kolhapur

(English)

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD (Kolhapur): Sir, during the last one year in two different sessions I had raised the question regarding non-functioning of the All India Radio Station at Kolhapur. On both the occasions, the answers were the same, that is, due to non-availability of staff, the A.I.R., Kolhapur is not functioning. I can just quote the answer which was given on 16.12.1991. The question was the same and the answer given was: "Though the new Radio Station at Kolhapur is technically ready, necessary staff required for manning the station is not in position. The Station is envisaged to be commissioned into service when the essential staff required for operation and maintenance of the Station is actually in position." This answer was given in 1991. The same type of answer, not a word changed, with much more information, was given on 20.4.1992. I will read the last paragraph only which says: "The radio station at Kolhapur is technically ready and is envisaged to be commissioned into service when the essential staff required for operation and maintenance of the Station is actually in position." They have also stated that Rs. 84.42 lakhs have been spent on building, including civil and electric works, and Rs. 176 lakhs have been spent on plant and machinery. So, both the answers are the same.

Now I would like to put more right on it. It is interesting to note here that the Government has admitted having spent about Rs 2.5. crores on the building, machinery, etc.

Before June, 1991, I had visited the All India Radio Station at Kolhapur and could find that the officials are taking trial between one to two P.M. announcing: "We are speaking from Akashvani, Kolhapur", and this is still going on. This is the story for the last one

year but nothing practical has come out so far.

The land was made available about five years back with the help of Local Bodies that is, Goku Co-operative Dairy, and also bungalows were given with the help of Maharashtra Government and also with the initiative of social workers.

Now, when the construction and installation work has been finished, the All India Radio Station is not being allowed to function, allegedly on account of no availability of staff.

May I also bring to the notice of this august House and the Government that Kolhapur has the pincer place for artistes, technicians and film directors. The Mangeshkar family that is, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhonsale, Meena Mangeshkar and Hirdaya Nath Mangeshkar, they are all from Kolhapur. They started their career and lessened from Kolhapur. itself Padma vibhushan V. Shantaram is also from Kolhapur. Mr. Bhalji Pendhakar, the renowned Film Director is also from Kolhapur. Mr Baburao Painter who manufactured the first movie camera at Kolhapur is also from Kolhapur. The famous play-back singer, Mr. Suresh Wadekar is also from Kolhapur. Mr Anant Mane, the person who has directed more than fifty films, besides working as producer, is also from Kolhapur. I can name hundreds of persons on art side as well as on technical side who belong to Kolhapur. Some of the persons who are working today in A.I.R. and also in T.V., are also from Kolhapur.

An idle A.I.R. station is nothing but waste of public funds already spent to the tune of several lakhs of rupees in the form of construction of building, installation of machinery and other things. However, there is no dearth of staff to start functioning the all India Radio Station at Kolhapur. If an advertisement is issued, I myself can make available hundreds of highly qualified persons from Kolhapur and Western Maharashtra.

The House expects from the very

cerè Minister, who is keeping a close watch on the programmes of the A.I.R. and T.V. and so also has got administrative vigil which is evident from the fact that in some of the cases of bungling even C.B.I. enquiry has been ordered, and efforts are being made to see that the same is completed soon, that he would not allow the present AIR station to be kept in idle situation, which has made the mark of interrogation on the working of his Ministry. Myself, on behalf of the people of Western Maharashtra, make fervent appeal to this House and the Government that due attention be given to the subject and the functioning of A.I.R. Kolhapur must be ensured without further loss of time.

I am told that our hon. Minister is going to Kolhapur to decorate Bhal ji Penderkar with Dada Suheb Phalke Award. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister - if it is correct and he is going to Kolhapur - to kindly show a good gesture by announcing the radio station and declaring it open as early as possible and on the same day of his visit.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Chairmen, Sir, I have also given my name I would like to say a lot on this issue. That is why. I have given my name. On the last day of the previous session I wanted to raise the same issue but on the request of the Hon. Minister I did not raise that there were other reasons too, for not raising that question at that time but today when I saw that a similar question is being raised. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that the people of Bareilly are also for the last six months.....(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is about Kolhapur..

[English]

This is pertaining to Kolhapur. I am sorry, this is not zero hour. This is pertaining to All India Radio Station to be opened at Kolhapur.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, I would speak about Kolhapur only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are talking about Bareilly.

[English]

This is to allotted. This will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, I have mentioned the name of Bareilly for the sake of reference. How many other stations are there where construction work is complete, but still they are not functioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it will not be allowed.

[English]

This is a question pertaining to A.I.R. station at Kolhapur. This is not the question hour that you ask the Minister about all other similar cases. He has not come prepared. This is only about Kolhapur.

[Translation]

If you want to raise any question about A.I.R. K Kolhapur as has been put by Shri Udaysinghrao Gaikwad you can ask, otherwise not.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Supporting Shri Gaikwad, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that he should make an announcement that the A.I.R. Kolhapur will be in operation before Shri Gaikwad reaches Kolhapur.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING(SHRI AJIT PANJA): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for bringing this half-an-hour discussion. I personally found, after examining the file, that we should have inaugurated this station much earlier. I examined it and I found that the difficulty was that as suggested by the hon. Member giving open advertisement for taking people in all posts is not within the power of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Some are U.P.S.C. posts, some are S.S.C. posts and some are to be recruited according to certain pattern. I found that a total of 108 posts have been proposed, from Station Director upto Security Guard and others. It is also found that the total cost to be incurred for this project is Rs.3,21,25,000. This is going to be one of the upto date projects in All India Radio. This was technically ready since December, 1991. As the hon Member said, one hour announcements are being made because sometimes testings are required to see that the radio station has settle down and everything is functioning well. But as suggested by the hon. Member, on the 15th of this month I am personally going to Kolhapur in order to decorate Shri Bhalji Penderkar, who has been given the President's award, as announced by the president - - the Dada Sahib Palke Award, the highest decoration which could be given so far as the information and Broadcasting Ministry is concerned, in this creative art. And, therefore, on that day, the hon. Member would be pleased to know, that we have already arranged to inaugurate the Kolhapur Radio Station. The great heritage of kolhapur is well-known. Sir, as suggested by the hon. Member, we have already arranged for the inauguration of this very station, of course, with a skeleton staff as at present because all staff could not be recruited. But, Sir, with a skeleton staff we will be able to start the station and I was in favour of it, so were my senior officers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; they are also in favour of starting this which a skeleton staff which we have arranged and we are going to inaugurate it on 15th along with the decoration of Dada Sahib Palke Award, which is to be given to this great man who worked in Kolhapur, as a man from Kolhapur — Bhalji

Penderkar. Recognition the great heritage of Kolhapur and the great men who were born there and worked there in this creative art we are certainly joint to do so on the 15th and I do not think that there will be any further delay in inauguration. But, Sir, I will only request all concerned that as there is only short office notice and as all posts are not in our hands, we will start with a skeleton staff and already my Ministry has started taking steps so that other posts are advertised by the appropriate authority and they are recruited. And, therefore, Sir, I do not think any further discussion on this would be required. On 15th of this month we will be able to inaugurate this station. In the month of May the Shahu Radio Station in Madhya Pradesh is going to be inaugurated and in the month of May, on the 1st of May itself we have been able to commission six radio Stations - - Kurnool Radio station in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Shoehar): The hon. Minister should confine himself only to the question, he should not go beyond that. If the Minister wants to enlighten the House on other things....

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I want to make the point that the delay is not intentional, we were at it. That is why we are saying that on the 1st of May - - only seven days ago - - we have been able to commission six Radio stations - - one at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, one at Hospet in Karnataka, one at Raigarh in Madhya Pradesh, one at Akola in Maharashtra, one at Patiala in Punjab and one at Sawai Madhopur Rajasthan. On 15th a new Radio Station at Shahu in Madhya Pradesh will also be inaugurated and tomorrow I am going to Kurnool to make a formal inauguration of this Andhra Pradesh Radio Station, also waiting like Kolhapur for a long time.

Sir, with the inauguration of kolhapur radio station, this will become the 135th Radio Station. In regard to broadcasting facilities, the number of full-flagged stations is 127, relaying centres are auxiliary centres and exclusive VB/ Commercial 2, 2 and 3. The Respective total number is 134.

[Sh. Ajit Panja]

With the inauguration of Kolhapur, it will be 135. With the completion of the Seventh Plan schemes the total number in the country will be 205. Also I wanted to cover a little bit of my hon. friend's question as to whether anything is being opened. Immediately this is being made ready, we are trying to inaugurate it as quickly as possible for the benefit of the people at large. This is my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Rao Ram Singh): Mr Gaikad, would you like to ask for any clarification?

SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Most of the questions are covered. I am very much thankful to the hon. Minister for his gesture of opening of this Kolhapur Radio Station on the 15th of this month.

(Interruptions).

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I will be inviting the hon. Member also if he is interested to come to the inauguration function of the Kolhapur Radio Station on the 15th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you inviting only Mr. Gaikwad or are you inviting some other people also?

AN. HON. MEMBER: Air ticket will be provided by the hon. Minister. (Interruptions).

17.50 hrs

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)—Contd.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: Now, we resume the discussion on the Private Member's Bill. Shri Hari Kishore Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH

(SHEOHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject. I was listening my friend Indrajeet ji. I am surprised that the serious Member like him has altogether different views on this subject. We are surprised to know his views on the issue of unity and integrity of the country. We have been strengthening the bonds of our unity on the basis of our cultural unity spread over from Himalayas to Indian Ocean. Our country is full of all sorts of diversities. There are many languages and dialects and the people belonging to various religions live here. We have been trying to strengthen the unity of our country which we have got in inheritance on the basis of these diversities.

It is often said that the unity of our country has been weakened with the formulation of States on the basis of language. Had not the States been organised on the basis of language the power, which wanted to divide the country, could have played a havoc and it would have been difficult to control those powers.

The Bhartiya Janta Party has adopted a healthy approach so far as inclusion of Manipuri and Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is concerned. Indrajeet ji has raised many technical points. He is a learned man. I want to tell him that the script of Nepali language is Dev Nagri which is also the script of Hindi and many other languages of the country. We can not take Nepali as a foreign language. My constituency and that of Shri Bhogendra Jha is close to Nepal. A number of Nepali people live there and much of them are not Gorkhali. The people of Indian origin speak Nepali there. The demand of giving recognition to Hindi is being raised in the Parliament of Nepal. I do not know why such sentimental issues are raised? What is the objection in giving recognition to the other languages spoken in other parts of the country? Why are they compelled to go on an agitation, have you ever thought about it? When the States were organised on the basis of language, people had objected to that and a few people still object to it. Have you ever thought,

[Sh. Hari Kishore Singh]

why the man like Pattam Shriram took it necessary to immolate himself. When Maharashtra was formed, then also an agitation was launched for it and at least 17 people had lost their lives in it. Fire was opened in Bombay. Was that necessary? It is a sort of challenge to our parliamentary system. Much discussion is held on the question of the unity of the country. What is the criteria to bring about unity of the country? Will we see the unity of the country with a narrow mind? Can not we find a solution to these sentimental problems by discussion under the parliamentary system? Why does it become necessary to launch an agitation? Why some body feels it necessary to go on hunger strike? I want to go into the political background of the situation in Manipur, The consequence of what the Congress men are doing will be faced by the whole country. They are doing the politics of horse trading there to save their Government. The recognised language of that State is not being included in the Eighth Schedule. You may call Gorkhali to Nepali, but I do not want to go into the history of the language. I am not a scholar like Indrajit ji, but I want to make it clear that Nepali has now acquired a clear identity. The Nepali people are living in India, they have been given the citizenship of India and lakhs of Indian people live in Nepal. The people of my own area live in Nepal and if they are given the citizenship of Nepal, only then recognition will be given to Hindi there. People speak Hindi in Nepal also. One should not adopt such a narrow attitude. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit that Nepal is our neighbouring country and it is very close us. The world is changing very fast. It has been our friend for many years. The disintegration of Soviet Union and the process after disintegration there and the changes in the world scenario should not be overlooked. Keeping that in view, and our own diversities, and specialities, which have been the basis of the unity of the country, it is necessary that the sentiments regarding language should be respected for strengthening the unity of our country. I want that Nepali and Manipuri should be included in the Eighth Schedule of

the Constitution. I firmly support it on behalf of the Janta Dal also.

[English]

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berpampur): Sir, the Bill to amend the Constitution of India for inclusion of Nepali and Manipuri languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is perhaps a non-controversial as well as an important issue. The Bill moved by the hon. lady Member Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandariji deals with an issue which has engaged the attention of all the major parties of the country.

The demand for inclusion of Nepali language in the eighth Schedule took the shape of a popular movement in 1972, when 74 Members of Parliament submitted a joint memorandum to the Union Government in this regard. The demand received an added inputs in an All India Conference on Nepali held at Gangtok on 11th and 12th June, 1990 delegates belonging to different parts of the country and also Members of Parliament representing major political parties like to Congress-I, CPI, CPM, Janata Dal, BJP, Forward Bloc and some ruling regional parties unanimously resolved to demand the inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule and worked for its fulfilment. Nepali can be said to be the daughter language of Sanskrit and has also close affinity with Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati and Marathi. This Modern Indo-Aryan language is spoken by over ten million Indians. It is an official language of Sikkim and West Bengal Governments also. It was recognised by the Allahabad and Calcutta Universities as early as 1911 and 1918 respectively as a subject of study in schools and colleges.

18.00 hrs

Both Nepali and Manipuri have been recognised by the Sahitya Akademi as well. Manipuri is the official language of the State of Manipur. There has also been a consistent demand for inclusion of Manipuri language in the eighth Schedule of the Constitution. I therefore request the Government to

give a sympathetic consideration to this legitimate issue.

Before concluding, I wish to submit to this august house a couple of sentences of the Nepalese language for which I will myself act as the translator.

Merokatristadar heru Nepal Deshkonu Huncho,

Arumoketakeri Dekhun, Nepali Bolera Ayeko Chu.

Tesallae, Molai dherai Khushi hun-thyo, ki, Nepali Basha Pani, Hamaro Sammbidhan ko, AAth-wa Schedule ma, Milayo Jaye.

In other words, I have quite a few relatives from Nepal. From child-hood I have been speaking Nepali at home. Nothing will give me more pleasure than find Nepali included as an official language in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution.

Finally, the controversy on the nomenclature of the language, whether to call it Nepali or Gorkhali, can perhaps be sorted out by carrying out a dialogue and having general consensus between the concerned groups to arrive at an amicable statement.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, I call Prof. Susanta Chakraborty.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Thank you, Sir. I rise to support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Aandaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, for how long the House will continue to sit?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time-limit of two-and-a-half hours comes to an end at 18.22 hours. It will continue up to 18.22 hours. Before that, the Minister has to intervene and then Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari has to give her reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHARIMAN: If all of you speak at the same time, I cannot understand. What are you saying, Shri Manorajan Bhakta?

SHRI MANORAJAN BHAKTA: I am saying that after him, if you allow the Minister to intervene, that will be all right because some agitation is going on now. From his reply, it may be possible that the people will be satisfied. Thereafter you can adjourn the House and next time the other speakers can speak; she can reply to it subsequently.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I said. In any case it is doing to be there up to 18.22

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Please give some more time. You have stated that it will go up to 18.22 hours. That will not do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time was already extended by two hours. And the two-hours period is also coming to an end.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: I have to give my reply also. The minister will take time. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am prepared to adjourn the House because there is no quorum. I am prepared to adjourn the House now.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YAMNAM (Inner Manipur): Let the Minister intervene. (Interruptions)

SHRI INDERJIT (DARJEELING): On a point of order. This is an extraordinary situation. Sir, you have yourself taken notice of Quorum. I do not know whether it was raised. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Quorum bell be rung. Now, there is Quorum. Prof. Susanta Chakraborty to speak now.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): Sir, I rise to support the Constitution Amendment Bill moved by Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari, demanding recognition of

[Prof. Susanta Chakraborty]

Nepali and Manipuri languages for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution.

Sir, today is 25th Valsakha and it is the Birth Day of Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore. In his famous poem "Bharat Tertha" he wrote:

*"He mor chitta Purma tirthe jagore dhire
Ai Bharater Mahamanver Sagar tire"
Awake my heart, slowly awake by the side of
India's ocean of Predates. He Continued:*

*"Hethay Arya Hethay Anarya Hethay
Dravid chin Shak, Hun, Dal
Pathan, Mogal, EK cêhe halo lin"*

It is an inspiration to those who recognize the oneness of our country, the greatness of our country. And, at the same time, it is a larsen for those who want our country to be divided, who demand and echo the voice of GNLF and want that the unity that is there in India should be destroyed.

Sir, in this great country of ours, there is a good number of Nepalis and they have their own language. The demand is to express themselves in their mother tongue through India. The demand is for recognition of this great language in our Constitution. And that is only a natural demand because this is the language in which we call our mother; this is the language in which we express ourselves; this is the language in which we dream and this is the language in which mothers sing the lullaby. We shall look at this issue in this spirit. If it is seen in this spirit, the aspirations of the people who speak Nepali or Manipuri would be requested as a just an aspiration; and it is because of this, they are agitating outside. We all know that Nepali language is a recognised language in West Bengal. Even upto the Post-Graduate level, education is being imparted to the students in Nepali language. We know that Nepali and Manipuri possess all the criteria and all the qualities that a language should fulfil in order to be a national language, in order to be included in the Eighth Schedule. So, it is time for us to recognise it.

We have dilated upon it, various times in this august House, but till now, we have not come to a decision, though Sanhity Academy recommended its recognition. The States of Sikkim, Himachal, Tripura and also the State of west Bengal have demanded its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. But, till now, the Government is sleeping over the matter. Any delay in the process will not help us in any way. So, I would request the Home Minister to resolve the issue. We may put forth many arguments that there are so many languages today demanding recognition I wan Molthly to be included; and Konkani should be given due attention. There are other languages also. But, since certain things are not done, we cannot delay the process. Now, the demand has been made.

We are almost speaking in one voice except Shri Inderjit, who echoed the voice - I have already said-of Shri Subash Ghising, who regarded that Nepali is a foreign language. If it is regarded in this way, then, Bengali which is the official language of Bangladesh can also be regarded as a foreign language in our country. That is not the Care. That logic cannot go too far. That analogy cannot go too far. Sir, I would request Shri Underjit to reconsider his views. I would again request the Home Minister to give thought over this matter. Already the students are agitating and fasting. We have already heard that some persons are in a dying condition. This cannot go on. India cannot be divided like this. To make it united, we should do justice to the just aspirations of the people.

With these words, I again support the Bill and thank you for giving me opportunity.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): I want to speak for two minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is not there. The House has taken note of the fact that a number of people are on a hunger strike. So,

the Minister should speak. The position is that the House has to adjourn at 6.22 p.m. I would request the Minister to kindly intervene now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, may I have your permission to speak? I understand that a number of speakers are there on all sides who want to speak on this sensitive issue. I also understand that the time allotted to this Bill is already getting over. If you could extend the time to discuss this Bill—it does not mean sitting late today—for two hours more, then, the next time when it comes up, it can be discussed further. Meanwhile the Minister may intervene.

MR. CHAIRMAN (RAO RAM SINGH): The proposal from the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is that there are still a number of speakers who wish to participate in this discussion and so the time allotted for this Bill may be extended.

Initially, three hours and thirty minutes are allotted; then the time was extended by two hours. So, totally five hours and thirty minutes are allotted. Shall I suggest that the time for this discussion may be extended by another one hour or would you like to have it for two hours?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do I take it that I have the pleasure of the House that the time be extended by two hours for this discussion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now make an intervention at this stage. Then, the debate will carry on.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): Mr. Chairmen, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to intervene at this stage even though some of the speakers are yet to participate. Of course, I shall be replying to the entire gamut of problems that are thrown up before the House on the next day when we are spending another two hours on this Bill.

The Bill moved by Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari has drawn attention to a very important item and we all agreed that we should have an urgent consideration. At the same time, as you know, we have fifteen languages in the Eighth Schedule. Fourteen languages were first included and then Sindhi was added in 1967. The trend of thought came up at that time was that if you open up this Eighth Schedule to other languages, then it may be an unending process which may have far-reaching complexities and problems. However, this matter came up again and again. I see very valid reasons for projecting the cause of Nepali. Mr. Inderjit came up with another version for Gorkha Bhasha.

At the same time, several friends from Manipur came and called on me earlier. They tried to put forth powerful argument that Manpuri is a language of Tibetan-Barmen group and this is going to be an asset to India if we consider this language also as a major national language. Arguments are very powerful and forceful. I do not say 'no'. But one particular situation is that there is no criterion laid down so far for inclusion of a language in the Eighth Schedule. Do we go by States speaking a language? I mean a State language. For example in Sikkim, the State language is Nepali. Another speaker from Goa said that it is Konkani in Goa. In Goa, people speak Konkani. That is accepted as a State language. In Manipur, they have accepted Manipuri as a State language and so on and so forth. So, there are about ten representations before the Government from various parts of the country, including Rajasthani, Konkani, Dogri, Bhojpuri, Maithili, Bodo, Nepali, Gorkhali and Dhatki. To-

[Sh. M.M. Jacob]

day, Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta mentioned to me about the Nicobari also.

SHRI SRIBALAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): I mentioned about Sambhalpuri also.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: As you know, my humble submission is that luckily we are attending to the languages for the development of the languages. When I reply all the details, I can say. Twenty-two languages are accepted by the Sahitya Academy. Mrs. Bhandari was able to bring out salient features of all those languages, especially, the Nepali where the Sahitya Academy has accepted that this is a language for higher education; it is accepted by the State. She was able to enumerate several criteria. So, also, is with Manipuri. And three State Governments have passed a resolution. I also noted that. I am not opposing it. What I am telling is that I see the background. That is very important. But at the same time, you must allow us-'us' means this House-to think about it more seriously in the sense that various viewpoints have come. We may be able to shop with two or three languages perhaps. There are various options, like you abolish the Eighth Schedule itself and say that there is no schedule. All languages will receive attention and proper care in this country.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: In a democracy, I hope the wishes of the people are honoured and more Legislative Assemblies means lot of wishes of the people are there representing the whole of the State. Sir, they are four States and not one State. They are all unanimously for the inclusion of the Nepali language. So, I fervent hope that...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what the Minister is saying, Mrs. Bhandari.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: What I am trying to

say is that there are various options, if you have to think about the final analysis. There is not only one option. Some people will say to continue the same thing. Some other Members will say to add X, Y and Z languages also the Eighth Schedule and stop with it. Somebody else will say, 'After all' it is a trouble scrap the Eighth Schedule and allow every language to be developed.' This is a country with 1600 languages and dialects. You cannot forget it. But at the same time, I note with seriousness and I am convinced about the very genuine demands and the Government is also aware of it. The Ministry is also working at it. The immediate thing which we can go for now is an all-party meeting of leaders to discuss about the modalities and in principle, I agree that we have to actively take up the matter. Manipuri, Nepali and Gorkhali...

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Not Gorkhali.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: You settle it then, that is, when we discuss. I cannot discuss the areas of contradiction at the moment. Let us all meet together and decide how best we can sort out the problem. At the moment, I also appeal to those young people from Manipur who are on hunger strike, on the basis of the language demand, to withdraw their agitation and allow the political leaders of this country to have a mature thought about how best we can come to a final decision about this language issue. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 am on the 11th of May, 1992. Wish you a very happy week end.

18.21 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Monday, May 11, 1992/
Vaisakha 21, 1914 (Saka).*