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**Friday, March 11, 1988
Phalguna 21, 1909 (Saka)**

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

**Tenth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XXXV Contains No. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 11, 1988 | Phalguna 21,
1909 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

IDBI Advance to a Gujarat Mining Unit

*242. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India advanced a sum of over Rs. 6.72 crores to a Gujarat mining unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof and basis on which the amount was advanced; and

(c) whether the money has been advanced in accordance with the guidelines of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). IDBI alongwith other institutions have sanctioned a sum of over Rs. 6.72 crores for purpose of mining activity in the State of Gujarat to Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, a wholly owned State Government Undertaking. IDBI has reported that the sanction was made in accordance with institutional norms.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Forest Department officials moved against this lease and already a case is pending in

the Gujarat High Court. I would also like to know whether the private cement company is owned by the relatives of an important Central Minister and because of this reason the IDBI has changed the norms and granted loan to this cement company violating its previous norms.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, I would like to say that the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation does not belong to anybody apart from the Government of Gujarat themselves, and it is engaged in the mining of lignite, bauxite and silican sand at various sites. It does not involve in making of cement and the Company is doing very well and there is no reason why any court should really take action against this Company and to the best of my knowledge, there is no case pending in the High Court.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : That is the newspaper report which says that the case is pending in the Gujarat High Court. You have not answered my question whether the private cement company is owned by the relatives of a Central Minister and that is why the IDBI changed the norm and gave loan to this company.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Sir, the IDBI is doing very well. They are not changing any norms regarding this Mineral Development Corporation.

As far as I know, there is no other mineral corporation. So, I really fail to understand what my hon. friend, Dr. Sudhir Roy wants to do with this particular mining unit. There is nothing wrong with it. Actually, he should be proud of the fact that this mining unit, GMDC operations have increased manifold in the last few years. Its sales have risen from Rs. 480 lakhs to in 1979-80. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU : He is reading it. The question does not relate to the Gujarat

Mineral Development Corporation.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Then, it relates to what ?

SHRI ANIL BASU : Mining unit.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : There is only one mining unit in Gujarat which comes within the scope of this question of advancement by IDBI of a sum of over Rs. 6.72 crores and, *i.e.* this Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation. I was in the process of giving details on how Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation is doing well. Then, the Member does not seem to be interested in good things that the Corporation is doing.

DR. SUDHIR ROY : Is it a private company, I want to know ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : You please help me and also help him. (*Interruptions*)

DR. SUDHIR ROY : I have not got my answer. There is a newspaper report that there is a case pending against the mining unit in the Gujarat High Court filed by the forest officials.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : You please guide me. What should I do ? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY
DELEGATION FROM THE PALESTINE
NATIONAL COUNCIL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in extending our warm welcome to His Excellency Sheikh Abdul Hameed El-Sayeh, Speaker of the Palestine National Council and the Hon'ble members of the Palestine National Council who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests :

The other Hon'ble members of the delegation are :

1. Mr. Khaled El-Hassan, Member, PNC
2. Mr. Abdul Latif Othman, Member, PNC
3. Mr. Abdul Rahman Hourani, Member, PNC
4. Mrs. Intisar Al-Wazir, Member, PNC

The delegation arrived Delhi on Friday, 11 March, 1988. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. We also convey our warm greetings and very best wishes through them to His Excellency the Chairman of the P.L.O., the Palestine National Council, the Government and its friendly people.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—
Contd.

[*English*]

Ramakrishnayya Committee Report on
Tea, Coffee and Rubber Boards

*247. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN† :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since considered the report of the Committee headed by Shri M. Ramakrishnayya on the functioning of the Tea, Coffee and Rubber Boards; and

(b) if so, the precise decisions taken on the various recommendations of this Committee and when are these to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.
DAS MUNSI) : (a) Government has not yet taken a final view in the matter.

(b) Question does not arise.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, may I know whether the Government were at any stage

considering the proposal to set up a holding company for all public sector tea units and if so, at what stage it stands ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : No, Sir. At no stage, it was discussed that the holding company of tea sector would be there. So, the question does not arise.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : In case the proposal is implemented, will the Government see that the headquarters of the proposed holding company is located at Calcutta itself, which is the established market centre for trading in tea both at national and international levels ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : The question is not linked with the main question. Nevertheless, I have already answered that there is no proposal for the holding company. The public sector undertaking company, TTCI's headquarters is there already in Calcutta.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : It appears that a Commission has conducted some inquiry into tea, coffee and rubber industries and the Government has come out with an answer that they are studying its report only and that they have not yet come to any final conclusion. But I would like to know why the export of these three cash crops, tea, coffee and rubber, is not getting any encouragement. These three crops are facing a very big crisis. It appears that there is a proposal from the Government to import rubber to meet the rubber crisis. This has affected the economy of Kerala very seriously. The tea plantation is not getting any help. Its export is reduced. I would like to know what are the remedial measures taken for safeguarding the interests of tea, coffee and rubber growers in this country and the collection which is made. Nothing has come in the Tariff Board. You are collecting some tariff. Some money is there. How are you spending that money ? Detailed answer may please be given to enlighten us with regard to the problems and on the specific steps taken by the Government in this regard. Are there any other steps taken in this regard other than the report made by the Commission ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : The hon. member has raised many questions and many issues and many aspects and he

desires to get answers. The main part of his question is that the Committee which was appointed, the Ramakrishnaya Committee, did investigate and make exhaustive study of all the commodity Boards functioning, the Coffee Board, Tea Board, Rubber Board and it made suggestions as to how their functioning could be improved linking it with its productivity and other developments. The Committee finally submitted the report on 30th October, 1987. After that report was received by us, a Working Group of our Ministry, had gone into the various aspects of those recommendations. It listed about 172 recommendations. A final decision, so far as the Government point of view is concerned, as to how many accepted and how many rejected, would be taken very shortly. I am very confident that by the end of this year, we would be able to announce as to which part of the recommendations of the Ramakrishnaya Committee are going to be accepted by the Government.

Secondly, we have answered the question with regard to rubber import on many occasions in response to individual questions, specifically related to rubber. Import is not done just to meet the local market. Import is done basically on the requirement of the industry and the local market because India is not self-sufficient in rubber for the last many years. Rubber import varying from approximately 10,000 tonnes to 40,000 tonnes continues in this country. Therefore, we are enhancing the rubber production efforts in the country. In Tripura, it is gaining ground as also in Orissa. Also some research was going on as to how to increase the yield very quickly.

So far as coffee and tea are concerned, similar other programmes and a number of incentive studies by the Tea Boards, Coffee Boards as well as by the Ministry itself, have been undertaken. If I give the details of one item after another, it would take lot of time. Therefore, if you ask a specific question with regard to any commodity, I would be glad to answer. Otherwise, I can pass on to the Hon. Member all the incentive measures which were taken to improve the productivity and export in this sector, and the entire scheme.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : All is not well with these Boards. This is evident from the very fact that we appointed a Committee. Is the hon. Minister aware that in the Coffee Board, it is now four months since the Chairman retired and that no regular Chairman is appointed till now? Is the Government aware that a strike is going on by the employees of the Coffee Board? When are you going to appoint the Chairman? There is no person to take a decision there. All these Boards are foreign exchange earning bodies. It is very necessary that you should not delay the appointment of the Chairman. The Chairman has to be appointed immediately. In the absence of the Chairman, no decision is taken and the strike is going on. I want to know from the hon. Minister when the post of Chairman would be filled up and how the strike would be dealt with.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : First of all I would like to say that we are not having a crisis in the Coffee Board and definitely not because we are not having a regular Chairman. I strongly repudiate the charge made by the hon. Member. There is no such position. It is a fact that whenever any Chairman fulfils his term and the term is over, the new incumbent is selected as per the precise guidelines, the proper procedure and the policies of the Public Enterprises Board. Now, those selection procedures and other matters are almost over. The final decision will be announced very shortly and I am very confident that possibly before the end of this Session, you will find a new Chairman in the Coffee Board. Also, the present acting Chairman, who is already functioning there, is delivering the goods very efficiently. The problems related to the Coffee Board and the Coffee growers and other matters are not linked with the functioning of the Chairman. Those are other matters and the Ministry is examining them.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Sir, in spite of making all the possible efforts by the Tea Board and making huge investment for opening various offices overseas, they could not succeed in increasing the quantum of export. May I know from the hon.

Minister with regard to increase in quantum of export of tea, what recommendations the Committee has made to the Ministry or the Government?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : In regard to tea export, the basic recommendation is that our productivity should be higher, matching the price competition at the international-level and that the cost of production should be reduced. That is precisely the common guideline for all the commodities and that is not only for tea alone. We are taking enough care in this regard as to how we can expand it. But the precise point is not linked with productivity now. The precise point is the stiff international competition which is faced with Kenya and to a great extent with Ceylon and partly, in recent year, with China and a few other areas. In spite of that, I can only inform the hon. Member that it is a fact that in spite of all the best initiatives, efforts, incentives and other measures taken by the Indian Tea Export front, it is still faced with the same problem because of the stiff international competition. But yet, in the unit value sector, the Indian tea is still fetching the best price in the international markets than the others.

Excise Raids on Small Scale Industrial Units in Kerala

*248. **SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the money realised by Government through the Collector of Central Excise in Kerala from the small scale industrial units through raids conducted for duty evasion;

(b) the names of industrial units thus penalised and the amount of money realised from each; and

(c) the amount of money sanctioned and disbursed to the officials of Central Excise in Kerala as reward for conducting the raids in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.

PANJA) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

The total number of small-scale units in Kerala searched during the past one year *i.e.* during 1.4.1987 to 15.2.1988 is

65. Out of these, 7 cases have been adjudicated and the remaining are pending investigation/adjudication. The names of the aforesaid small-scale units where cases have been adjudicated and the amounts realised are given below :

S. No.	Name of the Unit	Amount of duty confirmed (Rs.)	Amount of penalty imposed (Rs.)	Amount realised (Rs.)
1.	Cookies India Pvt. Ltd., Trichur.	64,434.07	2,000.00	66,434.07
2.	Rajamani Beedi Co., Trichur	14,404.56	1,000.00	Nil
3.	Mechanical Assembly System, Alleppey.	43,175.00	500.00	43,675.00
4.	Iya Aromatics, Kaloore, Cochin.	21,583.92	2,000.00	23,583.92
5.	Vasan Engineering Works, Vazhakulam	973.28	250.00	Nil
6.	Samson Rubbers, Ettumannur	840.00	1,750.00	2,590.00
7.	Prince Rubbers, Ettumannur	2.50.000	500.00	3,000.00
Total :		1,47,910.83	8,000.00	1,39,282.99

Apart from the above, in two cases, parties have voluntarily paid up a total amount of Rs. 1.6 lakhs, even though their cases have not yet been adjudicated. Thus total amount realised by the Collector of Central Excise, Cochin from the small scale units in Kerala through searches conducted for duty evasion is Rs. 3 lakhs approximately during the period 1.4.87 to 15.2.88.

No amount has yet been sanctioned or disbursed as reward to the officers of the Central Excise Department in Kerala in the above cases.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that once the show-cause notice is issued to the party after the raid, 5 per cent of the alledged evaded duties is sanctioned and disbursed among the Central Excise officers including the Secretariat Staff and if so what happens if the alledged amount is disputed by the party in a court of law and not realised subsequently.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The reward system is that the informer is given the reward and also the officer who actually conducts the search and seizure. It is on

the basis of 20 per cent : i.e. 20 per cent is given to the informer and 20 per cent is given to the officers who actually conduct the operation of search and seizure. Sometimes, the advance reward is also given. But whenever reward is given, as in this case also we have given in the written answer, it is after the ultimate result is known that the reward is given.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: I understand that the advance reward is also given after the show-cause notice. What happens if it is not realised from the party? That is what I wanted to know. You please answer both the questions together. My second question is whether the Government have received so many complaints from these small-scale industrial units especially from the State Rubber units in Kerala that after the announcement of reward system—especially this advance reward system—these Central Excise Officers are unnecessarily harassing the small-scale industrial units. I am not against giving incentives for detecting the cases of excise evasion. But it should not be an incentive for unnecessary harassment. In order to get the advance reward, the excise officials are unnecessarily cooking up cases and getting advance rewards. Will the Government take effective steps to stop the unnecessary harassment of such parties.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, this is correct. So many complaints have been received by us. There is unnecessary harassment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply. I never asked Prof. Kurien.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA: We have received representations from the Associations and Units of Small Scale Industrialists in Kerala about the alleged harassment of Central Excise Officers with a view to getting the rewards. Each one of the them was enquired into and found to be baseless after the enquiry. No evidence was found that the evasion cases were

booked or wrong information was given for the purpose of collecting higher rewards.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: What about advance rewards? That he has not answered. My question is specific.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: So far as advance rewards are concerned, it is almost in all the cases, it has been found that the information given was correct and found to be correct information. I have not yet come across any case where advance reward has been given and ultimately nothing was found.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: For the sake of rewards, they were actually physically tortured.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not allowed you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. PANJA: All cases were enquired and there was no such case.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: How do you know?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Vidharbha is a backward region. New industries are being set up there but due to some wrong interpretation, 200 small scale units have been closed there. A young Collector who has been posted there has created havoc in that area. Assessment of the last four years have been made, as a result of which about 200 units have been forced to close down. Will the hon. Minister enquire into the matter if he received a complaint regarding harassment which is leading to the closure of so many units. Will he issue instructions to penalise the dishonest and the guilty? How can 200 units evade excise duty at the same time? He should issue proper guidelines in this regard. Will

he depute some high official to listen to their grievances ?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is only related to Kerala. (*Interruptions*) When Minister feels it is not related, how can he reply ?

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : But 200 units have been closed in Nagpur alone.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : It appears that the Hon. Member wants an answer to this. His way of argument shows that he feels he is concerned about it. Kindly ask the Hon. Member to write a letter to me because this is in respect of Kerala only and Vidarbha is far away from it.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : My Hon. colleague has brought to the notice of the Minister an important factor regarding these raids. Those who evade duties should be severely penalised. There is no doubt about it. But there is a standing complaint from some 200 and odd small scale tread rubber manufacturers in Kerala that they were being unnecessarily harassed by some over-zealous officials just because of the lure of the advance rewards. I would like to know to from the Minister whether he would conduct enquiry, an impartial enquiry regarding this unnecessary harassment of small scale tread rubber units in Kerala ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : As I said, in Kerala, the total number of small scale unit is 1,528 and search took place only in respect of 65 units from Ist April 1987 to 15th February, 1988. And not in a single case, the information was proved to be wrong. But certainly, as they are small scale units, some of the aspects come to my notice after I examined. I have asked my Department to look into those and let me know why and in what manner such small penalty is being imposed. But so far as harassment is concerned, we got representation from associations and it was enquired in detail and not a single case of harassment was established.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : They were physically assaulted.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : The hon. Minister has satisfied himself that there was no harassment. In how many cases out of the total, did these investigations reveal any serious effort or continuous effort to evade tax ? How has he satisfied himself ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I have not satisfied myself. I am going by records. Representations were received from associations, units giving particulars of some harassment. But when enquiry was made, it was found that the allegations were baseless. For this reason 65 units in Kerala, from April 87 to February 88, were searched on information. Not a single reward has been given yet. We search on information and reward is given after show-cause notice is issued. It is not that the information is given and immediately the reward also is given. First information is obtained, then show-cause notice is issued and then only out of that 5% is given at the time of issuance of the show-cause notice. Therefore there is less chance—I am not ruling out that there would be no harassment at all—but whatever complaints we have got from the Associations, those complaints were found to be baseless.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : With regard to Kerala and other cases, wherever raids take place, records are seized and it takes a long time for the Department to find out and conclude the case. So, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any machinery by which if the people who are raided are ready to compromise, summary proceedings are held and the cases are finalised ? Because after taking such a long period, the Government does not get anything because the evidence is produced or some other things happen. My request is that a method should be there by which summary proceedings can take place in the case of those who are willing to compromise. Is there any such system ?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : There is no summary proceedings as such. But in these cases if they surrender on their own, at the time of the search, then a less penalty is imposed. It is true that there are several cases pending, but not for such

a long time. Under the law of the land we have to give them show-cause notice and opportunity to produce evidence, to file witness statements. All these procedures have to take place and unless we go through these procedures the course of law will get affected because of the violations of the principles of natural justice and also rules for holding inquiry. That is why there is delay. In fact, I have given in the written answer that out of 65 cases from 1.4.87 to 14.2.88, 7 have already been disposed of—I have the particulars—because the parties on their own came and cooperated in the proceedings. These are the details about how much has been done

Proposal for Construction of Sub-surface Dams in Kerala

*250. **SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN** : Will the Minister of **WATER RESOURCES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for construction of sub-surface dams across the river systems in Kerala for conservation of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other measures proposed by the State Government with regard to water conservation measures in the rivers of Kerala; and

(d) the details thereof and the decision taken by Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). A proposal envisaging construction of 257 subsurface dams and check dams has been received from Government of Kerala. Clarifications on certain aspects of the scheme have been sought from the State Government.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : The State of Kerala is famous for its rivers and backwaters. But unfortunately it is sad to note that a major portion of the river water goes waste in to the Arabian sea. In this connection may I

know from the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry has got any specific proposals or schemes for the effective scientific management of the water, so also for the conservation of rainfall for meeting the drought situation in the State? If so, what are the details?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : The Central Ground Water Board is implementing a project in Kerala State where 8 prospective sites were investigated and 5 out of these have been found feasible. These are at Odakkali, Khoza, Nediyaasala, Neezhur and Malayapuzha. I may be excused and corrected if the pronouncement is not all right.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : The answer itself is different. My question is whether there is any specific proposal with the Ministry for the scientific management of water so also for the conservation of rainfall for meeting the drought situation in the State.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government of Kerala has prepared a project titled 'community irrigation project of Kerala' which proposes construction of 257 sub-surface dams and check dams etc. to utilise the water that flows into the river.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Into the sea and not into the river.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Hon. member knows very well that the river will eventually flow into the sea but the point is that these projects are those of the State Government. We come into the picture in an advisory position and as and when these proposals are put to us we shall examine them. The cost of these proposals estimated by the Kerala Government would run into Rs. 100 crores.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : It is widely reported that Mr. Sam Pitroda, Technology Adviser to P.M. has visited Kerala recently to study conservation of rain water in the State. If so, what are his findings and which part of Kerala State will benefit from the rain

water conservation programme of the Central Government ?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Eight prospective sites were investigated and out of these some have been found feasible. The hon. Member will be happy to know that in Odakkali work has been started and it will be completed within two-three months.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Whether Mr. Sam Pitroda visited Kerala recently and also has he made any study for conservation of rain water in the State ?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : We do not have any information about it as yet.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : There are a number of areas in the country where irrigation facilities are meagre and rainfall is low. For such areas preservation of sub-soil water is very important I would like to know whether Central Government has any scheme to construct sub-surface dams in those areas where rainfall is very low ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : It is for the State Government to prepare a scheme. Water is a State Subject and we come into the picture as advisers and when the projects are sent to us for examination and approval but they have to be initiated by the State Government.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : I agree with the Government that water is a State subject but every year we have either drought or flood and the Central Government is spending a huge amount to meet these calamities. It is peculiar that in Kerala we have both drought and floods every year. The reason is that whatever rain water we get flows into the sea and there is no provision for conserving this water through dams or other means. Soil conservation is very poor so that water does not percolate into the soil. Therefore, I would like to know whether you have a concrete plan for improving the soil conservation measures in the State of Kerala. The Ministry should have some programmes. For long-term solution, such programmes should be sought for. (*Interruptions*) Why are you objecting ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please don't disturb him. Please put the question.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : We should tackle with a long-term perspective. If that is so, better soil conservation measures should be taken. I would like to know whether the Ministry has got some programme for that.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : I am grateful to the hon. Member for pointing out the need for Central Government's intervention in these matters. I am afraid, we are not able to persuade the Chief Ministers either to hand over the water or at least to have it in the Concurrent List. Therefore, since this is purely a State subject, the initiation has to be by the State Governments. We are consulted sometimes. We also advise them. That's why I mentioned in the beginning that the State Government has already formulated 257 projects for which Rs. 100 crores will have to be spent.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Financial assistance from Centre ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : As and when financial assistance is asked, it will be placed before the Planning Commission. They will have to take a decision in the apportioning of money.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Almost all the States have already requested the Government of India to nationalise all the rivers.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Not all States.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Not all States but most of the States have already made a request in this House and almost the Chief Ministers made a request to nationalise the rivers in this country.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : No, no; not all the Chief Ministers.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, so far as Kerala is concerned, my submission is that already there is a request from Tamil Nadu to divert the west-flowing rivers to the east. The main question here is for constructing sub-surface dams. You have stated about 257 dams costing about

Rs. 100 crores. Sir, this is in a wrong direction.

My submission is that the natural river course should not be altered or the water should not be diverted. That is the main thing here. Supposing you are allowing sub-surface dams. They will be stagnating and impounding water in almost all the dams and the water may not reach the lower riparian States like Tamil Nadu from Kerala.

Hon. Member Shri Mullappally Ramachandran has stated that the water is already going waste into the Arabian Sea. Almost all the Chief Ministers in Kerala used to say in one way : Not even a single drop of water to waste. That's what they were always saying. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I would like to know whether Government of India will come forward to stop all the sub-surface dams in Kerala as the natural course of water has to reach Tamil Nadu. What can you do ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The question is about Kerala, not about Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The water is going to Tamil Nadu from Kerala.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : We shall certainly bear in mind the suggestions made by the hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

**Foreign Exchange Earned from Exports
and Trade Deficit**

*251. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign exchange earned during the first six months of the year is more in comparison to the amount earned during the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, the amount thereof;

(c) the amount of deficit likely to accrue in 1987; and

(d) the amount given by Government in the form of subsidy to foreign trade last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). According to the provisional trade statistics, India's exports during the first six months of the current financial year *i.e.* April-september 1987 amounted to Rs. 7411.26 crores as compared to Rs. 5857.44 crores during April-September 1986, thereby showing an increase of 26.5 per cent.

(c) It is difficult to precisely estimate the trade deficit with which we are likely to end the current financial year 1987-88 at this stage.

(d) The amount disbursed under the Market Development Assistance during 1986-87 amounted to Rs. 785.23 crores.

[*English*]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, it is reported that despite, the subsidies, there has been a heavy depletion in foreign currency assets during the first seven weeks of the year. Was it only due to repayment of IMF amount or some other reason was also there ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : I would like to make the point clear to the hon. Member that the question though refers to the term called 'subsidy', there is no conceptual term in our Ministry of Commerce to provide any subsidy to the exporter but we give him what is called the CCS. This CCS is not a subsidy. It is just to neutralise the tax and some other things for which in the international price competition the exporter faces difficulty. It is not a subsidy. The subsidy part is only when the banks give them the loans, on that basis the bank credits interest which was given on some interest concession at the rate of 3 per cent,

is provided by the bank and that part only is given. Therefore, it will be unwise to consider that the Ministry of Commerce provided subsidy to that tune and as I have stated in the statement, it is a deficit. We are only concerned with the trade figure and the exporters are only entitled to get the CCS and it is to neutralise the prices and nothing more than that. I would like to inform the hon. Member that in addition to the statement, while I was replying to a question 15 or 20 days back, the latest figure was not given in the statement and now the latest export figure is Rs. 12603.27 crores for April 1987 to January 1988 against the target of this year of Rs. 13000 crores. A little over Rs. 13,800 crores will be ended up to 31st March and we are confident in exceeding the target. It is 25.1 per cent higher than the corresponding year of 1986-87, *i.e.*, from April to January. This is in addition to the statement because the current figure is now available with me and that amounts the deficit decline of Rs. 408.65 crores in comparison with the last year April-January.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : A part of my question is not answered and that was whether the depletion is due to the repayments of the IMF or not. Anyhow, he will take into consideration.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : He can address to the Finance Minister and the Finance Ministry and not to me.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : He is also the Commerce Minister. I am one of the happy people because the targets of export are being achieved out of Rs. 13800 crores target as told by the hon. Minister, Shri Das Munsi, and the achievement is growing but the point is, the import bill in the coming five months is to shoot up. Has the Government already made its intention clear about the substantial import of edible oils, petroleum products, sugar, fertilisers, etc. ? Will it not annul the achievement made on export front ? Are the Government taking any steps to reconsider this heavy import question.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : In so far

as the imports are concerned, the hon. Member would appreciate that based on the requirements of the various sectors, whether it is fertiliser or food or other industries, the concerned department of the Ministry, as per the requirements of the country in a particular period of year, or sometimes to maintain the buffer stocks to neutralise the domestic price in some cases, the imports are made. But our Ministry for the last three months are very actively reviewing the aspects not only as to how we can cut down imports how to balance it but also regarding the price stability. I would like to inform the hon. Member that the visit of our Finance Minister to Malaysia in January created a very substantial gain for the country in the sense that the entire purchase to import the edible oil has been stabilised in such a form that they have been able to take the benefit of a huge price reduction for our own policy approach after his visit. This is the way we are trying to reduce the burden of import price but so far as import quantity is concerned, those are not exclusively in the hands of the Ministry of Commerce. We can only review but these are done for specific requirements by the departments of the concerned Ministries.

SHRI K.S. RAO : While the statistics that have been given by the Minister indicate that there is a constant increase in the exports, but when we look at the average world trade, information about which is given in another question, it is found that it is decreasing year after year. There is a general impression among the farmers that they are not getting remunerative prices for cotton, tobacco and such other items and, therefore, the farmers are not going in for those crops. In the meantime, the importers are making hey by importing and selling such items at a higher price. Will the Minister think in terms of paying remunerative prices or advising the Ministry of Agriculture for this and in arranging, if necessary, storage of such items, commercial products, like cotton, tobacco etc. as they have been doing for rice, wheat etc. and save foreign exchange and cover the trade deficit in another three years ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : In so far as incentives to the farmers are concerned, these are not within my competence and

jurisdiction. This specific aspect can be addressed to the Agriculture Minister.

In so far as the export of agricultural produces is concerned, first of all, if we examine the overall world situation in the last two years, the export of basic agricultural commodities itself is in decline in various countries, not only in our country. There are certain areas where the import of such commodities is advantageous to the country instead of heavily depending on the domestic things for certain reasons. For example, we are not self-sufficient in oil-seeds and the domestic oilseed price is much more higher than the international price. Therefore, in order to keep the market steady and keep the requirements in mind, we have to maintain some buffer to neutralize the domestic price not at the cost of farmers. Their incentive is different, but it not to allow the speculators in the trade to speculate and fluctuate the prices.

In so far as our overall strategy for export of agricultural commodities is concerned, we are having a constant review and whenever we find that there is a loop-hole, we take definite steps in that direction.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The Minister told us that the exports had gone up by about 25 per cent. That is the figure given by the Minister of Finance in his Budget speech. I would like to know whether these exports are in relation to rupee. If that is so, since the rupee value has been depreciated, what is the exact value of the exports? The rupee value today as against pounds has depreciated by 12.6 per cent and similarly against several other currencies, the rupee value has been depreciated. What is the actual physical value of the exports of our country.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : As the hon. Member pointed out, whenever we draw the export figure, we do maintain two figures, one in rupee terms and the other in dollar terms. In so far as the dollar figures are concerned, our calculations have not yet been made, and hopefully, we are thinking to do it by the end of the financial year. However, the figure in respect of growth of export last year is available to us from the actual statistics published by UNO bulletin; that gives an authentic report every month. They have carried the figure of trade

growth in dollar terms and according to that 21.6 per cent trade growth in export was achieved by India in January-June. Possibly, the hon. Member is quite right that in actual and real terms, when we calculate in dollar terms may not be that advantageous. But nevertheless, the growth in terms of GNP, though remained stagnant, when compared to figures from 1950 onwards, shows that the domestic market capacity has been so expanded that whatever export surplus you may think to generate, firstly a part of it is absorbed by the domestic market. Secondly, whatever you like to export might not get the international competitive prices and create a block. We are examining this matter also on the territory to territory basis and wherever we will get an opportunity we will push it up.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, in continuation of the last question, I would like to be more specific. The Economic Survey has said that our export has increased by 24.7 per cent and just now the Minister has said that it has increased by 25 per cent. Picking up the same thread, I would like to know whether it is not a fact that because our currency has been linked to a number of European currencies and since there is a gradual devaluation as a result of that apparently in terms of rupee value it appears as if our export has gone up and again the dollar has gone down. Is it not a fact that in a commensurate manner we have not exactly adjusted the exchange rate and, therefore, apparently it appears that our export to America has been increased. But that does not give the correct picture. This is one aspect of the question. This was continuation of the previous question and so you can treat it as Shri Madhav Reddi's question.

I would like to know whether it is not a fact that even on the basis of the figures that are given in the Budget that has been presented by the Finance Minister for the year 1988-89, as far as our repayment, the interest payments are concerned, actually 68 per cent of the entire external borrowings as well as market borrowings will be utilised for paying the old interest and, therefore, very little capital will be available for those industries which can export commodities over here. Therefore, it

appears that we borrow from the foreign market only to repay. Will you try to change this position so that whenever we borrow, at least that is made available for the manufacture of exportable commodities so that we can reduce the trade deficit ?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, in so far as the last part of Hon. Member's question is concerned, it should have been addressed to the Finance Ministry. As far as the first two parts of his questions are concerned, I may only inform the Member that a developing country who do not possess a very strong currency faces the same situation, with regard to the foreign trade. It is not restricted to India alone. It is applicable to the entire globe. However, the most enlightening feature of the Indian export is that it has not expanded in terms of rupee. In terms of quantity it has gone up to a great extent. The specific question is asked about the commodities and manufactured items. . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is not correct because these figures which you have given (24.7 and 25.00 per cent) are in terms of the increase in the rupee value export. It is not in terms of export.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : In some cases the value of some of the commodities has gone down and while in some other cases it has gone up. My job is to examine whether quantity-wise I am gaining some ground or not. To push my material more in the market and for value addition also whether I am gaining grounds. In these two aspects India is maintaining a better trade as compared to other developing countries. That is why I can say that so far as currency is concerned, it is not a problem in India. As per the April-January figures supplied by the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, the growth of imports in terms of dollar is 11.4% and the export is 23 per cent.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Sir, besides what has been mentioned in the Union Budget for the year 1988-89, May I know what other efforts are being made by the Government of India to boost the export and earn more foreign exchange.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI : Sir the

larger aspect of the new proposal to improve the export will be known to this House by the 1st of April, 1988 when the new export-import policy will be made available. I cannot disclose it at the movement. However, I would like to tell the House that so far as the commodities and the manufactured items are concerned, our review is over and we have provided all the necessary inputs and equipments. I can only say that we are having a very close vigil on the engineering goods. We are trying our best to intensify the study on engineering goods.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next Question. Q. No. 252. Shri Sarfraz Ahmad. No Shri Tulsi Ram. Not here. Q. No. 253. Shri Manik Reddy. Not here. Shri Prakash Chandra. No. Q. No. 254. Shri Ram Samujhawan. Not here. Q. No. 255. Shri Banatwalla. No. Q. No. 256. Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Water Resources

*256. **DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether water resources in the country are not being utilised properly;

(b) if so whether Union Government propose to take any strong measures in this direction to ensure optimum utilisation of water resources;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) The development of water resources has been progressively increasing during the Plan period. Upto the end of Sixth Plan about 67.5 m. ha. of irrigation potential was created against the ultimate potential of about 113 m. ha.

(b) to (d). Water resources development schemes are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments. The Centre has taken up schemes and programmes for supplementing the efforts of the

State Governments in the field of water management, planning and design of major and medium projects, basin planning, ground water exploration, minor irrigation development and command area development. Further, the recently adopted National Water Policy lays down guidelines for optimum utilisation of water resources.

[English]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : By going through the reply given by the hon. Minister, I have come to an understanding that the entire effort has been made towards the irrigational facilities from whatever water is available in our country. But nobody will differ with the fact that a huge quantity of water is being wasted every year. What concrete steps the Government of India is going to take to conserve the water which is being wasted every year either from their own efforts or by giving guidelines and providing technology to the various State Governments in this regards ?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : 180 million hectometre of water is available. It is estimated that about 70 million hectometres of surface water can be utilised ultimately. Roughly 45 per cent of the utilisable surface water is being utilised at present. The annual utilisable ground water resource is estimated at about 42 million hectometres. Nearly fourth of this is being utilised. Thus, there is a considerable scope for developing both surface and ground water in the country, or meeting the growing requirements efforts are being made in the plans to use these resources. The Ministry is planning to have an integrated view of the water management.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is beating about the bush. I would once again put my question.

[English]

Actually, it is very much limited to the district which is being affected every year from river Rapti. It actually creates a flood havoc in four districts—Basti, Gonda, —Gorakhpur, Bahraich—and the inception of the river to this country is from Nepal.

Since the hon. Minister has just stated that the irrigation, water management and other problems related with this scheme is exclusively a State subject, I do not understand, how the excess water which is creating a flood havoc in the four districts, which I have just named and the river which is coming from Nepal—if the Government of India does not intervene and does not come up to have a talk with the Nepal Government—how the excess water can be managed and controlled ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : The hon. Member is right that there is need for greater coordination between Nepal and India in the management of this river. We have been discussing with the Government of Nepal specific projects both in relation to flood control and also in relation to irrigation. Many discussions are going on with the Government of Nepal. I would rather await their outcome before making any comment.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : The irrigation potentialities depend on the longevity of the dams, and the longevity of the dams depends on how you preserve your catchment areas against soil arosion. So, what coordination does this Ministry of Water Resources have with the Ministry of Environment to see that the catchment areas of these irrigation projects are preserved for posterity ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of Raw Material in Textile Industry

*243. **SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA :**
SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of **TEXTILES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Textile Industry has submitted any representation to Union Government about price rise and shortage of cotton as the raw material for textile; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remedy the raw material crunch in textiles ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to checking the prices of cotton and ensuring the availability of cotton, Government have suspended exports of staple cotton since July, 1987. In addition, Government has permitted import of cotton on Advance Licensing basis against export of cotton yarn, cotton fabrics and made-ups.

Suggestions of the Central Vigilance Commission

*244. SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the analysis of corruption cases by the Central Vigilance Commission indicates that irregularities in income-tax assessments in a large number of cases have come to notice;

(b) whether the analysis also indicates that in the issue of import licences cases involved showing of favours to private parties; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the suggestions made by the Central Vigilance Commission so as to eliminate such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). As per the prescribed procedure, cases of irregularities, corruption etc., by officers of Government of India have to be referred to Central Vigilance Commission for advice. In accordance with this procedure, 91 cases of officers (71 investigated by the Income-tax department and 20 by CBI) were referred to Central Vigilance Commission for advice during 1986. Central Vigilance Commission carried out an analysis of misconducts in these 91 cases and found that in 40% of these cases, misconduct on the part of the officers related to irregularities in completion of assessments.

Similar analysis on the part of Central Vigilance Commission in respect of 80 cases referred to by the Ministry of Commerce for advice during 1986 showed that undue favours were allegedly shown in 36.25% of cases.

During 1986, the Central Vigilance Commission's advice about initiation of action against the erring officials was accepted in all cases. Other suggestions given by the Central Vigilance Commission in its report with object to eliminate such cases have also been implemented.

Field Channel Work on Damam Ganga Reservoir Project

*245. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI :
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Field Channel work on Damam Ganga Reservoir Project has been completed;

(b) if, not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expected time for its completion;

(d) the expected time by which the full utilisation of its water is possible;

(e) the ratio of water share to Dadra and Nagar Haveli out of the said project; and

(f) whether Dadra and Nagar Haveli Administration has sought more water share in view of the proposed Sugar Factory in the territory ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Non-availability of land and redeployment of staff on drought relief are among the reasons.

(c) and (d). During VIIIth Plan.

(e) About 15%.

(f) A proposal for increasing the sugar-cane cropping percentage has been received.

Racket of Forged Bearer Bonds and Fake Share Certificates

*246. DR. B. L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a big racket in the floating of forged bearer bonds in the denomination of Rs. 10,000 and fake share certificates has been recently busted in the capital;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of such forgery;

(c) The estimated amount of such forged bonds floating in the market; which have not been detected so far and how it is proposed to countenance this situation;

(d) whether there had been some loopholes in the printing of such bonds; if so, what steps are being taken to plug the loopholes for future issues; and

(e) the action taken to apprehend the culprits involved in this racket and bring them to book ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) and (e). It is reported that Delhi Police has seized certain forged Special Bearer Bonds and have arrested 7 persons in this connection. Investigation is still on. It has, however, been clarified that no forged bearer bond printed by the accused is floating in the market.

(d) The special Bearer Bonds issued by the Government have in them certain distinct security features which will distinguish them from the fake bonds. At the time of repayment on maturity, the bonds will be duly verified before repayment is made.

[*Translation*]

Medium and Major Irrigation Projects in U.P.

*249. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of medium and major

irrigation projects in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether provision made for these projects in the Seventh Five Year Plan has been found inadequate by the Uttar Pradesh Government;

(c) whether Union Government propose to grant more assistance for these projects for their timely completion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) 28 major and 13 medium irrigation projects which spilled over from previous Plans are under implementation. In addition, 1 major and 8 medium new projects have been proposed in the Seventh Plan.

(b) The proposals have been finalised in consultation with the State Government.

(c) and (d). An additional outlay of Rs. 24 crores has been sanctioned to accelerate completion of identified irrigation projects benefiting drought prone areas. 50% of this is in the form of drought relief assistance and the balance will be additionality.

Modernisation of Textile Mills

*252. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : SHRI V. TULSIRAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to modernize the textile mills in the country to keep pace with latest industrial developments in other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to give any assistance or grant for modernisation of textile mills and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 25% of the fund is expected to be utilised for healthy units and the balance for weak but viable units. A part

of the fund has been earmarked for providing special loans to such units for meeting a major part (upto 80%) of the promoter's contribution. The loan is to be given on usual terms (i.e. 11.5% per annum for assistance upto Rs. 6 crores per company) whereas the special loan carries interest at 6% repayable over a period of 12 years including a moratorium of 6 years.

(c) There is no proposal to give any assistance or grant for modernisation except the assistance referred to above.

Losses in NTC Mills

*253. SHRI MANIK REDEY :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mills under National Textile Corporation of Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan have incurred huge losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of loss incurred during last two years mill-wise; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by Government to avoid such losses ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). The mills under NTC (DP&R) have been incurring losses for various reasons. The main reasons for losses are as under :

(i) old and obsolete machinery;

(ii) increase in prices of cotton and other inputs like coal, fuel, petroleum products, dyes and chemicals, etc;

(iii) power-cut and high cost of captive power;

(iv) excess labour force.

(c) The net loss incurred by the mills under NTC (DP&R), mill-wise, during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 is as under :

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the mill	Net Loss	
		1985-86	1986-87
1.	Dayalbagh Spg. and Wvg. Mills Amritsar	—63.98	—60.76
2.	Suraj Textile Mills, Melout	—53.47	—61.77
3.	Shri Bijay Uotton Mills, Bijay Nagar	—24.81	—61.08
4.	Kharar Textile Mills, Kharar	—53.33	—48.15
5.	Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur	—19.20	—20.60
6.	Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi	—364.28	—312.82
7.	Mahalaxmi Mills, Beawar	—53.94	—46.69
8.	Edward Mills, Beawar	—89.66	—48.94
9.	Panipat Woolen Mills, Kharar	—105.48	—106.17

(d) NTC have formulated mill-specific action plans to improve the performance of the mills.

[English]

Income Tax Assessments in Delhi

*254. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new assesseees detected during 1987 by income-tax authorities in Delhi and how does this compare with the figures of last three years;

(b) whether the Income-tax Department is far behind in bringing uptodate assessment and if so, reasons thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken to check the modus operandi of the assesseees to avoid early finalisation of their assessments and to obviate frequent adjournments; and

(d) how many assessments were finalised during 1987 and how does this compare with the number for the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) The number of new assesseees added during the calender year 1987 in Delhi is 94,454.

The number of new assesseees added during the earlier three years is as under :

from 1.1.84 to	
31.12.84	14,024
1.1.85 to 31.12.85	44,281
1.1.86 to 31.12.86	1,45,490

(b) and (d). No, Sir. The number of assessments completed in the country during the year 1987 *i.e.* from 1.1.87 to 31.12.87 was 69.68 lakhs. The number of assessments completed during the earlier three years is as under :

	in lakhs
from 1.1.84 to 31.12.84	53.44
1.1.85 to 31.12.85	57.53
1.1.86 to 31.12.86	63.16

(c) Adjournments are not granted frequently. These are allowed only on valid and reasonable grounds. If the Income-tax Officer finds that the assessee

is seeking adjournment in order to delay the completion of assessments he would not allowed the adjournment and would proceed to complete the assessments ex-parte on the basis of the material and information available with him. While completing the assessments ex-parte the Income-tax Officer would also draw adverse inference of the non-cooperative attitude of the assessee.

Promotion of Joint Venturcs with Malaysia

*255. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to promote joint ventures and expand trade with Malaysia;

(b) if so, the areas identified therefor; and

(c) other details of the proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). There is no specific proposal to promote joint ventures on a Government level. However, with a view to expand trade with Malaysia, certain areas have been identified and are kept in view while approving specific proposals which are received from Indian parties who want to set up joint veatures in Malaysia.

The areas identified as potential sectors include manufactures based on agricultural products, timber, rubber, palm oil, heavy industry products, machinery components, motor vehicle accessories and components for the electrical and electronic industry.

Holding of Credit Camps on Election Eve

*257. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has advised the nationalised banks not to arrange credit camps on the eve of elections; and

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). From the time an election is announced by the Election Commission, banks are advised by the Government not to hold public functions, etc. as provided in the Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates. No separate guidelines on this score are issued by the Reserve Bank of India

India's Share in World Trade

*258. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) India's share in world trade last year;

(b) whether India's share in world trade has recorded a fall or rise as compared to the preceding years; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the variations ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). India's share in the world trade, world imports and world exports, during the last three calendar years are as under :

(in percentage)

Year	India's Share in World trade	India's Share in World Imports	India's Share in World Exports
1985	0.62	0.77	0.45
1986	0.56	0.67	0.44
1987 (Jan-Jun)	0.56	0.65	0.47

(Source : UN Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Jan. 1988)

There was a decline in India's Share in overall World Trade during January-June

1987 as compared to 1985 due to a fall in India's Share in World Imports even though India's Share in World Exports registered some increase.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan for 1988-89

*259. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to give loan to India for setting up various projects during the year 1988-89;

(b) if so, the amount of loan proposed to be given by the World Bank, and the names of the projects on which this amount is proposed to be spent;

(c) whether Government propose to make provision out of the said amount for the installation of tubewells for the farmers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). It is expected that the World Bank would continue to extend assistance to India during the World Bank Fiscal year 1989, which extends from 1st July 1988 to 30th June 1989. The amount of assistance proposed to be extended by the World Bank during this period would be indicated at the Aid India Consortium Meeting scheduled to be held in June 1988. As in previous years, the assistance would be linked to project specific investments. The actual list of projects to be negotiated for assistance during this period would be finalised during the course of the year. While there is no new specific project relating to tubewells under consideration at present, there are two World Bank assisted projects currently under implementation. These are the U.P. Public Tubewells-II Project, and the Bihar Public Tubewells Project, representing IDA credits of \$ 101 million and \$ 68 million respectively.

Progress of Tilaiya-Thathar Irrigation Project in Bihar

*260. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government last year to ensure the progress of Tilaiya-Thathar Irrigation Project in Bihar;

(b) the further steps proposed to be taken in this regard by Government during the current financial year;

(c) the provision made for the said project for the next financial year; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (c). As per information received from Government of Bihar, an amount of Rs. 40 lakhs was utilised for the project in 1986-87. and Rs. 150 lakhs have been allotted for 1987-88 Provision for the year 1988-89 in the State Plan is Rs. 200 lakhs.

(d) The project is likely to be completed in the 8th Plan.

[English]

Visit of Canadian Trade Team

*261. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :**
SHRI K. S. RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Canadian Trade Team visited India in the first week of February, 1988;

(b) if so, the nature of discussion held with the visiting team; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir, A trade delegation led by Mr. Monte Kwinter, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology, State of Ontario, Canada, visited India from 3 to 6 February, 1988. The delegation held wide-ranging discussions with Indian business community and officials. The main objective of the delegation was to

explore possibilities of furthering Indo-Canadian trade and economic cooperation by *inter-alia* promoting collaborations in industrial ventures. They also expressed interest in additional imports from India of items such as jewellery, carpets and handi-crafts.

Financial Assistance to States by NABARD

2566. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has been providing financial assistance to State Governments for the development of villages;

(b) if so, the amount provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to the State of Orissa in 1986-87 for the development of rural areas; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides long term loans to State Governments from the National Rural Credit (Long Term Operations) Fund for enabling them to contribute to the share capital of cooperative credit institutions. As at the end of June, 1987 the amount outstanding from Government of Orissa on this account aggregated to Rs. 816 lakhs. In addition, NABARD provides assistance to the eligible institutions for agriculture and allied activities and for rural development. Under schematic lending, disbursement of refinance assistance from NABARD to the eligible institutions in Orissa during 1986-87 (July-June) was Rs. 4311 lakhs.

Loans under Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth

2567. **SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of cases and the loan amounts sanctioned by the banks to the beneficiaries under the self-employ-

ment scheme for the educated unemployed youth during 1987-88 so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : The State-wise

position regarding the number of cases and loan amount sanctioned by banks to beneficiaries under the Self-Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEBUY) during the year 1987-88 till available upto January, 1988 is given in the statement below :

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Applications sanctioned by Banks	
		Nos.	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1521	333.39
2.	Assam	189	NR
3.	Bihar	216	53.00
4.	Gujarat	2511	375.14
5.	Haryana	1327	267.74
6.	Himachal Pradesh	406	89.65
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	21	3.75
8.	Karnataka	554	103.60
9.	Kerala	3255	586.14
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1300	273.48
11.	Maharashtra	5040	906.01
12.	Manipur	8	2.00
13.	Meghalaya	NR	NR
14.	Nagaland	NR	NR
15.	Orissa	NR	NR
16.	Punjab	1300	284.84
17.	Rajasthan	2286	483.78
18.	Sikkim	19	5.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	3581	699.06

1	2	3	4
20. Tripura		Nil	Nil
21. Uttar Pradesh		887	238.08
22. West Bengal		1140	NR
23. A and N Islands		30	5.99
24. Arunachal Pradesh		7	1.54
25. Chandigarh		82	20.04
26. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		3	NR
27. Goa, Daman and Diu		132	31.20
28. Mizoram		3	0.65
29. Pondicherry		150	25.71
30. Lakshadweep		—	—
Total :		25968	4780.79

Data Provisional

N.R. Not Received

Source : Office of the DC (SSI) Ministry of Industry.

Indo-US Step to Fight Drug Smuggling

2568. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and the United States are cooperating in fighting drug smuggling;

(b) if so, the details of the cooperation between the two countries; and

(c) what further joint efforts are contemplated in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). There has been active co-operation between India and United States in the fight against drug trafficking.

Drug Liaison Officers of U.S.A. have been permitted to be posted in India (Delhi and Bombay) and they work in close co-operation with the Narcotics Control Bureau. Operational intelligence is exchanged between the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States. The Drug Enforcement Administration, through its Liaison Officers, provide the Narcotics Control Bureau with information relating to drug trafficking where the drugs have originated or were obtained through India or where Indians are involved.

An Indo-U.S. Working Group on Narcotics has been constituted under the auspices of the Indo-U.S. Joint Commission to widen and enlarge bilateral co-operation between the two countries in the prevention of drug abuse and drug trafficking. A number of areas of co-operation have been identified including supply of additional

equipment, training in drug analysis and forensic science. Training in general and specifically "train the trainer" programmes are pursued in close co-operation.

Abid Hussain Committee Report on Capital Market

2569. SHRI H.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(b) whether the Abid Hussain Committee on Development Capital Market has submitted its interim report to Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof regarding its recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details regarding the recommendations cannot be disclosed until a decision is taken by Government on the final Report which is yet to be submitted by the Committee.

Seizure of Heroin

2570. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of raids conducted in the country and particularly in the capital during the year 1987 to seize heroin;

(b) the quantity of heroin seized during those raids and the number of persons arrested; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to check the smuggling of heroin and other drugs from neighbouring country into India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). Operation against drug trafficking is a continuous process and raids are conducted in this connection by various drug law enforcement agencies in

the country, as and when they receive intelligence on the same, (Only, successful operations are reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Central Co-ordinating Agency).

According to information available, the number of cases of heroin seizures, quantities seized and the number of persons arrested in the year 1987, separately for Delhi and the country, are as under :

	No. of cases	Quantity (kilograms)	No. of persons arrested
Delhi	29	70.454	62
All India	332	2,780.221	478

(c) Government have initiated various aggressive counter-measures against drug trafficking, which, *inter alia*, include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery, specially around borders, adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the umbrella of SAARC). The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action.

Raw Material Import Licence

2571. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any aerated water company is given any raw material import licence; and

(b) if so, the names of two or three companies and the items being imported by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). Supplementary licences for import of raw materials are not being given to the manufacture of aerated waters.

Opening of Bank Branches in Himachal Pradesh

2572. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new licences for the opening of branches of nationalised banks have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India for Himachal Pradesh during the last quarter of 1987 and the first quarter of 1988, till date;

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

(c) the likely date by which each one of these branches is likely to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the last quarter of 1987 it had issued 10 authorisations in favour of public sector banks including regional rural banks for opening branches in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The details are indicated below :

Name of centre	Name of District	Name of bank allotted to
1. Nagaon	Solan	State Bank of Patiala
2. Jabli	-do-	-do-
3. Badliab	-do-	-do-
4. Manpura	-do-	-do-
5. Piplughat	-do-	Punjab National Bank
6. Jugjit Nagar	-do-	-do-
7. Ghallotri	Rangra	-do-
8. Raipur	Una	-do-
9. Gokhra	Mandi	Himachal Gramin Bank
10. Parmash	-do-	-do-

RBI has further reported that it had not issued any authorisations for opening branches in Himachal Pradesh so far in 1988.

(a) RBI has advised the banks that opening of branches at the allotted centres should be evenly spread over the remaining period of the current branches expansion programme which is upto March, 1990.

Implementation of IRDP and other Loan and Subsidy Schemes

2573. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages visited by the Minister of State for Finance during the

last two years and the current year in order to assess the working of the banking system in the rural sector with special reference to the implementation of the integrated Rural Development Programme and other loan and subsidy schemes ;

(b) the total estimated cost of subsidies to the rural sector under the IRDP including the last financial year;

(c) the total quantum of loan advanced inclusive of subsidy to the borrowers; and

(d) the normal interest that would have been payable on these loans by the borrowers to the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) A record of the particulars as asked for in the question is not maintained separately:

(b) and (c). Details of total allocation for subsidy (including the Central and States

share), total expenditure (subsidy disbursed and expenditure on administering the subsidy) and the amounts of subsidy and credit disbursed during the last 3 years under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) are indicated below :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation	Total Expenditure	Subsidy Disbursed	Credit disbursed
1985-86	407.36	441.10	355.02	730.15
1986-87	543.83	613.38	510.73	1014.88
1987-88	613.38	477.68*	389.87*	783.28*

*Information upto January 1988.

(d) Loans are given under IRDP at a uniform concessional rate of interest of 10% per annum irrespective of the activity involved. The rate of interest charged by

commercial banks on term loans on normal, non-IRDP lendings in the industry, agriculture and services sector are indicated below:

Type of activity	Rate of interest (per cent per annum)
1. Small Scale Industry	
(i) backward areas	12.50
(ii) other areas	13.50
2. Agriculture	
(i) Minor irrigation/land development	10.00
(ii) <i>Other purposes</i>	
(a) small farmers	10.00
(b) other farmers	12.50
(iii) Advances for purchase of equipment based on new and renewable sources of energy for agricultural purposes	10.00
3. Road Transport Operators	
(i) upto two vehicles	12.50
(ii) three or more vehicles	15.00
4. All other term loans	15.00

Procurement Price of Cotton

2574. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of cotton is expected to increase during the current financial year;

(b) the names of the countries to whom cotton is being exported and through which agency the cotton is being purchased and exported;

(c) at what rate cotton is being purchased from the growers;

(d) whether the procurement price of cotton is very low as per the production cost;

(e) whether it is a fact that the cotton growers are facing hardships in certain parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by Government to increase the procurement price of cotton to save the cotton growers from being ruined ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Exports of staple cotton have been suspended since July, 1987. However, Bengal Deshi cotton is being exported to Japan and USA through the Cotton Corporation of India.

(c) The purchase of cotton is at the ruling market prices.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). The ruling market prices of cotton are at present substantially higher than the minimum support prices. There is no proposal to increase the minimum support prices of cotton for the current cotton year.

Import of CNC/NC Machine Tools

2575. SHRI P. KANNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of organisations/bodies

which had been allowed to import Computerised Numerically Controlled/Numerically Controller (CNC/NC) Machine Tools during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 by the capital goods Committee;

(b) the countries of import; and

(c) the approximate value of these imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). The details of machine tools (Capital Goods) whether they are computerised numerically controlled or numerically controller are not maintained separately. However, the particulars of Import Licences issued by the CCI and E Organisation are published in the Weekly Bulletins copies of which are available in the Library of Parliament House.

Export of Moradabad Wares

2576. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the value and quantum of export of Moradabad wares during 1987 and how does this compare with the last three years;

(b) the reasons for the downfall in the exports; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the exports as well as home consumption with results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Handicrafts being a decentralised sector, region-wise figures for export are not available. However, the value of exports of artmetalwares for the country during the last three years are as under :

Year	Rs. in Crores
1984-85	111.57
1985-86	102.84
1986-87	54.63

(b) The fall in the exports of artwares during 1986-87 is mainly attributed to the overall recession in the world market, increase in cost of raw materials, competition from S.E. Asian countries who work on semi-automatic machines and produce items with better and longer lasting finish.

(c) The steps being taken to boost exports and home consumption of artmetalwares of Moradabad are as follows :

- (1) Setting up of a Metal Handicrafts Service Centre at Moradabad to improve the quality and finish of artmetalwares through a modern lacquering and electro-plating common facility centre.
- (2)
 - (i) Cash Compensatory Support @10% of FOB value.
 - (ii) Raised Duty Drawback @35% of FOB value subject to a minimum of Rs. 23 (Rupees twenty three only) per kg. and to a maximum of Rs. 36 (Rupees thirty six only) per kg. on Brass Artwares and Electroplated Nickle Silver Wares.
 - (iii) REP @40% of FOB value.
 - (iv) Pre-shipment and Post-shipment credit as available @9.5% for a period upto 180 days w.e.f. 1.8.1986.
- (3) A separate Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts to give pointed attention to the promotion of exports of handicrafts including Artmetalwares, has been set up.
- (4) Handicrafts Exporters are encouraged to participate in Exhibition/Trade Fairs for which Marketing Development Assistance is available.

Tapping of Individual and Institutional Savings

2577. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study carried out by National Institute of Bank Management has revealed that there is a vast opportunity for banks to tap individual and institutional savings; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to tap these sources and to provide some services to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a survey conducted by the National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM) on all-India savings has indicated that the banking habit is still by and large confined to educated citizens and has not yet sufficiently become popular among illiterate people. The survey has suggested the need for adopting proper marketing strategies with a view to attract rural savings in different zones. It has also been suggested to formulate deposit linked consumer loans schemes.

Expansion of Trade with New Zealand

2578. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken steps to expand trade with New Zealand;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction;

(c) whether a joint trade council is proposed to be set up with New Zealand; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit of our Prime Minister to New Zealand in October, 1986, the Government of India and the Government of New Zealand entered into a Trade Agreement, which, *inter-alia*, established a Joint Trade Committee to promote and review bilateral trade. The first meeting of

the Committee was held in Delhi in June, 1987, when both sides agreed to improve bilateral trade through participation in each others' trade fairs, exchange of delegation in identified sectors etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. The two sides have agreed to establish a Joint Business Council.

(d) An ASSOCHAM delegation will be visiting New Zealand in March, 1988 and a JBC Agreement would be signed with its counterpart International Business Council of New Zealand. The inaugural session of the JBC meeting would also be held.

Indian Banks in Foreign Countries

2579. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian banks in foreign countries have been able to maintain their business and profitability during 1987;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, country-wise;

(c) the names of Indian banks in foreign countries which have been showing losses continuously; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve their position during the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). Accounts for the year 1987 have yet to be finalised by all the Indian banks having foreign branches.

The banks prepare their Profit and Loss Accounts and Balance Sheets in the forms set out in the Third Schedule of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Only the profit/loss position of the bank, as a whole, during the year is required to be incorporated in the Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet. The existing formats of Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account do not provide for exhibition of the profit/loss position of the overseas branches.

Some of the foreign branches of Indian banks have been, however, in the last few

years, faced with certain problem accounts due to various factors. The performance of the foreign branches of Indian Banks is continually reviewed by the Reserve Bank of India. A number of steps have been taken to improve the working of these branches and for strengthening the operational and control systems within the banks. The Reserve Bank guidelines provide *inter-alia* for fixing up of limits of exposure for individual borrowers/borrower groups, fixing up of country-wise exposure limits, development of proper credit rating etc.

Opening of Bank Branches

2580. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bank branches opened during the year 1987 in the country; and

(b) State-wise and bank-wise details, thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the year 1987, 1212 branches of scheduled commercial banks were opened in the country. The bank-wise position of these branches is set out in the Statement and Statewise position is indicated below :

Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of branches opened
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	114
Assam	27
Bihar	29
Goa	2
Gujarat	22
Haryana	77
Himachal Pradesh	54
Karnataka	62
Kerala	34

1	2	2	2
Madhya Pradesh	103	Tamilnadu	61
Maharashtra	95	Tripura	2
Meghalaya	1	Uttar Pradesh	280
Orissa	44	West Bengal	88
Punjab	39	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
Rajasthan	75	Delhi	2
		Total :	1212

Statement

Bank-wise details of branches opened by commercial banks in the country during the year 1987

S. No.	Name of bank	No. of branches opened
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	67
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	4
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	4
4.	State Bank of Indore	1
5.	State Bank of Mysore	1
6.	State Bank of Patiala	5
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	2
8.	State Bank of Travancore	16
9.	Allahabad Bank	87
10.	Andhra Bank	39
11.	Bank of Baroda	38
12.	Bank of India	25
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	18
14.	Canara Bank	20
15.	Central Bank of India	68
16.	Corporation Bank	10

1	2	3
17.	Dena Bank	5
18.	Indian Bank	22
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	10
20.	New Bank of India	21
21.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	30
22.	Punjab and Sind Bank	6
23.	Punjab National Bank	127
24.	Syndicate Bank	3
25.	United Bank of India	17
26.	Union Bank of India	41
27.	UCO Bank	9
28.	Bank of Madura Ltd.	2
29.	National Bank Ltd.	3
30.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	7
31.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
32.	Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.	2
33.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	8
34.	Federal Bank Ltd.	2
35.	United Western Bank Ltd.	1
36.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	2
37.	Bank of Karad	1
38.	Regional Rural Banks	487
Total :		1212

Modernisation of NTC Mills

2581. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA
MALIK :
SHRI R. P. DAS :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be

pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount has so far been released for modernisation of the Textile Corporation Mills during 1987-88;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). The Government has released an amount of Rs. 15 crores during 1987-88 to NTC towards its modernisation schemes.

Value of Rupee in Major Cities

2582. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of rupee in paise (based 1960=100) in major cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kanpur, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Lucknow from September to December, 1986 month-wise; and for the same period in 1987; and

(b) the reasons for the fall in rupee value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The value of the rupee measured as the reciprocal of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (1960=100) in respect of cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Kanpur and Hyderabad is given in the statement enclosed. Lucknow and Guwahati are not covered under this index.

(b) The decline in value of the rupee is synonymous with the rise in the Consumer Price Index. The rise in the Consumer Price Index is cumulative result of a variety of factors affecting the demand-supply position of items of consumption, weighted according to their value in the consumption basket.

Statement

Centre-wise value of rupee during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 (September-December)*

Centre/City	1986-87				1987-88			
	September	October	November	December	September	October	November	December
1. Bombay	14.16 paise	14.10 paise	13.77 paise	13.74 paise	12.72 paise	12.71 paise	12.53 paise	12.47 paise
2. Calcutta	14.71 paise	14.33 paise	14.22 paise	14.41 paise	13.70 paise	13.70 paise	13.66 paise	13.87 paise
3. Madras	14.75 paise	14.71 paise	14.39 paise	14.37 paise	13.32 paise	13.28 paise	13.00 paise	12.88 paise
4. Delhi	13.99 paise	13.97 paise	14.01 paise	14.06 paise	13.38 paise	12.22 paise	12.38 paise	12.99 paise
5. Ahmedabad	15.24 paise	15.06 paise	14.79 paise	14.81 paise	13.44 paise	13.28 paise	13.21 paise	13.17 paise
6. Bangalore	13.79 paise	13.46 paise	13.33 paise	13.44 paise	12.44 paise	12.38 paise	12.22 paise	12.11 paise
7. Kanpur	14.68 paise	14.47 paise	14.49 paise	14.79 paise	13.57 paise	13.30 paise	13.16 paise	12.78 paise
8. Hyderabad	14.25 paise	14.20 paise	14.12 paise	14.18 paise	13.33 paise	13.26 paise	13.11 paise	12.99 paise
All India	14.79 paise	14.60 paise	14.45 paise	14.53 paise	13.42 paise	13.33 paise	13.25 paise	13.30 paise

*Measured as the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (Base 1960=100)

Parity of Price between Agricultural and Industrial Commodities

2583. SHRI JITENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations that there should be parity of prices between agricultural and industrial commodities;

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

(c) whether Government contemplate to fix the prices of industrial products at source and in the factory itself as is done in the case of agricultural products by appointing bodies like agricultural Price Commission;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for adopting standards for these two sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) There have been some representations suggesting that there should be a parity of prices between agricultural and industrial commodities.

(b) to (e). The Government amended the terms of reference of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in 1980, and under the revised terms of reference the Commission has been asked to take into account, *inter alia*, changes in terms of trade between agricultural sector and non-agricultural sector.

The administered prices of both agricultural and industrial commodities are fixed on the recommendation of the expert bodies namely, the Commission for Agricultural costs and prices (CACP) for agricultural products and the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) in respect of industrial products. While taking the decision on the revision of administered price the Government is guided by the recommendation of the expert bodies as also the overall interest of the economy.

Incentives to Capital Exporters *

2584. SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the incentives offered to the capital goods exporters for promoting export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : A number of measures have been taken to assist exporters including capital goods exporters. These measures *inter alia* include liberalisation of licensing procedures, a new regim of CCS to compensate for the cascading effect of domestic taxation, access to raw materials and consumables at international competitive prices, reduction in the interest rates of pre and post shipment credit, interest rebate on new term loans to units which export more than 25% of their production, introduction of new blanket exchange permit scheme to facilitate export promotion activities, grant of replenishment licences etc.

Seizure of Hard Drugs

2585. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of hard drugs seized year-wise, State-wise during last three years;

(b) the cash prize/award given to the informers, police personnel, etc. during the last three years and the details of such awards which are still pending; and

(c) how much of the drugs seized are lying for disposal and estimated value thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). No precise value of the drugs seized can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like quality of the drugs, place of origin, etc.

Reward for drug seizures is being paid, at present, both by the Central and State Governments to the officers/informers. The information relating to payment of rewards, details of the pending cases and the drugs

lying for disposal has to be collected from different enforcement agencies of the Central, State Governments and the Union Territories. The collection of such information from all over the country would take time and may not be commensurate with the results. Information available indicates that during 1987, a sum of approximately Rs. 12.34 lakhs has been disbursed to 383 persons as reward.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities in Cloth Market/Industrial Estate Branch, Indore of State Bank of India

2586. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of bungling/irregularities have been detected in the matter of cash credit loan, letter of credit, Hindi bills during January, 1985 to December, 1987 in the branches of State Bank of Indore in cloth market industrial Estate in Indore;

(b) the total amount involved in each such case and the number of employees found involved therein;

(c) whether any legal action was taken against them;

(d) if so, the present position in each case; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e). State Bank of Indore has reported that during the period 1982-1987, eight cases involving Rs. 63.95 lakhs of misappropriation/fraud/bungling/irregularities in the matter of cash credit loan, letters of credit, Hundi bills, Deposit Accounts etc. have come to light at its Cloth Market and Industrial Estate branches in Indore. The bank has further reported that in this connection punishment to 4 officials has been awarded as indicated below :

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Dismissed from Bank's service | — | 1 |
| 2. Censured | — | 1 |
| 3. Withholding of promotion for two years | — | 1 |
| 4. Withholding of one increment without cumulative effect | — | 1 |

Chargesheets have been issued to 4 other officials.

The bank has also reported that whilst no legal action has been taken against the erring officials, departmental action has been taken/initiated against them.

[*English*]

Representation of Karnataka Coffee Growers Association

2587. SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Coffee Growers Association members met him at Bangalore on 13 December, 1987 and submitted their representation;

(b) if so, the main points of their demand; and

(c) the response of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main points raised in the representation are :

1. Annual revision of Minimum Release Price (MRP).
2. Abolition of Export Duty.
3. Structure/Constitution of Coffee Board.

(c) The Task Force set up to go into the mechanism for revision of Minimum Release Price (MRP) of coffee has since finalised its recommendations for the approval of the Government.

Export duty on coffee is fixed with reference to the London Terminal Prices (LTP) which is considered to be the price for lowest grade of Robusta coffee. No export duty is levied when the LTP is lower than or equal to a base remunerative price so as to ensure a reasonable return to growers and a fair profit margin to exporters; only when the LTP exceeds the base price a portion of the difference between the two is charged as export duty. At the existing level of LTP there is no case for change in the level of export duty.

The composition of the Coffee Board as it exists provides a balanced representation to all the interests involved in the coffee industry. At the time of reconstitution of Coffee Board, the recommendations made by various growers curers, exporters associations are kept in view.

Foreign Currency Assets

2588. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's foreign currency assets have declined considerably in real terms in recent years, while the dependence on capital inflows into deposit accounts of Non-resident Indians to sustain even this falling level of reserves has been increasing;

(b) whether there have been made any study in this regard and if so the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The stock of India's foreign currency assets, deflated by movements in the wholesale Price Index, increased by 4.4 per cent in 1985-86 and declined by 1.7 per cent in 1986-87. Changes in the level of foreign currency assets reflect a large variety of transactions in the current and capital account of the balance of payments and cannot be satisfactorily explained in terms of only one category of capital flows.

(b) Movement in the country's foreign

exchange reserves and inflows into Non-resident accounts from a part of the overall balance of payments and, as such, reference is invited to wide range of analyses made and published in various issues of the RBI Bulletin, Currency and Finance, the annual Report of the RBI and the Economic Survey of the Government.

(c) The level of reserves as well as inflows into Non-resident deposit accounts are being continuously monitored and developments therein are followed closely with a view to devising adequate and timely policy measures.

New Technology of Ground Water for Irrigation

2589. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Experts of the Irrigation and Power Research Institute have developed a new technology to reclaim and utilise the unseable ground water for irrigation and to mitigate the water logging problem and salinity; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard with steps being taken to put it to use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) There is no Irrigation and Power Research Institute at the National level in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Cost Benefit Ratio of Tehri Dam Project

2590. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the original estimated cost of Tehri Dam project;

(b) the present estimated cost after the cost escalation; and

(c) the investment and benefit ratio of Tehri Dam project according to fresh estimates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Rs. 198 crores.

(b) and (c). The benefit cost ratio for irrigation in the revised estimated cost of Rs. 1066 crores is 2.8.

Orissa State Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd.

2591. SHRI SIDHA LAL MURMU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India/NABARD is financing loans to the Orissa State Co-operative Land Development Bank Ltd., Bhubaneswar for implementation of different Schemes;

(b) if so, the number of projects taken up and number of projects completed by the above said land development bank and the number of scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes benefited during the last three years in Orissa;

(c) the number of projects lying incomplete and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who suffered a loss as a result thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by Government for early completion of incomplete projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) subscribes, to the extent of 95%, in the Special Development Debentures floated by the State Land Development Banks (SLDBs), including the Orissa State Land Development Bank (OSLDB), for providing resources support to them. NABARD also arranges institutional support from Life Insurance Corporation, commercial banks, other SLDBs, etc. for the ordinary debentures floated by these SLDBs for meeting the resources requirements in respect of the sporadic lending programmes.

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

Action Plans of Trading Houses

2592. CH. RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major trading houses in the country have submitted their individual action plans to Government to achieve a ten-fold increase in exports within the next five years; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the steps taken by Government to help the trading houses in achieving their targets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Action Plans from the recognised Trading Houses giving projections of exports for the next three years only have been received and these do not envisage a ten-fold increase in exports.

(b) The new Import and Export Policy is under formulation, which will take into consideration suggestions received with the Action Plans from the Trading Houses.

[Translation]

Closed NTC Mills

2593. SHRI K.N. PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of textile mills under NTC at present;

(b) the number of NTC mills lying closed; and

(c) the number of NTC mills running in losses ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) At present, there are 109 nationalised and 16 managed textile mills under NTC.

(b) Two units could not be restarted as the machinery was found in scrapped condition. In addition to this, a lock-out has been declared in Raebareli Textile Mills, a nationalised unit.

(c) During 1986-87, 98 nationalised and 15 managed mills incurred net losses.

[English]

Duty on Exports of Coffee

2594. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether coffee growers have been pleading for the removal of the duty on exports of coffee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Representations have been received from the coffee growers seeking abolition of export duty on coffee.

(b) It has been represented that coffee prices in international markets have been declining and abolition of export duty on coffee will help increase export of coffee.

(c) The representations are under consideration.

C.W.C. Engineer's Engaged in other Works

2595. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the engineers in the Central Water Commission are engaged in non-engineering works;

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

(c) the expenditure being incurred on such works ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). The Central Water Commission being an apex organisation in the field of Water Resources development is mainly manned by engineering officers who are engaged in

technical work. Some non engineering officers have been provided for the work relating to general administration and accounts etc., under the overall supervision of Chairman, Central Water Commission. Some engineering officers at the senior level assist the Chairman by sharing the responsibility of supervising the work of general administration of the organisation in addition to their technical responsibilities.

Dry Ports/Container Depots

2596. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dry ports and container depots opened in the country in last three years;

(b) the number of dry ports/containers proposed to be opened next year and at which location;

(c) the capacity utilisation of the dry-ports; and whether these have served the desired objective; and

(d) whether it is proposed to start dry-port at Ahmedabad and the bottlenecks in starting dry-port at Ahmedabad, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). Inland Container Depots (ICD) and Container Freight Stations (CFS) are being established for the development of containerise hinterland movement of cargo. During the last three years two ICDs have been established. There are situated at Amingaon (Guwahati) and Dhandari Kalan (Ludhiana). A full-fledged ICD in replacement of the existing ICD at Delhi and a pilot ICD at Hyderabad are proposed to be established in 1989-90 by the Ministry of Railways. The Inland Container Depot and the Container Freight Station have assisted in the development of containerised cargo movement. These have handled 29,738 Twenty Foot Equivalent Containers during April '87 - January '88 as against 25,332 handled during the corresponding period of 1986-87.

(d) An ICD is proposed to be located at Thaltej, Ahmedabad. Litigation on account

of land acquisition has impeded progress of the project. The schedule for constructing the ICD at Ahmedabad can be finalised as soon as the required extent of land in a continuous stretch becomes available.

Bank Loans in Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh

2597. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of loans sanctioned by the nationalised banks in Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh to weaker section of the society;

(b) the percentage of recovery by the said banks; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The present data reporting system does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, the outstanding amount of credit extended by all Scheduled Commercial Banks in the Districts of Guntur and Prakasam as on December 1986 and September 1987 are as under :

(Amount in Rs. crores)

As on	Gross Credit	
	Guntur	Prakasam
December 1986	379.44	177.37
September 1987	350.49	164.76

Moreover, credit extended by all Scheduled Commercial Banks to Weaker Sections stood at Rs. 693 crores in the State of Andhra Pradesh as at the end of June 1986 and percentage of recovery to demand of all Scheduled Commercial Banks in respect of Direct Agricultural Advances in the State was 59.9 per cent for the year ending 30th June, 1986.

Discussion on the Memorandum of Understanding with Bofors

2598. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level delegation of Swedish armament manufacturer A.B. Bofors visited India for discussion on memorandum of understanding (MOU);

(b) whether the M.O.U. envisages India to export goods and facilities of about Rs. 800 crores; and

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation has signed the M.O.U. for counter-trade for the 155 MM guns which are being supplied by Bofors as a part of the Rs. 1,724 crore deal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Survey Re : Pancheshwar Project

2599. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Nepal has accepted the proposal of India to conduct a survey of Pancheshwar Project in their territory; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) There has been no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Posts of Chairman-Cum-Managing Directors in Companies/Corporations

2600. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts are being made to fill up the posts of Chairman-cum-Managing Directors in the companies/corporations under its administrative jurisdiction by IAS officers;

(b) whether Government are avoiding to implement the declared policy in regard to the selection/absorption of IAS officers;

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

(d) the action being proposed to be taken to fill up those posts only by professional experts ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). Action has been initiated to fill up such vacant posts according to the relevant instructions in force. At this stage it cannot be indicated whether the said vacant posts will be filled up by inducting officers from the organised services or not.

Bank Credit to Agriculturists

2601. **SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of the agriculture in the total gross bank credit is only 17 per cent even though agriculture accounts for more than one-third of the national income;

(b) whether medium and large industry accounts for 36 per cent of the credit though their share in national income is less than 20 per cent;

(c) whether the credit requirements of the vast masses of agriculturists are not generally met;

(d) whether special measures are being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The outstanding advances of 50 scheduled commercial banks which account for about 95% of bank credit, as on the last Friday of September, 1987, in respect of agriculture (direct and indirect) and industry (medium and large) were Rs 11,241 crores and Rs. 22,557 crores which worked out to 17.5% and 35.2%, respectively. Besides assistance from these scheduled commercial banks, a major portion of loans for agriculture and allied activities is granted by co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks and the total loans for such

purposes outstanding to these banks were Rs. 11,404 crores and Rs. 1,061 crores, respectively, as at the end of June, 1987. Thus, the genuine credit requirements for agricultural purposes are being met to a large extent.

(d) and (e). In order to increase the level of direct agricultural advances of the public sector banks, it has been decided to increase the target for such advances from the existing level of 16% to 17% of their total outstanding advances by March, 1989. With effect from 1.3.1988, the rate of interest on crop loans upto Rs. 7,500 has been reduced to 10% from 11.5% to 12.5% and for loans above Rs. 7,500 and upto Rs. 15,000, the interest rate has been reduced to 11.5% from 12.5% to 14%. The reduction in the rate of interest is also expected to induce greater availment of credit assistance from the banks for agricultural purposes. In the case of persons affected by natural calamities, such as drought or floods, steps such as reschedulement of term loans, conversion of short term loans into term-loans, grant of moratorium, etc. are being allowed on merits of individual cases.

National Housing Bank

2602. **SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :**
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK ;
SHRI YASHWANT RAO
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made in establishing the National Housing Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no progress has been made, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Preparatory work for establishing the National Housing Bank has already been

initiated and the bank is expected to start functioning shortly.

Post Office Time Deposit Accounts

2603. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have liberalised the rules for post office time deposit accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether premature withdrawals will be permitted under the liberalised rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Post Office Time Deposit Rules have been liberalised from 23.12.1987 to allow a trust, a banking company (excluding cooperatives), a corporation, an association, institution, a body registered as a society under any law for the time being in force (excluding cooperatives), a firm registered under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932), a local authority, and Regimental Fund and Welfare Fund to open a Post Office Time Deposit account.

(c) Yes, Sir, subject to the conditions laid down in the existing rules.

Finances for Construction Business

2604. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which Government propose to ensure finances to the construction business apart from through the National Housing Bank; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cover bank advances for construction of residential houses by public housing

agencies like HUDCO and housing boards, local bodies, individuals, Co-operative Societies and employers. The finance from commercial banks is extended to enable the prospective beneficiaries including those belonging to low income groups/economically weaker sections of the society to own residential houses. RBI has reported that banks have been extending demand loan/cash credit/overdraft and guarantee facilities to construction companies also.

Welfare Scheme for Craftsmen

2605. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report captioned "Craftsmen ignorant of welfare schemes" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated 3 January, 1988 and

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regards ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps are being undertaken :

(1) Welfare Schemes for Craftsmen

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is implementing a welfare scheme of giving financial assistance to master craftsmen-in-indigent circumstances since the year 1973-74.

(2) Marketing Assistance

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) have set up 47 Marketing and Service extension Centres throughout the country with a view to generate self employment among the artisans, to increase their earnings by way of various sales promotion programmes. The M & SECs are rendering package of services to the craftsmen like assistance in getting credit facilities, raw materials, improved tool and techniques etc. The Centres are also organising various sales promotion programmes, like product promo-

tion programmes, Market Meet Programmes, Fairs and Festivals etc.

(3) Training

Institutional training is imparted in major crafts like carpet weaving, artmetalwares, hand printed textiles, cane and bamboo and woodwares for upgradation of skill. Besides, training is also imparted under apprenticeship training scheme in crafts which are either languishing or required specialised skill.

(4) Design Development

Four Regional and Technical Development Centres located at Bombay, Calcutta, Bangalore and New Delhi continued to provide technical guidance, training facilities and demonstration in different crafts to craftsmen all over the country. A National Craft Institute for Handprinted textiles has been set up at Jaipur to train craftsmen in textile designing, processing and refresher courses in improved technology.

(5) Raw Material and Common Facility Centres

A Scheme to assist the Central/State Handicrafts Corporations and Apex Cooperative Societies financially has been initiated to enable them to set up raw material depots and common facility centres in craft concentration areas.

(6) Export Training

Ten Training Programmes in Business Enterprises and Export Management for Educated Sons and Daughters of craftsmen were conducted during 1986-87 by the specialised agencies. Five demonstration-cum-Training Programmes in packaging of Handicrafts were conducted during 1986-87 by the Indian Institute of Packaging.

[*Translation*]

World Bank Loan Outstanding Towards India

2606. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has

announced a loan of 29 crore dollars to India; and

(b) if so, the amount of World Bank loan outstanding against India to date, and how this amount is proposed to be repaid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Negotiations with the World Bank have been completed for an IBRD loan of US \$ 295 million to finance the Western Gas Project. Formal agreements for the loan are yet to be signed.

(b) As on 31st December 1987, IBRD loans of US \$ 3273.838 million and IDA credits of US \$ 10,469.248 million were outstanding against India. These would be repaid under the terms and conditions negotiated and agreed to by Government of India for the projects to which these loans/credits relate. IBRD loans to India are normally repayable over 20 years, including a grace period of 5 years. IDA credits till 30th June 1987 were repayable in 50 years, including a grace period of 10 years. IDA credits approved after 1st July 1987 are repayable in 35 years, including a grace period of 10 years.

[*English*]

Income-tax Raid on the Hermitage of 'Maharshi Mahesh Yogi'

2607. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY :
SHRI SURESH KURUP :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether income-tax officials have raided the hermitage of 'Maharshi Mahesh Yogi' in December last; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The searches in the premises of his disciples and associates resulted in the seizure of prima facie unaccounted assets valued at Rs. 55.71 lakhs till 14.1.1988. Besides, a large number of incriminating documents were seized indicating tax evasion.

Recommendations of Raja Chelliah Committee

2608. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since completed the examination of the recommendations made in Raja Chelliah Report;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government, however, agrees with the view that total replacement of income-tax by expenditure tax is not practical. The study Group's suggestion to base savings incentives on the netting principle was partly accepted by the Government while introducing the 'National Saving Scheme, 1987' by the Finance Act, 1987, with effect from assessment year 1988-89. This has been done by the insertion of section 80CCA in the Income-tax Act, which provides for deduction in respect of deposits made under the Scheme, with the stipulation that dis-savings (withdrawals) will be subject to tax. Originally, the deduction admissible was fixed at 50% of the deposits (excluding the interest accrued and credited to the assessee's accounts) as do not exceed the amount of 20,000 rupees in a "previous year". The rate of interest was 9% per annum. Whenever withdrawal is made out of the deposits so made and interest accrued thereon, fifty per cent thereof was to be deemed as the income of the year in which such withdrawal was made.

With a view to provide a further

incentive for savings, it has been proposed in the Finance Bill, 1988, to increase the percentage of deduction from 50% to 100% for assessment year 1988-89 itself, the gross amount remaining unchanged at Rs. 20,000. The rate of interest has also been enhanced to 11% per annum. With this change, the entire withdrawals would now be brought to tax. Besides, any amount paid to effect or keep in force a deferred annuity plan of the Life Insurance Corporation as the Central Government may specify in this behalf will also be entitled to the deduction under section 80CCA, subject to the condition regarding taxation of dis-savings.

For and from Assessment Year 1989-90, the deduction allowable has been enhanced to Rs. 30,000.

[Translation]

Smuggling from Pakistan

2609. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether heroin and charas worth crores of rupees are smuggled into India from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of heroin and charas seized by each of Government agencies in India during the last three years;

(c) the number of criminals against whom criminal cases are in progress and the number of those criminals who have been awarded punishment; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Union Government and State Government have succeeded partially in checking smuggling and in awarding punishment to the criminals and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). Reports received indicate that the Indo-Pak border continues to be vulnerable to smuggling of drugs, especially of heroin and hashish (charas) from Pakistan. No precise value of drugs

seized can be stated as this is dependent upon various factors like quantity of the drugs, place of origin, etc.

The quantities of heroin and charas, etc. seized by different enforcement agencies in India during the last three years, are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of Agency	Quantity seized in (kgs.)					
		1985		1986		1987	
		Heroin	Charas	Heroin	Charas	Heroin	Charas
1.	Customs	150	3680	238	5885	779	3521
2.	Narcotics Control Bureau	—	—	—	—	104	25
3.	Central Bureau of Narcotics	6	33	4	—	15	8
4.	Directorate of Revenue Intelligence	—	300	1183	7959	100	4366
5.	Other agencies (BSF, Police, CBI, etc.)	605	6299	1196	5067+ 2 H. Oil	1782	6872
Total :		761	10312	2621	18911+ 2 H. Oil	2780	14792

(Figures rounded off to the nearest kilogram. The Narcotics Control Bureau become operation in 1987).

(c) and (d). The number of persons presecuted and convicted for drug related offences in 1986 and 1987, as reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau, are as follows :

	1986	1987
1. No. of persons presecuted	5,525	4,503
2. No. of persons convicted	586	247

With the enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 providing for deterrent punishment

for drug offence cases, the drive against drug traffickers/smugglers has been intensified, both by the Centre and the States. Narcotic Cells have been set up in the Customs and Central Excise Collectorate and in the State police organisations. This has resulted in seizures of huge quantities of drugs during the last two years and a number of cases have been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985. The States have been advised to set up special courts for expeditious trial of drug offenders. They have further been advised, that wherever courts have not awarded the mandatory punishment prescribed under the new law, to prefer appeals before the appropriate higher courts.

All these efforts have successfully stemmed the drug trafficking considerable extent.

[English]

Setting up of Industries in African Countries

2610. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to help some African countries in setting up industries there;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard; and

(c) the details of the proposal of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). Proposals for setting up industries are usually received in forums like Joint Commissions, Joint Committee Meetings, bilateral talks etc. Deliberations in these forums are, however, general in nature and further action is usually taken by the concerned executing agencies.

Under India's contribution to the AFRICA Fund, it is proposed to rehabilitate bicycle plants in Angola and Tanzania and also to set up workshops for repair and maintenance of agricultural implements in Mozambique. Besides, subject to the approval of respective host countries, it is proposed to set up (a) plant to manufacture agricultural implements and (b) plant for repair/rewinding of electric motors and transformers and manufacture of LT distribution boards and meter boxes in Botswana and support a projected refractory brick plant in Zimbabwe.

NABARD Comments on Work Done by West Bengal for Rural Development

2611. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the comments

made by NABARD regarding the work done by West Bengal for rural development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Housing Finance Scheme of Canara Bank

2612. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : SHRI S. B. SIDNAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Housing Finance Scheme has been launched by Canara Bank;

(b) if so, the main features of this scheme and the names of the States in which the scheme has been launched;

(c) the extent to which the scheme is likely to benefit the housing sector;

(d) whether Government propose to extend the scheme to other States; if so the names thereof; and

(e) whether other nationalised banks also propose to launch such schemes; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Yes Sir. Canara Bank has been permitted to set up through its subsidiary "Canara bank Financial Services Ltd." jointly with Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) and Unit Trust of India (UTI), "Can Fin Homes Ltd." a housing finance company to cater to the housing needs in Southern Region. The loans would be granted to individuals/societies ranging from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 3 lakhs depending upon the repaying capacity of the borrower. "Can Fin Homes Ltd., has been pro-

jected to help build forty thousand houses for weaker section/Lower Income Group and forty thousand houses for persons belonging to other groups.

(d) and (e). State Bank of India (SBI) has also been permitted to set up through its subsidiary 'SBI Capital Markets Ltd, jointly with HDFC, a housing finance company viz, Housing Promotion and Finance Corporation Pvt. Ltd., to finance housing activities in Eastern Region and North-Eastern Region. Further, Punjab National Bank (PNB) also propose to set up through its wholly owned Housing Finance subsidiary "PNB Housing Services Pvt. Ltd." for financing housing activities in Northern Region.

Reduction of Interest Rates of Bank Credit

2613. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of industry and farm sector had made a plea to him for reduction of interest rates and higher allocations of bank credit;

(b) if so, whether the farmers representatives stressed the importance of strong and sustained agricultural development in providing an expanding market for industrial goods; and

(c) if so, the benefits proposed to be given to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has been receiving suggestions from the representatives of industry and agriculture sectors for reductions in lending rates and increased allocation of credit to the concerned sector. It has been decided that proportion of Direct Finance to Agriculture to net Bank Credit by Public Sector Banks should be raised from 16.0 per cent to 17.0 per cent by March 1989. In order to give further relief to farmers, Reserve Bank of India has announced reductions in interest rates charged for agricultural production credit. Comparative position with regard to rate of interest charged prior to 1st March, 1988 and effective rate of interest from 1st March, 1988 is indicated below :

Rate of Interest (% per annum)

Short-Term Agricultural Loans to Farmers	Upto end of February 1988	Effective from 1.3.1988
Upto Rs. 5000	11.5	10.0
Over Rs. 5000 and upto Rs. 7500	12.5	10.0
Over Rs. 7500 and upto Rs. 10,000	12.5	11.5
Over Rs. 10,000 and upto Rs. 15,000	12.5 to 14.0	11.5
Over Rs. 15,000 and upto Rs. 25,000	12.5 to 14.0	12.5 to 14.0
Over Rs. 25,000	14.0 to 15.0	14.0 to 15.0

[*Translation*]

Bank Loans for Unsuccessful Wells

2614. SHRI DILEEP SINGH H URIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE

be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme of repayment of loans in regard to the unsuccessful wells to the respective bank is required to be included in Integrated Rural Development

Programme (IRDP) by the State Governments; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The objectives of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is to assist the families below the poverty-line to take up specific self-employment ventures, in both farm and non-farm sectors so as to enable assisted families to rise above the poverty line.

There is a separate centrally-sponsored Failed Wells Funds Scheme to provide relief to farmers in case of failure of wells constructed by them for minor irrigation purposes with loans from the banks. This Scheme covers small and marginal farmers and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes irrespective of the fact whether they are IRDP beneficiaries or not. The scheme is applicable to States which have given concurrence for its implementation within their jurisdiction.

[English]

Operation to Unearth Narcotic Drugs

2615. SHRI RANJIT SINGH

(Quantity in kilograms rounded off to the nearest kilogram)

S. No.	Name of drug	Quantity seized in			
		1986		1987 (Provisional)	
		All-India	Gujarat	All-India	Gujarat
1.	Heroin	2,621	2	2,780	26
2.	Hashish (Charas)	18,909	243	14,792	28
3.	Opium	8,789	236	2,859	22

The exact price in the international market of the drugs seized cannot be indicated as this is dependent upon various factors like quality of the drugs, place of origin, place of sale, etc.

(c) and (d). Government have initiated various aggressive counter-measures against drug trafficking which include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery,

GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of operations taken place all over India and Gujarat to unearth different narcotic drugs, during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the total quantity of such drugs with its prices in the international market, seized during each of the above year on all India basis with particular reference to Gujarat State;

(c) the steps taken to curb the smuggling and illicit traffic of the narcotics; and

(d) the number of persons arrested and prosecuted in the country and in Gujarat during the above two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). Operation against drug trafficking is a continuous process. A number of operations for unearthing of drugs are conducted by various drug law enforcement agencies in the country, as and when they receive intelligence to this effect. In the various operations conducted during 1986 and 1987, following quantities of drugs had been seized :

adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, increased co-operation between various drug law enforcement agencies, bilateral co-operation with neighbouring countries besides the regional co-operation under the umbrella of SAARC. The matter is also kept under constant review for appropriate action. The number of persons prosecuted and convicted during the above two years are as follows :

	1986		1987	
	All-India	Gujarat	All-India	Gujarat
1. No. of persons prosecuted	5,525	Not available	4,503	114
2. No. of persons convicted	586	—do—	247	4

[Translation]**Authority for Utilization of Ground Water**

2616. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have elicited the opinion of State Governments in regard to setting up a separate Authority for utilisation of ground water resources;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have apprised Union Government of their views and the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in respect of States which have not apprised Union Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). A Model Bill circulated to the States for the control and regulation of ground water development provides for setting up of Groundwater Authority in the States.

State Governments of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have prepared draft legislations for enactment Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra States are contemplating similar steps. Gujarat has enacted the legislation but not yet enforced.

[English]**Visit of Belgium Industry Team**

2617. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether an industry team from Belgium visited India during the month of February, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the nature of discussions held with the officials; and

(d) the decisions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of the Belgium team which visited India during February, 1988, is shown in the statement below.

(c) and (d). Matters of mutual trade interest were discussed and no decisions as such were arrived at.

Statement

1. Mr. W. Monfils
2. Mr. E. Vandenhoute
3. Mr. R. De Winter
4. Mr. W. Vandeeberghe
5. Mr. M. Bogaerts
6. Mr. L. Jacobs
7. Mr. A. Vyverman
8. Mr. Paul Lajour
9. Mr. Leon DE Schutter
10. Mr. Michel Van Der Horst
11. Mr. Francis Lietaert
12. Mr. L. Pauwels
13. Mr. J. Daems
14. Mr. J. Van Remortal
15. Mr. G. Delhayé

16. Mr. H. Bosteels
17. Mr. S. Lamisse
18. Mr. E. Conard
19. Mr. A. Poppe
20. Mr. H. Facon
21. Mr. J.C. Vandcvoorde
22. Mr. Y. Van Pachterbeke
23. Mr. V. Bhargava
24. Mr. R. Beckers
25. Mr. P. Rixhon
26. Mr. F. Dethier
27. Mr. A. M. Rikkers
28. Mr. J. Guilmin
29. Mr. J.M. Dirix
30. Mr. G. Collette
31. Mr. A. Rambout
32. Mr. L. Comhaire
33. Mr. W. Varbrugge
34. Mr. P. Ratinckx
35. Mr. P. Bultynck
36. Mr. J. De Kriek
37. Mr. D. Fierens
38. Mr. R. Van Wemmel
39. Mr. J. Schouwers
40. Mr. P. Duque
41. Mr. J.Praet

Financial Assistance to Industrial Units

2618. SHRI NARSING SURYA-WANSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are having any scheme/programme binding the financial institutions and/or commercial banks to finalise the financial assistance within a stipulated period of time, once the DGTD issues the letter of intent or registration certificate; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that financial institutions provide assistance on the basis of techno-economic evaluation of project and all efforts are made to expedite the processing of proposals for financial assistance. The financial institutions normally endeavour to process the application within 4 months if they are complete. According to guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India to public sector banks, credit applications from small scale units are envisaged to be processed and finalised by the banks within 9 weeks.

Purchase of Handicrafts from Andhra Pradesh

2619. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to increase the purchase of handicrafts from Andhra Pradesh to promote handicrafts in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Handicrafts is a state subject. The State Handicrafts Corporations are expected to market the produce of their respective States for which assistance is given by the Government of India, by way of equity participation, opening/renovation of sales outlets, setting up of raw material depots and common facility centres besides general design, training and technical assistance.

Concessions to Powerloom under New Textile Policy

2620. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has urged Union Government to give a fresh look to the new textile policy and restore concessions to powerlooms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). The Government of Maharashtra have suggested that the differential concessions in excise duty, which the powerloom sector enjoyed prior to the Budget of 1985-86, should be restored and powerlooms in decentralised sector should not be treated on par with powerlooms in the mill sector. This matter has been considered and it is felt that the healthy development of powerloom sector should take place in the context to parity between powerlooms in organised mill sector and in unorganised powerloom sector.

Export of Engineering Goods to Iran

2621. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iran is to purchase sophisticated engineering goods worth Rs. 100 crores from India ?

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed;

(c) whether private as well as public sector undertakings are selected for export of engineering goods to Iran;

(d) if so, when such export will take place; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). During the visit of the Iranian Minister for Heavy industry Mr. Behzad Nabavi in December, 1987 discussions were held at Government and Corporate level and a number of Memoranda of Understanding were signed between Indian and Iranian companies involving supply of equipment and technology transfer in a wide range of engineering fields. The estimated value of all the Memoranda of Understanding, if they fructify into contracts, would be around Rs. 100 crores.

(c) Both public and private sector undertakings are free to export to Iran.

(d) and (e). India has been exporting a variety of engineering products to Iran including automobile components machine tools, jeeps, castings and forgings etc.

Aid from Foreign Countries

2622. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries which have offered economic aid to India during 1987-88; and

(b) the amount of economic aid offered by those countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Information regarding the names of the countries and the amount of assistance authorised by them so far during 1987-88 is given in the statement below.

Statement

S. Name of Country		Amount in million	
So.			
1	2	3	4
1.	F.R.G.	D.M.	469.70
2.	U.S.A.*	US \$	47.65

1	2	3	4
3.	Netherlands	Dfl.	255.30
4.	Italy	D.M.	144.20
		US \$	252.80
5.	U.S.S.R.	Roubles	770 00
6.	Saudi Arabia	S.R.	141.00
7.	France	F.F.	750.00
8.	Japan	Yen	100.616 (billion)
9.	U.K.	£	97.67
10.	Canada	C. \$	164.00
11.	Sweden	SEK	204.06
12.	Denmark	D. Kr.	402.00
13.	Norway	NOK	408.35

* Agreements have also been concluded for assistance from USA in the form of supply of 5200 MT of butter oil (Rs. 8-10 crores approx.), 1 lakh MT of Soyabean/sunflower oil worth US \$ 45.69 million and 1 lakh tonne of corn (Maize). USA have also provided advances (US \$ 50.00 million) out of their committed aid for the projects being funded under US AID bilateral assistance programme.

[*Translation*]

Survey in Madhya Pradesh for Exploration of Water

2623. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the districts in Madhya Pradesh where land survey has been conducted for the exploration of water;

(b) the total amount spent thereon;

(c) the extent of possibility of the availability of water in the districts of Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (d). The Central Ground Water Board has undertaken the work of hydrogeological surveys for the State of Madhya Pradesh which is planned to be completed by 1990.

Irrigation schemes for the use of surface and ground water are planned, funded and implemented by the State Government.

[*English*]

Abolition of Fee for Examinations Conducted by Banking Recruitment Board

2624. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the persistent demand from the students community that examination fee for competitive examinations of Banking Recruitment Boards be abolished for socially and economically weaker and middle class of people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Presently exemption from the payment of examination fee for competitive tests of BSRBs is available as under :

- (i) SCs and STs : All examinations.
 (ii) Physically Handicapped and Ex-Servicemen : For examinations for recruitment of clerical post only.

No fee exemption for general category candidates has so far been granted.

Dredging of Major Rivers

2625. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether dredging of major rivers particularly in flood prone areas is being taken up on a priority basis;

(b) if so, whether this would specially include the dredging of Ganga and its tributaries in North Bihar where floods are stated to be due to rising levels of the river bed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Demand Notice Given by Officers of Nationalised Banks

2626. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether officers of the nationalised banks have given a demand notice to Government; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Indian Banks' Association, which is the negotiating body on the managements side has

reported that organisations of Bank Officers have submitted charters of demands for salary revision. Indian Banks' Association is reported to have held preliminary discussions with the Officers Organisations. Bank Officers' salary etc. is revised consequent upon the wage revision for workmen staff. Any decision on Officers' salary revision would be possible only after the wage revision for workmen staff is finalised. IBA is already holding negotiations with the workmen's unions for wage revision. Once these are finalised, revision of Officers' salary etc will be undertaken.

[Translation]

Survey for World Bank Schemes

2627. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted a survey in Phulpur Parliamentary Constituency (U.P.) in regard to the problem of water logging and for installation of tube wells with the financial assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The installation of tube wells with financial assistance from the World Bank has not been found feasible. The work relating to remodelling and construction of drains, canal tail escapes and link drains is in various stages of progress and is expected to be completed by the end of 7th plan.

[English]

Preparation of Comprehensive Project Reports by States

2628. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
 SHRI V. SREENIVASA
 PRASAD :
 SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
 WARI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have asked the State Governments to prepare a comprehensive project report for speedy clearance by the Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, whether any State Government has since prepared such a report and submitted to Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether project reports received by the Central Water Commission do not conform to the guidelines issued by Government in 1980 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (d). Comprehensive guidelines for preparation of project reports have been circulated to State Governments, spelling out the various details that have to be incorporated in the reports. However, the reports received in general do not conform to these guidelines. The deficiencies noticed are pointed out during the course of project appraisal and the schemes are recommended for clearance after the requisite additional information is furnished.

Rehabilitation of Oustees of Narmada River Valley Development Plan

2629. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position in regard to the clearance for the Narmada River Valley Development Plan;

(b) the stipulations to be complied with by the concerned State Governments;

(c) the details of compliance to these stipulations;

(d) whether Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Governments have responded to the land to land compensation and also land to landless in the affected areas; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to suitably rehabilitate the oustees, particularly tribals affected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) The Sardar Sarovar and Narmada Sagar (Indra Sagar) projects have been cleared from techno-economic and environmental considerations and also under the Forest Conservation (Act), 1980.

(b) and (c). Stipulations *inter-alia* include environment safeguards, *pari passu* with progress of works, catchment treatments, compensatory afforestation etc. Necessary action for these have been initiated.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A sub-group under Narmada Control Authority is overseeing the work of rehabilitation of the oustees including tribals.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Assistance

2630. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial assistance to India from foreign countries has reduced to half during the last 10 years; and

(b) if so, the reasons for reducing this amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Import of Cotton

2631. SHRI YASHWANT RAO GADAKH PATIL :
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cotton Advisory Board has suggested import of cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's decision thereon; and

(c) modus operandi of imports thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No. Sir.

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

Relaxation of Rules Regarding Deposits

2632. **SHRI P KOLANDAIVELU :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have decided to relax rules with regard to deposits;

(b) whether any premature withdrawals are also permitted under the rules; and

(c) the persons eligible for making investments in post offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) In the Post Office Savings Account, the ceiling on maximum balance has been raised from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 for a single account and from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. one lakh for joint account with effect from 2.12.1987. In the Post Office Time Deposit Account, deposits by certain

institutions have been permitted with effect from 23.12.1987.

(b) Yes, Sir. Premature withdrawals are permitted in post Office Time Deposit Accounts subject to certain conditions laid down in the rules.

(c) Individuals and certain institutions as specified in respective rules can invest in Post Office Savings Accounts and Post Office Time Deposit Accounts.

Carpet Training Centres in Punjab

2633. **SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up Carpet Training Centres in Punjab;

(b) if so, the names of places where such centres are functioning and since when, and the number of persons imparted training so far; and

(c) if not, whether Union Government propose to set up such centres in Punjab to encourage carpet industry and to ensure employment to the unemployed people in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Sl. No.	Location of Carpet Weaving Trg. Centres	Date of start	No. of trainees trained
1.	Verka, Distt. Amritsar	September, 80	295
2.	(i) Dinanagar shifted to	September, 77	289
	(ii) Paniar, Distt. Gurdaspur	February, 85	94
3.	(i) Kanuawn shifted to	October, 77	186
	(ii) Bidipur, Dhariwal shifted to	January, 82	25
	(iii) Sadar Bazar, Distt. Gurdaspur	February, 83	193
4.	Dunera, Distt. Gurdaspur	August, 85	77
Total :			1159

Co-operative Textile Mills in Karnataka

2634. SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals of Co-operative Textile Mills pending with Union Government sent by the State Government of Karnataka for clearance; and

(b) whether clearance to those proposals is likely to be given soon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) According to available information, no proposal for the licensing of Co-operative textile mills in Karnataka is pending at present. However, one representation has been received against a rejection.

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

Ban on Recruitments

2635. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :
SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a complete ban was imposed on recruitments in different Government departments, banks, etc., as a part of economy measures;

(b) if so, the amount of savings affected through this measure; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of lifting this ban ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) As a part of anti-inflationary measures, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India were advised in January 1984, not to fill up existing vacancies. Similar instructions, with certain modifications, were issued to all public sector Banks in June 1984.

(b) It is not possible to make an

estimate of expenditure saved on this account.

(c) The Government have modified the guidelines regarding filling up of vacancies in May, 1986. According to the revised guidelines, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, vacancies in Government Departments/Offices—both Plan and non-Plan—arising due to promotion, retirement, death, resignation, dismissal, removal or deputation, etc., can now be filled up. The instructions to the public sector Banks have also been reviewed in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and fresh guidelines have been issued in January, 1987. The public sector Banks have since been allowed to expand their staff under certain stipulated norms.

Credit Deposit Ratio

2636. SHRI K. MOHAN DAS :
SHRI K. N. PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total bank deposits in Kerala and the total credit made available in that State ;

(b) the credit deposit ratio in other States, State-wise break-up; and

(c) whether the credit facilities are proposed to be augmented in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO EALEIRO) : (a) The aggregate deposits and outstanding advances of all Scheduled Commercial Banks in the State of Kerala as on September 1987 (latest available) were Rs. 4550 crores and Rs. 2875 crores respectively.

(b) State-wise data on credit : deposit ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as at the end of September 1987 is set out in the statement below :

(c) The growth of credit in the State of Kerala has been quite substantial. The rate of growth of credit in the State during nine months period of 1987 has been 13.63 per cent as against all-India average of 5.31 per cent during the same period. Further, Public Sector Banks have been advised

Inter-alia to increase the flow of credit to rural and semi-rurban areas. The banks have been advised to maintain a credit: deposit ratio of not less than 60 per cent in respect of their rural as well as semi-urban-branches.

Statement

State-wise Credit : Deposit Ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks (As on September 1987)

Per cent	
Region/State/ Union Territory	Credit : Deposit Ratio (%)
1	2
I. Northern Region	50.8
Haryana	60.2
Himachal Pradesh	37.8
Jammu and Kashmir	40.4
Punjab	43.7
Rajasthan	59.6
Chandigarh	111.5
Delhi	47.9
II. North-Eastern Region	46.1
Arunachal Pradesh	20.1
Assam	50.6
Manipur	63.6
Meghalaya	22.9
Mizoram	26.2
Nagaland	38.9
Sikkim	28.1
Tripura	60.1
III. Eastern Region	50.0
Bihar	37.4
Orissa	87.6
West Bengal	51.4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	36.7
IV. Central Region	47.2
Madhya Pradesh	59.1

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	42.8
V. Western Region	68.7
Goa	31.6
Gujarat	52.5
Maharashtra	76.0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	63.8
Daman and Diu	23.0
VI. Southern Region	83.4
Andhra Pradesh	78.7
Karnataka	92.1
Kerala	63.2
Tamil Nadu	94.9
Lakshadweep	22.4
Pondicherry	51.1
All India	61.4

National Policy on Animal Slaughter

2637. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-
CHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Leather Research Institute has recommended a national policy on animal slaughter to prevent indiscriminate slaughter of young and productive animals and ensure healthy development of meat industry; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.
DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The subject of slaughter of animals comes under the purview of the State Governments. Some of the States have enacted laws for banning or restricting the slaughter of cows and its progeny.

Trade with USSR

2638. **SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the strategy being adopted to reach the target level of 1000 crores by 1990 with the USSR;

(b) whether any new item of trade with USSR have been identified;

(c) the role assigned to private sector in the trade with USSR agreed to by the USSR recently;

(d) whether Rouble and Rupee exchange ratio is not helpful for trade with USSR; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (e). During the visit of General Secretary of CPSU, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev to India in November, 1986, it was mutually agreed that efforts should be taken to raise the level of Indo-Soviet trade turnover by 2.5 times over the next 5 years. The bilateral trade turnover in 1986 was assessed at about Rs. 3680 crores and therefore this would imply that the target would be about Rs. 9200 crores by 1992. Government has initiated a series of measures in order to achieve the target. These include identification of new and additional items for imports and exports conducting market surveys, diversifying the structure of economic and trading cooperation, encouraging new forms of co-operation including production co-operation, setting up of joint ventures, co-operation in service sector, etc. Participation in trade fairs/generalised exhibitions, buyers-sellers meetings, exchange of commercial, business and technology identification delegations, and institutional arrangements for promoting direct contacts between Indian and Soviet trading and industrial enterprises and export associations, etc., are being encouraged. A number of new items such as soda ash, sawn goods, plastic chemicals, wood pulp, waste paper, metal scrap, coking coal, copper, etc. for imports from the USSR to India, and household chemicals, tooth paste, colour picture tubes, methylene chloride, etc. for

exports from India to USSR have been added in Indo-Soviet bilateral trade during 1987-88.

Foreign trade is governed by the Import and Export policy under which both private and public sectors are allowed to undertake foreign trading activities. Both the sectors are being encouraged to improve the trade flows. As regards the question of impact or Rouble-Rupee exchange ratio on the bilateral trade, there is no evidence to show that this ratio is adversely affecting the trade.

[Translation]**Export of Handloom Cloth by Handloom Export Promotion Council**

2639. **PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT** : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of handloom has increased after the setting up of the Handloom Export Promotion Council;

(b) the names of places in the country where branches of the aforesaid Council have been opened and whether there is any branch of this Council in Rajasthan also;

(c) whether the Council has organised any exhibition in foreign countries to increase the export of handlooms;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a great demand of handloom cloth in America and in European countries; and

(e) if so, the arrangements made in the Seventh Five Year Plan to boost up the export of handloom cloth ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Handloom Export Promotion Council the exports of cotton handlooms have increased from Rs. 8.33 crores in the years of its formation *i.e.*, 1966-67 to Rs. 165.66 crores in 1986-87.

(b) The Council has a Regional Office only at Delhi for serving all the Northern States.

(c) Yer, Sir. The Council has been

participating in exhibitions/special commodity fairs abroad for boosting our handloom exports.

(d) There is generally a good demand for India's cotton handloom goods in America and West Europe.

(e) The Council participates in Special Commodity Fairs/Exhibitions/Sales-cum-Study Teams/Buyer-Seller Meets and takes steps for intensive publicity, product development and feedback information for boosting exports.

[English]

RBI Report on Currency and Finance

2640. DR. A.K. PATEL :

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India in its report on currency and finance has expressed serious concern over steep rise in prices and has emphasized the need to curb the trend through proper policy measures; and

(b) if so, the policy measures adopted and the results achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The RBI in its Report on Currency and Finance 1986-87 has suggested that the price situation would need careful watching, against the background of an expected decline in foodgrains production during 1987-88.

(b) The specific measures taken by the Government to keep the price rise under check include enhanced distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS); strengthening of the PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses; edible oils and sugar; strict economy in government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy by raising Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio; imposition of selective credit controls and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers.

Sales of Rahat Patras

2641. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced further incentives to push sales of 'Rahat Patras' floated from December, 1987 to mop up funds to meet expenditure on drought situation;

(b) if so, the details of the response to the 'Rahat Patras'; and

(c) the main incentives announced by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sales of Rahat Patras upto 26.2.88 amounted to Rs. 40.97 crores.

(c) The further benefits announced by Government include exemption from gift tax upto Rs. 5 lakhs for the initial subscribers, facility of drawal of annual interest at the option of subscriber and provision for transfer of bonds by endorsement and delivery without having to register the transfers. 50 more branches of banks have been added as receiving points.

The scheme has since been extended beyond 29.2.1988.

Rise in Prices During Seventh Five Year Plan

2642. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of price rise in each of the Five Year Plans;

(b) the percentage of price rise anticipated during the Seventh Plan;

(c) whether that percentage has been exceeded; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to arrest further rise in the price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The requisite information is as follow ;

Average Yearly increase/
decrease in Wholesale
price index (Base :
1970-71=100)
(per cent)

First Five Year Plan (1951-56)	— 2.7
Second Five Year Plan (1956-61)	6.3
Third Five Year Plan (1961-66)	5.8
Three Yearly Plans (1966-67)	13.9
(1967-68)	11.6
(1968-69)	—1.2
Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74)	9.0
Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79)	6.3
Sixth Five Year Plan 1980-85)	9.3

(b) and (c). The Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), as all earlier plans, has been formulated at constant (1984-85) prices. The Plan itself does not predict or project any given rise in prices.

(d) The specific measures taken by the Government to keep the price rise under check include enhanced distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS); strengthening of PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils and sugar; strict economy in government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy by raising Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio; imposition of selective credit controls and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers. Prices are closely being monitored at various levels to facilitate prompt action.

Non-Development Expenditure

2643. SHRI R.P. DAS :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) how much developmental processes

were affected by the increased non-developmental expenditures; and

(b) the areas which were affected by such diversion of funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). Government ensures that developmental processes are not affected by increase in other expenditures. It may be pointed out that during the first 4 years of the Seventh Plan 86% of the total five year outlay for Central Plan is expected to be achieved in real terms.

Appointment of Directors on Boards of Nationalised Banks

2644. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several nationalised banks have not appointed non-official directors on their Boards of Directors;

(b) if so, the names of banks which have not yet appointed non-official directors; and

(c) the reasons for not appointing non-official directors on Boards of Directors by the nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Appointment of non-official Directors on the Board of Directors of Nationalised Banks are made by the Central Government. At present there are no non-official Directors on the Boards of Directors of the Nationalised Banks. Identification of persons to fill the vacancies has taken time. The matter is, however, now under active consideration.

Major Irrigation Projects in Karnataka

2645. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will

Statement

Financial and Physical progress of Major Irrigation Projects—Karnataka

(Rs. Crores/thousand)

S. No.	Name of Projects	Latest estimated cost	Expenditure upto 1986-87 (actual)	Ultimate Potential	Potential created upto 1986-87 (actual)
1.	Upper Krishna St. I	1071.10	416.35	425.00	103.70
2.	Tungabhadra LBC and Dam	90.40	78.66	244.38	242.21
3.	Tungabhadra RB LLC	6.83	6.13	37.50	37.50
4.	Tungabhadra RB HLC	15.34	12.57	80.91	68.27
5.	Bhadra	66.00	59.09	105.57	104.97
6.	Ghatprabha St. III	370.50	71.74	178.07	28.55
7.	Malaprabha	307.35	185.44	218.19	143.28
8.	Karanja	89.73	37.00	35.61	—
9.	Bennithora	50.12	8.84	20.24	—
10.	Varahi	70.00	1.62	15.70	—
11.	Dudhganga	26.00	Nil	19.67	—
12.	Hippargi	186.70	3.83	59.69	—

Investment in Private Companies

2646. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of private

the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the major irrigation projects in Karnataka which have been included in the Seventh Plan; and

(b) the progress regarding these projects and the latest estimated cost of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). 12 major projects of Karnataka were included in the 7th Five Year Plan. The details of these projects are given in the Statement below.

companies offer shares to the public and invite investments in the shape of fixed deposits;

(b) whether the system of investments by the public in private companies has

been studied and any norms have been laid down in this regard for compliance by those complaints; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have issued certain guidelines for compliance by the companies. These are laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 5721/88]. The provisions of Section 58A of the Companies Act, 1956 and the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 1975 framed thereunder, regulate the acceptance of deposits by a company.

Payment of Commercial Tax to Karnataka by Coffee Board

2647. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Coffee Board Bangalore, has to pay Rs. 60 crores to Karnataka Government towards commercial tax; and

(b) the steps being taken to ensure that the Coffee Board pays tax expeditiously in view of financial constraints faced by Government of Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). The Government of Karnataka have assessed the Coffee Board for payment of purchase Tax for the assessment years 1974-75 to 1982-83 and levied Rs. 60.58 crores and the same has been disputed by the Board. The matter is subjudice and the judgement of the Supreme Court is awaited.

Delhi Stock Exchange Brokers

2648. SHRI SALEEM I. SHERVANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Stock Exchange has been keeping the number of Stock-brokers stagnant at around 120;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps so far to throw open the stock broking profession to other aspirants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). As a result of efforts/directions of the Government, Delhi Stock Exchange has amended its Memorandum and Articles of Association for increasing membership by 250. Of this, 125 members will be taken from the public. The process of selection of members from the public issue has been completed the Expert Committee of the Governing by Board of the Exchange. However, appointment of new members is yet to take place as the matter is subjudice before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi at New Delhi.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply above.

[Translation]

Decline in Export of Silk

2649. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries having competition with India in regard to the export of silk; and

(b) the loss of foreign exchange during the last three years due to decline in the export of silk ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) China, Italy and France are the major competitors in regard to the exports of silk goods.

(b) There is no loss of foreign exchange as silk goods exports have increased from Rs. 129.05 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 201.42 crores in 1986-87.

[English]

Compensation to Landless Labourers Etc. for Price Rise

2650. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP : Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to correspondingly compensate the landless labourers agriculturists, freedom fighters and other sections of the society as in the case of Government employees, with every price hike leading to consumers price index up;

(b) if so, how; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). No Such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, most of the employments fall in the State Sector for which revision of minimum wages are done by State Governments, There are certain scheduled employments under the Act for which the Central Government is the appropriate Government. In pursuance of the recommendation of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in 1980 the minimum rates of wages are revised once in 2 years or on a rise of 50 points in CPI number, whichever is earlier. The minimum wages have been linked with an element of variable Dearness Allowance by most of the States and this Variable Dearness Allowance is revised periodically. So far as freedom fighters are concerned, the pension is granted under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme which is non-statutory in nature. The Pension is enhanced from time to time but it is not a compensation against price rise.

Transfer of Surplus Water to Affected States

2651. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Water Development Agency has recently discussed the progress of the National perspective for

water development in respect of Peninsular rivers;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions held;

(c) whether any decision has since been taken to transfer surplus water to the needy and affected States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). The National Water Development Agency is engaged in the investigation and feasibility studies of the Peninsular Rivers Development Component of the National perspectives for Water Resources Development. The Society of the Agency recently reviewed the progress and decided, *inter alia*, that the emphasis should be on short links for transfer of water to deficit areas and that studies of all the schemes proposed under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component should be continued.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Loans Under Self Employment in Uttar Pradesh

2652. SARI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of loans of Rupees Twenty Five Thousand each given in Uttar Pradesh during 1986-87 under the Self-Employment Scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that bank managers take huge commission from the beneficiaries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that during the year 1986-87, loans amounting to Rs. 50.02 crores have been sanctioned to 23197 beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) under

Self Employment Scheme for Educated Un-employed Youth (SEEUY).

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that no such allegation has been brought to their notice. If specific instances are brought to the notice of the Government Reserve Bank of India, these would be taken up with the concerned banks for remedial action.

[English]

India's Share in Global Cardamom Import

2653. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) India's share in the global import of cardamom;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to boost India's share; and

(c) if so, the details with the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) It has been varying between a low of about 5% to 35%.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order that our prices of cardamom are competitive in the international market; the Spices Board is giving thrust to development programmes to improve productivity in Cardamom. This includes schemes for replantation, irrigation, certified and polybag nursery, soil conservation, plant protection, curing houses and bee keeping etc.

The Board is also conducting research for development of new high yielding varieties.

Simultaneously, the Board has launched market promotion campaigns in West Asia, USA, Canada and Western Europe.

In addition the Government has allowed CSS on export of cardamom in small packs.

The effect of all these measures would be felt only in the long run.

Credit Plans for Kerala

2654. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the credit plans for 1988 have been prepared by various lead banks in different districts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bank officials have consulted the local Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly before finalising the plan; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

Construction of Dams Over River Narmada

2655. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are considering some more schemes for constructing dams across river Narmada; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) No,

Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Castor Oil Export

2656. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have permitted export of castor oil B.P. through Bombay port;

(b) whether Government vide circular No. 12/51/86 EAC dated 30 June, 1986 had decided to pay cash compensatory

support at 5 per cent to exporters who export castor oil medicinal B.P. grade from July 1986;

(c) whether some exporters have claimed C.C.S. by exporting inferior sub-standard and non-medicinal castor;

(d) whether Government have investigated into the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cash Compensatory Support @5% has been granted on export of castor oil medicinal B. P. with effect from 1-7-1986 *vide* Government of India, Ministry of Commerce, circular No. 12/52/86-EAC, dated 30-6-1986.

(c) Export of castor oil is subject to compulsory grading and certification under Agmark. Accordingly, every consignment of castor oil meant for export is compulsorily graded as per prescribed Agmark standards. Payment of C.C.S. is made by the port licensing offices on the basis of documentary evidence submitted by exporters, including Agmark certificate.

(d) and (e). No complaint has been received by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection from importers about the quality of castor oil exported from India.

Changes in Replenishment Policy of Rough Diamonds

2657. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently introduced changes in the replenishment policy regarding import of rough diamonds for polishing and export;

(b) whether these changes are in favour of high value diamonds;

(c) whether in the process value added to the diamonds has decreased;

(d) whether this change is consequential to the discussions Government had with

the diamond monopoly company of De Beers; and

(e) how does the new policy is conducive to India's dominant position in diamond cutting and polishing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). Government recently notified new replenishment rates for export of cut and polished diamonds (*vide* Public Notice No. 225-ITC (PN)/85-88 dated the 6th November, 1987) to help diversify exports to larger and better quality diamonds while rationalising the level of imports for lower quality diamonds for an overall increase in export turn-over and consequential improvement and higher levels of aggregate earnings of foreign exchange and employment opportunities.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The new replenishment rates have aimed at product diversification, while maintaining the country's existing strength in relatively lower quality diamonds.

[*Translation*]

Reservoir Constructed in Southern Part of Bihar

2658. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether irrigation is possible in Nalanda, Navada and other adjoining areas by storing water of river Ganga during rainy season in a reservoir to be constructed in the southern part of Bihar among the Rajgir hills;

(b) whether Union Government have examined the aforesaid important scheme; and

(c) if so, the time by which it would be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). No such scheme has been received from Bihar Government for techno-economic appraisal by the Central Water Commission

[English]

**Suggestion for Attaches in India
Missions**

2659. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion to appoint "Attaches" to our missions abroad in order to assess possibilities of export of minerals;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the countries to which appointment of attaches is suggested;

(c) the names of the main minerals which are already being exported as well as those suggested; and

(d) the various steps contemplated for promotion of export of minerals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Such a suggestion has not been formally received by the Government from the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries. No appointments of Mineral Attaches are proposed by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The main mineral exported

is iron ore. The World markets for minerals are generally very depressed. The steps taken by the Government to promote export of minerals include expansion of capacities of major minerals exporting ports, development of other related infrastructure, diversification of markets and offering incentives export prices.

Excise Duty Pending Realisation

2660. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether at least six companies have been issued notices for evasion of excise, customs and income tax amounting to more than one hundred and fifty crores each and the amount is pending realisation although there is no court stay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). Under the Income Tax Law, there is no scheme of issue of "notice for evasion". However as regards evasion of excise and customs duties, only against two companies show cause notices for evasion of duties of rupees hundred and fifty crores and more have been issued, and which have not been stayed by any court. The particulars are given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Name of the company	No. of show cause notices not stayed by courts	Amount involved in respect of show cause notices mentioned in column (2)
M/s I.T.C. Ltd. and related concerns	20	1081.05
M/s G.T.C. Industries Ltd. and related concerns	32	539.10

All the above cases are pending adjudication. The question of realisation of any amount will arise only after the cases are adjudicated and the amounts confirmed.

**Formula for Tabulation of Customs
Duty on Import of Steel**

2661. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether he had ordered an enquiry into the Central Board of Excise and Customs move of reversing the formula for tabulation of customs duty on the import of seconds steel which has resulted an estimated revenue loss of about Rs. 100 crores;

(b) if so, whether the Enquiry Report has been received by Government;

(c) if so, the details of the findings; and

(d) the action taken against those held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) to (d). On the basis of some reports it was decided to look into the reported dis-continuance of the practice of charging import duty on steel on the loaded price of Deutsche Mark 650 per metric tonne with effect from June, 1987 and loss of duty, if any, on account of giving up this practice. It has been found that the Customs authorities at Bombay had faced the problem of valuing imported defective mild steel sheets for the purpose of assessment and had decided to assess them at a uniform value of Deutsche Mark 650 per Metric tonne with effect from June, 1985 and at Rs. 3200 per metric tonne with effect from March, 1986 with a view to facilitating assessment and clearance of consignments of mild steel defective sheets, the prices of which, since they are not a standard item, varied depending on their composition, thickness and size, the nature and extent of the defects, the country of supply, etc. Having regard to an order passed by the Bombay High Court in a particular case, the increasing litigation before the Appellate authorities and representations received from the concerned trade association, the issue was further examined in June, 1987 and it was decided to accept the declared invoice values except where such values, scrutiny, were found not to be in conformity with the contemporary sale values of similar goods in terms of the provisions of Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962.

The decision with the regard to accepting a particular value for assessing the goods to duty on importation has to be

taken by the proper officer in the Custom House in terms of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962.

Import of Out Board Motor

2662. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Out Board Motor (O.B.M.) above 10 H.P. is required by traditional fisherman;

(b) whether there is any restriction on the import of O.B.M. above 10 H.P. and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether O.B.Ms. above 10 H.P. essential for traditional fishermen are being manufactured in the country;

(d) if not, the rationale for restricting import of such O.B.Ms. and

(e) whether registered exporters who act as middleman charge heavy premium for the import of OBM and if so, the steps being taken to remove such restrictions' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Government have no definite information about use of Out Board Motors above 10 H.P. by traditional fisherman.

(b) to (d). Out Board Motors upto 10 H.P. are allowed for import by all persons under Open General Licence. Those above 10 H.P. can be imported against a licence. Out Board Motors above 10 H.P. are not being manufactured in the country in the organised sector, but, few schemes for manufacture of Out Board Motors above 10 H.P. are at different stages of implementation.

(e) Import of Out Board Motors can be made by Export Houses/Trading Houses against REP licences/Additional licences and, by manufacturer-exporters against REP licences. Import by Export Houses/Trading Houses is subject to the condition that the items have to be disposed of to Actual Users. Import by manufacturer and exporters is subject to actual user condition.

Value of Rupee

2663. DR. D. N. REDDY :
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ
ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of rupee as compared with 1960 as base;

(b) the position of rupee in relation to dollar, Pound or Rouble and other convertible currencies; and

(c) how has the rupee value fallen from 1980 to 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (c). The value of the rupee measured as a reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with 1960 as the base was 13.3 paise in December 1987, the latest month for which the index is available. In December 1980, the value of the rupee was 24.5 paise.

(b) The latest available monthly average exchange rate of the rupee in terms of major international currencies is given below :

Exchange Rate of Rupee in February 1988

(Rs. per unit of Foreign Currency)

U. S. Dollar	13.06
Pound Sterling	22.96
Rouble	15.86
D.M.	7.70
Yen	0.10
French France	2.28

Setting up of Soft Drink Bottling Plant in Soviet Union

2664. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a soft drinks bottling plant in the Soviet Union on turnkey basis; and

(b) whether an agreement was signed between the Parley Group and a delegation of Gosagropom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). Government is aware that M/s. Parle (Export) pvt. Ltd., Bombay is negotiating with M/s. Gosagropom, a Soviet organisation, for setting up a soft drinks bottling plant in the USSR on turnkey basis. In terms of the prescribed procedures governing such projects abroad, the Indian party is required to obtain the approval of the Government. No application for grant of such approval in the prescribed form has yet been received from the Indian Company.

Incentives to Entrepreneurs in FTZ.

2665. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three point incentive to attract investors and entrepreneurs in free trade Zone (FTZ) has been suggested;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). Specific incentives including duty free import of capital goods and production inputs, a 5 year tax holiday, exemption from Central Excise Duty of sales tax etc. are extended to units situated in the Export Processing Zones in order to take to competitive export production. Various suggestions have also been received from time to time in order to further promote investments in the Zones. These are duly examined and implemented, if feasible. Government have recently granted a facility to units in EPZs and under the scheme of 100% Export Oriented Units to sell 25% of the production in the Domestic Tariff Area in relaxation of the import regime in order to improve their viability.

Pact with West African Bank

2666. **SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT** : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether a credit pact has been signed with West African Bank in February, 1988; and

(b) if so, the main features of agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) (a) and (b). The Export-Import Bank of India has reported that a credit agreement with a line of credit of Rs. 13 crores to West African Development Bank, (WADB) was signed on February 15, 1988 between Exim Bank of India and WADB. The main features of the agreement are given below :

Purpose	: To finance export of Indian Capital goods and engineering goods and other related services to the seven countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Coted 'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.
Advance payment	: 10% of FOB/C and F contract value.
Payment out of Exim Bank Credit (Eligible Value)	: 90% of FOB contract value or 90% of C and F contract value if shipments are affected by Indian vessels.
Period of credit	: 10 years inclusive of moratorium.
Rate of interest	: As per Exim Bank's prescribed rates which currently are 8.5% per annum.
Commitment fee	: 0.5% p.a.
Service charge	: 0.5% p.a.
Minimum contract value	: Rs. 5,00,000

Currency of the contract value : Indian Rupees

Currency of Credit : Indian Rupees

NRI Response to Invest in India

2667. **SHRI V.N. GADGIL** : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the inadequate response by Non-Resident Indians to invest in India;

(b) whether any study or exercise has been done regarding their indifference to investment inspite of liberalisation of policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The response of Non-Resident Indians to invest in India has not been indifferent or inadequate.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Rural Sector Lending by Nationalised Banks

2668. **SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN** : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any review of the rural sector lending by the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) if so, the areas/aspects of the banks rural lending examined stating the deficiencies if any, identified in the effectiveness of the existing policy in the growth of agricultural and other sectors of rural economy; and

(c) the modifications contemplated by Government in the policy framework for rural lending to derive optimum benefits out of the banks involvement in the rural economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) had asked the senior executives of the Public Sector Banks to carry out a study of rural lending in some branches of their banks to make a qualitative assessment of the credit delivery system in relation to the objectives of rural lending, the strength and weaknesses of the organisational set up, the quality of field work done, coordination with State authorities and other agencies involved in rural development, etc. Reserve Bank of India organised a Seminar on Rural Lending in January, 1988 to discuss the various aspects of rural lending based on the findings of the studies undertaken by senior executives of the banks.

Reserve bank of India constituted a Committee to examine the various suggestions made during the Seminar on Rural Lending and to make suitable recommendations regarding the operational aspects of their implementation.

In the meanwhile it has been decided that each bank branch in the rural and semi-urban areas of the country may have a designated service area covering about 15 to 25 villages in its neighbourhood. The branch will be primarily responsible for meeting the appropriate credit needs of its service area.

[Translations]

Bank Frauds

2570. SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of frauds in the banks during 1987 (upto 31st December) and the losses suffered by Government as a result thereof; and

(b) the action taken by Government against the persons found guilty in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that during the period 1.1.87 to 31.12.87, irrespective of the dates of their occurrence, 1903 cases of frauds involving an amount of Rs. 41.79 crores approx. were reported to it by 28 Public Sector Banks in India. RBI has

further intimated that the amounts involved in frauds do not necessarily represent the actual losses which the banks may have to ultimately suffer since banks generally have securities, insurance policies and make recoveries through civil suits etc.

(b) RBI has intimated that as, reported by the public sector banks, during the period 1.1.87 to 30.9.87, the information in respect of the delinquent employees against whom action has been taken for their involvement in cases of frauds is as given below :

(i) No. of employees convicted on charges of frauds	— 72
(ii) No. of employees given major/minor penalties	— 544
(iii) No. of employees out of (ii) above dismissed/discharged/removed	— 220

Data provisional)

Ban on Import of Cotton

2671. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Cooperative Cotton Federation has urged Union Government not to import cotton in the present circumstances;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken effective steps for imposing a complete ban on the import of cotton during January, 1988 to April, 1989 and for giving incentive to grow more cotton in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). The All India Cooperative Cotton Federation Ltd., has urged the Government not to import any cotton, since 10.00 lakh bales of cotton is likely to be imported against exports of cotton yarn, cotton fabrics and made-ups on Advance Licensing Basis

(c) and (d). To ensure availability of cotton to check the rise in the prices of cotton, Government have suspended exports

of staple cotton since July, 1987. Government have also permitted import of cotton against exports of cotton yarn, cotton fabrics and made-ups on Advance Licensing Basis. While no decision has been taken to import cotton, Government do not rule out the possibility of import of cotton. For increasing the production of medium and long staple cotton, certified seed is being distributed, demonstration plots are laid and package of improved practices are extended over larger areas. Kapas Grading Centres are also set up in the major cotton growing States. Besides, Government fix the minimum support prices of cotton, taking into account not only the cost of various inputs, but also a reasonable margin to the farmer as an incentive for adopting better agricultural practices.

[English]

Credit Facilities in Sikkim

2672. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state total number of people offered credit facilities in each district of Sikkim during 1985, 1986 and 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : Reserve Bank of India has reported that District-wise details of total number of people offered credit facilities in the State of Sikkim is not available. However, outstanding amount of credit extended by all Scheduled Commercial Banks in four Districts of Sikkim as on December 1985, December 1986 and September 1987 is as under :

(Amount in Rs. crores)

District	December 1985	December 1986	September 1987 (latest available)
East Sikkim	0.81	12.49	14.25
North Sikkim	0.32	0.33	0.40
South Sikkim	1.00	1.11	1.20
West Sikkim	0.33	0.62	0.85

Supply of Raw Silk by China

2673. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :
SHRI T. BALA GOUD :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Silk export has been facing a major set back due to sudden stoppage of supply of raw silk by China to India;

(b) whether Government have taken up this matter with Government of China to find out the reasons;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) what are the other sources for getting raw silk and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). China

has not stopped the supply of raw silk to India. Due to some policy changes in China, their exportable quantity of raw silk and yarn has come down. China also now prefers to export higher grade of raw silk on account of better profit margins. However, Government of India is in constant touch with the China National Silk Import-Export Corporation through the Embassy of India in Beijing and also the Chinese Embassy at New Delhi for securing increased supplies of raw silk.

(d) At present the possibilities of getting India's raw silk requirements from other sources are meagre.

Decline in Cloth Production

2674. SHRI H. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cloth in

the organised sector has continued to decline despite the enunciation in the new textile policy in June 1985 and sweeping reforms in the regulations relating to capacity creation and utilisation; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the assessment, if any, made and the steps taken by Government in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). During 1986-87 production of cloth in the organised mill sector was 3317 million metres as against 3376 million metres during 1985-86. During 1987-88 (April-December), the production of cloth in this sector is estimated at 2296 million metres as against 2498 million metres produced during the corresponding period of 1986-87. Thus, out put of the mill sector is showing a marginal decline. At present the textile industry is faced with the problem of demand recession and high cotton prices. Important steps taken by Government for ensuring viability of the textile industry include setting up of a Nodal Agency to examine sick textile mills in order to ascertain whether they are viable and to evolve rehabilitation packages for units found to be potentially viable. Setting up of a textiles modernisation fund, allowing fuller flexibility in the use of fibres, lifting of ban on expansion in the weaving capacity in the mill industry, suspension of cotton exports in view of the presently ruling high cotton prices, import of cotton against export of cotton yarn, cotton fabrics and made-ups on advance licensing basis.

Control Boards for Large Inter-State Irrigation Projects

2675. **SHRI H. B. PATIL :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the State Governments have shown reluctance in accepting Union Government's suggestion for setting up Control Boards for large inter-State irrigation projects costing rupees fifty crores or more; and

(b) if so, the names of such States and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). No reluctance as such has been expressed by any of the State Governments who have responded to the suggestion for setting up of Control Boards for large inter-State and State irrigation projects. Tamilnadu, however, felt that creation of such Boards is not essential since adequate financial powers have been delegated to the Chief Engineers.

Problems of Tea Industry in Kangra Valley

2676. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the problems of tea manufacturers in Kangra Valley especially the ones relating to marketing and export; and

(b) if so, the exact problems which stand in the way of export and marketing and the steps taken by Government to solve them during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have constituted a Committee to formulate the long-term strategy and plan for tea which includes a representative of the Kangra Valley Tea Association. This Committee would evolve a long-term and medium-term policy and strategy for tea, suggest measures for substantially increasing production and productivity taking into account the domestic demand and export requirement, in terms of quantity, quality and type of manufacture of tea, examine factors affecting yield in different regions, draw up special programme for small and medium growers, suggest ways and means of reducing costs in production and manufacture of tea, evolve a plan and strategy for maximising exports, and assess financial requirements.

(b) Uptill now tea industry in Himachal Pradesh has been mainly confronted with the problem of the poor quality of tea. In addition, Himachal produces about 0.7 to 0.8 M. Kgs. of tea which is negligible in the overall context of India's total production. The tea produced in Himachal

Pradesh is used mainly for blending with other good teas, both for internal market and export. Marketing of these teas depends entirely on our exports to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Efforts are being made to increase our exports to these countries.

NRI Investment in Housing Sector

2677. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to issue Non-Resident India Bonds and allow NRI's involvement in the housing sector;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the likely date with effect from which it would be implemented; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which a decision would be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Government have decided to introduce a new scheme of Foreign Currency denominated Bonds/Deposit Certificates for Non-Resident Indians on a non-repatriable basis. The maturity period of these Bonds/Deposit Certificates will be 7 years and these will carry an interest rate higher than that applicable to the repatriable foreign currency non-Resident deposits. These Bonds/Deposits will be free from Income tax, Wealth tax, and Gift tax. The Scheme is expected to be implemented fairly soon. There is no decision to allow NRIs' involvement in the housing sector.

Supply of Water from Anandpur Hydrel Channel

2678. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the latest progress regarding the sanction of the project for the supply of 25 cusecs of water from Anandpur Hydrel Channel as per agreement between Governments of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the time by which construction of the project would be taken in hand;

(c) if not, the action taken by Governments so far on the representation of Himachal Pradesh Government for sanction of this project and when was it submitted to Union Government; and

(d) the response of Union Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (d). No project report has been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the utilisation of 25 cusec of water from the Anandpur Hydrel Channel.

Purchasing Power of Rupee

2679. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the purchasing power of the rupee has gone down continuously and is extremely low at the present moment;

(b) if so, the exact purchasing power of the rupee as on date and at the beginning and end of each Five Year Plan; commencing with the Third Plan, with 1960-61 as the base year;

(c) whether any efforts would be made to restore and rejuvenate the rupee and enhance its purchasing power; and

(d) if so, the nature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The requisite information is given in the statement below.

(c) and (d). Government has taken measures to keep the price rise under check and thereby to maintain the purchasing power of the rupee. These include enhanced distribution of foodgrains, through

Public Distribution System (PDS); strengthening of PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils and sugar; strict economy in government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in

the economy by raising Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio; imposition of selective credit controls and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers. Prices are closely being monitored at various levels to facilitate prompt action.

Statement

*Purchasing Power of Rupee at the beginning and end of each Five Year Plan
(from III Plan onwards)*

Plan	Year/Period	Index	Value of Rupee* (in paise)
<i>III Plan (1961-66)</i>			
Beginning	April, 1961	100	100.00
End	March, 1966	140	71.43
<i>IV Plan (1969-74)</i>			
Beginning	April, 1969	168	59.52
End	March, 1976	270	37.04
<i>V Plan (1974-79)</i>			
Beginning	April, 1974	277	36.10
End	March, 1979	325	30.77
<i>VI Plan (1980-85)</i>			
Beginning	April, 1980	368	27.17
End	March, 1985	575	17.39
<i>VII Plan (1985-90)</i>			
Beginning	April, 1985	582	17.18
End	Upto January, 1988 (latest available)	738	13.55

* Measured as the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (Base shifted to 1960-61=100)

Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor

(a) the number of applications received, State-wise, for loans under Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor during 1987-88;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned, State-wise;

2680. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(c) the amount disbursed so far;

(d) the final figure of disbursement in respect of the programme for 1986-87; and

(e) the progress in regard to repayment of loans as on 31 December, 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The complete data regarding number of applications received, sanctioned, disbursed along with the amount sanctioned and disbursed for the financial year 1987-88 under Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) would be available only after the end of the current financial year. However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as per the data so far received from implementing banks, 2.45 lakh cases involving Rs. 87.40 crores have been sanctioned and Rs. 60.55 crores have been disbursed to 1.89 lakh beneficiaries

(d) During 1986-87, under SEPUP disbursements have been made in respect of 3.10 lakh cases involving a sum of Rs. 101.71 crores.

(e) RBI has reported that under the existing data reporting system separate recovery of SEPUP loans is not being collected by them.

Income Tax Searches and Assessments

2681. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of searches conducted by the Income Tax Department during the period 1987-88 so far;

(b) the number of assessment completed in cases arising out of these searches;

(c) the number of cases where prosecution has not been launched due to surrender by the Tax payers of the un-accounted assessment;

(d) the number of cases in which prosecution were launched; and

(e) the number of cases decided upto-date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). The Income Tax Department conducted 7767 searches during the period from 1st April, 1987 to 29th February, 1988. These resulted in the seizure of prima facie unaccounted assets worth Rs. 124.45 crores besides a large number of incriminating documents indicating tax evasion. The concealment of income detected in these searches includes the income assessable for the assessment year 1988-89 or 1989-90. As the returns in respect of assessment years 1988-89 and 1989-90 have not statutorily become due so far, the question of completing the assessment does not arise.

(c) to (e). Prosecutions for concealment of income are generally launched in cases where assessments have been completed and the extent of concealment finally quantified. As mentioned above, as none of the returns of income for the assessment years 1988-89 and 1989-90 are due under the law, the question of launching prosecutions at this stage in these cases does not arise. However, between 1.4.87 and 29.2.88 Rs. 97.69 crores has been admitted as concealed income during the course of searches.

Working Group Report on Lead Bank Scheme

2682. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the composition of working group on lead bank scheme and its terms of reference;

(b) whether the working group has submitted report to Government; and

(c) if so, the main recommendations made by the group and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The compo-

sition of the Working Group on Lead Bank Scheme set up by the Government, at the time of finalisation of its report in February, 1988, is given in the statement below.

The terms of reference of the Working Group were as under :

- (i) to examine the need for extending the Lead Bank Scheme right upto the block level and also to suggest methodology for achieving better co-ordination among various banks at the block level;
- (ii) to examine the role of Coordination/Consultative/Advisory Committees at State/District/Block level and to suggest a more rationalised frame of such three-tier committees; and
- (iii) to examine and make recommendations for synchronising the credit plans of the banks with the development plans of the State Governments with a view to make the Lead Bank Scheme more effective.
- (iv) any other matter connected with or incidental to the above terms of reference.

(b) and (c). The Working Group has submitted its report to Government on 1.3.1988. The recommendations of the Group are under consideration of Government.

Statement

Composition of Working Group on Lead Bank Scheme

1. Shri A.K. Agarwal,
Joint Secretary,
Government of India,
Ministry of Finance,
Department of
Economic Affairs,
Banking Division,
New Delhi. —Chairman
2. Shri P.K. Parthasarathy,
Chief Officer,

Rural Planning and
Credit Department,
Reserve Bank of India,
Central Office,
Bombay. — Member

3. Shri Divakar Dev,
Chief General Manager,
National Bank for
Agriculture and Rural
Development, Bombay. —Member

4. Shri J.S. Varshneya,
Chairman and Managing
Director,
Punjab National Bank,
New Delhi. —Member

5. Shri J.C. Moorjani,
Under Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Department of Rural
Development,
New Delhi. —Member

6. Shri K.P. Pandian,
Under Secretary,
Government of India,
Ministry of Finance,
Department of Economic
Affairs,
Banking Division, —Member
New Delhi. Secretary

Cashewnuts Export

2683. SHRI MULLAPPALLY
RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister
of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the figures of domestic production quantity and value of cashewnuts exported during 1985, 1986 and 1987;

(b) the measures being adopted to increase the export of cashewnuts; and

(c) the total contribution from the State of Kerala towards cashewnuts exported during 1985-86, 1986-87, and 1987-88 respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R.
DAS MUNSI) : (a) The figures of domestic production and exports of cashewnuts during the last 3 years have been provisionally estimated as follows ;

Year	Production (M.T.)	Exports Qty. (M.T.)	Value (crores)
1985	221331*	38123	223.77
1986	234475*	38050	298.00
1987	245576*	38598	340.29

Production of cashewnuts for the financial years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 have been taken as production for the calendar years 1985, 1986 and 1987 respectively. This production goes to the factories in the respective calendar years.

(b) To step up export of cashewnuts Government have been granting CCS @ 8% on exports of cashewnuts in consumer packs in 1 kg. or less. Import Replenishment @10% on exports

of cashew Kernels is also being granted. Besides this, the Cashew Export Promotion council undertakes export promotion measures by way of sending trade delegations and participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad.

(c) The total contribution from Exporters based in the State of Kerala towards cashewnuts export during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 has been as follows :

Year	Export of cashew Kernels from India (M.T)	Contribution to exports of cashew Kernels by exporters based in Kerala State (in M.T.)
1985-86	35153	32553
1986-87	41759	37842
1987-88 (April-December '87)	31665	29596

**United Nations Developments Programme
Assistance for Irrigation Projects**

2684. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts are being made to upgrade technology for construction of irrigation projects in difficult geological areas in the country;

(b) if so, the techniques to be adopted for the purpose;

(c) whether the United Nations Development Programme is assisting in this development programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : Yes, Sir.**

(b) to (d). Many advanced techniques like directional blasting, design of high earth and rockfill dams in earthquake prone areas and updating design techniques of dams for making design more cost-effective are being acquired. Assistance under United Nations Development Programme is being provided in form of training of engineers in developed countries, visits of senior engineers on study tours and deputation of experts in the specialised fields to India.

Export to Burma

2685. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to export a number of items to Burma;

(b) if so, the items listed as such; and

(c) the details of negotiations made by both the countries in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). Government is exploring various possibilities to export a number of items to Burma. Out of a list of items from the Burmese side, we have expressed interest in the export of items like steel line pipes, steel wire ropes, steel plates and angles, tyres and tubes, electric starters, air circuit breakers, switches, copper wire, electrodes, paints and railway rolling stock.

(c) During the recent visit of His Excellency U Khin Maung Gyi, Burmese Minister of Trade, both sides agreed to take effective steps to expand and diversify trade and economic relations between the two countries. A further response from the Burmese side is awaited.

Production of Cloth in NTC Mills

2686. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different varieties of cloth produced by the National Textile Corporation mills during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Since NTC mills manufacture a large range of cloth, it is difficult to give production figures of different varieties. The total production of cloth by NTC mills during 1986-87 and 1987-88 (April-December, '87) was as follows :

(in million metres)

Year	Total cloth production
1986-87	864.5
1987-88 (April-December '87)	544.6

(b) There is no proposal to increase the installed capacity of NTC.

(c) Does not arise.

Loans to Weaker Sections

2687. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed during the last three years for the weaker sections, State-wise and year-wise, break-up; and

(b) the percentage of the recipients who have crossed the poverty line, State-wise and year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The present data reporting system does not generate information in the manner asked for. However state-wise data of outstanding advances to Weaker Sections by All Scheduled Commercial Banks as at the end of December 1984, December 1985 and June 1986 is given in Statement I below.

(b) According to the findings of the sample Survey carried out under the concurrent Evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) for the period October 1985 to September 1986, 52 per cent of the sample cases of old beneficiaries were found to have crossed the old poverty line of Rs. 3500 at the national level. The State-wise available details in this regard are given in Statement II below.

Statement-I*State-wise Advances to Weaker Sections of all Scheduled Commercial Banks*

(Amount in Rs. crores)

State/Region/ Union Territory	December 1984	December 1985	June 1986
1	2	3	4
I. Northern Region	507	710	778
Haryana	104	146	156
Himachal Pradesh	37	44	47
Jammu and Kashmir	18	26	29
Punjab	171	251	278
Rajasthan	157	218	233
Chandigarh	3	7	14
Delhi	16	20	20
II. North-Eastern Region	59	89	117
Assam	29	44	52
Manipur	3	5	6
Meghalaya	5	10	16
Nagaland	3	12	13
Tripura	11	9	13
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0.8	5
Mizoram	9	3	7
Sikkim	2	5	5
III. Eastern Region	499	739	725
Bihar	214	333	300
Orissa	142	168	165
West Bengal	142	238	259
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.4	0.5	0.3
IV. Central Region	684	903	973
Madhya Pradesh	210	273	294

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	474	629	679
V. Western Region	502	658	727
Gujarat	184	249	284
Maharashtra	308	398	432
Goa, Daman and Diu	9	10	11
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.3	0.3	0.4
VI. Southern Region	1640	1975	2057
Andhra Pradesh	576	681	693
Karnataka	325	440	470
Kerala	257	317	342
Tamil Nadu	471	525	530
Pondicherry	10	10	12
Lakshadweep	0.4	0.8	0.9
All-India	3892	5074	5377

Note : 1. Data are provisional.

2. Total may not add up due to rounding differences.

Statement		1	2
<i>Percentage of Persons crossing the poverty Line (IRDP)-Statewise available details Poverty Line-3500</i>			
Name of State/Union Territory	% of old beneficiaries crossing the poverty line		
1	2		
Haryana	42	Tripura	65
Himachal Pradesh	59	Sikkim	40
Jammu and Kashmir	54	Bihar	50
Punjab	92	Orissa	19
Rajasthan	68	West Bengal	60
Assam	78	Madhya Pradesh	42
Manipur	15	Uttar Pradesh	60
Mizhmalaya	52	Gujarat	40
		Maharashtra	51
		Andhra Pradesh	60
		Karnataka	39
		Kerala	53
		Tamil Nadu	43
		Total	52

Note : For Union Territories the percentage is 51.81

Rise in Import of Machine Tools

2688. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the last one decade ending 1987 there was a sharp rise in import of machines tools;

(b) whether import increased at a rate double the increase in the indigenous production;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the annual indigenous production and import during last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether Government have any plan to boost indigenous production and restrict import; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for increase in imports has been mainly on account of shifts in the demand from conventional machine tools to special purpose and computerised numerically controlled (C.N.C.) machine tools.

(d) Annual indigenous production and import during the last three years are as under :

	(Rs. million)		
	1985	1986	1987
Production (indigenous)	3032	3250	3700
Imports	2500	2500	2000

(e) and (f). The Government is allowing the import of only those machine tools which either are not available indigenously or if available, are not there in sufficient quantity. Stress is always laid on boosting

indigenous production and technology upgradation.

Investment of Black Money

2689. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that black money is at present being invested either in real estate or in the purchase of cars like. Maruti;

(b) whether Government have ascertained the source of investments made in the purchase of Maruti cars;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the cases of tax evasion noticed by Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to stop investment of unaccounted money in the purchase of Maruti and other type of vehicles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). Instances of investment of unaccounted funds in immovable properties and vehicles have come to notice. The Income-tax Department undertakes systematic survey operations, search and seizure operations in appropriate cases and deep scrutiny at the time of assessment for detecting tax evasion. Enquiries into the sources of investment in various movable and immovable assets are made during the course of assessment proceedings. The Central Information Branches of the Income-tax Department have also been collecting information independently from transport authorities and dealers of vehicles for ascertaining the names of purchasers of Maruti Cars and other vehicles. This information is passed on to the assessing authorities for ascertaining the source of investment by the purchasers. Some cases of unaccounted investment and unaccounted profit on re-sale of vehicles have been detected by the Income-tax Officers all over the country. Appropriate action under the direct tax laws is taken against the persons found to be evading taxes in such cases.

**Foreign Exchange Outgo due to Illegal
Import of X-Ray Films**

2690. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several crores in foreign exchange were flowing out of the country every year on illegal import of general purpose X-Ray films due to a loophole in the import policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken to plug it and prevent exploitation of the omission by the importers who are bringing in conventional X-Ray films, when available within the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. X-Ray films of certain specified varieties are allowed for import by all persons under Open General Licence because of their importance in health care as a diagnostic device. Other varieties of X-Ray films are in the Limited Permissible List and import can be made only against a supplementary licence. Imports of X-Ray films in violation of the import policy is liable for action under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and Import (Control) Order, 1955.

**Holding Company for Public
Sector Tea Units**

2691. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a holding company for the various public sector tea units; if so, its broad outlines;

(b) whether the headquarters of this holding company is to be located in Calcutta, the main tea trade market and where the Tea Board is also located; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) (a) : No, Sir.

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

Response to FEPZ

2692. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the response for setting up of units at Falta Export Processing Zone (FEPZ) has been poor;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to promote Falta Export Processing Zone (FEPZ) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) (a) to (c). 39 approvals have been issued so far for setting up units in the Falta Export Processing Zone (FEPZ), out of which three have become operational. The number of enquiries being received for establishing units is encouraging. However, the response in realisation of projects is relatively slower and may be attributed, *inter alia*, to the fact that the industrialisation of a relatively backward rural area removed from the metropolis is involved. Steps have been taken to expeditiously develop the social and industrial infrastructure of the Zone and to attract prospective entrepreneurs to take to the Zone through adequate publicity in India and abroad.

Opening of New Banks in West Bengal

2693. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some new banks have been opened in West Bengal during 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a demand to open more such banks in view of expansion of commerce, trade and industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for opening of such banks in each district of West Bengal during 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO). (a) to (e). Presumably, the question relates to opening of new bank branches in West Bengal. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that on the basis of lists of indentified centres received from the State Government of West Bengal, 454 eligible centres have been allotted to commercial banks, including Regional Rural Banks, for opening branches in the rural and semi-urban areas of West Bengal during the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, as per details given below :

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of centres allotted
1.	Bankura	22
2.	Birbhum	2
3.	Burdwan	32
4.	Cooch Behar	15
5.	Darjeeling	8
6.	Howrah	16
7.	Hooghly	35
8.	Jalpaiguri	10
9.	Malda	14
10.	Midnapore	70
11.	Murshidabad	73
12.	Nadia	32
13.	West Dinajpur	37
14.	Purulia	9
15.	24 Parganas (South)	49
16.	24 Parganas (North)	30
Total :		454

In addition, RBI has also allotted 27 centres to banks for opening branches in the urban and metropolitan/port town areas in West Bengal. Out of these allotments, banks have opened 88 branches during the year 1987 as per details given below :

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Branches opened
1.	Bankura	2
2.	Burdwan	11
3.	Cooch Behar	3
4.	Darjeeling	2
5.	Hooghly	5
6.	Jalpaiguri	1
7.	Midnapore	23
8.	Murshidabad	14
9.	Nadia	3
10.	West Dinajpur	2
11.	Purulia	1
12.	24 Parganas (South)	6
13.	24 Parganas (North)	6
14.	Calcutta	9
Total :		88

Banks are required to open their branches at the allotted centres in a phased manner during the period upto 31-3-1990, under the current branch expansion programme.

Imposition of Consignment Tax

2694. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to initiate the process of imposition of Consignment Tax;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). The Chief Minister's Conference held on 28.5.84 recommended by consensus, different aspects of framing

a legislation for taxing inter-State consignment of goods. As some of the issues are required to be sorted out, it has not yet been possible to take a final decision.

Mulberry Cultivation in West Bengal

2695. **SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN** : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the details of the schemes/proposals formulated by his Ministry to promote the cultivation of mulberry in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : To supplement the efforts of the State Government of West Bengal for development of Agriculture, the Centre Silk Board (CSB) has set up the following units in the State :

- (i) Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute with 10 Research Extension Centres.
- (ii) 5 Regional Sericulture Research Stations.
- (iii) One cold Storage.
- (iv) One Common facilities Centre for reeling.
- (v) 3 Silkworm Seed Production Centres.
- (vi) One Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centre.
- (vii) One Certification Centre.
- (viii) One Regional Development Office.

Besides these, the CSB is implementing an Intensive Sericulture Development project in the State involving an outlay of Rs. 9.66 crores. The project initiated during 1985-86 envisages bringing an additional area of 4000 acres under high-yielding mulberry plantation by 1989-90 and introduction of improved methods of silkworm rearing, besides providing infrastructure required for sericulture development.

Banks for Small Scale Sector

2697. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to open special banks for small scale sector;

(b) whether there is also a need for the modification in both direct and indirect levies to put the small scale sector banks on the rails; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Government have decided to establish a separate Small Industries Development Bank of India as a Subsidiary of Industrial Development Bank of India.

(b) and (c). Fiscal measures including modifications in direct/indirect levies on Small Scale Sector are kept under review from time to time.

Growth of Rubber Industry

2698. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growth of rubber industry is low as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons for slow growth;

(c) the consumption of different kinds of rubber in the country during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken for the growth of rubber industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. The growth of the rubber industry in this country has been on an average higher than the average growth rate of many other industrial sectors, and India ranks 9th among the nations based on its total rubber consumption. The consumption figures for different kinds of rubber during the last three years have been as under :

	Natural	Synthetic (Tonnes)	Reclaimed	Total
1984-85	217,510	65,400	34,625	317,535
1985-86	237,440	70,035	38,215	345,690
1986-87	257,305	71,785	38,635	367,725

Expenditure on forms in Nationalised Banks

2699. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per an official report, the nationalised banks spend an astronomical Rs. 8.00 crores annually on forms alone; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry propose to conduct a critical review of the very large number of forms used in the banks and take necessary steps aimed at simplification and rationalisation to do away with the redundant forms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir. As per the information readily available, the expenditure incurred by 28 public sector banks on stationery and printing, which included expenditure on various forms used by them amounted to Rs. 74.33 crores for 1985 and Rs. 86.34 crores for 1986.

(b) Banks prescribe specific forms for specific purposes keeping in view their requirements of maintaining proper records of transactions and ensuring adequate supervision and control. These are reviewed periodically with a view to bring about simplifications, rationalisation and modifications so that the forms prescribed continue to meet the requirements in view. No review by Finance Ministry of the forms prescribed by the banks is contemplated.

Restrictions in Stock Market

2700. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growing stock market restrictions and the carryover ban have resulted in an explosion of unofficial trading

as speculators have found other avenues of continuing activities; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to such curbs by the Stock Exchanges leading to boom in unofficial market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Trading in specified shares has been subject to a number of restrictions imposed by concerned Stock Exchange authorities from time to time since March, 1987. The Stock Exchange authorities have initiated disciplinary action against violators. So far as unofficial trading is concerned, Stock Exchanges do not have any direct or indirect link. The Dave Committee has made a number of recommendations in regard to the extent of relaxation of controls by Stock Exchanges. These are being implemented. The proposed Securities Board will bring about a rational reordering of the functioning of Stock Exchanges.

Restrictions on Transfer Deeds by Stock Exchange

2701. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the restriction imposed by some Stock Exchanges on the number of transfer deeds that can be submitted in one trading lot has led to an increased number of odd-lot shares in circulation;

(b) whether this has adversely affected the position of small investors; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of small investors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Some Stock Exchanges had prescribed the number of transfer deeds that could be tendered against one trading lot, which had created some problems for odd-lot holder whether the limits were found inadequate.

(b) and (c). The Standing Committee of the Presidents of Stock Exchanges in their recent meeting held in Bombay have decided that upto five transfer deeds may be permitted to be tendered alongwith a trading lot in all the Stock Exchanges in India. This Ministry has advised the Stock Exchanges in a letter dated 11th February, 1988 to implement the above uniform practice and to review it after six months. Further, the Stock Exchanges have also been advised that even now cases should not be rejected on the mere technicality of the number of transfer deeds exceeding five. Separately, this Ministry has also advised the Investment Institutions and selected banks to purchase and sell odd-lots.

Under Scriptation of Public Issues

2702. **DR. B.L. SHAIKESH** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Government companies have found in the last few months that their new issues have been under-subscribed even those units which have already proved their commercial worth;

(b) whether this has necessitated the re-examination of the guidelines with regard to public issues; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Committee for Coffee Plantation Problems

2703. **SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee to go into the problems of coffee plantation;

(b) the subject referred to the committee; and

(c) the time by which the committee will submit its report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government have set up a Committee for formulation of Long Term Production and Marketing Strategy of Coffee on 31st December, 1987. The Committee is required to submit its report within six months from the date of its setting up.

The terms of reference of the Committee in brief are :

(i) to determine the level of production to be achieved by types and varieties of coffee and suggest measures for achieving this production keeping in view global production and global demand;

(ii) to examine policies relating to expansion of coffee by varieties and areas and suggest options regarding expansion keeping in view the alternative uses to which land can be put;

(iii) to examine the causes for stagnation in domestic demand, and suggest measures for increasing domestic demand; and

(iv) to identify export markets to be developed and the measures to be taken to promote the exports of Indian coffee in various form to these destinations.

Loan Assets of Commercial Banks

2704. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to pay proper attention by commercial banks to improve the quality of loan assets and timely recovery of dues;

(b) if so, the steps taken by commercial banks in that direction;

(c) the role being played by banks to train the customers in proper utilisation of loans; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks are required to adopt a schematic approach to lending in respect of their agricultural advances, tone up pre-lending appraisal and post-lending supervision involving, *inter-alia*, contact with beneficiaries, financing for assets of standard quality and timely recovery of dues.

Reserve Bank of India has often impressed upon banks the need to institute a viable recovery system which will help not only in improving their profitability but also in re-cycling the scarce resources of the banking system to the needy sections of the economy. Banks are to closely monitor the utilisation of loan amount through periodical visits/inspection of the borrowers' premises, factories, scrutiny of accounting statements and where necessary by periodical counselling with the borrowers. Some banks also have special schemes to encourage technocrats/entrepreneurs to start new ventures.

Extension of Coffee Plantation

2705. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State which have taken up Coffee plantation;

(b) the approximate areas brought under Coffee cultivation by the end of 1987; and

(c) the incentive given by Coffee Board or Union Government to undertake Coffee plantation in those States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). The state which have taken up Coffee Plantation and the area planted under Coffee as on Coffee Season 1985-86 are as under :

States	Area in Hectares
Karnataka	1,27,892
Kerala	65,628
Tamilnadu	32,869
Andhra Pradesh	7,647
Nagaland	1,865
Assam	1,307
Orissa	977
Mizoram	783
Meghalaya	717
Manipur	328
Arunachal Pradesh	255
Tripura	126
Madhya Pradesh	75
Sikkim	67
West Bengal	29
Maharashtra	23
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8
Total :	2,40,596

(c) The Coffee Board has been implementing a number of schemes like Research programmes, Extension and Advisory Services, Coffee Demonstration Farms, Training programmes, Production and supply of quality seeds and disease resistant material for all coffee growers, and loan and subsidy assistance for the development of the coffee industry. Differential rate of interest for the weaker sections has also recently been introduced.

Boost to Trade with Iran

2706. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken to boost trade ties with Iran;

(b) if so, the areas in which trade ties have been established by both the countries earlier; and

(c) the new areas of co-operation identified to give further boost to India-Iran trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). Discussions have been regularly held with the Iranian companies during the visits of official delegations as well as at the time of the Joint Commission Meetings to explore ways and means of increasing the level of Indo-Iranian trade turnover. Iran has been a traditional supplier of crude oil to India. Some quantities of sulphur and dry fruits are also being imported from Iran. Principal Indian exports to Iran comprise *inter-alia* tea, jeeps, light engineering equipment power equipment, meat, etc.

(c) During the visit of the Iranian Minister for Heavy Industry in December 1987 a number of Memoranda of Understanding were signed between Indian and Iranian companies conving *inter-alia* cooperation in transfer of technology and supply of equipment in sectors such as castings and forgings, machine tools automative components etc.

Supply of Cotton Dhoties, Sarees at Cheaper Rate

2707. **SHRI MANIK REDDY :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of Union Government for the supply of cotton dhoties, sarees and cloth at a cheaper rate to the common man through public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the appropriate action being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). NTC is producing cotton dhoties, sarees and long cloth under the controlled cloth scheme which is predominantly distributed through NCCF and the public distribution system

of the State Government. There is no other scheme under consideration of the Government for supply of Mill-made cotton dhoties, cotton sarees and cotton cloth for supply through the public distribution system.

Funds for Hotel Industry in Orissa

2708. **SHRI SOMNATH RATH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of norms to provide funds for hotel industry by IPICOL in Orissa;

(b) whether Hotel Toronto at Balasore in Orissa has been provided funds from IPICOL, if so, the amount sanctioned and whether the norms have been followed; and

(c) whether Orissa State Financial Corporation has been consulted and whether any study report on marketing has been given by State Government Undertaking as well as Orissa State Financial Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Industrial Promotion Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL) in Orissa provided financial assistance to projects in terms of the norms prescribed under the Industrial Development Bank of India's Refinance Scheme. The norms were (a) debt-equity ratio of 2 : 1; (b) promoters' contribution (for projects in "A" category backward area) of 12.5%; and (c) repayment period upto 12 years. However, lower debt equity norm is being followed by IPICOL in the case of hotel industry keeping in view the debt service capability of the hotel projects. IPICOL had sanctioned a term loan of Rs. 20 lakhs to hotel Toronto at Balasore in Orissa. Orissa State Financial Corporation had also been associated with the project. It is informed that market survey conducted by Orissa Industrial Technical and Consultancy Organisation indicated that there was scope for more hotels of this type at Balasore.

**Repatriation of Foreign Exchange
Illegally Kept Abroad**

2709. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of industrialists who undertook to repatriate a large amount of foreign exchange which they confessed to have kept abroad;

(b) whether these industrialists have repatriated the foreign exchange; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not repatriating so far and the steps taken by Government against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Polyester Yarn

2710. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to State :

(a) whether the polyester yarn is being exported;

(b) if so, the quantity of polyester yarn produced in the country annually and the quantity out of it exported annually;

(c) whether Government propose to consider to increase the production of polyester yarn in the country to boost this trade; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY) during 1987-88 has been estimated at 100,000 Tonnes. According to the Silk and Rayon Export Promotion Council, the exports of PFY have amounted to 1845 Tonnes during the period April-December, 1987-88.

(c) and (d). Additional capacities have been licensed to take care of the domestic requirements and exports.

[Translation]

Unaccounted Wealth

2711. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that businessmen, lottery organisers and building contractors have been accumulating unaccounted wealth worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the number of such types of people whose premises have been raided so far and the quantum of unaccounted wealth seized from them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Income-tax Department has conducted 7767 searches in the current financial year upto February, 1988 and 7054 searches during 1986-87, including those on businessmen, lottery organisers and building contractors. These searches resulted in the seizure of prima facie unaccounted assets worth Rs. 124.45 crores in this financial year and Rs. 100.70 crores in last financial year.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Digging of Tube Wells in Drought
Affected Areas of Orissa**

2712. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allotted per tube wells out of drought funds for the rural and urban areas of Ganjam district of Orissa; and

(b) the funds spent so far and on the number of tube wells installed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). Minor Irrigation schemes are ordinarily planned, funded and implemented by State

Governments. An additional outlay of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked for minor irrigation works in Orissa under Drought Relief Programme. Districtwise planning for minor irrigation development is not done at the Central level.

**Generation of Black Money in
Immovable Properties**

2713. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any measures to curb generation of black money in immovable properties; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). The measures adopted by the Income-tax Department for curbing the generation and investment of black money in immovable property transactions are valuation of immovable properties by the Valuation Cell, surveys of commercial and industrial areas and searches of residential and business premises. The Central Government is also empowered with a pre-emptive right to purchase immovable property in metropolitan cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore and Ahmedabad.

Construction of S.T.C. Bulding in New Delhi

2714. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has questioned the structural soundness of multicore office building of the State Trading Corporation (STC) at Janpath, New Delhi;

(b) whether several cracks have appeared in the floor beams in the ground floor supporting;

(c) whether this building had accident during the first phase of construction leading to death of several persons; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to remove the defects in the construction in the first phase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) Observations of the CTE have been examined by EIL and IIT, Delhi and steps have been taken to confirm the safety and security of the building with several corrective measures.

[Translation]

**Development of Carpets, Brass-Utensils
in Mirzapur**

2715. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that carpets, brass-utensils, lac and leather goods manufactured in Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh are exported every year in large quantity;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that traders of this district have urged Union Government for development of their industry and to protect the industry from the deteriorating situation;

(c) if so, the main demands; and

(d) the steps taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Handicrafts being a decentralised sector, regionwise figures of exports of carpets, brass-utensils, lac and leather goods etc. manufactured in Mirzapur district are not available.

(b) and (c). No specific demand from Mirzapur traders has been received. However, exporters of hand-knotted carpets put up some demands from time to time. Their main demands are as under :

(i) Liberalisation of export credit.

(ii) Removal of excise duty on scoured wool and carded wool.

(iii) Enhancement of REP entitlement against export of hand-made

woollen carpets under the Import-Export Policy.

- (iv) To allow import of Moth-proofing agents for carpet industry.
- (v) Revision/Review of CCS rates admissible on export of hand-made carpets.
- (vi) Exploration of markets for hand-made carpets.
- (vii) Upgradation of the techniques of production employed in hand-made carpet industry.
- (d) The following steps have been taken :
- (i) The rate of interest on pre-shipment and postshipment and credit has been reduced by 2.5% from the existing level of 12% w.e.f. 1.8.1986 for a period below 180 days.
- (ii) Import Replenishment permissible in respect of woollen carpets, druggets and durries (containing more than 50% wool by weight) has been enhanced from 10% to 15% of FOB value under Import and Export Policy.
- (iii) Moth proofing against have been allowed for Import against REP licences.
- (iv) Three Sales-cum-Study Teams to different countries namely one to USA and Canada, second to Australia and Newzealand and third to European countries were sent during 1986-87 and to the Middle East in 1987-88.
- (v) Technical delegation visited China and USSR to study the production techniques employed in production of hand-knotted carpets.
- (vi) An Institute for Carpet Technology is being set up at Bhadohi to look after the technical requirements of the Industry.

[English]

Export of Chemicals

2716. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI KAMALA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of chemicals being exported and the value of such items exported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a big scope to increase the export of chemicals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to boost this trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Chemicals are being exported under six broad groups. The major items of export under each group are given below :

(i) *Drugs and Pharmaceuticals*

Medicaments, Ayurvedic Medicines, Medicinal Castor oil, Surgical dressings, Papain, Sulpha Drugs, Sodium Iodide, Solanesol, Beta Ionon, Undecylenic Acid, Berbarine Hydro-chloride, Emetine salts, strychnine salts.

(ii) *Dyes and dye intermediates*

Organic Pigments, Direct Dyes, Basic dyes, Sulphur Dyes, Vat Dyes, Azoic Dyes, Hydro-Chloric Acid, Metanilic Acid, Anthraquinone, Flourescent brightening agent.

(iii) *Basic Inorganic and Organic Chemicals including Agro-Chemicals*

Rare Earth Chloride, Iron Chloride Ferric, Sodium Sulphate, Bleaching Powder, Aluminium Sulphate, Calcium Carbonate. Sodium Tripoly Phosphate, Red Phosphorous, Sodium Cyanide, Catalyst Chemicals, Meta Amino Phenol, Magnesium Dioxide, Nicotine Sulphate, Insecticides and Pesticides, Aluminium Phosphide, Endosulphan Technical.

(iv) *Cosmetics and Toiletries*

Hair Oil, Hair Shampoo, Toilet

Soap, Tooth Paste, Synthetic Detergents, Hydrogenated Castor Oil, Henna Leaves and Powder, De-hydrated Castor Oil.

(v) *Agarbattis*

(vi) *Essential oils and Medicinal Herbs*

Sandal Wood Oil, Lemongrass Oil, Palma Rosa Oil Davana Oil, Psyllium seeds andhusk, Senna Leaves and Pods, Opium.

The estimated value of export of chemicals during the last three years is given below

(Value in Rs./crores)	
Year	FOB value of exports
1984-85	451.74
1985-86	478.07
1986-87	561.97

Source : Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council—These figures do not include exports of Naptha).

(b) There is considerable scope to increase the export of chemicals.

(c) Basic Chemicals have been identified as a thrust item for achieving substantial increase in exports during the Seventh Five Year Plan period. The major measures taken by the Government to boost the export of chemicals, *inter-alia*, include, rationalisation of customs duty on drug intermediates *vis-a-vis* the corresponding bulk drugs; total flexibility for export production of drugs within the existing facilities; allowing export production of drugs not yet approved within the country with certain conditions; import of castor seed by units located in Free Trade Zones for export of oil to GCA countries; introduction of "fast-track clearance system" for export production of pesticides; inclusion of certain chemicals under group 'B' of EXIM Bank's Commodity Credit Scheme and enhancement of pre-shipment credit from 90 to 180 days etc,

Handloom Export

2717. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of handloom items have considerably fallen during the period 1986-87 and 1987-88;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to improve the export of handlooms ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Sir. According to Cotton Textiles Export promotion Council, the exports of cotton handloom fabrics and made-ups amounted to Rs. 164.6 crores during April-December 1987 as against the exports of 120.8 crores in the corresponding period of last year, representing an increase of 36.3%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The various steps taken to increase handloom exports include sending trade delegations, conducting market studies and market research, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines and distribution of publicity material, participation in fairs in major markets, quality improvement of handloom products and grant of Cash Compensatory Support.

Arrest of Persons Involved in Bank Frauds

2718. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI S. M. GURADDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether special crime branch of the CBI arrested 5 persons including the leader of an inter-state gang involved in defrauding banks to the tune of Rs. 1 crore in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the CBI has completed the charges and has submitted a report to Union Government; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take against those held responsible for defrauding the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that they had arrested on 29.11.87, 5 persons, including the leader of an inter-State Gang, which had indulged in defrauding banks to the tune of over Rs. 1 crore in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(b) and (c). CBI have reported that they had concluded the investigation in December, 1987 and the case has been sent up for trial of the 5 accused persons in the Court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Trichy.

Export of Marine Products

2719. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn programme to export marine products by the end of 2000 AD;

(b) if so, the target set for export of sea food by the end of the century; and

(c) the main strategy adopted therefor ?

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

DAS MUNSI) : (a) No, Sir,

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

Export Oriented Units in Orissa

2720. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to set up more and more export-oriented units;

(b) if so, the number of export-oriented units set up in different States so far, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set up some export oriented-units in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to establish a 100% Export Oriented Unit by the Central Government in Orissa. The scheme of 100% EOUs offers various incentives and facilities including duty free import of capital goods consumables and raw materials and a five year tax holiday to entrepreneurs who come forward to establish such units.

Statement

State-wise break-up of valid approvals for 100% Export Oriented Units and units in operation

State	No. of valid approvals	No. of units in operation
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	150	5
2. Assam	1	1
3. Bihar	13	5
4. Gujarat	40	7

1	2	3
5. Haryana	13	2
6. Himachal Pradesh	3	0
7. Jammu and Kashmir	1	0
8. Karnataka	64	15
9. Kerala	5	1
10. Madhya Pradesh	12	0
11. Maharashtra	82	18
12. Meghalaya	1	0
13. Orissa	8	4
14. Punjab	12	2
15. Rajasthan	8	1
16. Sikkim	1	0
17. Tamil Nadu	78	18
18. Uttar Pradesh	32	7
19. West Bengal	22	6
20. Chandigarh	3	2
21. Delhi	36	1
22. Goa Daman and Diu	12	3
23. Pondicherry	11	1
Total :	608	100

Relief to Handloom Weavers

2721. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one Chief Minister of Maharashtra has urged Union Government for immediate financial relief to Handloom weavers by increasing the subsidy for janata cloth from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per sq. metre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c).

Chief Minister of Maharashtra has written to Government of India suggesting that the rate of subsidy on the production of Janata Cloth should be increased from Rs. 2 per square metre to Rs. 3 per square metre. In the Union Budget for 1988-89, it has been proposed to increase the rate of subsidy from Rs. 2 per square metre to Rs. 2.75 per square metre.

Srisaïlam Left Bank Canal Project

2722. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent Srisaïlam Left Bank Canal Project Report to Union

Government for clearance with respect to foreign exchange clearance and for the procurement of pipes and other machinery from Japan and technical knowhow for taking of Tunnel of G.D.R.;

(b) since when the plan project has been pending with Union Government and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to establish water availability on long term basis for this project.

[Translation]

Implementation of Educated Unemployed Programme

2723. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress made in the field of implementation of educated unemployment programme during the last three years has been reviewed;

(b) if so, whether loans have been given to the educated youth under this

scheme as per the targets laid down in that regard; and

(c) if so, the number of beneficiaries under this scheme who are still running their own business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The evaluation of the Self-Employment Scheme of Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) carried out in one selected district in each State/Union Territory has revealed that 76% of the beneficiaries sanctioned and disbursed loan in the year 1983-84 had set up their own ventures. Further, evaluation of the scheme has been conducted in selected districts of Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh by two reputed institutes viz., Giri Institute, Lucknow and Sardar Patel Institute, Ahmedabad. Giri Institute in its report has indicated that 81% of the beneficiaries were unemployed and 84% of the beneficiaries were repaying their loan in time. The household income increased by 63% during the first year in respect of the selected districts in Uttar Pradesh and Orissa. The performance of banks under SEEUY for the entire country during the last three years has been as under :

	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
1. Number of beneficiaries proposed to be assisted (Target)	2.50 lakhs	2.50 lakhs	2.50 lakhs
2. Number of beneficiaries sanctioned loans	2.29 lakhs	2.20 lakhs	2.19 lakhs
3. Achievement	91.6%	88%	87.6%

[English]

World Bank Credit for Electronic Sector

2724. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has for the first time offered credit worth 150 million for the electronics sector;

(b) if so, whether the report submitted by a high level World Bank team was considered by Government;

(c) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). The World Bank has not offered a loan for the electronics sector. However, there have been some preliminary discussions with the World Bank on the possibility of the World Bank assisting a project in the electronics sector.

Excess Expenditure by States

2725. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a serious view of the excess expenditure made by almost all the States; and

(b) If so, the measures proposed to be taken to check the over-spending by the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). State Governments are competent to incur expenditure in line with the Budget voted by State Assemblies on matters falling within their jurisdiction. The Expenditure incurred in excess of voted amounts is regularised by the State Legislatures by passing supplementaries later.

[*English*]

Smuggling of Narcotics

2726. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that smuggling of narcotics is on the increase in Delhi and other metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether sale of smuggled narcotics is being done openly; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken by Government so far in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). Reports received indicate that Delhi and other metropolitan cities continue to be sensitive to drug trafficking. However, no incidence of open sale of drugs has come to the notice of Government.

Government have initiated various aggressive countermeasures against drug trafficking which include strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery, adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers, increased co-operation between various drug law enforcement agencies, bilateral co-operation with neighbouring countries besides the regional co-operation under the umbrella of SAARC. The situation is also kept under constant review for appropriate action.

Textile Mills Applications Pending before BIFR

2727. SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and particulars of textile mills whose applications pending before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and

(b) the steps taken by the Board in pursuance of the said application ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) have reported that 99 references under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 have so far been registered with them from units coming within the purview of item "23 Textiles (including those dyed, printed or otherwise processed)" of the first Schedule of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. The proceedings in these cases are at different stages.

**Representations for Revision of New
Textile Policy**

2728. **SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA :**
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have received representations from the Textile Industry and Trade Unions of Gujarat for revising the New Textile Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made therein; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). Government have, from time to time received a number of representations from various organisations in the country including Gujarat, seeking the adoption of certain measures by Union Government which would entail modification in the present Textile Policy, nationalisation of Textile units etc. Government review the situation in the textile industry from time to time and remedial measures are taken to alleviate

the difficulties faced by workers and the industry.

**Bank Credit Outstanding Against Sick
and Closed Units**

2729. **SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA :**
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the bank credit payable by sick units or potentially sick units and closed units in the years 1985-86 1986-87 and 1987-88 (so far), industry-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to recover the bank credit from the aforesaid units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Industry-wise position of large sick units as at the end of December, 1985 and 1986 is given below (large units are those individually enjoying aggregate limits of credit of Rs. 1 crore or more from the banking system) :

(Rs. in crores)

Industry	December, 1985		December, 1986	
	No. of units	Amount	No. of units	Amount
1. Engineering and Electricals	184	746.65	189	827.64
2. Iron and Steel	41	176.89	35	176.16
3. Textiles	173	1046.85	191	1118.04
4. Chemicals	37	122.50	37	110.00
5. Jute	42	195.59	43	238.20
6. Sugar	46	121.91	45	116.42
7. Cement	5	32.98	5	36.56
8. Rubber	16	135.71	17	126.30
9. Miscellaneous	113	401.16	152	537.70
	637	2980.24	714	3287.02

State/Union Territory-wise data in respect of sick SSI and large units as at the end of December, 1985 and 1986 is set out in statement below. Data as on December, 1987 has not yet been compiled.

(b) Guidelines have been issued by the RBI to banks impressing upon them the need for monitoring the borrowal account and to draw up rehabilitation packages in respect of sick industrial units which are found to be potentially viable. Phased

repayment of Bank's dues may be contemplated in the packages which may contain reliefs/concessions like reduced rates of interest, funding of irregularities, waiving of penal interest etc. As regards non-viable units, banks resort to suitable action for the recovery of their dues which could include, *inter-alia*, sale of goods hypothecated to the bank and enforcing other security available to the bank against the borrower or the guarantors if any.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise data on large/SSI Sick Units

(Rs. in crores)

State/Union Territory	SSI units				Large units			
	Dec. 1985		Dec. 1986		Dec. 1985		Dec. 1986	
	No. of units	Amount O/S	No. of units	Amount O/S	No. of units	Amount O/S	No. of units	Amount O/S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
West Bengal	18620	142.52	28777	184.24	132	676.33	146	779.81
Maharashtra	8567	187.32	10605	245.24	146	835.62	161	893.83
Karnataka	5705	77.61	3277	79.68	33	163.44	43	220.52
Gujarat	4045	75.08	4523	97.14	62	301.51	68	323.21
Tamil Nadu	15171	107.71	17024	127.24	50	189.64	53	184.08
Andhra Pradesh	8694	62.82	13004	84.17	37	103.10	44	126.09
Bihar	8570	48.95	9649	55.23	17	44.51	17	50.28
Haryana	1500	25.21	1747	30.23	16	42.14	17	50.95
Rajasthan	—	29.22	6222	32.57	13	40.14	11	40.33
Madhya Pradesh	7843	31.37	9895	37.58	22	89.46	26	98.58
Orissa	5299	29.49	6489	26.14	7	35.26	10	29.55
Uttar Pradesh	12036	81.69	15815	101.38	66	279.37	68	251.08
Kerala	2378	45.97	4046	56.01	16	129.19	20	142.35
Punjab	1345	21.69	1830	27.50	4	6.14	6	17.80
Assam	5683	7.80	4485	10.22	—	2	—	—
Delhi	2271	67.47	2716	78.52	4	7.78	7	14.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Pondicherry	240	3.31	223	2.79	3	12.26	3	11.34
Goa, Daman and Diu	808	8.85	1074	9.12	5	14.09	4	10.27
Chandigarh	171	5.73	207	5.87	1	1.77	2	4.35
Tripura	245	0.79	284	0.40	1	1.96	1	2.86
Himachal Pradesh	413	3.24	602	4.74	—	—	—	—
Jammu Kashmir	1382	6.28	2229	8.63	—	—	—	—
Manipur	669	0.41	908	0.80	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	141	0.10	110	0.36	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	7	0.02	8	0.07	—	—	—	—
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	1	0.01	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	11	0.01	16	0.02	—	—	—	—
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	0.06	9	0.19	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	2	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	4	0.01	—	—	—	—

Data are provisional

Financing of Housing by Life Insurance Corporation

2730. SHRI S.M. GURADDI :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has decided to finance large scale housing under the public housing and own-your home scheme;

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

(c) whether 700 middle-class tenements are under construction in Bangalore under the public housing scheme;

(d) if so, the names of other States where this scheme is being launched by the LIC; and

(e) the States that are likely to be covered during 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Life Insurance Corporation's housing schemes including "Own Your Home Scheme" are essentially for policy-holders. Housing Schemes are also taken up to enable policy-holders to obtain housing facilities, for which applications are invited through advertisements in newspapers from LIC policyholders on completion of the project. Allotment is made by lots if the number of eligible applicants is more than the available dwelling units.

LIC have taken up construction of 518 dwelling units in Bangalore and allotment is to be done as per the above procedure.

(d) LIC have, so far, completed housing projects to policy-holders in centres like Borivilli (Bombay), Bangalore, Kanpur, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

(e) There is, presently, no plan for any new project in 1988.

Modernisation of Jute Mills

2731. SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

DR. V. VENKATESH :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of jute mills have shown their willingness for modernisation of their units;

(b) if so, the number of jute mills which have applied for financial assistance under modernisation package programme; and

(c) the amount of assistance sanctioned and the amount released to each mill so far ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 29-2-1988 Financial Institutions are reported to have received applications from 25 jute mill companies for assistance under the Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme.

(c) As on 29-2-1988 an aggregate amount of Rs. 21.89 crores has been sanctioned to 6 jute mills against which an amount of Rs. 1.10 crores has been disbursed to 2 jute mill companies.

Export Targets

2732. SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's exports during the current financial year have exceeded the targets;

(b) if so, what was the target fixed;

(c) to what extent it has been achieved;

(d) the main reasons for exceeding the export targets; and

(e) whether the trend will be maintained in the next financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (e). According to the provisional data available, India's exports during the first nine months of the current financial year (*i.e.* April-December, 1987) amounted to Rs. 11197.41 crores, as against the export target fixed at Rs. 13,800 crores for the financial year 1987-88. It is expected that the export target will be achieved by the end of the financial year 1987-88. It is difficult to predict the trend in exports in the next financial year 1988-89 at this stage.

Suggestion of CEI on Automotive Components

2733. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has submitted a detailed paper to Government suggesting various measures to achieve a quantum jump in automotive components exports;

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

(c) the specific measures proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the automotive parts produced by small scale sector industries are of requisite quality matching international standards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A number of measures have already been taken to boost the export of engineering goods including automotive components. These measures, *inter-alia* include liberalisation of licensing procedures, a new regime of CCS to compensate for the cascading effect of domestic taxation, access to raw materials and consumables at international competitive prices, reduction in the rates of interest for pre and post shipment credit, interest rebate on new term loans to units which export more than 25% of their pro-

duction and introduction of new blanket exchange permit scheme to facilitate export promotion activities.

(c) In order to encourage production of quality automotive components in the country including the small scale sector, the Government has allowed rapid modernisation and induction of new technology in this sector. Some fiscal concessions have also been granted for import of sub-components for the manufacture of components for fuel efficient vehicles.

Levy on Export of Leather Products

2734. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian leather products industry has represented against the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI)'s recommendation for a levy between one and three per cent on exports of leather products;

(b) whether the leather products industry has also requested for more relaxations in import norms in the interest of leather export performance; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Madras, in its Report of All India Survey on raw hides and skins, recommended the creation of a Hides and Skins Development Fund by way of a development cess (at least 1%) on export of leather and leather products mainly for improved techniques and tools for flaying, preservation and handling of hides and skins, etc. The Council for Leather Exports have represented that the present time is not opportune for considering the import of such a cess.

(b) and (c). In the interest of steady improvement of export turnover in leather sector, Council for Leather Exports, on behalf of leather products industry, has been requesting from time to time for the requisite inputs being made available for export production. These requests are considered sympathetically and accepted when found

to be feasible and in the interest of the economy.

Curtailment of Non-Plan Expenditure

2735. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN :
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the non-plan expenditure in the various key sectors of the economy like coal, telecommunications, mines, steel, railways, etc. has been around 62 per cent and a number of organisations and renowned economists have suggested curtailment in this expenditure so that the cut in non-plan expenditure may release much needed resources for other purpose; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to cut down non-plan expenditure and with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). The percentages of provisions in Budget for non-plan expenditure with reference to total expenditure of the Departments of Coal, Steel and mines are 7.8%, 7.8% and 19.2% respectively. The non-plan expenditure on the Railways is largely on the maintenance and operation of the Railway assets to provide freight and passenger services. Administrative type of non-plan expenditure constitutes a small fraction thereof and is subject to various regulatory measures imposed by the Government. A sizeable portion of Telecommunications non-plan expenditure is also on the operation and maintenance of telecom services. Government and Public Sector management have taken a number of short-term and long-term steps to improve the performance level of the Public Sector Enterprises in the key sectors of economy. These include performance reviews at regular intervals, concept of Memorandum of Understanding between Government and Public Sector enterprise, technology upgradation, improved maintenance management practices and

organisational restructuring wherever necessary.

Revision of Rubber Price

2736. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to revise the rubber price in view of the steep rise in the cost of production; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). The Government is already operating a buffer stocking scheme through STC to ensure remunerative returns to the growers while simultaneously ensuring steady supply of rubber to users at reasonable prices. The release prices has been fixed based on the recommendations of the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance.

Hike in Export Duty on Pepper

2737. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export duty on pepper has been raised recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there have been protests in this regard from the pepper growers of Kerala; and

(d) the response of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) (a). No, Sir.

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

Indonesia to Avoid Double Taxation on Income

2738. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the agreement

entered into between India and Indonesia to avoid double taxation on income;

(b) whether similar agreements have been made by India with any other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any forum has been created to ensure the implementation of the agreement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) The agreement for avoidance of double taxation of income between India and Indonesia was notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary vide GSR No. 77(E) dated 4.2.88. The salient features of this agreement, as given in the Press Note issued on 5th February, 1988 are as under :

This agreement came into force on 19.12.1987 and will have effect in India in respect of income arising in any accounting year beginning on or after 1.4.1988. In Indonesia, it will have effect in respect of income arising in any year of income beginning on or after 1.1.1988. Double taxation of income avoided under the agreement by the country of residence by allowing credit for the taxes paid in the country of source against its own taxes. Both the countries give credit not only for taxes levied in the other country but also for taxes spared in the country of source for purposes of its economic development. The agreement provides that business profits of an enterprise of one country would be taxable in the other country only if it maintains a permanent establishment like a branch, office, factory or place of management etc. in the other country. It also provides for exemption from taxation, in respect of income from shipping and air transport in the country of source. Gross income from dividends, interest and royalties will be taxed in the country of source at concessional rates laid down in the agreement.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Similar comprehensive agreements for avoidance of double taxation of income have been entered into

by India with 29 other countries listed below :

1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Canada
4. Denmark
5. Finland
6. France
7. Federal Republic of Germany
8. Greece
9. Hungary
10. Italy
11. Czechoslovakia
12. Japan
13. Kenya
14. Libya
15. Malaysia
16. Mauritius
17. New Zealand
18. Norway
19. Romania
20. Singapore
21. South Korea
22. Sri Lanka
23. Sweden
24. Syria
25. Tanzania
26. Thailand
27. United Arab Republic
28. United Kingdom
29. Zambia

(d) and (e). The Agreement with Indonesia provides that the competent authorities of the contracting states shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Double

Taxation Avoidance Agreement. The Competent authority in India is the Joint Secretary (Foreign Tax Division) Department of Revenue.

[*Translation*]

Non-Resident Indian's Assistance for Ganga-Cauvery Link

2739. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some non-resident persons of Indian origin have recently offered to give assistance for implementing the proposed Ganga-Cauvery Link Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). information was received in January, 1987 that some Non-resident Indians in U.S.A. have formed a Trust for promoting water related projects in India. However, no specific proposal for assistance has been received.

[*English*]

Funds for Telugu Ganga Project

2741. SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAM-MURTY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telugu Ganga Project is starved of funds at present;

(b) whether Union Government have been approached by Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard;

(c) whether any talks have been held in this regard between Union Government and the State Government for provision for necessary funds for the project; and

(d) if so, the decision of Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d). At present, irrigation projects are funded from the State Plan resources.

SDR Quota by IMF

2742. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of Special Drawing Rights quota allotted to India under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) by the International Monetary Fund;

(b) the terms under which the quota has been offered indicating rate of interest, duration of the loan and the initial moratorium period; and

(c) the details of proposals, if any, for the utilisation of the quota ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The international Monetary Fund has established in December 1987 an Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) to provide new concessional resources totalling SDR 6 billion to help the poorest member-countries undertake strong macroeconomic and structural programme to improve their balance of payments position and foster growth. The ESAF loans will carry interest of 0.5% per annum and its repayments will be in 10 equal semi-annual instalments beginning 5½ years and ending 10 years from the date of disbursements.

India is one of the eligible member-countries under ESAF. Access under the ESAF will be determined for individual countries on the basis of their balance of payments need and the strength of their adjustment efforts, with maximum access limit of 250% of quota.

[Translation]

Additional Revenue from Expansion of Tax Net

2743. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to widen the tax net as to increase the number of income-tax assesseees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the additional number likely to be brought within the tax net and the additional revenue estimated to be collected from them during 1987-88 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of income-tax assesseees is considered too low as compared to the Gross Domestic Product and the affluent population of the country.

(c) During the year 1987-88, upto 31-1-1988, the number of new income-tax assesseees discovered is 4,09,453 and the amount of income-tax realised from them is Rs. 26.16 crores.

[English]

Gold Prices

2744. SHRI T. BASHEER :
SHRI C. SAMBU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of gold recorded an unprecedented hike this year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to control the price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) The price of standard gold recorded a peak of Rs. 3774 per 10 gms. in Bombay market on 24.11.87. The price in 1988 has fallen to Rs. 3331 on 20.2.88.

(b) The factors responsible for the rise in prices of gold generally are :

1. Seasonal demand on account of marriages, etc.
2. Shortage of ready-stock.

3. Effective anti-smuggling measures.

However, in respect of gold, the increase in price can also be attributed to :

1. Higher overseas prices of gold.
2. The fall in the value of Dollar.
3. Fall in contraband arrivals due to effective checks.

Prices of gold are highly sensitive to speculations.

(c) Since Gold is not an essential commodity, Government do not consider it necessary to regulate its price.

**Pending Cases Regarding Realisation
of Customs Duty**

2745. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of writ petitions in different High Courts and Supreme Court with respect to realisation of customs duty and since how long; and

(b) the steps taken to secure early finalisation of these petitions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) 9221 writ petitions in respect of customs cases are pending in the Supreme Court and the various High Courts. The year-wise break up of the total number of such writ petitions is as follows :

1978	—	32
1979	—	199
1980	—	402
1981	—	904
1982	—	1497
1983	—	1585
1984	—	1102
1985	—	726
1986	—	1077
1987	—	1655
1988	—	42

(Upto Feb.)

(b) All the pending cases are being vigorously pursued for final disposal in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

**Funds for Renovation of Irrigation
Project in Orissa**

2746. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount has been allotted to renovate or construct irrigation projects in Orissa especially in view of drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the achievements so far and the time by which the allotted whole funds will be spent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). An additional outlay of Rs. 22 crores has been provided under Drought Relief Programme for accelerating the creation of irrigation benefits in drought affected areas of the State. The identified works are required to be completed within a period of two years.

CCS to Finished Products of 100% EOUs

2747. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI S. B. SIDNAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to give Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) to 100 per cent Export-Oriented-Units on their finished products also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. No final decision has been taken on the matter.

**Failure to Supply Hank Yarn at Reasonable
Price**

2748. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private sector handlooms had decided to observe a three day work stoppage from February 18, 1988 onwards, as a protest against the failure of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) to ensure supplies of hank yarn at reasonable prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Reports of private-sector weavers in Tamil Nadu resorting to demonstrations and agitations protesting against the sharp hike in yarn prices have been received by Government. Out of orders amounting to Rs. 41.52 lakhs placed on National Handloom Development Corporation by three private sector handloom associations in Tamil Nadu for supply of hank yarn, supplies to the extent of Rs. 19.31 lakhs have been made so far by National Handloom Development Corporation and supplies to the extent of Rs. 7.16 lakhs are in pipeline. Supplies for the remaining amount of Rs. 15.05 lakhs could not materialise as the Tamil Nadu parties were not prepared to accept supplies from the mills concerned.

Seizure of Gold at Bombay Ai port

2749. **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated 12th January, 1988 wherein it has been stated that Air-Intelligence Unit seized gold worth Rs. 20 crores in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrest has been made; and

(d) any other action taken by Government against the culprits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : Yes, Sir.

(b) Although, the caption of the news-item read "20 crores worth gold

seized in 2 hauls", the 2 hauls as appearing from the body of the said report under this caption cover seizure of gold of value of Rs. 12.3 lakhs and Rs. 7.54 lakhs only. Hence, the caption is incorrect.

The details of these two cases actually are as follows :

A quantity of 3645 grammes of gold valued at Rs. 12.22 lakhs was recovered from three passengers who had arrived at Sahar Airport, Bombay, from Dubai on 11th January, 1988.

In the other case, the officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 20 foreign marked gold bars valued at Rs. 7.54 lakhs from two persons at Andheri, Bombay. Hence, the total of the said two cases comes to Rs. 19.76 lakhs only.

(c) and (d). All the five persons were arrested.

Indo-US Trade

2750. **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :**
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) if so, the Indo-US Trade is likely to leap by 58% during the next three to four years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to fill the trade gap in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c). During the last few years, various measures have been taken to expend India's exports to the USA. These include export promotion programmes such as participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, organisation of such events as department stores promotion, buyer-seller meets, direct mail campaign, advertisements in trade journals and editorial coverage in specialized magazines. The bilateral quota for textiles and clothing has also been increased.

Non-oil exports have gone up from Rs. 1765.83 crores in 1984-85 to

Rs. 2357.26 crores in 1986-87. During the same period imports grow from Rs. 1700.59 crores to Rs. 1963.01 crores. Balance of trade therefore is in favour of India. The trend of increase is likely to be maintained.

Export of Cotton Yarn to European Economic Community

2751. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI AMARSINH
RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of cotton yarn exported to European Economic Community during the last three years and likely to be exported during the year 1987-88;

(b) whether any agreement has been made with the EEC to increase the export of cotton yarn to the EEC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). The quantity and value of cotton yarn exported to European Economic Community during the last three years was as under :

(Qty. in Million kgs.)
(Value in Million Rs.)

Year	Quantity	Value
1985	1.66	65.46
1986	7.37	257.84
1987	51.14	1889.36

(Source : Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Bombay)

The export of cotton yarn to European Economic Community during 1988 is expected to be around 30,000 tonnes.

Under the arrangement reached between the Government of India and the European Economic Community on 14th January, 1988, India agreed for quantitative restraint for cotton yarn (Category-I) and a level of 30,000 tonnes was fixed for export during 1988.

[Translation]

Export of Cotton Yarn

2752. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government exported cotton yarn during the period from 1984-85 to 1986-87;

(b) if so, the names of the countries to which cotton yarn was exported and the year-wise break-up thereof;

(c) whether the export of cotton yarn has adversely affected the indigenous weavers;

(d) if so, the circumstances under which cotton yarn was exported;

(e) whether prior to this finished cloth used to be exported instead of cotton yarn; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) No, Sir. The quantum of yarn exports represents only a small percentage of the total production.

(d) to (f). The exports of cotton yarn are allowed with a view to improve utilization of spindle capacity and to earn foreign exchange. Cotton yarn is exported because there is market for it as there is market for cloth. Finished cloth is also being exported as in the past,

Statement

Country-wise break-up of cotton yarn exports during the years 1984-85, 1985-86, and 1986-87

(Qty. in Million kgs.)
(Value in Million Rupees)

Country	1984-85		1985-86		1986-87	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Saudi Arabia	0.05	1.37	0.07	1.59	0.11	1.92
Sri Lanka	0.02	1.21	NEG.	0.16	0.03	0.69
Hong Kong	0.01	0.12	—	—	0.64	18.04
Japan	—	—	0.01	0.77	0.39	16.74
Bangladesh	3.16	161.39	3.80	200.87	5.03	244.90
Singapore	0.04	1.14	NEG.	0.16	0.11	4.28
Thailand	—	—	—	—	0.06	1.92
Vietnam	1.13	31.55	2.48	71.80	2.12	56.60
Mauritius	0.07	2.93	0.06	2.25	0.14	5.97
Belgium	0.28	10.05	0.06	2.33	2.17	64.46
Denmark	0.04	1.34	NEG.	0.20	0.03	1.10
France	0.10	3.82	—	—	0.71	24.19
West Germany	0.69	21.98	0.66	24.70	3.12	106.84
Italy	0.63	23.46	0.39	19.60	4.76	186.95
Ireland	0.07	1.84	0.12	3.37	0.31	9.50
United Kingdom	1.19	36.90	0.94	34.10	4.01	117.10
Czechoslovakia	1.45	57.43	2.13	87.61	1.61	59.07
USA	NEG.	0.06	—	—	0.39	16.73
Newzealand	0.05	1.40	0.02	0.50	0.07	1.89
Others	0.20	16.27	0.16	9.37	2.17	74.44
Total :	9.18	374.26	10.90	459.38	27.98	1013.43

Source : **TEXPROCIL**

**Suggestions of Maharashtra Government
Regarding Small Savings Policies**

2753. DR. DATTA SAMANT :
SHRI V. N. GADGIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has recommended to Union Government a number of proposals for modifying the existing small savings policies;

(b) the details of these proposals; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The important recommendations made by Government of Maharashtra are indicated below :

- (i) The maturity period of Indira Vikas Patra (I.V.P.) be brought back to 5 years.
- (ii) The rate of interest on National Savings Certificates be revised upward from 11% to 12%.
- (iii) The pattern of investment of Employees Provident Funds operative before 1.4.86 should be restored.
- (iv) Agents mobilising funds under Monthly Income Scheme and Indira Vikas Patra should be eligible to get commission at the rate of 1%.
- (v) Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme which was discontinued from 1.4.1986 be reinstated.

Maturity period of Indira Vikas Patra sold on or after 1st March, 1988 has been reduced to five years. Agents mobilising collections under Post Office Monthly Income Account are eligible to get commission at 1% of the deposits. It has not been possible to accept the other recommendations.

**Representation by Maharashtra Government
for the Refund of Excise Duty**

2754. DR. DATTA SAMANT :
SHRI BANWARI LAL
PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of representations made by the Maharashtra Government to Union Government for refund of excise duty of an amount of 30.51 crores on account of generation of Electricity between 1978 and 1984;

(b) the details of the representations made; and

(c) the decision taken in this matter and the time by which the refund will be made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). The Chief Minister of Maharashtra has addressed the Union Finance Minister on 21st October, 1987, and 20th November, 1987 stating that an amount of Rs. 162.08 crores was collected in that State by way of excise duty on electricity during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85 (upto 30th September, 1984), whereas an amount of Rs. 131.57 crores was refunded by the Government of India. He has, therefore, requested release of the balance amount of Rs. 30.51 crores.

(c) Refund of excise duty on electricity generation has been made during 1979-80 to 1984-85 (upto 30th September, 1984) in accordance with the percentage shares prescribed in the Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980. Accordingly, the share of Maharashtra worked out to Rs. 131.57 crores. This has been refunded to the State Government on provisional basis subject to final adjustment on the basis of certified figures of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The Finance Minister has replied to the Chief Minister stating that since the refund of net proceeds of excise duty has been made in accordance with the provisions of Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Act, 1980 and the Rules made

thereunder, it was not possible to reopen the share already paid to the State Government. Therefore, the question of further refund does not arise.

Loss in Bombay Textile Mills

2755. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether thirteen textile mills from Bombay which were taken over by Government in 1983 are running in full capacity or not;

(b) how many workers were taken on duty and how many workers are yet to be taken; and

(c) what are the losses accumulated so far by these textile mills during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The present utilisation of capacities of 13 textile mills of Bombay, the management of which was taken over by the Government in 1983, is in consonance with workable capacities and current market conditions.

(b) As a result of the take-over of management of 13 mills of Bombay, over 23,000 workers have got back employment. another 10,000 have voluntarily retired and collected their dues. Over 8,500 could not be absorbed.

(c) The 13 taken-over mills in Bombay have accumulated losses of about Rs. 61.27 crores (provisional) from the date of take-over *i.e.* 18.10.1983 till the end of March, 1987.

World Bank Loan to Narmada Valley Project

2756. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a World Bank team has recently visited India in connection with a loan to the Narmada Valley Project;

(b) whether it is a fact that the World Bank loan for the project has become uncertain;

(e) if so, the reasons thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Narmada Sagar Project is in the pipe line for World Bank assistance and negotiations have not yet concluded.

Loss in NTC (WBABO)

2757. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of losses incurred by the National Textile Corporation (WBABO) Limited, Calcutta for want of cotton and consequent loss of man-days;

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

(c) whether the steps are being taken to reactivate the management; if so, when and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Shortage of cotton affected the functioning of the mills under NTC (WBAB & O) during the period October, 1987-January, 1988. However, there was no loss of full mandays.

(c). The Cotton Purchase Department of the Subsidiary Corporation has been strengthened.

Textile Exports to Non-Quota Countries

2758. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the value of textile exports to the quota and non-quota countries during the first ten months of the current financial year (April, 1987 to January, 1988) as compared to the corresponding period last year; and

(b) the steps taken proposed to be taken to increase exports to non-quota countries ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The exports of cotton textiles (millmade and powerloom) and ready made garments to quota and non-quota countries during April, 1987 to January, 1988 and the corresponding period last year were as follows :

(Rs. in crores) (Provisional)

	Quota countries	Non-quota countries
April, 1987- Jan., 1988	1699.18	681.12
April, 1986- Jan, 1987	1108.45	503.05

(Source : APEC and TEXPROCIL)

(b) The steps taken to increase textile exports to non-quota markets include sending trade delegations, conducting market studies and market research, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines and distribution of publicity material, participation in fairs and exhibition, quality improvement and grant of Cash Compensatory Support.

New Bonds Scheme for NRI

2759. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :
SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce a new bonds scheme to raise foreign exchange from the Non-resident Indians; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how the money is proposed to be used ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to introduce a new scheme of Foreign currency

denominated Bonds/Deposit Certificates for Non-Resident Indians on a non-repatriable basis. The maturity period of these Bonds/Deposit Certificates will be 7 years and these will carry an interest rate higher than that applicable to the repatriable foreign currency non-resident deposits. These Bonds/Deposits will be free from Income tax, Wealth tax and Gift tax. The money so mobilised will be utilised for productive purposes.

Staff Shortage in CLA Office

2760. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newspaper report in the Economic Times dated 16 February, 1988 regarding shortage of staff in the office of the Central Licencing Authority (CLA) which has resulted in delay in clearance of licences; and

(b) if so, the factual position thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Presently the requirements of staff of JC (CLA) Office *vis-a-vis* work-load handled, are under the study of staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance.

Import-Export Policy of Cotton

2761. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of cotton growers are in a great difficulty in regard to disposal of their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken in this regard;

(d) what is the import-export policy of Government in regard to cotton; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider some changes in the import-export

policy of cotton during the current session; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No Sir. The prices of cotton are currently ruling much above minimum support levels enabling the farmers to realise higher prices for their produce.

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

(d) and (e). According to the long term export policy of cotton, a quantity of 5 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton, 50,000 bales of Digvijay variety and 50,000 bales of Bengal Deshi cotton could be exported every year on a continuous basis for a period of 3 years from 1986-87 cotton season. On account of lower level of production and increased mill consumption of cotton, leading to spurt in cotton prices and reported shortage of cotton, Government have suspended export of staple cotton since July '87 and have also permitted import of cotton against export of cotton yarn, cotton fabric and made-up on an Advance Licensing basis.

Medium Irrigation Projects in Orissa

2762. **SHRI HARIHAR SOREN :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of medium irrigation projects executed in Orissa during the last three years; and

(b) the name and number of medium irrigation projects proposed to be taken up during the remaining period of the Seventh plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) 31 medium projects were under implementation during 1985-88.

(b) Two schemes viz. Birupa—Gangoti and Extension of Remal are expected to be taken during 1988-89.

Seizure of Narcotic Drugs

2763. **SHRI V. TULSIRAM :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has become a paradise for smugglers of Opium, Ganja, Charas, Heroin and other such drugs as these are seized almost daily by the Customs and other authorities;

(b) if so, whether it is due to the lack of security arrangements on the borders of the country;

(c) the average value of these items seized monthly and how these are disposed of; and

(d) the details of the amount deposited with Government after disposing of such drugs during the last six months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir, However, India is increasingly being used as a transit country for opiates and cannabis destined for other regions of the world. While alertness and efficiency of the Customs and other authorities are making good seizure possible, the increase, aforesaid, cannot be attributed to lack of security arrangements on the borders of the country.

(c) and (d). No precise value of the drugs seized can be determined as this is dependent upon various factors like quality of the drugs, place of origin, etc. The confiscated drugs ripe for disposal, after due legal proceedings, are sent to the Government opium factories at Ghazipur and Neemuch for disposal. While opium and morphine, fit for reuse, are further processed, the other drugs are destroyed. No separate account of the earning from the drugs produced by processing/reprocessing of opium and morphine are maintained in the above factories.

High Powered Committee for Irrigation Purposes

2764. **SHRI V. TULSIRAM :**

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-powered committee of experts for exploration of under-

ground water for irrigation purposes has been considered;

(b) if so, the details of the composition and the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) the time by which the Committee is expected to submit its report;

(d) whether some guidelines have been issued to the States for exploration and utilisation of underground water for irrigation and drinking purposes till the report of the committee is submitted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Modernisation of Textile Mills in Andhra Pradesh

2765. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of textile mills both in private and NTC sectors separately which are to be provided financial assistance under the modernisation scheme;

(b) the number and details of mills to be provided financial assistance in Andhra Pradesh and the extent of the help to be provided; and

(c) the extent to which such an assistance will improve the working conditions of the textile industry and its production in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). It is not possible to indicate the details of textile mills which would be provided assistance under the Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme nor the quantum of such assistance involved because the requirements of modernisation are an ongoing process. It is also not possible to indicate the impact that the modernisation programme will have on the textile industry because this would depend on a number of factors,

Income Tax Pending Realisation

2766. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) names of the companies/firms/mills etc. in the country against whom arrears of Income Tax more than 10 lakhs are pending;

(b) the time since when these arrears are pending;

(c) the reasons for accumulation of such huge arrears; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken to ward off accumulation of arrears ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) There were 3205 assessees in the country against whom income-tax demand exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs was outstanding as on 30.9.1987. Preparing a list will be a voluminous job and, therefore, not practicable. If the Hon'ble Member desires information about any particular assessee, the same can be furnished.

(b) The time since when the arrears are pending, varies in each case.

(c) The main reasons for accumulation of the arrears are time-consuming recovery processes, stays granted by courts, pendency of appeals before appellate authorities and consequent grant of stay of recovery/grant of instalments, and pendency of proceedings before the Settlement Commission.

(d) Appropriate actions are being taken both as per Income-tax law and also administratively. Legal actions include levy of penalty, issue of garnishee orders to attach bank accounts, debts etc., and issue of recovery certificates which enable Tax Recovery Officers to effect recovery by attachment/sale of assets. In suitable cases, defaulters are arrested and put in civil prison. Administratively, action plan targets have been fixed for reduction of arrears and the progress is being monitored at various levels. These cases get special attention of the officers of the level of Commissioners of I.T. and above. In the cases involving high demands, the appellate authorities are requested to dispose of appeals expeditiously.

Setting up of Regional Rural Banks in Punjab

2767. **SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY :**
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up regional rural banks in Punjab, in consultation with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development;

(b) if so, the number thereof with names of places where these banks have been set up; and

(c) whether Punjab Government has contributed their share and if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The name of five RRBs functioning in Punjab, their dates of establishment and area served by each of them is indicated below :

Sl. No.	Name of RRB	Date of Establishment	Districts covered
1.	Kapurthala-Ferozepur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kapurthala	30-3-1983	Kapurthala and Ferozepur
2.	Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshiarpur	30-3-1983	Hoshiarpur and Ropar
3.	Gurdaspur-Amritsar Gramin Vikas Bank, Gurdaspur	31-3-1983	Gurdaspur and Amritsar
4.	Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur	27-2-1986	Sangrur and Patiala
5.	Faridkot-Bhatinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Faridkot	22-3-1986	Faridkot and Bhatinda

(c) NABARD has reported that the Punjab Government have subscribed its 15% share in the issued share capital of above named RRBs.

Loans to Educated Unemployed Youth in Punjab under Self Employment Scheme

2768. **SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY :**
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some scheduled banks in Punjab have not achieved their targets in advancing the loans to educated unemployed youth under the self employment scheme;

(b) if so, the particulars of such banks and the extent to which the amount of loan

distributed by them is less than the target fixed for them; and

(c) whether Government issued directions to such banks for achieving their targets in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The targets fixed and the number of cases sanctioned by the banks under the Self-Employment Scheme for the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEU) in the State of Punjab during the years 1983-84 to 1986-87 are indicated below :

Year	Target	No. of cases sanctioned by banks
1983-84	6700	9,047
1984-85	12000	12,212
1985-86	15000	11,677
1986-87	15000	15,037

The sanctions have in fact exceeded the targets in three out of four years. Therefore, issue of any specific directions in this regard has not been considered necessary. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, however, reported that its Regional Office at Chandigarh has been advised to constantly monitor the position and take effective steps for achieving the stipulated targets.

Excise Duty on Textiles

2769. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent changes in excise duty on textiles have made cotton fabrics costlier than man made fibre blended fabrics;

(b) if so, whether it has effected the textiles industry adversely; and

(c) if not, how do prices of man-made blended fabrics compare with those of cotton fabrics before and after the change in excise duty ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The prices of man-made blended fabrics, in general, continue to be costlier than prices of cotton fabrics.

Impact of Textile Policy on Textile Industry

2770. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of textile mills are facing closure;

(b) if so, whether accumulation of cloth stocks is one of the reasons; and

(c) whether the new textile policy has any worthwhile impact on the growth of the textile industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). The textile industry, as a whole, is faced with the problem of demand recession and high cotton prices. However, it is not possible to indicate the number of mills in the verge of closure.

(c) The total production of yarn and cloth in the textile industry, as a whole, has shown an increase.

Promotion of Tea Markets

2771. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tea-Board has reported that tea output and returns would be very good for the year 1987;

(b) whether this would enable expansion plans of tea gardens to be promoted; and

(c) whether steps are being taken to promote tea-consumption in non-traditional markets in Europe and the USA ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The production during the last three years is as under :

1985	1986	1987
659	624*	673
		*estimated

(b) with increase in production and productivity per hect. returns to gardens would increase.

(c) Tea Board undertakes tea Promotional measures both in Traditional and non-traditional markets which includes;

(i) Promotional support to Indian exporters for boosting up Direct export of packet tea/tea bags from India.

- (ii) Joint collaboration schemes with the local blenders/packers to promote Indian tea brands.
- (iii) Limited Media publicity abroad.
- (iv) Participation in fair/exhibitions.
- (v) Introduction of Brand Promotion Fund Schemes, for providing interest free loan in foreign exchange, to the exporters for carrying out publicity programmes.

Cotton Import Opposed by Farmers Organisations

2772. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the textile mills have demanded import of cotton to bring down the sharp rise in cotton prices and meet alleged cotton shortage;

(b) whether farmers organisations have opposed this; and

(c) if so, Union Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(b) with a view to checking the rise in the prices of cotton and augmenting domestic availability Government have suspended exports of staple cotton since July, 1987 and have permitted import of cotton against exports of cotton yarn cotton fabrics and made-ups on Advanced Licensing Basis. While no decision has been taken to import cotton to meet the anticipated shortage till the arrival of cotton in the season is not precluded.

Central Investment for Irrigation Projects in Kerala

2773. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total assistance provided by Union Government to irrigation projects in Kerala;

(b) whether there is a proposal to increase such assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (c). Irrigation schemes are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments and Central assistance is given in the form of block grants and loans. However, as a drought proofing measure, the Centre has decided to give an additional amount of Rs. 5.50 crores to the Government of Kerala for the balance 7th Plan period to accelerate completion of certain projects in drought prone areas. 50% of this amount is in the form of drought relief assistance and the balance 50% as net additionality.

Comprehensive Water Resources Development Plan for Kerala

2774. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total river water available at present in Kerala;

(b) how much it goes waste by flowing into the sea;

(b) whether any comprehensive water resources development plan for Kerala is under the consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). The annual yield of rivers in Kerala is assessed at about 70 thousand million cubic metres of which about 42.8 thousand million cubic metres is utilisable. About a half of the utilisable resource is yet to be harnessed.

(c) and (d). Irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by State Governments.

Irrigation Target

2775. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the irrigation targets fixed during the last three Five-Year Plans have been achieved; if so, to what extent;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made to improve the irrigation growth; and

(d) the extent to which the targets have been achieved in desert areas of Rajasthan especially in Rajasthan Canal and Gang Canal areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). There was shortfall in Plan targets owing to, *inter-alia*, rise in costs, problems of land acquisition, thin spreading of resources on large number of projects, inadequate availability of scarce construction material etc.

(c) The efforts include monitoring of projects to take timely remedial action, earmarking of outlays to identified projects, completion of ongoing projects in advanced stage, arranging for supply of scarce construction materials and supplementing the efforts of States with Centrally sponsored programmes.

(d) Regionwise information is not maintained at the Centre.

World Bank Scheme for Tube Wells in Rajasthan

2776. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a World Bank assisted scheme in Rajasthan for installing tube wells;

(b) if so, whether Rajasthan Government have submitted any proposal for external assistance for installation of tube wells to Union Government; and

(c) if so, the response of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of S.B.I. Branches in Uttar Pradesh

2777. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Uttar Pradesh for which licences have been obtained by the State Bank of India for opening its branches indicating the places and number of such branches and the number of branches opened out of them; and

(b) the number of branches proposed to be opened by the State Bank of India in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1988-89 and the number of places in Almora and Pithoragarh where the branches of aforesaid bank are proposed to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, 121 centres have been allotted to State Bank of India (SBI) for opening branches in various districts of Uttar Pradesh. The district-wise details of these centres together with information relating to the progress in opening of bank branches thereat are set out in the statement given below.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has advised the bank to open the branches for which authorisations have been issued in a phased manner during the remaining period of the branch expansion programme *i.e.* upto 31st March, 1990.

SBI has reported that it has a programme of opening 46 branches in Uttar Pradesh during 1988 of which 6 branches have been opened in January 1988. The bank has a programme of opening 5 branches in Almora District and 1 branch in Pithoragarh District during the year of which 1 branch in Almora District has been opened in January, 1988.

Statement

Details of centres allotted to State Bank of India in Uttar Pradesh for opening branches during current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90

Name of District	Name of centre	Date of opening the branch	
1	2	3	
Agra	1. Kolarkalan	—	
Aligarh	2. Godha	—	
Allahabad	3. Chhivaiya	—	
	4. Bashahi	—	
	5. Bhainpur	—	
	6. Champhuwa	—	
	7. Tewa	—	
	8. Muhabbatpur Paisa	—	
	9. Balakmau	—	
	10. Utran	—	
	Almora	11. Bashahara	—
		12. Etawakala	—
13. Dhauladevi		—	
14. Chalnichhinan		—	
15. Gagrigoyal		—	
16. Paisia		—	
17. Chiliyanola		—	
Azamgarh	18. Shahayoj	26.11.87	
	19. Gujarpar	—	
Bahraich	20. Machhriyavan	—	
	21. Motipur	—	
	22. Shoriyavan	—	
Ballia	23. Karmanpur	—	
	24. Chogara	—	
	25. Kasaundar	—	
	26. Kharasara	30.11.87	

1	2	3
Barabanki	27. Dharauli	—
	28. Rassagaon	—
Bareilly	29. Bhandsar	—
	30. New Cila Railway Crossing	—
Basti	31. Ahirauli (Pakwa Bazar)	—
	32. Pokharni	—
	33. Bhawaniganj	—
	34. Ojhaganj	—
	55. Badhra	—
	36. Tilora	—
	37. Molnapur	—
	38. Madheva Bazar	—
	39. Agya	—
	40. Madanpur	—
	41. Khunvan Bazar	—
Budaun	42. Kotia Bazar	—
	43. Risauli	—
	44. Nekpur	—
	45. Labhari	—
	46. Sahahagpur	—
Chamoli	47. Chandranagar	—
	48. Maithan	—
	49. Gaurikund	20.10.87
Dehradun	50. Kanwali Road, Dehradun	—
Deoria	51. Sohsamathia	—
Etah	52. Pilkhatra	—
	53. Badhola	—
Etawah	54. Dadora	—
	55. Lahrapur	—
Faizabad	56. Rambaba (Atraura)	—
	57. Dharamaganj	—

1	2	3
Farrukhabad	58. Katesankhara	—
Fatehpur	59. Korakank	—
	60. Amilhipal	—
	61. Industrial Estate, Barwana	—
	62. Garaha	—
Ghaziabad	63. National Capital Region Thermal Power Project, Oonch Amirpur, Dasna	—
Ghaziipur	64. Mishrabazar	—
Gonda	65. Chanddipghat	—
	66. Balpur	—
	67. Sisamau	—
	68. Mugura Bazar	—
	69. Saraikhas	—
	70. Bishunapur	—
	71. Kauapur	27.10.87
	72. Mehali	—
Gorakhpur	73. Kothu Mulandpur	—
	74. Rakahat	—
	75. Malaon	—
	76. Suroj Kund	—
Hamirpur	77. Rupiara	—
	78. Kankota	—
Hardoi	79. Gajha	—
Jampur	80. Jirah	—
	81. Bhatnani	—
Jhansi	82. Bafra Buzurg	—
	83. Dhawakar	—
Kanpur Dehat	84. Shegpur	—
Kanpur Nagar	85. Kanpur	—
	86. India Oil Corporation, Panki	—
	87. Railway Station—New Rly. Stn.	—

1	2	3
	88. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.,	—
Lucknow	89. Bhapahaman	—
	90. Vikramaditya Marg	—
Mathura	91. Darve	—
	92. Kumha	—
Meerut	93. G. Block, Shashtri Nagar	—
	94. Jail Road	—
Mainpuri	95. Muhabbatpur	—
Mirzapur	96. Mahuarfkala	—
Moradabad	97. Ratanpurkalan	—
Nainital	98. Similkha	—
	99. Patrampur	21.11.87
	100. Sisaiya	10.11.87
Pauri Garhwal	101. Dudharkhal	—
Pilibhit	102. Pipria Agru	—
Pittoragarh	103. Bansbagad	—
	104. Jakhpura	—
Pratapgarh	105. Rajapur	28.11.87
	106. Nanauthi	—
Rae Bareilly	107. Fahremau	—
	108. Mau	15.12.87
Saharanpur	109. Nalsewaganj	—
	110. Gadgajpur	—
	111. Ghateda	—
Sitapur	112. Sujawalpur	—
	113. Sanda	20.11.87
Sultanpur	114. Sajampur	—
	115. Indo Gulf Fertilisers Chemical Corporation Ltd., Jangdibpur	—

1	2	3
	116. Nandmahar	—
Tehri Garhwal	117. Paurikhal	—
	118. Silkakhal	—
Unnao	119. Parenda	—
	120. Beltha	—
Varanasi	121. Shri Kashi-Vishwanath Temple	—

Opening of Regional Office of State Bank of India in Almora in Uttar Pradesh

2778. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed Regional Office of the State Bank of India has been opened in Almora in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which this Regional Office is likely to be opened there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). State Bank of India has reported that necessary licence for opening of a Regional Manager's Office at Almora has been received from Reserve Bank of India only recently. The office will become operative on completion of the requisite formalities.

Transfer of Accounts and Entitlement Functions of States to State Governments

2779. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Accounts and Entitlement functions in relation to the States from the Offices of the Accountants General (A and E) under I.A. and A.D. are being handed over to the State Governments at once or gradually by the issue of several orders;

(b) if so, whether the accounts functions are being handed over alongwith the

staff to be absorbed permanently in the States; and

(c) if not, whether the interests and promotional avenues of the staff are being protected if they are rendered surplus due to handing over the functions without staff to the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c). Requests for transfer of any accounting or entitlement functions are considered as and when specific proposals from the concerned State Governments are received. Detailed schemes drawn up by them covering all aspects along with staff implications, including the scope for transfer of staff on absorption or on deputation terms are examined in detail. Wherever necessary, prior approval of the President is also obtained before the work is handed over, in accordance with an agreed time frame. Some States have taken over, fully or partly, the entitlement work. So far not transfer of entire accounting function has taken place.

Problems of Jems and Jewellery Exporters

2780. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exporters of jems and jewellery are facing some problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof and particularly the problems of jems and jewellery exporters of Jaipur; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of jems and jewellery in last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). Government has been constantly interacting with trade including at Jaipur for increasing the export turnover of gems and jewellery. Some of the issues raised by the trade in this sector at Jaipur include relaxation in procedures for exports followed by Reserve Bank of India, levy of octroi on import and re-import of precious and semi-precious stones, etc.

(c) The gems and jewellery export policies have been constantly modified for a pragmatic framework for the entrepreneurs to secure larger share of the world market including facilities for manufacture of jewellery in export processing zones and in special export oriented complexes with liberal fiscal and trade regime, besides the facilities of advance licence for carat gold and gold findings for export production, provision of gold manufacturing loss, etc.

Exports in Electronic Sector

2781. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has identified a number of products in the electronic sector to boost their exports;

(b) if so, the names of these items;

(c) the value of these items expected to be exported by the end of 1989-90; and

(d) the steps taken to increase their export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The items include consumer electronic equipment, electronic components, picture tubes, communication systems and devices, materials, plates and sub-strates, Oscilloscopes, computer peripherals, hardware and software, semiconductor devices, power supply systems, etc.

(c) Export worth Rs. 1000 crores in the aggregate of electronic products are visualised by the end of 7th plan.

(d) Besides identifying and licensing capacities of manufacture for the various items having export potential and providing input support, an Export Promotion Council for Electronics and Computer Software has been set up. Efforts have also taken to step up export production in the Electronics Export Processing Zone at Santa Cruz, Bombay and in the other Export Processing Zones. Import Replenishment Licences, Cash Compensatory Support and Duty Drawback are granted to encourage the export of specific item. Other steps taken include identification of target markets, participation in buyer-seller meets, seminars; fairs etc. The Trade Fair Authority of India is organising an international exhibition "Electronics India '88" between 6-11 Sept., 1988 to project India's electronics capabilities.

Proposal for Upgrading Powerlooms

2782. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems of powerloom sector;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to upgrade powerlooms during the year 1988-89;

(c) if so, the funds earmarked therefor; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Government are aware that the profitability of weaving operations in recent months has been affected because of rise in prices of cotton yarn and poor off-take of cloth due to erosion of purchasing power in rural and urban areas.

(b) to (d). Modernisation of powerlooms is considered desirable as a means of raising productivity and technological upgradation. Government have not fixed any specific outlay for modernisation of powerlooms. IDBI provides refinance for term loans given for modernisation of powerloom units, subject to stipulated conditions.

Hike in Nickel Prices

2783. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of nickel have been increased recently;

(b) if so, the circumstances which led to such increase;

(c) the reasons of the frequent increase in the prices of nickel;

(d) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has studied the implication of the nickel price rise on the trade and Industry; and

(e) the steps taken to make nickel available for trade and industry at reasonable prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). MMTC's selling prices of nickel have been raised in recent months due to steep rise in international prices and tight supply position. Despite recent increases in the prices of nickel, lifting from MMTC has not been adversely affected. MMTC has taken timely steps to cover the bulk of its requirements of nickel through spot and long-term purchases at competitive prices.

Loans to Educated Unemployed Youth by State Bank of Indore

2784. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans given by the State Bank of Indore to the educated unemployed youth so far since the announcement of the scheme in each state;

(b) the number of educated unemployed youth benefited in each State by these loans; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes separately, among them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The State Bank of Indore has informed that under the Scheme for providing Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), it had given loans to 6546 beneficiaries till the end of December, 1987. The State-wise break-up and amount of loan given is set out below :

(Rs. in lakhs)		
State	Number of beneficiaries	Amount of loan given
Gujarat	30	6
Madhya Pradesh	6372	973
Maharashtra	55	11
Rajasthan	51	8
Uttar Pradesh	38	7

(c) The bank has reported that under SEEUY it has given loan to 502 Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries in Madhya Pradesh and 14 Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh.

Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

2785. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the major and medium irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh Government are now come up for active consideration for clearance by Government;

(b) whether the "Telugu Ganga", Jurala, Srisailem Left Bank Canal, Polavaram, Eleru and Vamsadhara reservoir projects have since been cleared;

(c) if not, whether the environmental and other aspects were fully met by the Andhra Pradesh Government in respect of the above projects; and

(d) if so, the time by which these will be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(d) Does not arise.

Losses Suffered by Regional Rural Banks

2786. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the regional rural banks numbering about 140 in the country have accumulated losses of about rupees ninety crores so far;

(b) the reasons for such losses;

(c) the steps being taken to prevent the losses; and

(d) the gross credit offered by these banks during the period in which such losses were incurred ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) 156 Regional Rural Banks out of 194 such banks in position on 31-12-1986 had accumulated losses amounting to Rs. 94.31 crores.

(b) The main reasons for such losses are (i) rapid branch expansion by these banks; (ii) low business potential due to locational disadvantages of the centres served by these banks and limited clientele consisting of persons with an annual income upto Rs. 6500 only; (iii) increase in establishment costs due to upward revision in pay and allowances etc.

(c) Pursuant to the recommendations made by the Working Group on RRBs, a number of steps have been taken for improving the performance of these banks and reducing their losses. These include (i) release of additional share capital to RRBs with satisfactory track record; (ii) enlarging the scope of their lending by allowing them to lend to public bodies/Village Panchayats etc. (iii) lowering of interest rate on refinance provided to these banks by their sponsoring banks; and (iv) investment of their SLR funds directly in Government securities with a view to obtaining better return. The sponsoring Banks have also been asked to play a more active role in fund management, staff training and internal audit of RRBs.

(d) The total outstanding advances of these 156 Regional Rural Banks went up from Rs. 961 crores to Rs. 1218 crores during the year 1986.

Acute Shortage of Water

2787. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of water in the country since 1987;

(b) if so, how many States were under acute shortage of water;

(c) the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether the water shortage has greatly affected the agricultural production; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (d). Several States experienced water shortage owing to drought conditions caused by deficit or scanty rainfall and the level of agricultural production was also affected.

(e) The steps include drawing up of plans for judicious use of available water resources, maximising ground water utilisation, and provision of additional outlays for identified irrigation projects in drought-affected areas for their accelerated completion.

Trade with China

2788. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the trade turnover between India and China during last three years; and

(b) whether there are any prospects of increasing trade with China ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) As per DGCI and S, Calcutta figures, trade turnover between India and China during the last three years is given below :

	(Rs. in crores)
1984-85	72.88
1985-86	171.16
1986-87	187.67

(b) Yes, Sir.

Promotion to SC/ST Candidates in MMTC and Strength of Managers

2789. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SC/ST candidates in the MMTC with qualifying service of three years as per MMTC (Officers) Recruitment Rules, 1975 are not being promoted despite backlog;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the cadre-wise, region-wise sanctioned strength of managers as on 1.1.1986, 1.1.1987 and 1.1.1988;

(d) the cadre-wise details of vacancies caused and created during the above period; and

(e) how many of these vacancies were filled by promotion and direct recruitment ?

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

DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b). M.M.T.C. (Officers) Recruitment Rules 1975 as amended by MMTC (Officers) Promotion and Transfer Policy, 1985 provide for promotions upto the level of Divisional Managers on completion of the prescribed qualifying period in each grade and being found fit by Departmental Promotion Committee, irrespective of availability of vacancies. As such the question of backlog for promotion upto the level of Divisional Managers does not arise.

(c) Statement-I showing the sanctioned strength and working strength in respect of posts of the level of General Managers and Sr./Group General Managers as on 1.1.1986, 1.1.1987 and 1.1.1988 is given below.

Another statement-II giving the working strength as on 1.1.1986, 1.1.1987 and 1.1.1988 in respect of managers of level of Divisional Managers and below is also given below.

(d) and (e). Statement-III giving details of posts created and recruitments made during the period from 1.1.86 to 31.3.87 is given below. During the period under review, 5 Divisional Managers were promoted as General Managers and 1 General Manager was promoted as Sr. General Manager.

Statement-I

Sanctioned Strength and Working Strength of Sr. General Managers and General Managers

Region	Group General Managers/ Sr. General Managers						General Managers					
	1.1.86		1.1.87		1.1.88		1.1.86		1.1.87		1.1.88	
	SS	WS	SS	WS	SS	WS	SS	WS	SS	WS	SS	WS
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D.R.O.**	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Vizag	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bombay	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	2	1	2	2
Madras	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Calcutta	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bellary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Barbil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuttack	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Corporate Office	9	8	9	6	9	6	14	11	17	12	17	14*
Total :	9	9	12	8	12	10	20	18	23	20	23	21

* Including 2 at foreign offices (on proforma promotion)

SS=Sanctioned Strength

WS=Working Strength

**=Delhi Regional Office.

Statement-II

Working Strength of Managers below the rank of General Managers

Region	Divisional Managers			Jt. Divisional Managers			Dy. Divisional Managers			Assistant Divisional Managers		
	1 Jan. 1986	1 Jan. 1987	1 Jan. 1988	1 Jan. 1986	1 Jan. 1987	1 Jan. 1988	1 Jan. 1986	1 Jan. 1987	1 Jan. 1988	1 Jan. 1986	1 Jan. 1987	1 Jan. 1988
Corporate office	23	26	31	42	44	52	59	52	61	123	144	166
Bombay	5	3	3	10	15	10	22	23	22	46	62	63
Goa	1	—	1	1	2	2	5	7	8	13	17	20
Bellary	—	—	1	3	3	3	10	12	12	12	18	18
Madras	7	6	4	10	7	8	29	35	39	91	38	111
Vizag	1	1	2	5	5	5	20	20	17	39	39	45
Cuttack	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	6	6	13	16	15
Nalda	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	4	5	7	9	14
Calcutta	2	2	2	9	9	10	19	19	23	69	95	95
D.O.R.**	1	2	3	6	5	2	14	17	23	21	32	32
Foreign Offices	2	2	4	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Total :	43	43	52	91	93	96	186	196	217	425	528	579
Total Managerial strength as on												
			1.1.1986	745								
			1.1.1987	860								
			1.1.1988	942								

** Delhi Regional office.

Statement-III*Posts Created from 1-1-1986 to 31.3.1987*

S. Designation No.	Post created	Recruitment made
1. Sr. G.M.	3	—
2. G.M.	3	—
3. D.M.	2	3
4. J.D.M. and equivalent	3	6
5. D.D.M.	—	1
6. A.D.M. and equivalent	7	48
Total :	18	58

Raids on the Houses of Chandraswami in Delhi

2790. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the House where Chandraswami lives in Delhi as also those of his followers were raided recently;

(b) if so, whether many incriminating documents were found;

(c) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Various documents indicating tax evasion have been seized during the course of searches conducted on 23.2.1988. These documents, *inter alia*, indicate acquisition of immovable property and other valuable assets. Besides, prima facie unaccounted assets of the value of about Rs. 151.44 lakhs have also been seized from his associates.

(d) Appropriate action such as assessment, penalties and prosecution as per the Direct Taxes Acts and for violation of FERA is taken.

Violation of Legal Provisions by Investment and Leasing Companies

2791. SHRI H.M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of investment and leasing companies violating all the legal provisions and investing their money in other speculative business instead of in Government securities;

(b) if so, the number of such violations by these companies during the year 1987-88; and

(c) the particulars of companies which violated the legal provisions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). In terms of the Non-Banking Financial Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions, 1977, as amended from time to time issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), an "Investment Company" means any company which is a financial institution carrying on as its principal business, the acquisition of securities. An "Equipment Leasing Company" is defined as a Company which is a financial institution carrying on as its principal business, the activities of leasing of equipment or the financing of such activity. RBI has reported that, while the acceptance of deposits by the Investment and Equipment Leasing Companies is regulated by the RBI in terms of the provisions of these directions, only the "Equipment Leasing Companies" are required to keep a minimum of 10% of their deposits either in an account with a scheduled bank or in approved securities. In so far as the Investment Companies such as Peerless General Finance and Investment

Company Ltd. etc. conducting benefit/savings schemes are concerned, such companies are classified by RBI as "Residuary Non-Banking Companies". In terms of the Residuary Non-Banking Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions, 1987, issued by the RBI in May, 1987, a residuary non-banking company is required to invest (i) in fixed deposits with public sector banks (ii) in approved securities and (iii) in other safe investments in the ratio of 100 : 7 : 20.

In terms of the directions issued by the RBI, all non-banking financial companies and residuary non-banking companies are required to submit their statutory returns for the year 1987-88, relating to deposits held by them as on 31st March, 1988, by the 30th June, 1988. In view of this, the question whether any Investment and Equipment Leasing Company has violated the provisions of RBI directions during the year 1987-88 can be determined only on receipt of statutory returns from these companies, which are not yet due.

Diversion of Funds

2792. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the funds allocated by Union Government to State Governments towards floods and drought relief have been diverted for other purposes by state Governments;

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

(c) the action taken by Union Governments against the State Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c). The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has given a Report on Central Assistance for relief of distress caused by drought and flood relating to the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86, which has been placed before the Parliament. The Report has pointed out certain irregularities in the utilisation of Central assistance for drought

and flood relief by different States. Central monitoring teams have also been sent to Kerala, U.P. and Andhra Pradesh in 1987 for monitoring the utilisation of Central assistance approved in the wake of drought and floods. These teams have also identified certain acts of omission and commission in the utilisation of Central assistance by State Governments. Corrective measures have been initiated on the basis of the above Report.

Seizure of Telescopic Gun

2793. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 8 January, 1988 wherein it has been stated that Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized telescopic gun and gold;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). On 6th January, 1988, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence effected a seizure of 520 foreign marked gold bars worth Rs. 2.12 crores. During the search of the residential premises of the main persons involved, one Savage super sporter rifle with telescopic sight, one Winchester Defender rifle, one Webley Scot revolver of 32 bore and 105 rounds of different bores were recovered and seized under the Customs Act, 1962. 4 persons were arrested. Three out of the four persons have been detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

Underground 'Saraswati' River in Rajasthan

2794. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI ;

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past the 'Saraswati' river used to flow in the desert areas of Rajasthan specially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have tried to discover it; and

(c) if so, details of the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). The presence of the ancient channels of river Saraswati in desert areas of Rajasthan particularly in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts remains to be confirmed. Interpretation of temporal coverage of satellite imageries and field geophysical surveys are planned to be undertaken in this regard.

Promotion of SC/ST Candidates in MMTC

2795. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the region-wise cadre-wise particulars of promotions of general candidates and SCs/STs in the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporations of India Ltd. (MMTC) during 1985 and 1986;

(b) the region-wise and cadre-wise particulars of direct requirement of general candidates and SCs/STs during the same period;

(c) the backlog position in all cadres against direct recruitment and promotion; and

(d) the details of SC/ST posts that were allowed to lapse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a). The region-wise cadre-wise particulars of promotions of General and SC/ST candidates in the managerial cadres of MMTC effected during calendar years 1985 and 1986 are given in statement-I below. In the case of staff cadres in the corporate office, the particulars are given in statement-II below. Informations in staff cadres in the Regional Offices of MMTC is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

(b) The region-wise/cadre-wise particulars of direct recruitment of general and SC/ST candidates during the calendar years 1985 and 1986 is given in statement-III below.

(c) Backlog position in regard to direct recruitment is given in statement-IV below. In terms of the promotion policies for staff and Managers introduced in 1985, there is no question of backlog in case of promotion.

(d) Details of SC/ST posts allowed to lapse in 1985 and 1986 in case of recruitment are given in statement-V below. The question of posts lapsing in case of promotion does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

Statement-I

Details Promotions of Managers effected in the years 1985 and 1986

Cadre	C.O.		D.R.C.		Bellary		Bombay		Calcutta		Cuttack		Goa		Madras		Barbil		Vizag		Total	
	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86		
From To	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	85	86	86	
DM/FO : ADM/AAM	16	20	2	11	2	4	4	4	4	5	29	4	1	1	6	16	18	—	3	8	11	—58** 117
ADM/AAM : DDM/ DAM	21	9	4	2	4	—	5	2	2	2	2	1	1	—	4	9	11	1	—	8	2	—55* 33X
DDM/DAM : JDM/ FAM	5	6	1	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—16 9
JDM/FAM : DM/ CFM	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—4 6
DM/CFM : GM	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—5
GM : SR : GM	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—1
Total :	44	45	7	13	6	4	11	19	9	31	5	2	1	11	31	30	1	3	18	13	—133 171	

*Includes 7 SC and 1 ST

X Includes 2 SC

**Includes 3 SC and 2 ST

Statement-II

Details of promotions made in Staff Cadre during 1985 and 1986 by the Corporate Office

Cadre		1985				1986				Grand Total
From	To	Gen.	SC.	ST.	Total	Gen.	SC	ST.	Total	
GR. I	Jr. Asstt.	3	5	—	8	3	3	—	6	14
Jr. Asstt.	Asstt./TLX Operator	38	5	—	44	12	2	—	14	58
Asstt.	Jr. OM	48	—	—	48	14	—	—	14	62
Steno	Jr. OM	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Steno	OM (PS)	17	2	2	21	—	—	—	—	21
Asstt.	OM	11	2	—	13	—	—	—	—	13
Jr. OM	OM	4	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	5
		124	15	2	141	30	5	—	35	176

Statement-III

Recruitments made during the years 1985 and 86

Region	Grade-I (Peons, Watchmen and equivalent in the scale of Rs. 515-730)		Grade-II (Jr. Asstt. Steno-Typists and equivalent in the scale of Rs. 640-910)		Grade-III (Asstt. Stenographers, Inspectors and equivalent in the scale of Rs. 700-1270)		Grade-IV (Office Managers, Field Officers and equivalent in the scale of Rs. 1000-1695)	
	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986	1985	1986
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>DRO*</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General	—	—	3	4	—	1	—	—
Total :	—	—	3	4	—	1	—	—
<i>Vizag</i>								
SC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Total :	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Bombay</i>								
SC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General	2	1	6	5	—	—	—	—
Total :	2	1	6	5	—	—	—	—
* Delhi provional office.								
<i>Madras</i>								
SC	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General	3	1	3	2	—	1	—	—
Total :	4	1	3	2	—	1	—	—
<i>Goa</i>								
SC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General	—	—	4	4	1	—	—	—
Total :	—	—	4	4	1	—	—	—
<i>Calcutta</i>								
SC	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General	4	3	4	1	—	—	—	—
Total :	5	3	4	1	—	—	—	—
<i>Bellary</i>								
SC	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General	1	—	7	—	—	3	—	—
Total :	1	—	7	1	—	4	—	—
<i>Barbil</i>								
SC	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ST	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
General	—	—	8	5	—	—	—	—
Total :	—	—	17	5	—	—	—	—
<i>Cuttack</i>								
BC	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
ST	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General	2	1	—	3	1	—	—	—
Total :	5	1	—	4	1	—	—	—
<i>Corporate Office</i>								
SC	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—
ST	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
General	2	4	43	50	7	2	1	2
Total :	2	5	43	68	7	2	1	2

Number of Managers Recruited during the years 1985 and 1986

Cadre	1985				1986			
	SC	ST	Gen.	Total	SC	ST	Gen.	Total
General Manager	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Divisional Manager	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2
Joint Divisional Manager	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	6
Deputy Divisional Manager	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	1
Assistant Divisional Manager	3	1	31	35	3	—	30	33
Total	3	1	36	40	3	—	39	42

Note : Recruitment of all the Managers is made by the Corporate Office Irrespective of their postings to any of the Regional Offices.

Statement-IV*Backlog in Managerial Cadres against Direct Recruitment*

Category of Post	1985		1986	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
1	2	3	4	5
General Manager	1	—	1	—
Divisional Manager	—	1	1	1

1	2	3	4	5
Chief Internal Auditor	—	—	—	—
Jt. Divisional Manager	1	—	2	—
Dy. Divisional Manager	1	—	1	—
Dy. Accounts Manager	—	—	—	—
Assistant Divisional Manager	2	2	2	4
Asstt. Accounts Manager	2	2	4	2
Total :	7	5	11	7

Backlog in Staff Cadres against Direct Recruitment

Group	1985		1986	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
<i>Group II</i>				
(Office Managers/FOs equivalent)	1	1	1	1
<i>Group III</i>				
(Asstts./Drivers/Jr. Asstts.) Inspectors/Supervisors and equivalent)	34	22	26	27
<i>Group IV</i>				
(Peons/Watchman/ equivalent)	1	2	1	2

Statement-V

Details of SC/ST Posts Lapsed in Direct Recruitment

Category of post	1985		1986	
	SC	ST	SC	ST
Managers (all Grades)	—	—	—	—
<i>Group III</i>				
(Assistants, Stenographers, Jr. Assistants, Supervisors and equivalent)	4	3	2	3
<i>Group IV</i>				
(Peons, Watchman, etc. and equivalent)	—	1	—	—
<i>Grade II</i>				
(Office Managers/Office Manager (Accounts) and equivalent)	—	1	—	—

Auto Exports

2796. **SHRI NARSING SURYA-WANSHI** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has submitted a paper on 'Export Strategy for Commercial Vehicles to Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b). The main constraints highlighted in the paper related to limited range of production, high cost, of inputs including finance, payment problems in some countries and commission, import and other problems. In this context, it may be mentioned that Commercial vehicles has been identified as a thrust item for exports. A number of measures have already been taken to assist exporters including commercial vehicles exporters. These measures *inter alia* including upgradation of technology and productivity, a new regime of CCS to compensate for the cascading effect of domestic taxation, access to raw materials and consumables at international competitive prices, support from Export Marketing Fund on priority basis for marketing activities abroad, reduction in the interest rates of pre and post shipment credit, provision of suppliers credit, introduction of new blanket exchange permit scheme facilitating export promotion activities and liberalisation of the rates of agency commission payable abroad.

Stopping of Non-Plan Budgetary Support To Public Sector

2797. **VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have stopped non-plan budgetary support to public sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the outlay for the public sector during 1988-89 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Escalation in Wholesale Price Index

2798. **SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK** :

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied the inflation rate approaching double digit as measured by the consumer price Index for industrial workers in November, 1987 which stood at 9.8 per cent against 9.1 per cent in the corresponding period of 1986;

(b) whether general index of wholesale prices recorded an increase of 1.2 per cent between December, 1986 and July, 1987 as against a stable position in the corresponding period;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to control it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The All India Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (base 1960=100) recorded an annual rate of increase of 9.1 per cent in November, 1987 as against 9.8 per cent in November, 1986;

(b) The Wholesale Price Index for all commodities (base 1970-71=100) recorded a rise of 6.0 per cent between December, 1986 and July, 1987 as against a rise of 6.1 per cent during the period in the previous year.

(c) and (d). The specific measures taken by the Government to keep the price rise under check include enhanced distribution of foodgrains through Public Distribution System (PDS) strengthening the PDS with the opening of additional outlets; import of essential commodities like pulses, edible oils and sugar; strict economy in government expenditure; mopping up of excess liquidity in the economy by raising Cash Reserve Ratio and Statutory Liquidity Ratio; imposition of selective credit controls and intensive action against hoarders and profiteers.

**Graduated Schedule of Interest Rates
for Electronic Units**

2799. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to have a graduated schedule of interest rates for electronic units based on their exports;

(b) if so, whether the units in the export processing zones proposed to be allowed to maintain foreign exchange accounts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Export-Import Bant of India has reported that they charge rate of interest at 11.2% per annum on rupee term loans to computer software exports units exporting not less than 25% of their annual turn over and 14.0% per annum if the exports account for less than 25% of annual turn over. On rupee term loans under Agency Credit Line to small and medium enterprises exporting not less than 25% of their annual-sales. rate of interest at 11.2% per annum as against 12.5% per annum for other such eligible units is charged by the Exim Bank. IDBI has reported that it is offering rebate in the payment of Interest under the Export incentive Scheme which covers the electronic units also. The rebate is to the extent of 20% of the interest paid

during the years the export sales reach or exceed 25% of total sales. However, the floor rate of interest is 10.0% p.a.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

**RE : BOMBAY HIGH COURT'S
STRICTURES AGAINST SHRI
JAGDISH TYTLER, ETC.**

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we have given an adjournment motion. Mr. Jagdish Tytler should resign, in view of the court stricture. The Bombay High Court has passed strictures against him. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. All of you please sit down.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please don't record. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Take your seats.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow. I cannot allow.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please. Order.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The High Court has issued a stricture against Mr. Jagdish Tytler . . .

The Prime Minister, while intervening in the No-confidence Motion has said—you

may remember it—that when any court has issued any stricture against any Minister, Congress (I) Minister, immediately he was made to resign.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Listen to me . . .

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Here also, the Bombay High Court has issued a very serious stricture against Mr. Jagdish Tytler. So, he must resign. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Take your seats. I will tell you. Mr. Acharia, take your seat; I will tell you. Regarding Mr. Tytler . . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, before you give the ruling...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you want to discuss about the conduct of a Minister, you give a substantive Motion. (*Interruptions*) One minute listen to me. (*Interruptions*) No; listen to me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : The court has already passed the strictures . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. There also, the news has come in the papers. We have not received a copy of that. After receiving it, we will see . . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will give a precedent. I would like to give you a precedent in support of what he has said. Let me argue out a precedent . . . (*Interruptions*). I want to tell you that there are a number of occasions where either Commissions' reports have passed strictures, or High Courts have passed strictures, or the Supreme Courts has passed strictures. Today only, strangely enough, based on the strictures passed in the Lentin Commission's report, Mr. Bhai Sawant who was also a candidate against me, incidentally, has resigned. In the past, several times this has happened. In the case of Mr. Antulay, the moment the decision came—and again Lentin was the Judge—he had to resign. In this similar case, when the Prime Minister was returning, his plane was diverted. Air India directed the Deputy General Manager to go on an indefinite leave. The

High Court passed strictures against the Civil Aviation Ministry . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. I can not allow.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Listen to me, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have listened.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Therefore, Air India has been directed to end their directive and see that the Deputy General Manager is allowed to come back. He was asked to go on leave. So, when such a stricture is passed, in that case, the Minister concerned has to resign. Today only Mr. Bhai Sawant from Maharashtra has resigned. Antulay had resigned, and Mr. Tytler also should resign. There is no other way open. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : I am only pointing this out—of course, you can decide the procedure as to how we are going to discuss the matter—but you have seen that the Bombay High Court has held that absolutely baseless charges were brought against that officer by the Civil Aviation Ministry. They were founded to be absolutely baseless. That is why he has passed these strictures. It is a matter involving the security of the Prime Minister also. That question of what went wrong with that plane when it was flying down from Prague to Moscow, on that basis, charges were brought against Mr. Kapoor which the court held were absolutely baseless charges; and that is a stricture made specifically against the Minister. So, you please consider it. It is a serious matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have listened to you. You also listen to me. Already you have mentioned what you want me to consider it. I want to tell you. . .

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You have not given your ruling.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Bhai Sawant, a Minister of Maharashtra

has resigned today only because of the Lentin Commission's Report. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We want to know whether he is reacting at all to that judgment against him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First of all, as you are telling, a news has come in the newspaper regarding that. But we have not received anything from the High Court regarding that. I am telling you that after receiving that we will see. Not now.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have got a copy of the strictures. Shall I lay it on the Table ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIYA : They have got a copy of the judgement with them. You can have it from them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have got it. I will lay it on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow it like that.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not giving permission for the adjournment motion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What is your ruling ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not given my consent for the adjournment motion, because if you want to discuss about the conduct of a Minister, you should give a substantive motion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have given a notice under Rule 193 and also an adjournment motion. I have given you a wide choice to decide. You decide what you want.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Regarding that, I will refer the matter to the concerned Minister and I will get the facts.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Today there is a precedent because of the

Lentin Commission's Report Bhai Sawant has resigned. Mr. Antulay has resigned. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Professor Sahib, notice under Rule 193 cannot be taken into consideration in place of a substantive motion. If you want to discuss about the conduct of a Minister, you can give a substantive motion.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Regarding adjournment motion, I have already given my ruling. There is no point in discussing the same matter.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Amal Datta, Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary and some others have given adjournment motions. I have already given my ruling. Therefore, I cannot allow once again this matter to be raised.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What is your ruling regarding this ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told you, if you want to discuss about the conduct of a Minister you have to give a substantive motion.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We do not want to discuss his conduct. The Judge has already passed strictures against him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Regarding the High Court judgment which you are referring to, I have not yet received anything officially. After getting that authenticated information, we will see. Before that we cannot discuss this matter. Not allowed.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Have they sent for that judgement ? The judgment will not come automatically.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will try to get it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have got a copy of that. I can lay it on the Table. (Interruptions) For the same reasons, Mr. Krishnamachari had to go; Mr. Antulay had to go; Mr. Bhai Sawant had to go. Now Mr. Tytler has to go. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Cobichetti-palayam) : I have given a notice of privilege against the hon. member, Shri Thangaraju.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will see.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We have given an adjournment motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not admitted it; I have disallowed it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We have given you precedents.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What is your ruling ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you give me a substantive motion, I will consider it.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We have given an adjournment motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Adjournment motion is disallowed.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What other substantive motion do you want ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have given a notice for discussion under Rule 193. Please admit that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Papers laid to be on the Table. Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : First you dispose of this, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told you. If you give me a substantive motion I will consider it. That is all.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We have already given it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling.

(Interruptions)

12.11 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report of and Review on Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin, for 1986-87 and of Spices Board, Cochin, for 1986-87

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin, for the year 1986-87.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5673/88.]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1986-87.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working

of the Spices Board Cochin, for the year 1986-87.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5674/88.]

Annual Report and Annual Accounts of Narmada Control Authority, New Delhi for 1986-87

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5675/88.]

Annual Report of and Reviews on the Working of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts New Delhi, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi for the year 1986-87.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5676/88.]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Bombay, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion

Council, Bombay, for the year 1986-87.

- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5677/88]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madras for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Madras, for the year 1986-87.

- (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-5678/88.]

- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts, which were laid on the Table on 26th February, 1988, of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1986-87.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5679/88.]

- (7) A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1986-87 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5680/88.]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, for the years 1982-83 and 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, for the years 1982-83 and 1983-84.

(9) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5681/88.]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, for the year 1984-85 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, for year 1984-85.

(11) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5682/88.]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Carpet Export Promotion Council, for the year 1985-86 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Carpet Export Promotion Council for the year 1985-86.

(13) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5683/88.]

Notification under Life Insurance Corporation Act and Consolidated Report on Regional Rural Banks for the year ending 31.12.1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India Managing Directors (Revision of Certain Terms and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 65 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 1988, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5684/88.]

(2) A copy of the Consolidated Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st December, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5685/88.]

Annual Report of and Review on Betwa River Board, Jhansi for the year 1986-87 and statement re : delay in Laying these Papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding (a) Review by the Government on the working of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi for the year 1986-87 and (b) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5686/88.]

Notifications under Imports and Exports (Control) Act, Annual Report of and Review on Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta for 1985-87, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 :

- (i) The Export (Control) Sixteenth Amendment Order 1987 published in Notification No. S.O. 1084 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th December 1987.
- (ii) The Export (Control) First Amendment Order, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 54 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14 January, 1988.
- (iii) The Exports (Control) Second Amendment Order 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 123 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 1988.
- (vi) The Exports (Control) Third Amendment Order, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 141 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 1988.
- (v) The Exports (Control) Fourth Amendment Order, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 150 (E) in Gazette of

India dated the 10th February, 1988.

- (vi) S.O. 1085 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th December, 1987 making certain amendments in the open General Licence No. 16/87 dated the 1st April, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5687/88.]

- (vii) S.O. 1100 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December 1987 making certain amendments in the open General Licence No. 1/87 dated the 1st April, 1987.

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta for the year 1986-87.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta for the year 1986-87 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1986-87.
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5688/88.]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Bombay, for the year 1986-87 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the

Government on the working of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Bombay, for the year 1986-87.

- (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-5689/88.]

12.12 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1987-88

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General, for 1987-88.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1987-88

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1987-88.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1985-86

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants

in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1985-86.

12.13 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th March, 1988 "
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1988 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 1988."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Delhi Administration (Amendment) Bill, 1988, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th March, 1988."

BILLS, AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir I lay on the Table the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha :

- (1) The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 1988
- (2) The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1988

(3) The Delhi Administration (Amendment) Bill, 1988.

(b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Punjab) for 1987-88

12.14 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 14th March, 1988, will consist of :

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Submission to the vote of the House of Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1988-89.
- (3) Discussion and voting on :
 - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1987-88.
 - (b) Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1988-89.
 - (c) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1987-88.
 - (d) Demand for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1985-86.
- (4) Consideration of a Resolution regarding recommendation of the Railway Convention Committee.
- (5) Consideration and passing of the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 1988.
- (6) General Discussion on the Punjab Budget for 1988-89.
- (7) Discussion and voting of :
 - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (Punjab) for 1988-89.

As members are already aware the Punjab Budget for 1988-89 would be presented on Wednesday, the 16th March, 1988 and the Tamil Nadu Budget on Thursday the 17th March, 1988.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi) : The following matter may please be included in next week's agenda.

The House should discuss the situation arising out of deaths of hundreds of persons, mostly tribal, in the district of Kalahandi, Phulbani, Koraput, Ganjam in the State of Orissa due to the outbreak of diseases like meningitis, dysentery and other unknown diseases.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : The following subject may please be included in next week's agenda :

The Mavoor Gwalior Rayons factory at Calicut is the largest private undertaking in the State of Kerala which provided employment to more than five thousand workers. The factory has been closed down indefinitely by the management for the last three years. This has led to acute poverty resulting in number of suicides by workers. The Union Government should come forward to take it over and save those workers and thousands of their dependants.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following subject may please be included in the next week's agenda.

After independence, provision had been made in the Constitution of India to use Hindi as official language. The Central Government has been conducting various programmes to promote Hindi and also to teach Hindi in non-Hindi speaking States. A separate Department for official language is already working under Ministry of Home Affairs for this purpose. Many schemes and programmes are organised for expansion of Hindi in different Ministries. However, the progress is not upto the mark. There are five I.I.T's (Indian Institute of Technology) in the country to import higher

technical education. English is the medium for entrance examination as well as medium of instruction. Neither provision has been made for Hindi medium nor answer books are accepted in Hindi. Many students, in spite of higher qualifications in Hindi, can neither appear in entrance examination nor qualify for admission as English is essential. On the one hand, huge sums of money are being spent for promotion and propagation of Hindi by Official Language Committee, while on the other, restrictions on Hindi are really painful.

Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should issue necessary instructions to all the five I.I.Ts. to provide facility to appear in entrance examination with Hindi medium along with English, so that students who have aptitude for Hindi also get an opportunity for admission.

[English]

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam) : The following subject may please be included in next week's agenda.

"The growth of Visakhapatnam has for outstripped the capacity of its transport infrastructure—both the roads and public transport facilities. Visakhapatnam is almost dependent on entirely road-based transport network. Road space is far inadequate with acute congestion and several bottlenecks. The total number of passengers by the city buses in a day comes to 2.41 lakhs, besides 600 regular commuters per day from Yellamanchili, Anakapalle and Vizianagaram and other places.

A Ring Railway Network connecting Visakhapatnam Railway Station, Port and Steel Plant Complex may be undertaken on the existing railway goods sidings through the port area linking to the main line by the side of BHPV Ltd. In view of the upcoming Steel Plant and the proposed Free Trade Zone in the south-west region of Visakhapatnam, future development is expected to take place on the stretch of land available between Gajuwaka and Anakapalle and also Duvvada-Pendurti region. Hence a major mass transit system like Light Rail Transit (LRT) system should be designed and developed to meet the

future demand. The proposed LRT may be constructed linking Anakapalle—Duvvada—Steel Plant—Pedagantyada—Mala puram port—Kacharapalem—Visakhapatnam Pendurti".

[Translation]

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following subject may be included in next week's agenda.

As per directions from the Central Government, no small or big trees of Forest Department, which form part of the Land Revenue Record can be used even in public interest in district Bastar, Madhya Pradesh without the permission of the Central Government. Accordingly no land will be allotted for any work even in public interest and hence no development scheme will be implemented during this period in spite of its provision in the Budget because permission from Central Government will have to be obtained for taking 50 to 100 decimal land for any construction work. By the time permission is obtained, Budget provision will lapse and development work will proceed at snail's space as usual.

The Central Government is, therefore, urged upon to delegate powers to the Commissioner to allot the land required for local construction work so that buildings of primary, middle and senior secondary schools and colleges can be constructed. Besides, play grounds should also be provided. The development and construction work is not progressing fast due to this complicated procedure.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Sir, the following matter may please be included in next week's agenda.

Although the Contract Labour Act was passed by Parliament over a decade and a half ago, the conditions of contract workers have steadily declined. The number of unemployed in the country is rising. Employers are exploiting the situation by using contract labour. About thirty per cent of the labour force in the country works as contract labour.

As per the Act, a Contract Labour Board is appointed as the saviour of the workers. But the history of the functioning of non-judicial administrative bodies shows that they operate outside the pale of law and are answerable to none. The Board has continued to exist year after year, but despite this, contract workers were barred from seeking relief under other laws of the land.

I, therefore, propose to the Government to amend the Contract Labour Act and the Industrial Disputes Act as follows :

- (a) Where the owner of any industry contracts for the execution of any work which is ordinarily a part of the industry, the owner of such industry should be treated as an 'employer' within the meaning of the Industrial Disputes Act.
- (b) Contract labourers and other labourers doing similar work in a particular premises of an industry should be paid equal wages.
- (c) The work of permanent nature, like security, loading and unloading, running canteen, sweeping within the premises of the industry, should be banned for engaging contract labour.

[Translation]

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following issue may be included in next week's agenda.

Ayurveda is an ancient traditional system of medicine in India. Its usefulness is accepted univarsally. This system is definitely more useful for a poor country like India. This is also good to avoid adverse effects caused by allopathy medicines. The Central Government has assured many times to promote Ayurvedic system of medicine but bureaucracy is in favour of allopathy system and therefore these assurances could not be fulfilled. Ayurveda graduate should be given pay scales as per the recommendations of U.G.C. immediately. Ayurveda medicines should be supplied in abundance to the community Health Centres of Rural Department. It would be better to appoint Ayurveda graduates in rural areas as far as possible. Ayurveda

graduates should also be associated in tree plantation programmes and planting of medicated trees at various places should be encouraged.

Ayurveda system of Medicine is an integral part of the Indian Society in its day to day activities. By promoting it, medicines for family planning will be available at low cost and also adverse effects of allopathy will be avoided. Good habits also improve health of general public and pollution will be checked.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR (Mysore) : Sir, the following subject may please be included in the next week's agenda.

The Cement Corporation of India Ltd. which was making profit till a couple of years ago, is now turning into a sick mill. The reasons are not far to seek. The sickness is more because of mismanagement than the recession which has caught the industry lately. Moreover, the Cement Corporation is in the throes of a major crisis due to the past mismanagement, coupled with the recent uncertain market conditions. It is running only because it is a public undertaking.

As such, I request the Minister of Industry to take immediate steps to remove the bottleneck and see that the Cement Corporation of India improve its performance, or necessary measures for the rehabilitation of CCI should be taken forthwith.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Sir, the following matters may please be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Unemployment is the most chronic problem of India. The problem of unemployment is increasing day by day. At present, the number of unemployed educated youth is about two crores. Since 1983, Government's ban on recruitment in different areas has also put considerable hardship on the unemployed youth. Lack of employment opportunities creates a great demoralisation to the youth. As a result, some fissiparous forces are trying

to involve the youth in different activities. Many of these youth are going astray.

2. Three sub-Divisions of Darjeeling district in West Bengal are badly affected due to GNL.F movement. Normal life has been badly effected. So many lives have been lost in this movement. Government should come forward with a specific plan and programmes so that the violence can stop, otherwise the GNL.F movement will create another 'dark history' in our country. So, I request that as a matter of importance, it should be discussed in the next week.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : All over the country and particularly in Eastern U.P and Bihar the handloom weavers numbering 7.5 million are facing an unprecedented economic crisis. This crisis has been precipitated by the sudden sharp rise in the price of cotton and silk yarn by 30 per cent to 50 percent in 1987. This rise has been due to the convergence of a number of factors viz., partial failure of the cotton crop coupled with continued export of cotton, ban on import of raw silk, shortage of supply to spinning mills and paucity of credit for the cooperative and handloom sector. With the rise in the cost of production and the delay in the revision of Government subsidy on Janta cloth, demand has fallen and stocks worth crores of rupees have accumulated. What is worse, lakhs of weavers have become unemployed and even shifted to casual labour.

A multi-pronged effort is needed to rehabilitate the handloom industry; banning export of cotton and cotton yarn, bringing cooperative spinning mills under the Textile Modernisation Fund, supplying yarn at controlled prices through outlets in the concentration areas, marketing handloom products, raising the subsidy on the Janta Cloth to a meaningful level, reservation of production of specific items for the handloom sector, increasing Government purchase of handloom products promoting their export and creating a Central Weavers' Welfare Fund which should *inter-alla* provide for unemployment allowances to registered weavers. Indeed what is needed is a re-appraisal of the

National Text tile Policy which has adversely affected the handloom sector.

It is suggested that during the coming week, the House take up for discussion the crisis in the handloom sector and measures for its relief and rehabilitation.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I will bring to the notice of the Business Advisory Committee all the submissions or observations made by the hon. Members. I would, however, point out to them for their consideration that during this Budget Session a number of Ministries, a number of subjects are coming up for discussion. Of course, I will place them before the Business Advisory Committee, that is my duty. But they can raise these matters during all these discussions when there is scope for it.

12.28 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET, 1988-89—
GENERAL DISCUSSION— *Contd.*

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up item No. 13 on the Agenda— Further General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1988-89.

Shri Ram Singh Yadav may speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demands presented by hon. Minister contained in the Railway Budget for 1988-89. I am optimistic about hopes and aspirations generated in this Budget and I have every hope that services which are available to the country through trains will keep on increasing efficiency will also increase and railways will play their part in the development which is possible through augmenting railway lines and thus we shall achieve our goals.

12.29 hrs

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

[Shri Ram Singh Yadav]

First of all, I want to thank the hon. Minister since he has implemented recommendations of the fourth pay commission in respect of railway employees. They have also been given bonus based on productivity and an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance which has caused the exchequer Rs. 295 crores approximately. There is feeling of satisfaction among railway employees and it has created a spirit of confidence among them that Railways officers, Railway Board and hon. Minister will continue to pay attention to their demands from time to time which will bring improvement and efficiency in their services as well as they will be more punctual.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for Railways for exceeding the targets fixed for the year 1987-88 in the railway budget. A profit of Rs. 101.99 crore has been shown in the current 1988-89. This has been the result of foresightedness of railway employees, railway department and the hon. Minister for Railways. Last year no new levies were imposed in the railway budget nor freight charges and passenger sur-charge were increased. In spite of all this, the financial position of railways has improved. The credit for all this goes to railways. I strongly support the present surplus railway budget presented by the hon. Minister for railways, in spite of the social obligations, flood and drought conditions prevailing in the country and the accumulated loss of Rs. 190.95 crore over the year, and the manner in which he has fulfilled the social obligations is quite praiseworthy.

I also thank the hon. Minister for Railways for formulating for the first time "Long Corporate New plan" for the railways which contains targets and plans for 15 years from 1985 to 2000. The new initiatives and new perceptions contained therein are being praised everywhere. It states that the cost proportion of railways can be reduced by 15%. I hope that Railways will be able to fulfill the promise and meet the targets mentioned in it by 2000 A D. I hope the hon. Minister for Railways will try to maintain the supreme position of railways

in transportation in the country as a cheap means for transporting goods and passenger traffic as compared to other means of transport. The hon. Minister for Railways also deserves congratulations as Railways have set up a new record of transporting 307 million tonnes of goods in the year 1987-88. For the coming year a target of 313 million tonnes has been fixed and for the year 1989-90 the target of 348 million tonnes has been fixed. All of us support the hon. Minister for Railways in this task and hope railways will be able to achieve these targets.

Madam Chairman, the success or failure of any Public or private undertaking depends on the efficiency of its employees and its financial position. On the one hand Railways have set up independent Indian Railway Finance Corporation which has capital investment of Rs. 80 crores and on the other hand have borrowed Rs. 550 crore as loans. I feel that this has provided strong financial base to the railways. The hon. Minister has proved, railways is the only undertaking in the country which undertakes all social obligations, by converting losses into profits, through efficiency and dedication displayed by railway employees and officers during the last few months, Not only this, despite all these social obligations financial position of Railway has all along been improving. It is natural for all of us to take pride over such an undertaking.

In the long term plan the hon. Minister has stated by the year 2000 all Steam Locomotives will be phased out and replaced by Diesel and Electric engines. We believe the efficiency with which the Research and Development Wing has been working and whose work has been praiseworthy, will extend greater cooperation in achieving the targets and fulfilling the promises made by the hon. Minister within the specified time limit.

Now I would like to made a few points about my constituency. The hon. Minister has allocated Rs. 4 crore for constructing Mathura-Alwar railway line in the current budget and last year also a provision of Rs. 2 crore was made for this purpose. But it involves an expenditure of Rs. 4

crore, Sir, since 1983 only Rs. 6 crore have been spent on the line that will go upto Mathura via Alwar-Bharatpur. In the Alwar-Bharatpur zone 90 km. land has been acquired, payment has been made to farmers, pasession of land has been taken from farmers, but construction work has not begun from Alwar. So long the construction work is not started from Alwar, early completion of railway line will not become possible because the estimated cost is Rs. 44 crore and length of the line is 119.75 km. Only negligible work has been done till now. Whereas the quarters of Assistant Engineer and Railway Employees, and Office building have already been constructed at Alwar. Therefore, the hon. Minister is requested to start construction of rail line from Alwar for the sake of its early completion and for the benefit of Alwar and Bharatpur region, especially for Rajasthan which will help in its economic and social development.

In addition to this I would like to state that the estimate of proposed overbridge between 114 and 115 level crossing, which was around 2 crore and 80 lakh might have gone up. In this connection the Government expected from the Government of Rajasthan an assurance in writing that they will pay their own share and the share of local body viz Urban Improvement Trust. Urban Improvement Trust, Alwar has allocated Rs. 23 lakh and 30 thousand from National Capital Region Development Fund in the 1987-88 budget and UIT, Alwar and the Deputy Secretary of Planning Department of Rajasthan Government have written to the Central Government about the payment of Rs. 23 lakh and 30 thousand being their share. The Government of Rajasthan has also accorded their approval in writing for construction of the aforesaid bridge. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister for Railways to make an announcement to the effect that construction of an overbridge between 114 and 115 level crossing has been included in the works programme while giving reply to the debate. In addition to this, the hon. Minister should also announce construction foot over bridge over 115 level crossing.

With these words, I again thank the hon. Minister for Railways for presenting a good budget.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri H. K. L. Bhagat to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING :
(SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : The number
of speakers is very large. Therefore, I
propose we dispense with the Lunch Hour
today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the opinion
of the House that we can dispense with the
Lunch Hour today ? Shall we suspend
the Lunch Hour ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Lunch Hour
is suspended. Shri Srikanta Datta
Narasimharaja Wadiyar will now speak.

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASI-
MHARAJA WADIYAR (Mysore) : Madam
Chairman, I rise to support the Railway
Budget. At the outset, I congratulate the
hon. Minister for presenting a socio-
economic development-oriented Budget for
the first time by giving concessional and
free journey facility by rail to war and
police widows, disabled and industrial
workers awarded for productivity and
technological innovation. This will certainly
boost the morale of workers for increasing
productivity.

I am not happy at the second class fare
increase. Due to financial constraints, the
hon. Minister has been forced to increase
the second class rail fare. The second class
rail fare should not have been increased, and
the passengers should have been spared of
this increase in second class fare.

The hon. Minister has announced several
measures to modernise and improve the
working of the railways. Railways are the
life-line of the nation. Therefore, the
railways in India really need upgradation
and modernisation. We are lagging far
behind in modern rail facilities when com-
pared to the advanced countries. I am
glad that the hon. Minister has laid
emphasis on the modernisation of railways.
Adequate funds should be provided to
implement modernisation programmes. The

[Shri Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja
Wadiyar]

Indian Railways have made distinct improvements during the first three years of the Seventh Plan. The hon. Minister deserves congratulations for this but many more works are yet to be undertaken and I hope, with the efficiency and dedication of the Ministry as well as with the dynamic Minister, the Indian railways will make further improvements in the remaining years of the Seventh Plan.

Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for exempting goods rate hike in respect of certain commodities like fertilizers, food-grains, fodder, livestock, pulses, edible oils and salt etc. These are the essential commodities of common use. So, this exemption will provide a great relief to the common man. Large parts of the country faced an unprecedented drought during 1987. The Railways ensured massive movement of diesel, foodgrains and edible oils to the drought-affected areas. The track restoration work in the North-Eastern parts of the country after the flood was also commendable. Despite all these hurdles, the freight performance of Railways has surpassed the annual target. The credit goes to the employers and workers of the Railways for these performances. I thank the hon. Minister for performing such a challenging task.

Sir, 64 new trains have been introduced during 1987-88. The frequency of some existing trains has also been increased. There was a demand to provide track service between Southern State Capitals and the National Capital, Delhi. I am happy to say that superfast express services have been provided between Delhi and the four Southern State Capitals—Bangalore, Hyderabad, Delhi and Trivandrum—during 1987-88. The Minister has given a list of some new trains proposed to be introduced from 1st May, 1988. But my State, Karnataka, did not figure in it. The Minister has made the mention of Netravati Express which is running twice between Bombay and Mangalore. The Minister has said that it would be running twice. I suggest to the Government to make it daily.

Now, I would like to say a word about computerisation of passenger reservation. The Government have taken steps in this respect. But it is limited to Delhi and a few metropolitan cities. I am glad to learn that computerised passenger reservation facility is going to be introduced to some other cities like Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal Lucknow and Hyderabad. I urge upon the Government to extend such a facility to Mysore also.

I would like to say a few words about my State of Karnataka. Karnataka, by and large, is very deficient on Broad Gauge compared to other States in the South. Therefore, I would like to press for a more rapid conversion of the trunk routes in that State into Broad Gauge. There is reluctance on the part of the trade and industry to expand their industrial establishment and trade. The Broad Gauge would provide them uninterrupted rail transit for their raw-materials and finished goods. The conversion of Bangalore—Mysore Railway line into Broad Gauge was sanctioned during 1979. The estimated cost of the Project was Rs. 26 crores. Now, it has further gone up. The amount spent on this Project is about six crores of rupees only. The Budget provision made for this project in 1985-86 and 1986-87 was very inadequate. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to provide sufficient funds for this conversion Project so that it can be completed by the end of the Seventh Plan. I would like to say here that the people of Karnataka feel neglected as adequate funds are not allocated to the various projects.

Then, I would like to stress upon the conversion of Mysore-Chamarajanagar railway line. As you might be aware, Chamarajanagar is the next largest town after Mysore City. Therefore, the conversion is very necessary. The Field Engineering Survey and traffic survey of this line has been completed since long. The laying and conversion of Chamrajanagar-Mettupalayam line has also been surveyed. But it is regrettable that the laying and construction of this Broad Gauge line between Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam has not been taken up so far. The proposal for the construction of this line has been pending for over a decade.

The people of Karnataka have been demanding for a separate South-Western Railway Zone. Recently there was an agitation at Bangalore over this issue. This is a genuine demand of the people of Karnataka. The Government of India should take immediate steps to set up a separate South-Western Railway Zone with Bangalore as its Headquarters.

There is a Railway Workshop at Mysore. It is very old. Steps have not been taken to upgrade that workshop. I am happy to learn from the Minister's speech that he is taking steps for the modernisation of Railways. World Bank loan has been taken in 1985-86 for modernising some workshops in the country. The entire money has not been spent, though the date of spending the loan has expired. I urge upon the Government to allocate some funds out of that World Bank loan for the modernisation and upgradation of Mysore Railway Workshop. As the World Bank officials are willing to extend the date, I think there will not be any problem in parting with some money out of that World Bank loan for the upgradation of Mysore Railway Workshop. I hope the Honourable Minister will look into this demand and do the needful.

For over two decades, the Government of Karnataka have been urging for the construction of West-Coast Railway popularly known as Konkan Railway. The need for this broad gauge railway line has also been felt by the Kerala State, as this would provide rail communication to the backward region of the Karnataka and Kerala States and this will be a shorter and direct link to the State's coastal population with Goa and Bombay. As stated by the former Railway Minister Shri Madhu Dandavate the entire project is a symbol of national integration as the West Coast Railway would benefit not only Maharashtra but also Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu. Now that the West Coast Railway is a sanctioned project and the construction has been started from the northern side, that is from Apta to Rona a distance of 62 Kilometers. The construction should commence from Mangalore end as well. This railway infrastructure would foster quicker economic

development of the backward districts, of North and South Kanara in Karnataka. As this broad gauge from Mangalore end progresses, it will also assist inter-state development between Karnataka and Kerala.

Then there has been persistent demand from the people of the area as also from the Legislators to take up the construction of a railway line from Kottur in Bellary district to Harihar in Chitradurga district of this State. Survey for construction of this line was reported to be carried out more than a decade ago that is, during 1970-71. The length of the line is about 70 Kms. This work should be taken up immediately as it could also provide employment to thousands of people at the present juncture of severe drought in the State. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take decision on this line as early as possible and include it in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Sir, the Rapid Transport System of Bangalore city is very necessary. According to the estimates of the Metropolitan Transport Project team, the investment on the full Rapid Transport system from Bangalore will be Rs. 650 crores. Many Central Government Industrial Undertakings, Research establishments Defence units, etc., are located in Bangalore. Besides there is a large scale immigration from neighbouring States. This city has recorded fastest traffic growth over the year. Therefore, it should be treated on a special footing. As such, I request you to reconsider the whole position and make available substantial funds for providing Rapid Rail Transport service to Bangalore city.

I would like to say that there has been a drastic reduction in the allocation of funds for development of Railways in the Karnataka State during the last few years. Instead of making allocation of funds project-wise and Railway-wise, it should be made State-wise. Then only Karnataka will be developed in Railways. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to complete as early as possible the project pending for decades in Karnataka.

[Shri Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja
Wadiyar]

Lastly, I thank you, very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget discussion and supporting the Budget.

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI (Raiganj) :
Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Railway Budget presented by the Hon. Railway Minister. While doing so, I would like to draw his attention to a very important point. The Hon. Minister knows that the Eklakshmi-Balurghat line was sanctioned in 1983 but not even the earth work was started. Very little progress has been made for construction of this line.

From the Budget proposals, we see that the latest estimated cost for the project—to cover 91 kilometres is Rs. 42 crores 85 lakhs. During 1987-88, an amount of Rs. 3 crores 47 lakh was spent and the balance of Rs. 39 crores 38 lakh still remains. What has happened to that? In 1988-89, a provision of only Rs. 1 lakh has been made for this whole 91 kilometres route which has to be constructed. That means, there will be no progress made on this line. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to provide at least Rs. 10 crores for 1988-89 because this West Dinajpur District is a very neglected district. After partition, it was left with no railway line. Balurghat is a district headquarters which has no railway line. It is a shame that district headquarter has got no railway connection with other parts of the country. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to raise the Budget provision up to Rs. 10 crores for 1988-89.

Another proposal was made and sanctioned from Ekalakshi to Gunjuria via Gajole and Raiganj. We don't know whether it has been dropped or not. There is a lot of confusion about this project. Ekalakshi to Gunjuria will be the main line from Calcutta to Siliguri, but now-a-days we don't hear anything about this project. I want to know what has happened to it. The Hon. Minister should tell us something.

As I told the House, the West Dinajpur district is devoid of railway line and there is only a small metre-gauge line from Barsoi to Radhikapur. There has been a great demand for conversion of this line into a broad-gauge one; but nothing has yet been done. We know from the Budget proposals and the Minister's speech that conversion of so many lines have been taken up; but not this conversion, for which we have been demanding for years together. I request the Hon. Minister to take up the conversion of the metre-gauge line from Barsoi to Radhikapur immediately.

I would like to point out to the Hon. Minister pointedly that it is a great problem of Metro railway of Calcutta. Recently in a Bengali Daily a news piece has been published saying that the Metro railway is in danger. Any time any accident may happen. It is reported that the Metro railway is run inside a concrete cement box, the roof of which has many holes. It is feared that any time any accident may take place resulting in the casualty of thousands of people. After this publication people are afraid to go as passengers in the Metro railway. I request the Minister to immediately have an inquiry to find out all about this.

I would like to say something about the level crossing which is a menace and which creates difficulty for the people. At the level crossing at Dalkola between Dalkola and Kanki which is on the main road of NH 34 where there is a heavy traffic from Calcutta to Siliguri, the gates are closed for 12 to 15 times during day and night for half-an-hour to fortyfive minutes. Please try to understand the inconvenience of the people and the traffic difficulties. To deal with this problem, a by-pass has been sanctioned and land acquisition also made some four years back, but no work has been done. The PWD of West Bengal has been handed over the construction work of this by-pass, but it is not doing it. So, the Central Government should ask the State Government to complete this work as soon as possible.

At Kishanganj also the same level crossing problem is there. I think an underground road would solve this problem.

At Siliguri also the same level crossing problem is there. At Barsoi Railway junction and Bhaluka Station over bridges have already been sanctioned, but there is no mention about this in these budget proposals although they are sanctioned long ago.

Here I find that for construction of over bridges Rs. 26 crores have been sanctioned, but I don't know why for the over bridges which have already been sanctioned no money is provided to complete the work. I request the Hon. Minister to understand the congestional conditions of the Barsoi Railway junction and take necessary action.

It is a very important junction through which all the important trains pass; but there is not a single I Class ladies' waiting room or retiring room. So I request the hon. Minister to arrange for these things early so that there may not be any difficulty for the lady passengers to wait and stay there even overnight.

We know that special trains are given for special melas and urs. In Malda district urs is held at Panduva where thousands and thousands of pilgrims come. There is lot of difficulty faced by the pilgrims and, as such, I request the Minister to arrange for a special train during urs which is very necessary.

Lastly I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister about regularisation of casual labour who were recruited long ago but they have not been still regularised. The food which is served at the railway stations and in the railway canteens is of very inferior quality. The food is third class but the charges are high-class. They charge Rs. 9 for the rubbish food that is served. The passengers are in a hurry and they pay very high charges for a very inferior quality of food stuff. Catering Department should inspect this food. The amount of Rs. 1 lakh be increased to Rs. 10 crores for Eklakshmi to Balurghat railway line. with these words I support the Railway Budget presented by the hon. Railway Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Railway Budget. What is Railway Budget ? It is just like 'Madhav Kahi na jaat, kaa kahiye.' It is both sour and sweet and has both good and bad features. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister for Railways to reduce the hike in Platform ticket and passenger fares and improve catering facility. The facilities extended to freedom fighters should be increased.

I would also like to make a few points about my constituency. In Uttar Pradesh work on conversion of a narrow gauge line was in progress which was started by Pt. Kamlapathi Tripathi in 1980. Eight years have passed since then. Last year Rs. 6.5 crore was sanctioned by the hon. Minister for Railways Scindiaji on my personal request at the Party meeting, with the comments that this is 13 per cent of the entire budget and nothing more could be done. I only want to state that atleast it must be completed by the year 1990. It is all the more necessary when hon. Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways is Shri Mahabir Prasad, because the people of his constituency might not say "Sumati Nivar Ho Gaya Kumati Ke Sangi." (Interruptions) To avoid such a situations the hon. Minister should allocate the required budget because it is very backward region and the people of that region have sacrificed a lot for the country. Through you I request the hon. Minister to allocate the required amount this year so that the work is completed. I had made one more submission. No significant development is going to take place in our region in the 20th century. Therefore; the old railway lines built during the British period like Doharighat to Allahabad and the coaches added to trains on this line should be repaired, and steam engines should be replaced by Diesel engines to enable people to travel upto Allahabad High Court via Benaras by fast trains. People, day by day, are becoming disinterested to travel by this train because of its speed, timing and general condition of the train and instead prefer to travel by Taxi and Bus. They say it is the train of Scindiaji and is not

[Shri Raj Kumar Rai]

meant for commonman. Whenever we raise this issue the reply comes that it cannot be extended as it is uneconomic. If condition of the train is not improved and number of coaches is reduced then who will like to travel by this train. They think it is better to travel by bus and taxi. Therefore I request the hon. Minister for Railways to extend this train from Doharighat to Allahabad.

13.00 hrs.

A passenger train runs between Benaras and Bareilly, which is also known as Pass-*Passenger*. Sometime first class coach is attached with this train and sometime not. This is the only right train for passengers coming from Shahganj, Jaunpur and Benaras. For many years it is the only train. Earlier there used to be two to three coaches but now sometimes not even one coach is attached. I have written that if it is not possible, then let it be upto Lucknow for the convenience of night passengers and improve the condition of its coaches. No action has been taken to run the train by Diesel engine. Therefore I request the hon. Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways to reconsider the proposal as he also has to travel by this train frequently.

There was a proposal to construct a Bagaha-Chittouni bridge. You cannot deny as late Shrimati Indira Gandhi herself laid foundation stone and said that it should be constructed. Nothing is more important than this for reducing the distance between North Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh or say the entire Uttar Pradesh. But no attention is being paid towards it though years have passed. So I have to ask whether northern region Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will always be neglected? The people of this region have made immumerable sacrifices and therefore, I request you to get it done without any delay.

Another thing, I want to say is that the railway passes are misued. I have personal knowledge about it. Our hon. Shri Kedar Pandey was very liberal and after him, other Ministers also maintained the same practice, but it is misused. In order to run

a party office or sending their workers elsewhere some people meet you and get the passes issued. So, other people think that the Ministry of Railways is giving its facilities to one party only. So, while giving pass to anyone, first of all you verify his antecedents, see that for whom recommendation has been made and whether he is really a social worker or not. In this, matter Shri Bansi Lal was very strict. Once the hon. Prime Minister asked him to issue railway pass, he replied—if you say, I will do it, but, it is misused and after that the hon. Prime Minister never asked for it. So I will request you that while making passes, please ensure that it is not misused.

Thirdly, I want to say about Mahu where an over-bridge was under construction. 1981, Shri A.B.A. Gani Khan Choudhary got its work started. Later, God knows what happened, that after raising this issue in the Parliament for two-three years. continuously, the work was started. Bridge Corporation, Uttar Pradesh is doing construction work but the Ministry of Railways is doing nothing. There is a metre gauge line in Indar-Ratnapura-Krihdiha where a level crossing is proposed to be constructed in Chakra. Uttar Pradesh Government has done their job but Department of Railways is silent and it appears as if they have decided not to do anything. Some officials had given assurance about it and I have also told you to get that level crossing constructed.

Sir, I will conclude my speech in one minute. A struggle is going on for a long time to have broadgauge line from Shahganj to Ballia. Shahganj has been a centre of activity of freedom fighters and Ballia was the first district in India which became free even before the achievement of freedom. There was a proposal for laying a broad gauge line there. British had harassed them, but it is being done even now whereas such facilities are being provided for other regions. It is the place where once Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had to go and from Indara, he want on a pulling cart, because the British had got it removed so that he should not attend the meeting. Then a person pushed this cart and said that I shall take him to that place. So, if you will

not care for this region then who will take care of it. With these words, I thank Madam Chairman and the hon. Minister of Railways for giving me opportunity to express my thoughts.

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh) : Madam Chairman, I support the Railway Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Railways. I congratulate and thank him for the improvements made in the rail services, new records established and for the future planning.

Our hon. Minister has presented the Budget for 1988-89. In want to invite his attention towards my constituency. Our hon. Minister have always given a negative answer to the introduction of a new passenger train on the section of Bina and Katni line. I particularly want to draw his attention towards a new train service which will go from Gwalior to Howrah. If this train is routed *via* Jhansi-Bina-Katni, then it will be very beneficial for the people of our region. My another suggestion is that Mahakal Express should be routed from Ujjain to Banaras *via* Bhopal Bina, Katni, Allahabad.

A long time ago, a survey was done from Lalitpur to Tikamgarh Chatarpur and Singrauli, but no further action has been taken on it. I will request the hon Minister to get a survey done for a rail line from Satna to Panna, from Panna to Chatarpur are from Chatarpur to Hirapur and then upto Damoh. There are huge deposits of Iron ore and iron industry can be set up there if means of transportation are made available. Khajuraho also falls on its way, where lakhs of tourists come every year. I will request the hon. Minister that while answering to the discussion he may reply to this point as well.

A demand has been made from all the sides that the rate of platform ticket which has been raised from Rs. one to Rs. one fifty, should not be increased. I also want that the complementary passes given to freedom fighters for one year should be renewed.

There is saying that "Kahin ghane ka ghana aur kahin sookha chana bhi nahin." I will request that there is great disparity among the regions. All regions should be equally developed. It is said about Bina and Katni that there goods traffic is more, so the passenger traffic cannot be increased. I will request to find a way out by which the passenger traffic does not suffer and at the same time goods traffic also increases more so that our country makes industrial progress. Steam engines are still in use in Bina and Katni. If they are replaced by diesel engines than the speed of the trains will increase and rail service will be more convenient. We have came to know that there is going to be electrification soon. It should be done quickly but till then steam engines should be replaced by diesel engines.

In the end, I will request the hon. Minister of Railways to pay attention towards Bina section and for the sake of equality, the new train from Gwalior to Howrah, should be routed *via* Bina-Katni. I hope that the hon. Minister will make an announcement during the course of his answer. I further request that survey of Panna-Satna railway line should be got conducted and announce a new gift for the people of that area.

***SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO (Amalapuram) :** Madam Chairperson, the Railway budget for the year 1988-89 is a big disappointment for all those who travel by train. All those who used to travel by train may now prefer to travel by Indian Air lines. Now Rs. 241 crores are estimated to be collected through hikes in the freight rates. The brunt of this additional burden is mainly being borne by the common man. The hon. Minister should reconsider the hike in fares in view of the enormous burden the common man in the country has to bear. Nearly Rs. 358 crores are now estimated to be collected from the passenger fares. It is the last straw on the camel's back. Mere increase in the fares will not serve any purpose. Alongwith the rise in the fares, the Railways should also think about providing more and better amenities to the passengers. Go by

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri A.J.V.B. Maheswara Rao]

any train you like. You will find that the toilet facilities are poor, cleanliness is almost nil and what is more there will be no water to drink. This is the condition of almost all the trains in the country. Hence it is the first and foremost duty of the railways to think about providing amenities to the passengers who travel by train. The platform ticket will now cost Rs. 1.50. But anyone who hands over a 2-rupees note to the booking clerk for a platform ticket, balance amount of 50 paise will not be paid back on the pretext that no change is available. Hence in addition to the increased cost, one is deprived of the 'change' amount also. Hence the platform ticket rate should be brought back to the original one rupee. I hope, the hon. Minister would reconsider this problem and do justice to the common man. Parcel and luggage charges are also being increased by 10%. This hike will break the back of the common man. Similarly, Madam, the reservation fees which have remained constant in the last 7 years are now being revised. The reservation fee for air conditioned first class and sleeper class will be Rs. 12 now. It is a great injustice. As though this not sufficient, even the fares of second class monthly season tickets are also proposed to be increased by Rs. 4 to 8 per month. This is gross injustice. Usually, white collar employees and workers avail the benefit of season tickets. This hike will further cut into their monthly income. Let us not forget they are struggling hard to keep themselves alive. I hope, the hon. Minister would withdraw the hike.

Madam, concessions were offered to certain categories of persons in this budget. I welcome the decision. But, just offering concessions will not do. It should also be seen whether these concessions are really reaching the beneficiaries. Widows of police men who have died in encounters with terrorists and extremists are being given 75% concession. Similarly 50% and 75% concession is now available to sports men who win Arjun awards and workers. There is a possibility of misusing the wide ranging concession that are offered in this budget. Hence it should be ensured that this benefit will go only to those for whom it is intended.

Speaking about my State, Andhra Pradesh, I have no hesitation in saying that it is being treated in a stepmotherly manner by the railways, ever since the country became independent 40 years ago. No new projects have been taken up in the post independence period in my State. Even this budget also has neglected the State once again. Even the amount that was allocated for certain ongoing works are too meagre to mention. Lot of injustice is being done to Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh proposed a circular railway line for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The State Government had conveyed its willingness to share 25% of the cost Urban Development Ministry will share another 25% of the cost. Urban Development Minister will share another 25%. Even when the State was ready to share the cost, there is no reason why the Ministry of Railways should not take it up. This budget is silent about this proposal. It is one example to show the State is being treated. I will cite yet another example to show how the State is being treated by Railwaya Ministry. The Railway Minister agreed to set up a coach factory at Kazipet few years ago. Considerable spade work had also been done. But after considerable efforts, the State had to remain a silent spectator when the railway Ministry had reversed its decision and set up the factory somewhere else. Now I can only request the hon. Minister to bear Andhra Pradesh in mind while setting up of a coach factory in future. Let me hope that he will not forget the State this time.

Madam, let me say a few words about my constituency. The people in the area do not know that a train is. I have brought this fact to the notice of the hon. Minister time and again. There was a railway line between Kakinada and Kolipalli. But this line was abandoned during the second world war. The land and track are very much in tact. The Government land is lying waste. Some allocation was made to conduct the surveys. There are some litigations also in this matter. I request the hon. Minister to sort out the matter and see that the line is revived. There is a need to connect Amalapuram with Korvuru or Narsapur. I hope this request will receive a sympathetic consideration from the

Ministry. Madam, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for conceding to my requests to locate a reservation booking office at Rajole. I request that reservation booking offices should be set up at Kothapeta and Mummadivaram also.

Gautami and Godavari trains leave Hyderabad and Secunderabad within negligible gap of time. They arrive at the platform and leave at the same time. As a result, passengers are experiencing some difficulties. The position is such that they are not able to distinguish Godavri Express from Gautami Express. Hence I request that atleast one hour's gap be given in the departure time of these trains. There is a long standing demand for a superfast Express between New Delhi and Vizag. I have come to know that the hon. Minister has agreed to introduce this train. It is also said that only some bogies of this train which are detached at Vijayawada would go to Vizag. This kind of arrangement is not proper. The entire train should go to Vizag. This Express train should be run atleast 3 or 4 days in a week.

Madam, there is a vast difference between the standards of railways prevailing in the northern and southern parts of the country. The diesel engine of the prestigious Tirumala Express should not be changed. As a Member of the Estimates Committee I had an opportunity to see many of the stations in the northern India. The maintenance and the facilities available at stations are very good. On the other hand even drinking water is not available in southern part of the country. There is so much difference between the stations of North India and that of South India. Hence conditions should be improved in the stations in South India.

The reservation policy is not being implemented in railways in letter and spirit. SC/ST candidates are being deprived of their reserved quota on one pretext or the other. Promotions are being denied to them. They do not get their percentage of jobs so I demand that Government should fulfil their percentage in recruitment and in promotions. Officers of upper castes are not treating the SC/ST employees with due regard and courtesy. The higher officers harass the SC/ST officials and workers.

Workers are always at the receiving end. They are subjected to harassments of various kinds. Hence steps should be taken to improve their lot. Rajamundry is one of the important stations in East and West Godavari districts. Rice, cocount and other important agricultural products are being sent to other parts of the country from here. The farmers and traders are facing many hardships due to non-availability of wagons. I request the hon. Minister to see that sufficient number of wagons are made available at this station.

Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Budget presented by the Railway Minister. No doubt, tremendous improvements have been made in the railways, but I have certain observations to make.

One of my hon. friend the other day observed that there is an innocent smile on the face of the Railway Minister. I add something more to it and say that this is a dangerously innocent smile. The Hon. Railway Minister is very courteous, very polite, very social. He is sweet in his talk, serene in temperament and hospitable in nature.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): Madam, is it a discussion on the Railway Budget or on the Railway Minister?

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Madam, I am reminded of the observation that appeared in the Hindustan Times about Lord Mountbatten, the Governor General in India. It was observed that he was 'dangerously charming. He had an imposing personality but the observation was that he was dangerously charming. So, this perpetual smile on the face of Railway Minister is dangerous. I wonder I am showering praise—no harm there. Madam, Chairman I am reminded of a couplet of the poet who said:

“Ham Aah bhi Bharte hai to Ho
 jate hai Badnam
 Woh Katal bhi katre hai to Charcha
 nahin Hoti”

[Shri Chiranji Lal Sharma]

A few months back, I happened to travel by train. I went round Gwalior, Jhansi and Bhopal. It was indeed a matter of pleasure to see the railway stations of Jhansi, Gwalior and Bhopal. The columns of 'varandhas' had been covered with marble up to the height of six feet. But when we look to the condition of the direct headquarters, on the northern railway line, be it Sonapat, Panipat, Karnal, Kurukshetra, it is pitiable. The former Speaker from the Opposition has said, not that I am putting a premium on what he said, that there is discrimination. I do not call it as discrimination. But I must say in all humility that the hon. Railway Minister should not look on this side of the railway line with a jaundiced eye. Then where there is a little bit of rail, water stagnates on the railway platform. But if you go to Jhansi, Bhopal or Gwalior the entire platform is covered with Kota stones. Where should we go? We have to request the Hon. Railway Minister to be kind to us also, to look to us with a smile on his face and a smile in the real sense of the term.

The Railway Minister is very prompt in acknowledging the receipt of our letters. I think, his name should appear at the top in this respect. He acknowledges the receipt of letters without any delay and he also gives the reply. But the result is zero, Madam, Chairman, I have been here as a Member of Parliament for the last over 8 years. Hundreds of letters have been written and we always get a stereotype reply. In all humility, would like to say that a Member of Parliament represents lakhs of people. He makes a small request to you in the shape of a stoppage of a train for a minute. that too not a Mail train, not an Express train, not Shan-e-Punjab but a Shuttle train that shuttles between Delhi and Kurukshetra. I made a request for giving a stoppage at Kohand where it used to have a stoppage. A railway station is there for the last 25 years. I happened to be a Member of the NZRUCC. It was decided in the meeting on 30th December that the shuttle train will be given a stoppage there but the reply I got from the Hon. Minister was in the negative for reasons that are known to them. About 250 passengers of the neighbouring 7 or

8 villages which are served by this Kohand station falling between Panipat and Karnal. They have to return home after 6 or 7 pm from Panipat. Kohand is about 8 kms. or 9 kms. from there. Can't a shuttle train have a stoppage for one minute? It has a platform but there is no light. There is no water arrangement. No telephone. Nothing of the kind. When people come to us, we say that we will take up the matter with the Railway Minister. We write to the Railway Minister. But it is all an exercise in futility. I would request the hon. Minister to be kind enough to pay heed to small requests made by the Members of Parliament. We don't demand something very big.

Similarly there was a demand for a stoppage of train at Bhaini-Khur. Courtesy costs nothing. I would also refer to Shan-e-Punjab. I made a mention in the earlier Session also. I took up the matter in the meeting of the NZRUCC also. I again submit that Shan-e-Punjab which passes through Haryana stops at Ambala. The argument that was advanced by the Railway authorities was that it is a Superfast Train. I agree. But, may I, in humanity have the temerity to ask the hon. Railway Minister a plain question? Does it stop to be Superfast after Ambala? It has stoppages at Ludhiana, Jalandhar and a stoppage was given at Phagwara. It is a much smaller station. We have a place of historic importance like Kurukshetra on this railway line. I fail to understand as to why our request for a minute's stoppage of Shan-e-Punjab may be at Panipat or Karnal or at some other station is not being acceded to? It does not cost the Railways anything.

AN HON. MEMBER : That is Shan-e-Punjab and not Shan-e-Haryana?

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : It is Shan-e-Punjab. We are proud of it. We will also be proud of it if it passes through Haryana. We will take advantage of it.

Another thing which I am going to submit pertains to my constituency. That is road over-bridge. The foundation stones of two road over-bridges one at Kurukshetra and other at Karnal were laid on the 15 September, 1985 and surprisingly enough the bridge at Kurukshetra was completed

and was opened to public about 6-7 months back but the road over-bridge at Karnal, the constituency which I represent, is lying incomplete. I do not know how many months or years, will you take to complete it, when the foundation stone was laid on the same day. Shall I smell a rat in the bonafides of the highest executing authority? What is the explanation? No plausible or convincing explanation is available with them. Sonipat is a district headquarter. Panipat is again a very important station on this railway line. There is a provision for making road over-bridges on these two stations. I don't know why it is being delayed. I will request the hon. Minister with all the vehemence at my command to kindly look into it and to see that the plans prepared are executed without any further delay. I also invite the attention of the Railway Minister to the fact that Delhi-Ambala double track is likely to be completed by the end of this month, as appeared in the Press, the other day. If so, I would request that electric trains should be started on this line, if not, upto Ambala, to begin with upto Panipat or Sonipat. That will give a long relief to the people. My submission is that not an inch of railway line has been given to Haryana or Punjab or Himachal Pradesh in this Budget. I fail to understand why these small reliefs are not being given? You are running electric trains over thousands of kilometres but when we ask, the explanation is want of funds. I would request the hon. Minister to be liberal in his approach towards us also.

Then again, Madam, there has been a hue and cry for connecting Jhajjar with the railway line. Jhajjar is the most important sub-division of Rohtak District of Haryana. I think, Jhajjar is a place from where we get maximum contribution to army. Youths of this area are guarding the borders of this country and for want of train connection, this area is lagging behind in all respects particularly industrially. People have been coming off and on and we have been making submissions. I request the Railway Minister to kindly look into it.

Finally I would like to make one small point. I would like to bring to the notice of

Scindiaji that a cup of tea cost one rupee on the Railway stations. Is there any justification for raising the cost from fifty paise to one rupee? There is a jump of one hundred per cent. There is no justification for this. I do not know why the cost of a cup of tea has been enhanced from fifty paise to one rupee.

Madam, I had some more points to make. But since you are ringing the bell, I conclude.'

SHRI R. S. MANE (Ichalkaranji) : Madam, I rise to support the railway Budget presented for the year 1988-89. I must congratulate the Railway Minister for the introduction of new schemes and new lines and the concessions that have been extended in the Budget to the common masses, agricultural farmers and tourists.

At the same time, people in this country today describe the General Budget as the Farmer's Budget. I am also of the opinion that the Railway Budget must be mentioned or described as the Railway Passenger's Budget, but I could not say that it is Railway Passenger's Budget because of hike in prices in the second class railway fare and the platform ticket. So, I request the Railway Minister to kindly withdraw the hike in the second class railway fare and also the platform ticket.

Secondly, no funds have been provided by the Government to the Railway Ministry for the spill over works. For example, Konkan Railway, which has been announced three or four years back. Only a part of the railway line has been completed. It has no time bound plan and no sufficient funds have been allotted to this line. This is a very important coastal line and I request the railway Minister to allot sufficient funds and also have a time bound programme to complete the Konkan Railway line, which is a very important national project.

Madam, the Railways play a very vital and important role in the economic, industrial and agricultural development of this country. The road and rail transports are the two facilities available to the poor of this country. So, sufficient funds have to

[Shri R.S. Mane]

be provided by the Planning Commission to the Railway Ministry.

Now coming to my Constituency, namely Western Maharashtra, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that a very important longstanding genuine, rationale and reasonable demand of the people of Western Maharashtra that the railway track from Kolhapur *via* Miraj to Puna, which is at present included in the South Central Railway, should be included in the Central Railway. This is a longstanding demand of mine and the people of Western Maharashtra. I do not understand what prevents the hon. Minister to take a decisive step in this matter. It is a well known fact that in the Council of Ministers, Shri Scindia is quite bold and a dynamic Minister, having decisive capacity. But I do not understand why this small demand of mine and the people of Western Maharashtra has been neglected by him. Now, I request him to kindly take a decision to include this Kolhapur-Pune track in the Central Railway instead of South Central Railway.

The bogies in the Mahalakshmi Express and Sahyadri Express, which are running between Kolhapur and Bombay are outdated. I request the hon. Railway Minister to kindly substitute first class bogies in these trains. The journey timings of the Mahalakshmi Express, Sahyadri Express, Maharashtra Express, and even Rajdhani Express could be reduced by two hours each.

I request the hon. Minister to attach one additional bogie AC sleeper to Sahyadri Express and additional bogies to Mahalakshmi and Maharashtra Express. Also please increase the reservation quota at Kolhapur, Miraj and Sangli Railway Stations. I may submit that MLAs and MPs from Ratnagiri, Southwadi, Konkan and Kolhapur are coming to Bombay and Delhi every now and then. They are about 30 to 40 in number. But we have only two seats of first class at Kolhapur. I request the hon. Minister to increase the reservation quota by at least four times at Kolhapur station, Sangli station and Miraj station.

There are no bedrolls provided at the Kolhapur station. When I enquired from the Station Master, he said that not sufficient funds are given to the washermen that is why, bedrolls are not washed by the washermen. When crores of rupees are spent by the Railway Ministry, I do not understand why there is no provision for washermen. I request the hon. Minister to provide bedrolls and in sufficient quantity at Kolhapur Station.

I would draw the attention of the Minister to a very important proposal and suggestion of mine. We have a long pending demand for the introduction of a new additional train from Kolhapur to Ahmedabad. I may submit that a large number of merchants from Gujarat area have come and settled in Kolhapur and Miraj and they are badly in need of a direct train from Kolhapur to Ahmedabad. This train may be declared as Chhatrapati Express or Jai Bhawani Express.

There is an acute shortage of railway staff on the trains. There are no attendants in the first-class bogies. I request the hon. Minister to recruit sufficient staff for the first class bogies early.

The stations from Kolhapur to Pune are very much neglected. There are no drinking water facilities, no improvements of the platforms, no canteens, stalls, no benches and no ladies toilets. I request the hon. Minister to kindly look into the matter and provide necessary facilities at the railway stations.

I will bring to the notice of the Minister a very urgent need of a new modern building at Kolhapur city. Kolhapur just like Gwalior is a princely State. I request the Minister to sanction a good modern building with all provisions at Kolhapur. I also request that this building may be included in this year's budget.

Lastly, for the last three years an over bridge has been sanctioned for Kolhapur city, but no work has started as yet. I request the hon. Minister to kindly take that work in hand early, preferably this year itself.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhour) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Railway Budget which has been presented by the hon. Minister of Railways. Despite limited resources, he has presented a good Budget and deserves appreciation.

He has expressed hope that there will be an increase of 10 per cent in the passenger amenities and 11 per cent in the goods traffic. It is a good thing and I am sure that he will be able to achieve this target.

Among the concessions announced in the Railway Budget, it is proposed to extend concessions to the dependents of the Indian Peace Keeping Force and some other people. In this connection, I share the views of my colleagues and urge the Government to provide the pass facility to freedom fighters for life instead of one year or at least for five years. Now there are only a few freedom fighters and they did a lot for the country. It will be a noble thing if they are provided with this facility.

He wants to increase the resources in the railways and has increased the freight charges. But the increase made in the rate of the platform ticket will not be of any use. Because only those people who do not travel and who visit the station to see off the passengers purchase the platform tickets. If it is not possible to allow them to enter the station free of charge, the hike proposed in the rate of the platform ticket should be withdrawn and the earlier rate should be restored. I am sure he will make an announcement to this effect.

I thank him for making an announcement for introducing 8 new trains. In this connection, I would like to submit that the frequency of the superfast express running between Lucknow and Bombay has been increased from 3 days to 4 days in a week. Since a large number of passengers travel by this train, it will be appreciated if it is run daily.

I would like to express my thanks for introducing a new train between Lucknow and Kanpur. The hon. Minister was kind enough to approve the doubling of Lucknow-Kanpur line in 1987-88 and the construc-

tion work is about to commence on this line. This line will prove useful only when it is electrified.

I may also suggest that the Kanpur-Jhansi single line should also be converted into double line.

While coming to the problems of my area, I would like to say that no amenities have been provided for the passengers at Rura station under Northern Railway. I received a representation from the people of that area to-day itself in which they have demanded provision of a halt to 164 Down Sangam Express at this station. Saryu-Yamuna Express and Amritsar-Muri Express should also be provided halt at that station.

A number of accidents take place at the railway crossings. In order to check these accidents over-bridges should be constructed at these places.

I would like to submit further that although a number of trains pass through Kanpur yet no train starts from there. It is only a passing station. There should be direct trains for Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi from Kanpur so that the passengers find it convenient to undertake the journey.

The Railways have introduced computer system at major stations like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta etc. But it has not been introduced at Kanpur. I suggest that the computer system should also be introduced at this station.

A number of stations have been declared model stations. But unfortunately, Kanpur does not find its place in them. I would like that Kanpur may also be declared a model station.

Bilhour is a very ancient and historical place. Only diesel cars run upto that place and therefore only a few persons reach there. It will be more convenient to the passengers if a diesel train is introduced for that place in place of diesel car.

When I was a Member of the second Lok Sabha, the then Railway Minister, Shri Jagjiwan Ram had made the Dhorsalar station a flag station under the North

[Shri Jagdish Awasthi]

Eastern Railway. I would like that it should now be upgraded.

There was a railway crossing at Lalpur and Tilochi station under the Central Railway. The same has been replaced by angles causing lot of inconveniences to the people. I would like that a railway crossing may be reconstructed there.

Now, I shall make a few submissions about the Northern Railway. A number of halts have been provided at various places. It is suggested that halt stations should be constructed at these places. This will increase the revenue of the Railways and be useful to the passengers also.

A stiff competition has been going on between rail and road. In your opinion people should prefer to travel by road. But buses cannot ply properly in Kanpur due to very bad condition of roads. The bus fare being high, people prefer to travel by train. It is therefore, requested that keeping in view the importance of Kanpur, local trains from Hamirpur to Kanpur, Etawa to Kanpur, Farrukhabad to Kanpur and Fatehpur to Kanpur may please be introduced.

Since when the super fast and express trains have been introduced, the condition of local trains has worsened. They do not run on time. I would like that attention may also please be paid towards these trains and arrangements should be made to see that they run on time. If it is done it will provide great convenient to local people.

The railways have set up a directorate which would look into the passenger amenities. But there is no clear cut definition of the term 'passenger amenities'. The railway officials also do not define it properly. After carrying out petty repair works on the platforms the railways claim to have provided passenger amenities. The department should look into other amenities also simultaneously. As in the case of other things the Government should bring forward a legislation for such amenities

and fully define the term 'passenger amenities' in it.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that the hon. Minister has presented a very good Budget. I hope that he will consider the suggestions made by me.

*SHRI PALAS BARMAN (Balurghat) :
Madam Chairman, I rise to oppose this railway budget. I oppose it because the Balurghat-Eklakhhi railway project in my area work on which started in 1984, is gradually getting sunk in a bottomless pit. Work is not progressing on this railway line. I am surprised to find that this year only Rs. 1 lakh has been allocated for this project. Madam, Balurghat is a district headquarter and a very important area in other respects also. We hear about many schemes of the Government like the IRDP, ITDP etc. But does not the railway also fall under these programmes? Railways are absolutely essential for the development of underdeveloped and backward areas. Is it not so? I have noticed that this Government undertakes and gives publicity to such programmes and projects at different places only with an eye on the elections. Foundation stones are laid at the time of elections and then they are forgotten. The Government is silent when it comes to fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people. We see that there is no time limit for the completion of this project. If there is no time limit for a project, then on what basis will the common people have faith and regard for the Government? The people are losing faith in the Government. That is why we find secessionist movements take place in various parts of the country. Divisive forces are raising their heads because people are losing faith in this Government. I earnestly hope that the 7 or 8 lakh people of that area will be given the benefit of railway communication. The hon. Minister should initiate a time-bound programme for this railway project and announce a definite date or a definite year by which it would be completed. I would like to know that.

Madam, the Sunderban area is an undeveloped area. In the Sealdah division,

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

the existing railway line upto Canning should be extended upto Dhamakhali. Apart from that a double track is very necessary between Sonarpur and Canning. The number of travelling public has increased considerably but the number of railway trains has remained static. Railway fares has increased but the passenger amenities have declined. Between 7 AM and 10 AM, at least 2 local trains should be run upto Sealdah as express trains. The number of local trains between Sealdah and Canning, Sealdah and Lakhikantapur and Sealdah and Diamond-Harbour should be increased.

I do not want to take more time. In the end I will reiterate that the Balurghat—Eklakhhi line may be expedited. A meagre 1 lakh of rupees has been allocated for this year. This allocation may be increased suitably. We feel ashamed that for a railway line only 1 lakh rupees has been allocated.

I hope due attention will be paid to this. With this request I conclude my speech.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI (Amravati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Railway Budget. Yesterday our hon. Minister received greetings on his auspicious birth-day.

Railways is such a department where resources are limited and burden of public service is orerous. Now-a-days the department has to attend to petty theft cases also. If a child is lost, it is for the department to locate him. For the past two years bombs are found lying on the stations and the police has to take action to nab the culprits. In other words, despite environments of social insecurity, the hon. Minister has tried his best to ruu the trains properly. We should ensure that every step we take should be aimed at providing amenities to passengers and leading the nation ahead. Our leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was very much in need of a colleague like Shri Scindia. I congratulate Shri Scindia, his subordinates and the officials and workers of the Railway who raised the income by movement of goods, achieved the target of freight, brought about a lot of improvements in the matters of security and reser-

vation in the railways. I also congratulate all others who have contributed in this gigantic task.

While expressing my gratitude the concessions extended to the farmers on freight charges in respect of some essential commodities, I would like to suggest that the Government should change its approach for making good the shortfalls. We welcomed the move for removing poverty and a scheme formulated by the Government to fix land ceiling. Ceiling was applied to farmer's land, but the urban property, big mill owners and big business men were exempted from it. No ceiling has so far been fixed for them.

The hon. Minister wants to increase the income of the Railways and the burden of increase has been put on middle class who lives honestly and undertakes railway journey honestly. More surcharges have been levied on them and the rate of platform tickets has been increased. Insted of doing this, it would have been much better if the corruption prevalent in the railway and the journey without ticket is checked. Several hon. Members have suggested that the Government should take action to evict businessmen and smugglars encroaching upon railway land and put the land to its own use. The Government should consider other steps to raise the railway income. I also support the demand made for reconsideration of the proposed hike in fare and freight charges.

Despite various contraits, the railway have proposed new railway lines which is a welcome step. But it is very essential to see as to how to remove the regional imbalances about which Shri Rajivji has been making a reference so often. One of the balanced elements in the last year's Budget was to make efforts to remove this regional imbalance. In the Railway Committee also I had suggested that it is not proper to provide new lines under pressures from a Minister or an M.P. or any other political personality. It is essential to conduct a survey of the whole country and identify the backward, tribal and border areas and also industrially backward areas where railway lines have not reached. The process of development will start in these areas only when railway

[Shrimati Usha Choudhary]

lines are provided to them. In this way the regional imbalance could be removed. It may not be possible for us to lay new railway lines and introduce new trains for want of funds but we should make efforts to lay new railway lines by raising funds through bonds and by mobilising funds from State Governments, social service organisations and social agencies.

Now I shall make a few submissions about my constituency. I express my gratitude to him for introducing a new train between Bombay and Nagpur. He had made a commitment to this effect and an agitation had also taken place in the Vidarbha region on this ground. A sentimental dispute came up in this region with regard to providing a halt to Geetanjali Express there. The background of its becoming a sentimental dispute is that this region had been victim of injustice. Consequently agitation takes place. Though our Congress Government works in the real sense and we make strong pleas here, there are some people who instigate people to indulge in agitation. It has become a profession with them and they vitiate the atmosphere. It is we people who work and get the things done, but these people make every effort to take the credit. There are some people like this in Vidarbha. I, therefore, request Shri Madhavrao Scindia to look into the pending proposals for introducing two more trains or any other connected proposal. Every year I go through the budgetary provisions. I find that allocation being made to Maharashtra in the Budget is very scanty but Vidarbha region does not find its place at all. It may be all right from the Government's view point but the question is how to face the people who resort to agitation for such matters. Oranges are transported from Vidarbha region by the Amaravati-Nadkhed line and it fetches foreign exchange. It is a big crop of the farmers in the region. A proposal to provide Vidarbha-Nadkhed line for the movement of goods traffic has been lying pending for years. I request the hon. Minister to look into that proposal.

Several hon. Members raised the issue of narrow gauge lines. After

all we do not discard our near and dear if he becomes weak or handicapped. Rather we try to provide him strength. Though there has been no commitment from Government's side, there are rumours that the narrow gauge lines which were at one time running under the control of East India Company will be closed. In this connection I would like to plead strongly not to close these lines because these lines connect small villages in the rural areas where road or any other means of transport is not available to the people. In our area a narrow gauge line runs from Yavatmal to Achelpur-Murtazapur and people call it Shakuntala. I am very thankful to the hon. Minister that he has shelved the proposal of closing that line.

14.00 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

There were certain other minor things connected with our region. I am thankful to him that he has made efforts to attend to these complaints. But I would like to bring one thing to his kind notice that he had asked the railway authorities to repair the Yavatmal-Murtazapur-Dariyapur narrow gauge line. But the action taken by the Rail Bhawan makes one laugh. Instead of repairing the line, they have made the trains fast and thereby omitting a number of stations. The people complained that the trains may be allowed to run as usual. Repairing the line does not mean making the trains fast. Since the Amaravati-Nadkhed line is connected with the life of small farmers, their future and orange trade, I would like to request him to extend the line upto Baikunth. We are not interested in agitation. But there are certain agencies which do not allow us to work and also blame the Government. I request the Government not to allow these agencies to carry out their activities. I further urge that Vidarbha region may be given a surprise gift and they may be informed that the new line is being sanctioned for the backward areas of the region.

With these words, while concluding I would like to make one more submission. I was a witness to the incident of rape and murder of a woman in Tamil Nadu. The

woman was raped and murdered in broad day light. There was lack of security arrangements only. I have travelled by that train. I, therefore, request him to provide good coaches, at least, for women and make arrangements for their safety. We shall always support you and try to realise your limitations as well.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully support the Budget that has been presented by the young Minister of Railways. All the hon. Members have raised 2-3 similar points which include hike in second class fare, increase in freight charges and platform tickets. In this connection I would request the hon. Minister that while replying to the debate he should announce some concessions which will provide relief to the people. It will be a great relief to the people if some reduction in the increased fare is announced.

The India Railways made a lot of progress under his able leadership and the rate of corruption has gone down. The hon. Minister has been kind enough to order a stoppage for the Rajdhani Express at Kota. Besides the train service running from Kota to Guna has been extended upto Bhopal. In addition to all this, the Indian Railways provided timely help to famine stricken areas of Rajasthan. They transported essential commodities and even water to Rajasthan. In his Budget speech he has indicated that provision of radio contact between the guard and the driver will be given in select number of trains. This will check accidents and other kind of mishaps. As a result of establishment of contact between driver, guard and the control room the passengers will get more amenities and they will be free from worries and difficulties. The railways will be revitalised and the work will be carried out efficiently. I thank the hon. Minister for all these good things done by him.

In his Budget speech the hon. Minister has indicated that the Kota-Chittor railway line will be completed by 1989. I hope that this line will be completed as per schedule. Besides, I thank the hon Minister for completing the electrification work on Delhi-

Bombay line as per time schedule. The Senior Minister has left the House and his junior colleague is now present. In my view the Railway Department is doing well. Shri Scindia, as a senior driver is a very good worker and now he has got a junior colleague I hope that with the help of a colleague, a junior driver he will manage the show better.

AN HON. MEMBER : You want driver or engine ?

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Driver is the first requirement. Then only the engine will run. We do not want automatic engines. We want engine with driver. I hope that with an additional hand, this work will be carried out more efficiently. Shri Scindia will get a lot of help from his junior colleague.

Now I shall make a few submissions about the problems of my constituency. The hon. Minister might have got bored listening to various problems of several hon. Members. But he will have a sympathetic view when he will listen to the difficulties of my area. I come from Kota which falls between Delhi and Bombay. There are 7 mail and express trains run between Delhi and Bombay. But the rush of passengers is so much that thousands of Delhi and Bombay bound passengers have to come back home for want of seats. The rush is particularly heavy at Kota and Ratlam. I have made several requests for introducing a train on this route, but it is not known why my request is not being acceded to. Different reasons have been given at different times for not introducing the train. Shortage of terminals, shortage of additional line capacity, shortage of engines and coaches are among the reasons which the authorities give. In this way the proposal stands as it was. In March 1986 Shri Scindia visited Shyamgarh. The people of the area met him and requested him to look into this problem. He was very considerate and talked to the D.R.M. about it, he had stated that as soon as the electrification work is over a new train either between Delhi and Bombay, Baroda and Delhi or Delhi and Ratlam can be introduced. The electrification work has since been completed. As soon as I began my speech Shri

[Shri Shanti Dhariwal]

Scindia left the House. But I want that my views should be conveyed to him. He had made the above promise at Shyamgarh. Hence the proposal to introduce a new train should be taken into consideration now. Thousands of people have to return home for want of adequate train services.

Thirdly, I would like to submit that the Dehradun Express runs from Dehradun to Bombay. There is already a separate train from Indore to Delhi. In spite of that 6 coaches are brought from Indore to Nagda where these are attached to Dehradun Express. What are the reasons of attaching these coaches? On the other hand, thousands of passengers have to return from the station itself for want of seats. If at all necessary, these coaches should be attached to the separate train which runs from Indore to Delhi. The people of Kota and Ratlam are made to suffer unnecessarily. Similarly more favour is being shown to Indore when coaches are brought to Nagda and connected at Indore with Bombay bound Frontier Mail which runs from Amritsar to Bombay. When a separate train is already available for Indore, why the coaches are attached to other trains from Indore. We have no objection if any favour is shown to Madhya Pradesh, Indore or Ujjain. But it should not be at others' lost. We are also citizens of India. The country will be stronger if we are made strong. Hence, these coaches may please be withdrawn and attached to Dehradun Express. Reservation may please be given to passengers of Ratlam and Kota.

I am grateful to you that the Awadh Express has been extended upto Ratlam. I thank the hon. Minister for this. This is very commendable that the train has been extended upto Ratlam instead of Baroda. I have to request that Avadha Express reaches Ratlam at 7.45 P.M. and remains there upto 8.00 AM of the following day. In view of this, this train can easily be extended upto Baroda to utilise the time as demanded by the people of this area. The idle time of the train will be utilised.

Sarvodaya Express runs twice a week. This is the only train which links areas of

Rajasthan with Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. It should be run at least four days a week instead of two days. This is a very popular and good train. The people of that area will be highly benefited by it.

Whether it is a question of Sarvodaya Express or Frontier Mail or Rajdhani or Dehradun Express, I request you to increase the quota of Kota city as 2-3 seats already provided are insufficient.

Similarly, the river Chambal flows near Kota city. A very Old Railway bridge, Railway track is built on this river. As the line has been doubled, I had demanded the constructions a footpath on the place near bridge by using sleepers. The people residing in 60 or 70 villages across the Chambal river reach Kota city either by Railway line or they have to cover a distance of at least twenty kilometer. If pavements are made by putting same sleepers on the remaining space then it will benefit the people including Railway employees residing there. I had written to the hon. Minister but got a negative reply saying that it is impossible because of double line. I say that the bridge is so small that double railway line is not possible there. The Railway Board officials mislead the hon. Minister by furnishing wrong information. I request you and also the hon. Minister to get the statements prepared by officers re-examined to know how wrong picture has been painted. In response to my letter he has stated that a double line will be laid on it. But how it is possible? When there is no space for the double line on that bridge. A pavement but not a railway line can easily be constructed on that 2-3 foot space. Therefore, such replies should not be given to the Members of this august House on behalf of the Ministry.

Further more I may state that A.C. First Class Coach is already there in Dehradun Express but A.C. Class II Coach has not been provided. So I request you to provide a A.C. Class II Coach in the aforesaid train as being demanded by the people of that area.

Kota station should be included in the list of Model Stations. There is Lakher Industrial town between Kota and Sawai Madhopur which has a population of thirty

thousand. Its platform is in deplorable condition. Sheds have also not been provided. I request you to provide sheds and other necessary facilities on that station as it is a very big industrial city.

I have praised you and also have stated other things hoping that you will pay attention to my suggestions. May God bless both of you, junior and senior drivers for the proper functioning of Indian Railway.

***SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT** (Nandurbar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak in Marathi. Please permit me to speak in Marathi. At the outset I would like to heartily support the Railway Budget for the year 1988-89. I congratulate the hon. Railway Minister and the officials of his Ministry for taking up new programmes for implementation this year. This year the railways have undertaken a very good programme of plantation of trees on either side of railway tracks in a big way.

A special feature of this year's budget is starting of 8 new trains and increasing the frequency of many trains. This will provide a great relief to thousands of passengers. I thank the hon. Minister for taking this step in the interest of travelling public.

Sir, I come from a tribal area of Maharashtra and I also belong to a tribal community. Therefore, I would like to raise some of the genuine and long pending grievances of the tribal population of this area and the problems which they are facing regarding train services on Surat-Bhusaval section. I hope that hon. Railway Minister will sympathetically consider their problems.

I have been demanding from last two years to attach a 2-tier or 3-tier bogie to 113 Up and 114 Down trains and Indo re-Bombay Express at Amalner and Surat Railway Station respectively. This will enable the passengers from Gujrat and peoples' representatives to reach Bombay easily. Many merchants who have to go Bombay often will also be benefitted if this measure is taken. I request the hon.

Minister to accept the long standing demand of the people of this area.

It also demand that all the four South bound trains should be provided a 2 minute stoppage at Dondaicha, Pondaicha is an important commercial centre. Last year Dondaicha Municipality supplied water to railways. I therefore request that all the four trains from Ahmedabad to Trivendram, Cochin, Hyderabad and Madras should be provided a halt at Dondaicha and reservation quota of at berths and seats should be sanctioned for this railway station. There is a sugar factory and starch factory nearby. Therefore I request you to provide a two-minute halt at Dondaicha.

On Surat Bhusawal Section it is necessary to replace steam engines by diesel engines. Trains are running late by 3 to 4 hours as trains are running with steam engines. It becomes very difficult for the passengers to get connecting trains if the trains run late. Therefore only diesel engines should be used on this Section.

The electrification of Surat-Bhusaval Section has been sanctioned. But the work has not yet commenced. I request you to start this work early. I also request that wooden sleepers should be replaced by concrete sleepers on this Section.

I request that all the level crossings of Surat Bhusaval Section should be manned by gatemen round the clock. They should be provided accommodation by the Railways.

I am sorry to point out that first class bogies of passenger trains on Surat Bhusaval-Section are no longer attached to the trains. I request that all the passenger trains should be provided at least one first class bogie.

Dhule is the district headquarter. The reservation quota for Dhule is only 1 three tier bogie, 8 first class berths but it is very inadequate. In view of the long standing demand of the people the reservation quota should be stepped up to 2 3tier bogies, 1 first class bogie and 1 second class general bogie. If this demand is not met the people of this area may resort to agitation. I

*The speech was originally Delivered in Marathi.

[**Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit**]

request the hon. Minister not to allow the situation to take that turn and step up the reservation quota of Dhule immediately.

Goods trains carrying costly teak wood are stopped for two to three hours between Bhadbhunjia and Songrh Railways Stations with the connivance of guard and engine driver and it is illegally carried to Surat and sold there. For the last two years the illegal sale of timber is going on. An RPF jawan detected this malpractice on 9th November 1987 and seized timber worth lakhs of rupees which was being transported to Surat for illegal sale. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Railway Minister who wrote to me that enquiry of this case is being conducted. But no action has been taken against that guard and engine driver who had connived to loot national property worth several lakhs of rupees. Immediate action should be taken against them. I demand that action should also be taken against all engine drivers and guards who had detained the goods train between those two railway stations during the last two years. Such a step alone will curb illegal felling of trees in the forests of this area.

The incident of chain pulling occurs on a large scale on Surat-Bhusaval Section. Mostly railway employees serving in PWIW department are involved in the cases of chain pulling as they are interested in stopping the train near their village but the travelling public is blamed for chain pulling. Therefore, the railways should warn the employees of its departments not to indulge in chain pulling and immediate action should be taken against those employees who are involved in the act of chain pulling.

Some people praise the meals which are provided in aluminium casseroles. Three food packets are now supplied to passengers which are to be thrown out after use. The price of thali which was Rs. 5 earlier has now been enhanced to Rs. 7 and the extra charges are recovered from the passengers. Lakhs of packets which are thrown every day amount to the loss of national property. I therefore request that this practice should be stopped immediately and meals

should be served in steel thalis only as it was done earlier.

The work of doubling of Surat-Bhusaval line is already sanctioned I request you to take up that work immediately.

Survey of Manmad-Dhule-Indore line which is a 20 year old proposal is still being neglected by the railway administration. I urge upon you to take up the survey of this line immediately.

An over bridge at Nardhana on Bombay Agra road has already been surveyed. This work also should be taken up soon and completed as early as possible.

With these words I thank hon. Minister and I also thank you for giving me permission to speak in Marathi.

[*English*]

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not say that I have come to bury a ceasar. Mr. Scindia has been heaped with praises all along and he has inbuilt advantage of the Scindia Raj and he can carry wonderfully well amidst adversities in Parliament also. I find that the Railway budget has been very very carefully and cleverly drafted. When you find plus points on the right, you find minus points on the left. The effect is that when you go to the railway stations, you want to buy a ticket, you are told that ticket prices have gone up and things like that. Even railway freights on goods have gone up. Anyway, I won't ramble into the generalities.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the very serious situation in north-east Assam so far as railways are concerned. The budget by itself, given by Shri Scindia is a sugar-coated pill. Shri Scindia has given us a few lollipops for which I must thank him. He has given us the assurance that the work on the railway bridge at Jogibhopa would start soon. I hope the earthwork from Panchratna to Guwahati will start simultaneously.

It is felt that trains in Assam arrive very late. That is not because of the fault of the running staff or the railways in the North-East but because of the lack of track,

I had submitted a petition, dated 10.4.87, cutting across party lines. It was signed by almost all parties. I don't know whether the hon. Minister of Railways has a copy of it. I have got a copy with me. This was sent through the Notice Office. Normally, Shri Scindia is very prompt in replying to letters but in this particular case, I have not received a reply from him. I think it is misplaced somewhere. It was signed by about 50 MPs from North-East, including West Bengal and Bihar. So, I would request him to look into this matter and see what could be done about double-tracking of the line up to Assam. I am told that already there is a scheme for double-tracking of the railway line up to Kumedpur. Beyond Kumedpur nothing has been done in the North-East. The railways are the umbilical cord to the North-East. Once it is snapped through natural calamities or by enemy action, the whole North-East will be put into jeopardy. That is the first point.

The second is about the oft-quoted demand for the extension of broad-gauge from Guwahati to Dibrugarh *v/a* Nowgong-Jorhat-Sibsagar. I would like to repeat this demand again in the House.

The other immediate demand is about the extension of the shuttle train presently running between Guwahati and Pandu. It could easily be extended from Sangsari to Panikhati. I am told that a delegation from Assam had come and seen the Railway Minister.

The next point is, of course, regarding the shifting of the railway line from the Guwahati city. I admit that there is no city on earth through which a railway line is not passed. But it is causing us a lot of dislocation. We must have east-and-west running roads at Guwahati. Guwahati is saturated with congestion of traffic. Cars run there bumper to bumper. Alternative roads are needed. Either you build over-bridges over 37 level crossings that we have or give us the reserve railway line, north of the railway line and south of the railway line to the State Government where we can build parallel roads along the railway. This is a suggestion which I think you would take into consideration.

The other suggestion is regarding the overcrowding of platforms. I don't expect the Railway Minister to go and watch the crowding on the railway platforms himself, but he can certainly send his officers to find out the position. There are occasions where 3 or 4 trains come in the same platform in Delhi. I suggest that if the Railway Minister cannot visit the stations himself, it is not possible also then he can instal TV sets on the railway platforms and see for himself whether what I am saying is true or not. In fact, I am voicing the opinion of almost all the interested Members.

The next suggestion is about the condition of carriages going to the north-east region. The condition is worse than any of the carriages in the country. Lot of people have told me that the carriages on other sectors of the country like the ones going to South India or the Western India are much better. How is it that the carriage position in the north-east could not be improved ?

The last point which I would like to mention is about the wireless communication as my friend from Rajasthan has mentioned. Wireless communication between the driver and the guard is indeed necessary. It is a very good suggestion. In these days of electronics these small facilities could be given to the railways and I hope this matter would be pursued.

This is all that I have got to say and I hope the Railway Minister would give the replies to the points that I have raised.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA
(Janjgir) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support and welcome the railway Budget. First of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Madhav Rao Scindia and the entire Indian Railway staff for their large contribution to the Indian Railways in obtaining a special position in the International World. The present Rail Budget has taken due care of providing relief to the poor masses of this country. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Railway Minister towards a couple of prominent issues instead of going into details,

[Dr. Prabhat Kumar Mishra]

Our hon. Railway Minister has always been charged of thinking about development in Madhya Pradesh only because he belongs to that State. I would like to explain the geographical position of Madhya Pradesh due to which all the trains going from Delhi to Bombay Delhi to Calcutta, Delhi to Madras or from Bombay to Calcutta have to pass through Madhya Pradesh because there is no other alternative. If you glance at the provisions made for introducing new trains in the present Railway Budget, one may find that only one new train has been provided to Madhya Pradesh. Despite this, if he is charged of favouring Madhya Pradesh then it is baseless. They level charges on the Minister in the House but whenever we demand a train in our area he repeats the charges levelled against him. This is nothing but irony of fate. I am representative of the area which has greatly contributed in the development of South Eastern Railway. It has highest track utilisation and the maximum goods trains transporting all types of loads, be it coal, iron or aluminium pass through these areas and the maximum revenue is earned from Bilaspur area which fall under South Eastern Railway. It is sorry state of affairs that whenever we ask for a train, the reply come that your track is not free, so how can a train be allocated. But here in the House and Parliament it is said that every demand of Madhya Pradesh is met. The hon'ble Member preceding me charged hon. Minister for seeing with Jaundice-eyes. But I would like to urge him not to see hon. Minister's works with a prejudiced mind. I do not agree with him that as Shri Scindia belongs to Madhya Pradesh, he favour that State.

As far as Jhansi and Gwalior Railway Stations are concerned, I would like to mention that they were constructed in British times and even betels are not available at Gwalior Station. The credit for cleanliness of this station goes to the residents of Gwalior. It is possible that, only Marble Stones may catch their eyes but it is not so. Sir, in brief I would like to congratulate Shri Scindia and the Railway staff for the achievements of

Indian Railways in the international world. It is a matter of pride for us. The Department of Railways have achieved success in different fields viz. modernisation, safety plantation, etc., etc. which must be appreciated.

I would like to draw attention towards some points. Utkal Express which goes from Nizamuddin to Puri passes through eight States. Several people including many Members of Parliament travel by it. My demand is to increase amenities in this train and its speed should also be increased. Besides, a first-class air-conditioned bogie should also be attached to it. I would like to tell you that last year hon. Minister had visited our Bilaspur area and announced that Korba is a big industrial city. I would request him to get the Rail head from Korba to Champa electrified. If that is done then we shall not ask for a new Railway line. It will be very good if a small line is provided to connect Korba with Bilaspur, the district headquarter of railway because Korba is a very big industrial city. I am not asking to provide a new train in my area, as every member of Parliament demands a new train not only in his area but also in the headquarter of his constituency. But I would say that if some adjustment could be made in the existing trains, some may be extended to certain distance, distance of some may be reduced and some trains may be connected to other trains then definitely there will be no need for a new train. For example, if G. T. Express going from Delhi is connected to Bombay Howrah Mail at Nagpur Station then there will be no difficulty in going to Bilaspur or Calcutta and this connection work can be accomplished in a short time. It will provide us additional facility and there will no need for a separate train. Only some adjustment is needed in this situation. In this context, I want to say that if the Bilaspur-Shahdol Shuttle is extended upto Korba, a new train need not be introduced on this route. It entails extension only upto a small distance. Similarly there are many trains which can derive much benefit if they are slightly re-routed or extended. All South-bound trains run *via* Nagpur. If some of these trains are routed *via* Katni-Bilaspur-Raipur and Waltair, a new service can be availed of by the people of that area,

Sir, I want that the survey being conducted for the Bilaspur-Mandla-Jabalpur railway line should be completed quickly. This is a very old route of the Indian Railways and its first survey was carried out during the period of British rule. Many hon. Members want that the metre-gauge lines in their areas to be converted into broad-gauge. I suggest that the metre-gauge lines rendered surplus after their conversion in those areas be laid in our area. Development or expansion of the Railways creates an employment potential. When a particular area sees a growth in its railway, the people of that area expect more employment opportunities to come their way. Therefore, railway employees in that area should be promoted and fresh recruits should be inducted into service. I feel that there are some issues which hardly come to the notice of the hon. Minister. If the facilities extended to passengers in the past are withdrawn, they are put to trouble. For example, booking facilities at Bilaspur for the Bombay-Howrah Mail, which runs *via* Champa and Raigarh, have been withdrawn.

With the closure of booking facilities, not only the passengers are put to much inconvenience but the Railways also stand to lose some revenue. So both parties lose in the process. I request the hon. Minister and officials that before taking any decisions, they should take into account their far-reaching consequences. I request that booking facilities at Bilaspur for the Bombay-Howrah Mail running *via* Bilaspur-Champa-Basti-Raigarh to Calcutta, be restored.

In view of increasing traffic, gates are required to be provided at railway crossing so as to reduce the incidents of accidents. Roads in the railway colonies situated in the vicinity of railway stations must be repaired. Efforts should be made towards providing better health facilities to railway employees.

I am grateful to the hon. Minister for kindly according the approval for setting up a Railway Station at Kurga in my area. Many of the problems faced by people can be sorted-out at the D. R. M. or General Manager Level. But these officials adopt an unco-operative attitude and turn a deaf

ear to grievances brought to their notice. This forces us to raise these issues in the House and waste the valuable time of the Parliament. As my hon. colleague, who spoke earlier, said that many letters were received relating to minor demands and asking for better public facilities by those officials. Due to their adamant attitude, these officials do not bring the matters to the notice of the Minister and send their replies at their own level without caring about the long-term effects and as a result thereof, we have to raise such trivial issues, be it regarding level crossing, installation of gates or repairs of roads adjacent to railway stations, in the Parliament. I want that letters written by Members of Parliament should be dealt with seriously. I do not think it proper to let these letters be disposed of at the official or bureaucratic levels only.

Last time an hon. Lady Member had raised the matter of a rape committed in a railway compartment. It is a matter of serious concern that a number of passengers of Air-Conditioned and other higher classes consume liquor while travelling in trains. Passengers who do not consume alcohol feel uneasy while travelling in these classes. The railway authorities should give this matter serious thought.

The security guards in waiting-halls at railway stations are found sleeping during duty-hours. I personally got down at South Eastern Railway's Baleshwar Railway Station at 01.30 a.m. and saw the security guards dozing off. While the lawmen take a nap, the safety of passengers, especially women, is threatened. This matter should be looked into. Railway employees should not misuse the facilities provided to travellers. I should also ask for an improvement in waiting-hall amenities. The increase in the rate of passenger movement calls for an increase in the number of waiting halls.

Timing of the trains is required to be scheduled in a manner that they connect each other as passengers travelling over long distances should find it easy to board connecting trains on route.

The Planning Commission should be impressed upon to allocate more funds for the Railway because whenever Railways

[Dr. Prabhat Kumar Mishra]

[Translation]

come up for discussion, every hon. Member wants railways in his area to grow. The Planning Commission should provide more funds to the railways. Otherwise the railways will be unable to develop at a rapid pace.

I congratulate the hon. Railway Minister and the entire family of rail employees. I welcome this Rail Budget, and once again invite the kind attention of the hon. Railway Minister to the problems faced by my area.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiah) :
Respected Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the surplus Rail Budget for the year 1988-89. Without taking up much of the House's time I want to place some suggestions before the hon. Railway Minister.

Our hon. Railway Minister has given a lot of thought to the betterment of passenger amenities; I want to say a word on passenger amenities. There are two aspects to passenger amenities—firstly the facilities made available to passengers at railway platforms, and, secondly the facilities made available to passengers on-board the trains. Except under a Railway Ministry notification, nowhere has the term 'amenities' been clearly defined. Neither has any bill been introduced in this House to tell us as to the difference between facilities provided specially for passengers and the facilities which are provided just because of an extension of the railway establishment. There are some amenities which are accounted for in the passengers' head but in reality they form part and parcel of the railway establishment. This item should be counted as part of the railway system as a whole. I would like to clarify my point further. If a shed is constructed over a railway platform, it is counted as a passenger amenity and expenditure incurred on it is debited under passengers' amenities head. Then the Government says that Rs. 18 crores are to be spent towards provision of passenger amenities. My contention is that providing sheds is a part of the normal railway establishment work. There is no question of a shed being an amenity for passengers.

Similarly installation of hand pumps for drinking water is treated as passenger amenities. Will you include provision of drinking water at platforms in passenger amenities? The Hon. Minister is therefore, requested to elucidate this point. These are some points on which collective discussion is required. I would request to have a debate on passenger amenities in the House so that we could express our views on the subject. In reality what are the passenger amenities? Till to date we have not specified as to what passenger amenities mean. To my mind, a bill should have been brought forward to this effect. All of us must think over this issue seriously, at least I think so.

Even today, one third of our track is metre gauge. Will we be able to convert this metre gauge into broad gauge by 1995 or 2000 A.D.? I think some difficulties are likely to come in fulfilling this task and due to shortage of resources much time will be required. In the face of such a gigantic task of conversion of 19 to 20 kilometers long metre gauge into broad gauge, I doubt whether we will be able to do this work, because we are to provide other facilities also to the passengers. We are also to increase the speed of trains, introduce Diesel Locomotives and undertake electrification work. In view of all this, I have some doubts. In this House, most of the hon. Members only demand conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge. Therefore I suggest that modernisation of metre gauge itself may be made.

I felicitate the hon. Minister for Railway for placing the order for metre gauge coaches also. Some new coaches are being built and a lot of advancement has also taken place in the manufacture of Diesel Locomotives for metre gauge. I believe if the money required for converting metre gauge into broad gauge is utilised for modernisation of metre gauge, and if the same facilities are made available to the passengers in metre gauge also, as are available to the passengers in broad gauge, a lot of problems can be solved automatically.

My third suggestion is very important and I believe the hon. Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways would definitely think over it. It is like this, Railway Board play an important role in the Ministry of Railways. At present, Railway Board is represented by officers from almost all disciplines of engineering section, who are doing good work, there is no doubt about it. I also praise them. I also associate myself in praising the officers of Railway Board and the railway employees as a whole, who comprise 18 to 19 lakh, for doing good work but here I would like to emphasise one thing. There is a case for slightly reconstitution of Railway Board. Two to three disciplines have failed to get representation in the Railway Board, for example Railway Doctors. Railways in itself is a big organisation and in order to provide medical care to 18 lakh railway employees and their members of their families, totalling about 1.5 to 1.75 crore in number, as many as 3400 to 3500 doctors have been employed by Railways who continue to work on adhoc basis for the last 15 years. I raised this issue while speaking on the last year Railway Budget also and demanded to stop this adhocism in the matter of appointment of doctors, if they cannot be absorbed on regular employment in Railways, why do you appoint them? When you can't link yourself with doctors, what is the fun in appointing them? If there is no need of doctors in the Railways, if only engineering section can manage the shows, you should run engineering section only? But when you feel their necessity also and you have set up Cancer Institute and Sophisticated Cardiology Centre, why doctors are being accorded second class citizenship in the Railways. They must be given representation in Railways Board. The need for this is highly felt by me. There is wide discontentment among doctors of Railways as their demands are disposed of at the DG level itself because there is no officer above DG level who could listen to their grievances. If a member happens to be happy with the staff, he will refer their cases to CRB, so I request to appoint a Member, Medical in the Railway Board. To my mind, store and security, store and materials is also a very important subject therefore a post of Member Inventory or

Member Store should also be created and thirdly security is a very important aspect. We have been persistently demanding in the House, a post of member security and safety should be created in the Railway Board.

So I request creation of three posts of Members to look after these three departments.

I would like to say few words about RPF which is a very important branch. There are two kinds of RPF forces. RPF is responsible for safety of Railways properties while at the same level you have made the arrangement of GRP whose 50 per cent expenditure is borne by Railways. As the hon. Members are aware, GRP, in fulfilling its important role, largely comes in contact with state Governments wherever law and order problem arises, GRP personnel are also assigned to law and order duty, thereby leaving little time for them to look after Railways affairs, so people are not getting the facilities from GRP as it were expected from them. I would like to inform the House that a bill named Railway Properties Special Offences Bill, 1976 was to be introduced on the recommendation of several committees appointed between the period from 1952 to 1976, but no information has been made available to us about that Bill till to date. I request the hon. Minister of railways to say few words about the proposed Bill while replying. The hon. Minister of Railways is aware of the importance of Bagaha-chhitauni Railway Bridge, the little I speak more he will understand about the importance of the bridge. Therefore I request the hon. Minister of Railways to look into the suggestions I have given and also think over constructing Bagaha-Chhitauni bridge.

With these words I conclude.

14.56 hrs.

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

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget and support it with core of my heart. This is a very

[Shri Akhtar Hasan]

good budget and will benefit the poor at large. The relief offered to the families of persons killed by extremists is praiseworthy. The concession given to students is also an important step because future of the country depends on students. These are the rising stars of the nation on whom the future of the nation rests. Introduction of new trains is also a welcome step. But I would like to make few suggestions for consideration of the hon. Minister of Railways.

My first suggestion is this that the students be exempted from purchasing of platform ticket. My second suggestion is this that there is no express train from Delhi to Saharanpur via Shamli and the existing train running on that section has outlived its utility. It seems that it is not in the records of the Ministry. Railway crossings all along the route do not have gates. On first January, three people were killed there in a road accident at the crossing. What was the cause of it, I do not know. So, I especially request the hon. Minister of Railways to provide gates at crossings and introduce one or two express trains on this section. The passenger train runs at present only in the night, during day time not a single train runs. It would be very good, if a train is started which may run between Saharanpur and some stations from Delhi in day time. Through Shamli town, traffic coming from Delhi, Haryana and Bazar of Haridwar passes. whenever a train stops, traffic is jammed for a mile or so as there is a Sugar Mill nearby. Many vehicles get caught in the traffic jam, providing little way to the pedestrians. There are two railway crossings there and it would be very good if a railway overbridge is constructed at one of them.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy-Speaker. With great pain and agony I have been waiting for this debate.

Today, unfortunately there are 20 pending projects in Karnataka of the Railways. Today, why are we agitating? You may

not mistake us, because the disparity existing today in Karnataka is very wide and the people have already decided to boycott the Indian Railways in Karnataka. The fact is today the money spent by the Central Government for the Railways in Karnataka is only 3.3 per cent. In comparison to the neighbouring States, it is about 17 per cent.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Which neighbouring States ?

DR. V. VENKATESH : Tamilnadu, Andhra and Kerala.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Not Kerala.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Only Tamilnadu.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO (Siddipet) : And Maharashtra, not Andhra.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Today there are only 14.75 km of railway line per thousand Kilometres, as compared to the neighbouring States where it is 35 to 40 kilometres per thousand square kilometres.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : In London it is far higher.

DR. V. VENKATESH : I will tell you. As far as the travellers are concerned only three lakh people per day travel by train whereas 45 lakhs are travelling by road transport. Therefore, all my agitation is not at all affecting the Karnataka people, even though I am obstructing the Railways, nobody is travelling in those railways. They have already forgotten.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your Karnataka is a very advanced State.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Because it is a non-Congress State.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Before independence 2775 kilometres of railway lines were there in Karnataka. After independence, it has just increased to 2877 kilometres, that is, hardly 102 kilometres have been added after 40 years of independence.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How much in Tamil Nadu ?

DR. V. VENKATESH : I will tell you.

One more point. Because the integration of Karnataka has taken place, before integration of Karnataka, we were far better, the whole of Karnataka area. That means, before independence and during the British time we were far better. After integration, it has been reduced to one per cent. This is the pathetic story, railway story in Karnataka.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is the price paid for integration.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You have got the Maharajah also.

DR. V. VENKATESH : That is why all the people in Karnataka were agitated and they have been forcing me to spearhead this agitation. As a result I lost one rib. Yesterday also I mentioned this. But the Railway Minister with his indifferent attitude said that it is not possible. I am telling you. The Karnataka people are watching in the State and this is the second phase of the railway agitation where I have sustained this injury. The third stage will be when we will boycott the Railways. Therefore, I should not be held responsible. The Ministry is going to be held responsible for this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Wipe out the Congress.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Along with the railways.

DR. V. VENKATESH : This is the second phase. The first phase was started on the 19th of last month.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Put your demands.

DR. V. VENKATESH : I am telling the facts. It started on the 19th. It was a very peaceful demonstration throughout Karnataka and another agitation we started on the 6th, before this Railway Budget started, just to highlight the facts and bring them to the notice of the Minister who is sleeping. Just to wake him up this second stage of agitation was started. What is the price we paid for it? They have sanctioned only 8 crores, Only Rs. 8 crores!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : only Rs. 8 crores!

DR. V. VENKATESH : I am just comparing. Of course, the entire South is neglected. But I am just comparing with the neighbouring States. Out of this Budget, Kerala has got about rupees seventeen crores, even though it is a small State, Tamil Nadu has got about rupees Twenty seven crores and Andhra Pradesh has got about Rupees thirty five crores.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Karnataka and Maharashtra are put on par.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, as a Parliamentarian, I have got a special responsibility. Today we are talking about the integration of the nation. When such disparities are still existing now, how can you expect real integration. The entire Karnataka people are watching it and they are very much agitated. Even if I become a Railway Minister, it is impossible to rectify the disparity within a year. But I am asking a small favour that the Railway Ministry make use of his wisdom and come out for a separate, South Western Railway Zone. The Railway Reforms Committee had already recommended for it in order to provide better facilities and amenities to the passengers. But, so far, the Minister is sleeping over this issue. My minimum demand is that they should come forward to establish a separate South Western Railway Zone and also other zones in other States. I cannot go back to my State with an empty hand. I have already sustained injuries. I do not want to go back to my State without the assurance from the hon. Railway Minister for the establishment of a separate South Western Railway Zone. If the Minister comes out with a negative answer, I would not go out of this House and I will sit in *dharna* in this House itself.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD (Chamarajanagar) : Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the long standing demands of our State. Though we had five Railway

[Shri V. Sreenivasa Prasad]

Ministers, four Cabinet Ministers and one State Minister, from our State, we were not benefited much. In the recent past Karnataka State has been neglected totally. Even in this Budget, the allocation made to the Karnataka State is very poor. For example, the broadgauge conversion project between Mysore and Bangalore has been taken up in 1979, and this time you have provided only about Rs. 6.6 crores. I think, we require about forty crores of rupees for completing this project. If we go by this rate, it will take another fifteen to twenty years for completing this project. I also request to extend this broad gauge conversion project upto Chamarajanagar. Later on, I am going to speak about Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam conversion project. By giving this small amount, the progress is not going to be achieved as we expect.

The per capita investment in respect of Karnataka is very meagre so far as Railways are concerned. Therefore, allocation of more funds is necessary for removing the existing disparities and for modernisation, conversion and upgradation.

In Karnataka no new project has been taken up. Yesterday, I raised the question of Chamrajnagar-Mettupalayam railway line. But the Minister's reply was in negative. Actually this is not a big project. It is only a missing national link I made it clear yesterday. This can be the centre of three States—Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Even the people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu can pass through this line. It can save 10 hours and the distance can be reduced by 150 to 200 kms. The people of Mysore District can go to Coimbatore through this link. At present, we do not have sufficient transport facilities. This link will be a great boon to the people of that area. In view of this, I request the hon. Minister to link up Chamrajnagar Mettupalayam.

Construction of Miraj-Bangalore railway line is a long standing demand of the people of my State. If you take up this project this will cover a large area of Karnataka upto Maharashtra border. This will really be of great benefit to the people of Karnataka.

The work on the West Coast line i.e. Apta-Mangalore has already started from Apta. I request the hon. Minister to start the work simultaneously from Mangalore side also so that the work can be completed at the scheduled time.

Hubli-Karwar line is also a very important project. Keiga Atomic Energy Complex is coming up there. 'Scabird' naval base is also coming up there. In view of its importance, this project should also be taken up.

The Railway Workshop in Mysore is the oldest workshop in the country. It was started in the year 1920. Since then it has not been developed. In Karnataka, particularly in Mysore, there is no labour unrest. There is infrastructure available, but nothing has been done to upgrade this workshop. Sometime back, I demanded that the diesel component manufacturing unit should be given to upgrade this workshop. But that was not considered. I request the hon. Minister to do something in this regard.

Finally, my hon. friend talked about the south-western zone. The Railway Reforms Commission has recommended in 1982 for the creation of four new zones and south-western zone was one among them, with Bangalore as its headquarter. To provide better service to the people and for monitoring purposes also, this zonal office at Bangalore would be an ideal one. In view of this, I request the hon. Minister to consider it and give it the top priority.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPESHWAR SINGH (Bikramganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget. Hon. Shri Scindia has presented a very wise Budget. Every care has been taken to provide comfort and safety to passengers. Concessions in fares have been granted to students and Defence personnel and the freedom fighters have been given the facility to travel by first class for yet another year. I want that this period should be extended. I am not saying that they should get it for life but it should be extended by 3 years so that these, who sacrificed everything for the country and only a few of such people are now

alive, and that too they are at the fag end of their lives, are able to tour the country and visit places of pilgrimage.

I would also like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for appointing a person like Shri Mahabir Prasad as Deputy Minister to assist Shri Scindia and I will urge him to reconsider the hike in passenger fares.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, to my own home state Bihar and my constituency. I was elected to this House in 1980 and since then I have been demanding the restoration of the 62 mile long light railway line between Arrah and Sasaram on which 8 pairs of trains used to run in up and down direction but during the Janata Rule it was dismantled and permission was given to the Martin Light Railway Company to wind up every thing there. Consequently, the entire property of the railways was sold out including the lines and the coaches. About 20 to 22 stations between Arrah and Sasaram are still there.

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Even the land was sold out.

SHRI TAPESHWAR SINGH: No, land is not sold out. Land is still there because it is Government's land managed by the District Board.

[Translation]

Subsequently, hon. Shri Kamalpathi Tripathi, when he was made Railway Minister in 1980, had announced that this line would be restored and a survey was also conducted in this regard. The successive Railway Ministers namely, Late. Shri Kedar Pandey and Choudhari Bansi Lal also made the same announcement in the House. I have been repeating my demand year after year. The survey has already been conducted and negotiations for acquiring separate land have been held. But it has not been cleared by the Planning Commission so far. It is being shelved on the plea that the project is not viable. This line was originally laid down by the British in 1905. Our area is thickly populated and is considered to be the granary of Bihar. Foodgrains are

sent even outside Bihar to Bengal and other States from here. Coal is also transported in substantial quantities. But, so far neither land has been acquired nor any work has been started. Hon. Shri Scindia is a young, dedicated and devoted Minister. Hon. Shri Mahabir Prasad is also present here.* Out of the 62 miles of that railway line, 50 miles lie in my constituency, I am not making any new demand. People of my area used to travel by rail for 7 or 8 stations on that line. Shri Dandavate is not here at present. He was the Railway Minister during the Janata days. It was he who had granted permission to Martin Light Company to wind up. That line was maintained with the joint efforts of the Central and the Bihar Government. But now it has been wound up. I am only demanding the restoration of that old line. I want our railway line to be restored. It is a very important question in relation to my constituency. Whenever I address a public meeting there, I am always asked as to what has been done about the restoration of that line and whether any action has been taken regarding the proposal to change that narrow gauge line into a broad gauge one. I would like to urge upon you to pay urgent attention to it. Our Dalmia Nagar is an industrial town. The Neelanchal Express passes through it and through the entire district but it has no stoppage anywhere in the district. Therefore, I demand that a stoppage should be provided at Dehri-on-Sone for Neelanchal Express. With these words I conclude.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the new Railway Budget. I know the compulsions of hon. Minister under which he has to increase passenger fares and freight charges. But in view of the drought and floods conditions in the country, at least II class fares should not have been increased now. By feeling pity for poors, the hon. Minister should withdraw this proposed hike in passenger fares and freight charges. I have been just now listening the Members from Southern States which are under non-Congress rule. They alleged that their states have been ignored by the Railway Minister, though somewhere an amount of Rs. 25 crore and somewhere an amount of Rs. 8 crore have been provided. But Bihar which is next only to Uttar Pradesh

[Shri Mahabir Prasad Yadav]

in regard to population has been totally ignored. Only one express train has been provided between Samastipur and Jainagar and one Superfast train between Muzaffarpur and Chapra. This is the case of Bihar.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Lalit Narain Mishra died in a bomb blast. He had envisaged the laying down of three railway lines. One was between Hasanpur and Sakari, the other between Bihariganj and Simri Bakhtiyarpur and the third between Darbhanga and Samastipur and another between Madhepura and Singheswarsthan. Once he had said that he would travel by train from Madhepura to Singheswarsthan on his next visit on the occasion of Shivratri Mela at Singheswarsthan but unfortunately he lost his life. I urge the present Railway Minister to fulfil at least some of the dreams of Late Shri Lalit Narain Mishra. From Bihariganj Simri Bakhtiyar to Udakishanganj covers a distance of at least 8 kms. and it is very backward area. If a 8 km long line is laid here it will benefit a great deal. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of Saharasa in order to reach Nirmali have to go *via* Samastipur which means that they have to cover a distance of 200 kms. If a bridge is constructed between Saraigarh and Nirmali, then this distance can be shortened as there will be a direct link. I and hon. Shri Chandra Kishori Singh have been demanding for the construction of at least one bridge but the hon. Minister of Railways has not heeded to our demand. Once again, I urge upon him that at least one bridge between Saraigarh and Nirmali be constructed. The land is already there, the construction of the bridge will enable the railway line to be laid and which will provide considerable relief to the people.

I fail to understand as to why two trains are being combined into one train. Earlier, Janaki Express and Kosi Express used to be two different trains but now they have been combined into a single train. Whether you feel it or not, but this is creating quite a lot of trouble for the people of that area. I have no objections even on combining two train, but you should at least provide a diesel engine for it. The passenger train on the Joghani Katihar line

is provided with a diesel locomotive. The afore mentioned train can also be provided with a similar engine. We have persistently making demands in this connection for a considerable long time, but the Railways administration turned a deaf ear to it. If it is hauled with a diesel engine, a great deal of time could be saved.

Now I want to bring to your notice yet another surprising fact. There is a train named North East Super fast (9021 UP/922 DN). Distance between Barauni and Katihar is only 178 kilometres but on account of the looseness in timing, this train takes 5 hours to cover this distance. This train is stationed at Patna, Barauni and Katihar junctions 45 to 60 minutes before its arrival, thereby a lot of time is wasted at these stations. If the excess time given to this train is saved, then the people will be able to reach their destination within 3 hours. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Deputy Minister who is my name sake to this matter and request him to pay attention in this direction and bring about appropriate changes in time.

The timings of Magadha Express have been stipulated in such a manner that it starts from Patna at 19.45 hours and reaches Delhi at 1.00 hrs. If a slight change is made in the timings, that is, if it is made to start somewhat earlier, around 17.00 hours, then it will reach Delhi by 10.00 easily. It will not only help the Members of Parliament but will benefit other passengers as well. As such, this train starts at 17.00 hrs. here and reaches Patna at 10.00 hrs. We have raised this point several times in our zonal meetings but the Railway Ministry is not paying any heed to it. I want that in the larger interest of the people, the Railway Minister should consider my suggestion.

Whenever the Manasi-Saharasa line gets damaged due to flooding of the Kosi river, or because of excessive rainfall, a temporary bridge is constructed or earth is filled in to restore the line and this has become an annual feature. These measures are taken every year and every year they are washed away. The Railways have to incur substantial expenditure in this regard and which is wasted. I want to make a suggestion that a permanent bridge should be construct-

ed in place of the temporary one. It will not only save the expenditure which is incurred every year, but will also benefit the people of that area. Secondly, there is a proposal to lay a new railway line in place of abandoned Sahrasa-Baijnathpur direct line. Consequently, the people from nearby areas have illegally occupied land belonging to the Railways around that line. I want to submit to the hon. Minister either to get that land vacated or realise the cost of land from them.

The timings of the capital Express 45 Up and 46 Down running between Danapur and Katihar have been changed. It is putting the passengers from Patna into great inconvenience because it is breaking the link at Khagaria, Manasi for Sahrasa bound passengers. I want that the hon. Railway Minister should pay attention in this direction and bring changes in the timings of this train.

[English]

SHRI E. S. M. PAKEER MOHAMED (Mayuram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to welcome the Railway Budget presented by the hon. Railway Minister for the year 1988-89. This is yet another surplus Budget presented by our Railway Minister, Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

The expansion of Railway activities touched a new hall-mark when they introduced 94 new trains. Trains connecting the Southern State capitals with the national capital have started running daily. The people of Tamil Nadu are specially thankful for this.

I welcome the computerisation of reservation facilities.

I request the hon. Minister to make the services of Khalasis regularised and make them permanent in the Railways. Khalasis are poor people. They must be helped and the Railway Minister must do the needful immediately.

Janata Express Trichy-Madras which stopped running for the past six months should be restored. People in Kumbakonam area are suffering. Traders are also suffer-

ing. An Express train from Trichy to Madras via Kumbakonam should also be introduced. There must be adequate coaches in that train. Air-conditioned coach should be added to Chengottai and Rameshwaram Expresses.

With these words, I conclude.

15.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Forty-Eighth Report

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Aligarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move : "That this House do agree with the Forty-Eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 9th March, 1988."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Forty-Eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 9th March, 1988."

The motion was adopted

15.31½ hrs.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted

*Published in gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 11.3.1988.

SHRI K. S. RAO : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri G. S. Sasavaraju to introduce the Bill. Absent.

Shri H. N. Nanje Gowda to introduce the Bill. Absent.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Amendment of articles 217 and 224)

[English]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.32½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Amendment of article 366)

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

INDIAN EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Amendment of section 76)

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.”

The motion was adopted

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Syed Shahabuddin to introduce the Bill. Absent.

15.33¼ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Article 282)

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Haroobhai Mehta to introduce the Bill. Absent.

15.34 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL—Contd.

(Insertion of new article 15A)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Thampan Thomas on the 4th December, 1987, namely :

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support with core of my heart the Private Members Bill regarding unemployment allowance, presented in the House by Shri Thampan Thomas. The reason being, that it is the need of the day. I would like to thank him for presenting the Bill in the House which is quite in keeping with the need of the hour. At present, lakhs of educated and uneducated youths are being added to the force of unemployed youths every year and the measures being adopted for solving the problem appear to be not keeping pace with which it is increasing every year. This is causing frustration among them. The problem of unemployment is increasing not only among educated, but uneducated youths also, for instance, labourers get work only in a particular season and are paid for that period only. After the season ends, they are rendered unemployed. Natural calamities do take place everywhere, be it Bihar or any area and state of the country, of course, somewhere in the form of drought, somewhere in the form of floods or excessive rain or scanty rainfall. Unfavourable season also causes the problem of unemployment and starvation. Those unemployed people who do not have any means of their livelihood

but have been ensured the guarantee of equality, liberty and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution, should be provided economic and social equality. Food, clothes and house should be provided for every citizen as it is essential for them.

We are very thankful to our Government for taking many steps to solve these problems—Many schemes have been started, factories have been opened and industrial units are being set up to tackle the problem. In spite of the fact that a lot of progress has been made, disparity has also increased accordingly; The gap between the poor and the rich has also increased to a great extent because the implementation of the schemes has not been done properly. Distribution of funds is not being done on rational basis.

We find that there is a class who owns landed property, set up industries and cinema halls and manage good education for their children in schools and colleges and it is the children of this class who get Government job also. Poor labourers and those living below the poverty line, who constitute 45 percent of the population, possess neither good houses to live in nor any land nor any means of livelihood. Children belonging to scheduled caste or scheduled tribe, after receiving education on Government charity, do not get Government job. Of course, they manage to get Government job to some extent on account of reservation, but still they are facing acute unemployment problem. Unless we make a provision for “one man, one job”, this problem cannot be solved. For instance, a person carrying medical profession also possess landed property, and similarly a son of an individual who is running an industry, is in Government service. How can the problem of unemployment be solved unless we impose a ban on carrying different occupations by the same individual. We will have to take some revolutionary steps.

Our Government has made efforts to bring economic equality in the country, by taking revolutionary steps and the public of the country has given full support to it. For example, the public extended their full support to the Government in abolishing Zamindari system, nationalising banks and withdrawing privy purses to the former

[Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan]

refers. The public always support the Government's progressive steps. We have yet to take many revolutionary steps.

Industrial units are being set up in the country with rapid speed. We should, see as to what was their capital outlay 10 years ago and how much it has become now. All the capitalists, be it Tatas, Birlas, Dalmias, Thapars, Reliance and for that matter who so ever may be, they have made tremendous progress. Income tax arrears worth crores of rupees are still due against them. If they clear this huge amount, a number of developmental schemes for eradication of natural calamities such as drought and floods can be implemented with this amount. Imperial Tobacco Company owes an amount of Rs. 900 crores pertaining to tax and excise duty. They filed a writ petition against the Government in Calcutta High Court. Despite their losing the case in the court, they have not paid that amount and nothing has been done to realise the amount from them.

We see that the land, cattle etc. are confiscated if the farmers and labourers do not pay the loan in time. But these people are not punished at all.

Why don't you punish the big capitalists like Tatas, Birlas, Dalmias and so on for not paying taxes, while every punishment is awarded to the farmers for not repaying the loan. Farmers and poor people will be happy when such people are also punished for swindling the country.

I also request you to issue licenses for opening factories etc. in the villages only. It will provide them employment and livelihood. A large number of people are migrating towards cities every year. Due to this, the population of cities has been constantly increasing. So pay same attention towards it also. They will never migrate to cities if they get jobs in villages. No doubt, you have enacted the Land Ceiling Act but it has not been enforced strictly. Even today, there are big land lords who possess lakhs of acre of land. If you take away this surplus land from them, and distribute it among poor, it will increase production and also solve the problem of unemployment. Wherever in

villages, you have provided some land to the poor, it has been grabbed by the landlords of that area. As you know, poor people are tortured by the Naxalites in Bihar. They even murdered them to grab their lands. So pay some attention towards this also.

It has been seen in the cities also that rich people acquire as many as 5 to 10 houses. You should impose a ban on it and have a ceiling on it. If you fix a ceiling on acquiring property, it will serve the twine purposes of eradicating corruption as well as bridging the gap between rich and poor. Millions of rupees are spent to control the floods which visit Bihar every year. Why do you not find out a permanent solution to control the floods? Crops are destroyed, cattle die and thousands of houses are destroyed every year due to floods. There has never been such a disastrous loss as it is now-a-days due to floods. The funds allocated by the Centre for flood-relief purposes do not reach to the affected people. Officers themselves grab all the money. You should pay attention to this also.

Even today, there are people in the country who do not get their squire meal. You must think about them also. Mahatama Gandhi had launched his movement not only for attaining political freedom, but economic freedom also. We must fulfil his dreams. No doubt, our Prime Minister has provided enough help to these poor people under the 20 Point programme. Besides, programmes like NREP, RLEGP and IRDP have been started. But these programmes need sufficient amount of money to get implemented. I urge the Government to allocate more funds for this work.

Alongwith this, the cottage industries should be started in rural areas so that the uneducated rural people may get employment and uplift themselves above the poverty line.

The facility of giving stipend provided by the Government to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not being made available to them intime, that is why they have to face lot of difficulties in continuing their study. I therefore, would like to urge the Government to make arrangements wherein students belonging to Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes get their stipend and books intime. After independence, a provision to give 13% reservation was made in the Constitution of India. Today, due to the effort of Government of India; the number of educated persons have gone very high, therefore, a provision of 40 per cent reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be made because they are landless, jobless and penniless and government service is the only source of livelihood for them. The land ceiling has not become so much effective, therefore, they must be provided employment.

At least, I feel that this problem would be solved only when a norm of one job for one family is enforced and an individual should be allowed to venture out in only one job and not in multifarious activities. An equal distribution of wealth and national resources and ceiling on acquiring properties are the only way to provide livelihood to all of our countrymen.

With these words, I thank Shri Thampan Thomas for introducing this Bill and hope that Government would own up this and through this Bill all Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will get their source of livelihood and alongwith this they should also get sufficient stipend.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill introduced by Shri Thampan Thomas is a step towards fulfilling those promises and assurance which were given to the people of India by our great leaders, great freedom fighters, Mahatama Gandiji and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji. I think that this is the need of the hour.

To my mind, first of all the subject regarding employment and right to work should be included in Chapter 3 instead of Chapter 4 of the Consitution so that the Government is held responsible for this. I think this is not a new thing.

In the communist countries and even in non-communist countries, an arrangement exists wherein unemployed persons are given some sort of doles so as to enable them to sustain themselves to a particular standard of living. Apart from all communist countries, Social Security System prevails in Britain, Canada and in America also

where Cards and Numbers are issued to unemployed persons and they are helped at the time of unemployment. The money required for this is mobilised by deducting some amount from salaries of employed persons and laying taxes on rich people. If we see the number of the people living below poverty line, number of the unemployed persons, the number of the under employed person in our country, we will find that we are passing through a very critical position. The number of registered unemployed will gone as high as 32 crores by the end of 2000 A.D. Therefore, the Government must pay its attention to the points mentioned in this Bill, our country is a very big country and unemployment is causing social problems. The rest of other things have already been stated by my learned colleagues, through you I want to draw the attention of Government to two things.

First, most of unemployed persons are youths and they are being misled by anti-social elements and fundamentalists as well as extremists and terrorists. With the experience of Punjab I can say as to how the unemployed youth are being misled by exciting their religious sentiments and feeling of hatred against the nation is being imbibed in them. The same thing might have been happening in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country. Therefore, we should creat a condition in which our youths may not fall into the hands of those elements out of frustration caused by their bleack future. This is causing a great loss to the nation. For this, it is necessary to make the right to work as legal and constitutional rights and the Government will have to arrange work for every unemployed youth.

It may be argued that in order to do this, from where we can arrange resources? No single person can find its solution. If all intellectuals, economists, the Planning Commission and experts of this subject sit together and discuss this matter seriously only then a solution could be found to this problem.

I would like to tell one thing more. There are some big Zamindars (landlords) among landlords and similarly there are some big industrialists among industrialists in India but I came to know recently that a system of Panidhari, like that of Zamin-

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalja]

dari System is still prevalent over an area of 80 miles in the Holy Ganga in Bihar. There is one Ghosh family who had been given lease of 80 miles area of water in Ganga by the king Akbar at his time. The Fishermen, who live there' are considered to be his personal property and he takes share in their fish-catches. I would like to emphasis that if such types of evil continue to exist in India even today, then unemployment will definitely remains there in India.

Sir, through you, I want to put two-three things before the Government. The Government do talk about land ceiling of and on but to my view, it is not being implemented. Reducing land holding ceiling by frequently changing the Land Ceiling Act is not the solution to this problem. We are required to identify such persons who have managed to save their land by distributing or transferring it in the false names. We have to impose a ceiling on urban property. We have not imposed any ceiling on urban property due to which the price of one square yard land in some parts of cities has soared as high as ten thousand rupees and black money is being invested in this property. In this way, the parallel economy of black money is eating into the vitals of the country. Therefore, it is necessary to impose ceiling on the urban property also. Unless you do this, it would not be possible to curb the evil of tax-evasion and black money. By taking such steps we would be able to give some help to unemployed.

The other thing which I want to say is that when we have determined the property line then, we should have also determined the prosperity line. If you have made schemes to uplift the people living below the poverty line then the Government should also pay its attention to the persons who are minting money through dubious means. I do not mean to say system itself be paralysed to bring them down but such a system should be created so that we may help the unemployed. One thing is clear that we cannot give Government's job to everybody but we can provide work for them. We should consider seriously over it. An amount of Rs. 35 thousand rupees has been provided for a Matriculate unemploy-

ed to start their own work, but how many of them can get it. I have said at that time, when Shri Janardan Poojari was the Minister of this Department, and today also I repeat it that the Government have no direct control over Banks. Not more than 10 per cent of Government decisions are implemented by any of the bank because Government have no direct control on them. Therefore, I would like to ask the Government to take a mandatory decision that an interest free loan of Rs. 50,000 should be given to each Matriculate and the amount would not be recoverable before ten years. The Government should also give guidelines to start their own work. An amount of Rs. one lakh should be provided to the Graduates and Post-Graduate unemployed. I think that if such arrangement is done then the problem would be solved to some extent.

Supporting this Bill, introduced by Shri Thampan Thomas, I hereby conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time allotted has already exhausted. Many Members have to speak. The Minister is to intervene and then the Mover is also to reply. By how much time we can extend ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Two hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The house accepts two hours for further extension.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Let us have time at least if not jobs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is not the motive. When you are debating here, I hope that you may create more jobs for the unemployed youth. Now Shri Somnath Chatterjee may speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am sure the hon. Minister also in his reply will say that the objects of the Bill are very laudable. In principle, I feel no honest Government can oppose this Bill. So far as the problem of unemployment is concerned, it is hardly necessary to emphasize on the gravest situation that the young people of this country are facing. What we are producing in geometric proportion is the unemployed people in this country.

In every sector of the population of this country, there is greater and greater unemployment. One wonders what is the commitment of the Government, which is ruling this country, to the people? Who are the constituents of this Government? The hon. Prime Minister often speaks of constituents, Government's constituents. What is the constituency of this Government? The unpaid army of unemployed people—40 million of unemployed registered in the employment exchanges. Not even an attempt has been made to find out the number of those who are in the villages. Nobody knows the number of the semi-employed or casual employment or seasonal employment in this country. There has been no attempt even to ascertain the magnitude of the problem and no effort has been made to solve this. We all know and every hon. Member has reminded the Government that in this very world of ours, we have got countries, we have got systems of Government where there is no unemployment. They are also operating within the various systems but at least so far the right of human need to be able to earn his own livelihood and at the same time contribute to the society as a whole by his own labour, by his own effort, has been accepted as a part of the normal human right. In recognition of this right, the laws and the Constitution of various socialist countries in the world have made it a part of a Constitutional commitment, legal commitment of the Government to the young people or those who are in need of job.

16.00 hrs.

We have a concept of socialism in our Preamble of Constitution. The other day with considerable table-thumping, the Finance Minister of India read out an extract from the speech of the Prime Minister a couple of months ago and I quote from the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister of the Government of India which quoted Shri Rajiv Gandhi.:

“Our socialism is our own. It is not a foreign transplant. It is not cast in someone else's ideological mould. It is rooted in our history, our culture, our realities. Gandhiji enjoined us to work for Daridra Narayan to wipe out every tear from every eye. It has

constituted a moral imperative of our socialism.”

This is what our Finance Minister read out the other day to justify the Budget proposals in his speech with which we shall deal later when we deal with the Budget. Mahatma Gandhi spoke of the seva of Daridra Narayan. I wonder whether Mahatma Gandhi spoke of perpetuating poverty and what type of help and service to these people was contemplated by Gandhiji? I would like to know if Daridra is a Narayan, then this Government, if it has faith in that Narayan, then what is your programme, what is your policy and what is your commitment to this Narayan? How do you propitiate? In the lengthy speech of the President of India, a very passing reference was made to the problem of unemployment and in the two parts of the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister, not a single project has been mentioned. It has not even adverted to. They will be merely glibly referring to your own Rajiv Gandhi of type socialism Rajive Gandhi type of socialism does not help us. That is why I was asking what is the commitment of this Government to this problem? Who are the constituents in a country where crores and crores of rupees are outstanding as arrears of taxes from a handful of people, some big industrialists, monopolists and some limited number of people in a particular profession. You are unable to even recover these monies from them, the taxes from them. Birlas have their tax arrears, Tatas have their tax arrears and so on and so forth. We are being glibly told that because of some litigation of difficulty, these monies are not being realised. More than Rs. 1300 crores of Indian money are lying stored in foreign banks and not a single effort is made or at least known to have been made to repatriate that money to India. This Government should not take the plea of lack of financial resources for not helping to create jobs in this country.

The acuteness of the problem or the seriousness of the problem cannot be over emphasised. We are told that the endeavour of this Government is to take us to the 21st century. Who will be going in the procession to the 21st century? Emaciated hungry people, hungry people and jobless people. If the misery of this country or the misfortunate of

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

this country is that till then this country is to be led by the party now in power, then such people will be following their leaders.

Employment is not a matter of charity. As a citizen of an independent country. I have a right to earn my livelihood with my own efforts. But it is the responsibility of the Government to create conditions where I can earn my livelihood honestly and sincerely with my own labour, not as anybody's charity. or on the basis of anybody's ~~free will~~. But what is being done? I charge this Government to be totally irresponsible, not having any sense of responsibility to the people, totally impervious to the problems faced by the people, otherwise we would not have a situation where people having jobs in the Government are losing them because the Government is glibly closing its own establishments. I hope the hon. Members sitting on the other side, who have no hopes for ministerial berths will wake up and think of the country's problems and situation today. There are Government establishments which are being closed down. The Government of India Stationery Office in Calcutta which was being run for 120 years and which supplies Government's needs of stationery items is being closed down according to a decision of the Government. It creates further unemployed people, 1200 in number. They are not at fault. When we met the hon. Minister, Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai and asked her to tell us the fault of these workers, she said very honestly and fairly that they were not fault, they had not committed any mistake or wrong. They want to serve this Government, they want to use their blood and toil for the purpose of serving this Government and the people; they are as patriotic as anyone else. They are not anti-social people and they were doing jobs in a Central Government establishment. Just because of a policy decision, the Government of India at Delhi, in the airconditioned rooms, decided that they would not have stationery items distributed from a particular office, and closed down that office and 1200 workers are on the street. And only because of a court injunction that they had been able to secure, they are getting their salaries for the last 2 or 3 months. Now, a young Minister has come whether by promotion or demotion I do not

know, but now he is in the Labour Ministry. At least he has come down from Air to the earth. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Labour Minister as to what is his reaction to this decision of the Government, whether he approves it or not, to close down the Government of India Press. What is the rationale behind it?

Sir, previously people thought there is an element of security in Government jobs. The security of service tenure is there in Government jobs. The hordes of Ministers, of course I sympathise with them, are themselves worried about their own job security. I do not know what will happen to my good friend, Shri Makwana. He has my best wishes. He is perilously near a very critical moment. I would like to know from Shri Tytler whether he supports the closure of the Government of India Press, when a large quantum of printing work has to be done by the Government and for the Government. Nearly 7000 workers are losing jobs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : You said, 1200.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No, no. 1200 is for stationery offices.

He is new to this Department. I said, 1200 for stationery offices and 7000 for Government of India Press. Government offices are being closed and no alternative job is given to the people. We thought previously the Ministers' tenure was insecure and that they have no job security. We thought at least the Government servants had the job security. Now, even that job security is being taken away. Shri Dalbir Singh is here and he knows it. He has been presiding over that Ministry which is liquidating one after other Government establishment. Sir, we have been raising this problem and the point is that this printing work which should have been done in Government Press is being done in the Private Press, outside the Government establishment. As a result of this, new fresh unemployment is being created. Where are new jobs?

The other day what we had been apprehending, we did not have the figures, was proved correct that 26,000 jobs are now less available in the Indian Railways. That

means 26,000 jobs have been abolished. No new recruitment is taking place in the Central Government offices. In postal department no new jobs have been created. The Government offices are being closed down. Thanks to your craze for modernisation and sophistication. Now there is lesser and lesser scope for employment be it in banks, LIC or GIC. We have been repeatedly told that in future the modernisation and computerisation will help in creation of more jobs. Which is that future? Which century will that be? What is the responsibility of the Government to those people who had jobs but due to closure are rendered jobless?

A Government servant at the age of 45, 48 or 50 is suddenly being told that he is no longer required because the office is closed. Where should he go? What is the retrenchment compensation that is being given to him? With no hope of any alternative employment in the Government, what do you expect a 45 year old man to do?

As I said, no honest Government can oppose this provision which is being sought to be incorporated in the Constitution but how can you expect this Government to react favourably to this? They are not creating jobs but they are creating jobless people. Like all these new rural development projects, they have new Ministers.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur) : The Minister is there.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No. He is no longer in the Ministry of Rural Development.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Mr. Poojari is there.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : From loan *mela*, he has gone to RLEGP and NREP. He has spoiled the banks. He is going to spoil the rural development. Mr. Yadav unofficially used to admit that West Bengal did the best but officially, during the election year, he said something else.

These rural development works are supposed to be there. What jobs they have created? Take for example even the seasonal employment. In this country, after forty years of independence, the agricultural

labour, the cultivators, have work for 3-5 months a year. This is the maximum. They have no work for 6-7 months in a year. It is only in West Bengal we are providing work for 10-11 months in a year. Now, what is being done for them? The Government have set an example in reducing the number of job seekers, the number of employed people in their own establishments, but they are not creating more jobs. As I said earlier, they are creating more jobless. How can they expect the private sector to react favourably for the purpose of creating jobs? They are not doing that. The private sector is also emphasising on more sophistication so far as their machinery, plants, equipments, etc. are concerned. They are merrily indulging in lock-outs and retrenchments. Where shall we go? If the workers are forced to take the path of agitation, then they are being abused and criticised? It is the workers who suffer. If you give me some more time and if the Minister has the patience, I can give you a list of big industrial establishments in the private sector which have, by their mismanagement, brought sickness to their industrial establishments. They are closing down. The factories are closing down. They have looted the banks. The banks have not taken any steps in time. This has taken place one after the other. So, what is this Government doing? They are controlling the banks. The Department of Company Affairs is in their control. The revenue is in their control. They do not look after these industries when they become sick. Hundreds of such industries have been closed down. Today we have created a situation in which nearly 1,50,000 industrial establishments in this country are sick or closed down or are going to be closed down. This is not a figment of imagination. These are hard realities. Now what is the proposal of this Government? We are told in one sentence in the *Rashtrapati's* Speech—the President's Address—that Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has started functioning from May. That is all. Not even one word about this industrial sickness had been mentioned there. No action is being taken.

ABL manufacture one of the most essential items in our country, namely, boilers for power generation. It is lying

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

closed for 18-19 months. They have one of the most skillful retinue of employees—workers. They can match their skills with anybody else. But it is lying closed. We have been going to the Minister. We have been going to the Prime Minister. We have raised it here. But no action is being taken because there are some outstandings, so far as the banks are concerned. Now, you are indulging in all sorts of extravaganzas, all sorts of conspicuous consumption. We find these things in different levels of the Government. You are not trying to control them. The banks are not really coming forward to help those industries which need their help. They are becoming sick.

16.20 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the chair*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They have been run through their agencies, the Industrial Re-construction Bank of India (IRBI). There are different establishments. Because of their mismanagement, they are closing them down. Bengal Potteries Ltd., one of the finest units manufacturing ceramic products which have market demands even from outside the country—it has been run and managed by IRBI—it was previously [RCI—for the last twelve years. Suddenly, they have decided to close it down—4750 workers. When the Government took over its management, the liability was Rs. 5 crores. Now, the Government's management has made the liability Rs. 55 crores. Wonderful management; 4750 workers are involved. Government got a consultancy report from Tata Consultancy Services which said that with Rs. 15 crores' investment, the company could be made viable. That Rs. 15 crores is not available, and the Government decides to close it down. What will happen to the 4750 workers; what will happen to ABL's 7,000 workers ?

Therefore, the whole thing has become a mockery. When Government talks of creating new jobs or says that it is trying to solve the unemployment problem, it becomes a joke with the people of this country. They are unable to make sure that the people

who have jobs will be able to maintain and retain the jobs. Now we are being told, sometimes glibly and sometimes without any sense of responsibility, that they are very keen to see that the unemployed people get jobs.

We know that this Government will not be able to do it. Its own brand of socialism is there; they glibly quote socialism; they have socialism in the Preamble of the Constitution. When they are in trouble and cannot find any way-out because of their mismanagement and totally anti-people policies, they take the name of Mahatma Gandhi. They refer to people as 'Daridra Narayana.' You don't make a virtue of poverty in this country. When Mahatma Gandhi spoke of 'Daridra Narayan', he thought of improving their conditions, removing their poverty, and not perpetuating their poverty. They do not want to be deified for the purpose of remaining poor and unemployed in this country. Mahatma Gandhi put them on a higher pedestal in his own way of thinking, because he felt that as people will be devoutly trying to serve God, they will be devoutly trying to save the poor people of this country, and also to help them. That is not being done.

What is this socialism they are talking of? We are having greater and greater disparities amongst the people of this country, and greater and greater disparity in their resources. A handful of people are enjoying the best in this country, and a huge horde of people who should provide leadership for the future of this country, the young people, are unable to do so, for no fault of theirs. They have educated themselves with great difficulty. Their parents had hopes and aspirations regarding their future, viz. that these young people, their sons and daughters, after education would be able to look after them, would be able to earn their livelihood, would be responsible citizens of this country and members of the society-- what hope is there for them ?

Mr. Ramoowalia was speaking of businesses, and help for setting up industries in this country. We have also been demanding it. Do that. There is no employment policy in this country. How many people are to be provided jobs, or

work in the industrial, sector; how many in big industries, how many in the small industry sector, how many in self-employment, how many in Government jobs or how many in private industries? There is not even a thinking on this, on this Government — as if it is a matter, it is only a matter to be taken up during the election, so far as this party is concerned. That is why we hear Mr. ABA Ghani Khan Chaudhary promising two lakh jobs, just before the elections; Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munsri talking of a job for every family. And our Prime Minister, in his agony or eagerness to win over West Bengal, was promising thousands of crores or rupees. He also said: 'I shall see that every family is provided with at least one job in this country.'

That is not a matter to be played about. Is it a matter to be given a bait during the election. This is the seriousness with which this government seeks to tackle the problem, a basic problem, which is eating into the vitals of this country.'

You are making young people of this country lose all hopes in the future and you are forcing them to be either anti-social or useless members of the society. Sometimes you blame the workers; sometimes you blame the opposition parties but without having apparently any responsibility of your own. We have been saying that there has to be really a sincere, well-thought out programme. We know problems cannot be solved just by some magic wand; they cannot be wished away. But 40 years have been a long period of time. If there had been an honest, sincere and proper policy which had been adopted in this country during the last four decades. problems would not have been more acute day-by-day and there would have been a real effort to solve them. The problem has become more accentuated; it has become more acute, more serious because of the dangerous policy of modernisation. thoughtless modernisation which is being adopted here and his weakness for everything sophisticated and for his weakness for so-called taking advantage of so-called advancement of technology and scientific processes. Therefore, even in those industries what we are having in the name of modernisation, we are having reduction, a very vast reduction in the job potential.

I would request our young friend—I wish him well; he has difficult job to do—to please find out from the Railway Minister, his colleague, whether it is true or not, there are lesser and lesser number of jobs available in the railway. And during the last 10 years, what is the total work force in the railway, gradually, year-wise, which will show the seriousness of the situation?

Now, if this government has really any commitment to the people this country, it can at least say that it has got sincerity and seriousness. I know we cannot expect any magic that once Mr. Thampan Thomas's amendment is adopted, unemployment will vanish from this country. No. I will be our national commitment to the people. The Constitution of India is an organic document of this country; it contain our national urges and aspirations and also the direction that our country should take. It has accepted as a fundamental right some of the rights: right of free expression, right of free speech, right of movement, right of residence. But, unfortunately, at that time, when Founding Fathers thought at the initial stages of our Independence, it may not be possible to assure job to everybody, but, I am sure, they could not have dreamt that 40 years would go and there will be more jobless than jobs; and that is why they provided it in the Directive Principles of the State Policy. This government swears by the Directive Principles when it suits them, as the basic structure of the Constitution. They talk of Directive Principles having primacy over the fundamental rights. Now, this is one of the basic Directive Principles of our Constitution—right to work, right to a living wage. Now, why this Directive Principle is not treated as a fundamental right. They included it during the emergency by amending the Constitution, a Chapter on Fundamental Duties of the citizens. But I would like to know does not this government consider its fundamental duty to see that every able-bodied citizen of this country is able to earn his livelihood?

I would like to know—what is the fundamental duty of this Government? Now, how do they go about it? I have been trying to recount some of them that their actions are contrary towards expanding the scope for employment. On the other hand, it is inhibiting, it is restricting,

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

reducing the scope for employment. How can this Government honestly say, to the private industrialist, "You cannot close down your factory. You cannot reduce the work force", because they are themselves doing it? Now, we have said, one has to deal with this in a concerted manner.

There has to be a proper land reform which is essential in a country like ours. Land reforms can only create the possibility for greater industrial production. If people in the rural sector, the rural people, they can have a greater purchasing power, that will create demand for more goods and that demand for more goods can be met by setting up more industries, not opening the door of our country for liberal imports. We can look after our own. These steps are not being taken. There is no attempt to loosen the stranglehold of monopolists in this country. They talk of small scale industries which can create good job opportunities. There only lip service is being paid. The handloom sector—Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha was here, he left—and the handicrafts sector, which can provide considerable scope for jobs in this country or work force in this country, well, that is being restricted with the importation of this yarn and so on and so forth and this duty reduction provided for these imported materials and the mill products. The handloom sector is under the greatest strain. There is a serious reduction of work force. One hundred and thirteen textile mills cannot function because of the imports that are being allowed, and the entire duty structure is being changed only to help a particular industrialist of this country, who is not creating more jobs. He is creating more money for himself. How can the country have an employment oriented economy where Rs. 40,000 crores of black money is circulating? What is the real attempt that is being made to absorb this black money, to force it to come out? They had the bearer bonds, which gives legitimacy to black money. They have got Indira Vikash Patras. I do not know why they should insult the name of the former Prime Minister. Because, these Indira Vikash Patras are another mode of utilising the black money and to give it official blessing. No accountability, no explanation to be

given. You go and purchase the Indira Vikash Patras across the counter in any bank or post office and the money becomes white. Therefore, this black money is being given legitimacy in this country. We had protested against the bearer bonds in the earlier House when Mr. Venkataraman as the then Finance Minister had come forward with that proposal.

Therefore, I am saying that not only this Government in honesty and sincerity should accept this amendment, but should apply and adopt policies which are implemented. But, I know, we know, the real solution is not there. The real solution is not incorporating at the present stage this amendment in the Constitution. The real solution of solving unemployment in this country is to make this Government unemployed. These Ministers should be made unemployed. Unless these people are packed lock, stook, and barrel and made to go. . . (Interruptions)

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Why do you not make the Chief Minister of West Bengal unemployed?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You try your best. Your Prime Minister tried his best.

I know, this is the reason, that is why the people of this country, the working people and the common people have given a call for Bharat Bandh on the 15th of this month.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Common people;

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Uncommon people !

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is your smug satisfaction. We want you to be complacent. Be complacent. That helps us. You think you have got the people's support with you. Very well, we shall have it listed. If you have the courage, come out.

Therefore, I submit that unless this Government is made to go, unless this Government's commitment is really for the common people of this country, even if this is included, this would be a mere paper formulation. I remind my friends here that

even in capitalist countries, they are providing unemployment relief when they lose their jobs. Even in USA, if I am not mistaken, previously there was unlimited period of unemployment allowance and now probably they are having for six months or one year. Now, they will say, they have no money. With the wonderful economy management, Rs. 7,500 crores of deficit has become because of the various escapades that you are indulging in. This has become the situation of the country. Therefore, this Bill is overdue and our Constitution should not be a matter of dissatisfaction and despondency of the people of this country. Our Constitution should provide hope, a certain future and a living future for the people of this country. But you have tinkered with the Constitution many times. Now you are going to change it again to introduce emergency in this country as you are threatening to do.

We know that the basic framework of our Constitution is not safe in their hands, but we have to tolerate it until we get an opportunity to get rid of them.

I am glad that Shri Jagdish Tytler has come here to give his answer. *(Interruptions)*

Do not be swayed by your Prime Minister's peroration on socialism. It is neither socialism nor common sense. You will see what the people think very soon.

Therefore, Mr. Tytler at least instead of paying lip service to this unemployed people in this country, who are the victims of your anti-people policies. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : This bitterness has come out because of Tripura.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I know these people are hopeless people. I was thinking that at least now they will start thinking it seriously, but they are incapable of doing it. *(Interruptions)*

If you think you have won Heaven by somehow winning Tripura, do you think that is the end of your road. If you think that is the end of your road, I do not mind. *(Interruptions)*

We know how you have got it. We are prepared to discuss Tripura here,

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : How you have won Panchayat elections in West Bengal ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have won because the people have voted for us. Mr. Yadav, who get the majority votes in Tripura ? Do you keep any information about this ? What is your present Ministry, I do not know.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Do you know the meaning of 'rigging'?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : It is you who received his education in London. I do not claim to be a resident of London a recipient of education there.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I forget as to where his office is located.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV : You may forget, but you will realise after some time.

DR. G. S RAJHANS : Mines

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has gone underground. *(Interruptions)* He want my help to pull him out.

Therefore, let Mr. Tytler take it up seriously. As I said, do not be swayed by bland definition of socialism, which has come forward. The only trouble is, Mahatma's name is being taken by the *durathmas* in this country.

Therefore, let that great man, Mahatma Gandhi, be left alone. Let them at least define Rajiv Gandhi's brand of socialism. I would like to know their policy, if any or if they contemplate forming any policy on unemployment situation in the country.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

With these words, I strongly support the Bill.

[Translation]

CH. SUNDER SINGH (Phillaur) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, the speech delivered in English by Shri Chatterjee is so attractive that I would like to keep it listening. I would like to tell him what Mahatma Gandhi had said on the 9 June 1927 :

[English]

“A nation-building programme can leave no part of the nation untouched. Students have to react upon the dumb millions. They have to learn to think, not in terms of a province, or a town or a class or a caste, but in terms of a continent and of the millions who include untouchables, drunkards, hooligans and even prostitutes, for whose existence in our midst every one of us is responsible.”

[Translation]

Our Government have provided many facilities to give employment opportunities to the people and it has achieved its purpose to the great extent. I notice that employees don't perform their duties sincerely. They should perform their duties honestly. There is no magic wand by which unemployment could be instantly vanished.

I would like to tell you one of my own past experiences. When I went to Lahore to seek employment, nobody offered me any employment, then I began to sell vegetables. One would not hesitate doing any job if he has desire for work. You say that it is the duty of the Government to provide employment for everyone. But what can the Government do if one does not want to work. I have seen that no one hesitates in doing any kind of job in foreign countries I made many efforts to provide employment when I was the Minister.

It has been seen that whenever any vacancy is advertised, lakhs of applications are received in its response. We have no option except to close down of any factory running in loss,

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What will be the fate of those employed there ?

CH. SUNDER SINGH : Has the Government taken any responsibility for them ? They should do the job what they are offered. Mahatma Gandhi has said that men and women should not go to bed, without doing some work, they are not even entitled to have meal without doing any work. I don't agree to the views expressed by you and the Government is not duty bound to provide employment to everybody. I am mentioning it because you have quoted Mahatma Gandhi. Of course, you have stated some good things in your speech. Mahatma Gandhi had said several times that modern machines should not be used indiscreetly. He had said :

[English]

“Dead machinery must not be pitted against the millions of living machines represented by the villagers scattered in the seven hundred thousand villages of India.”

[Translation]

Further he has said :

[English]

“Machinery to be well used has to help and ease human efforts. The present use of machinery tends more and more to concentrate wealth in the hands of a few, in total disregard of millions of men and women whose bread is snatched by it out of their mouth.”

[Translation]

These machines create a lot of difficulties for us. According to Mahatma Gandhi, indiscriminate use of machines should be avoided. Since you have mentioned Mahatma Gandhi, I am referring his views point. I mean to say that Government should do its own duty. An educated person does not mean that he should do only Government job. Education is not confined to job only. Mahatma Gandhi had said.

[English]

“I suggest we are all thieves in a way. If I take anything that I don't

need for my immediate use and I keep it, I thieve it from anybody else."

[Translation]

Actually people work for amassing wealth. If they work only to sustain their lives there would be no dearth for anything. Mr. Chatterjee, whatever you have stated in your speech, it was your duty as an opposition Member. I have no objection on doing your duty as an opposition because,

[English]

"Opposition is a healthy sign in order to keep the Government on its toes."

[Translation]

Government cannot succeed without a strong opposition. So what I was referring that you go to any department, be it Telephones or for that matter any other departments, you would come to this conclusion that everyone is getting salary without doing any work. They are all thieves whom you are praising. They do not work at all. I know it, Mr. Chatterjee, you go to any department, they will be found in merry making there. Even then, you are advocating the case of persons who do not do their duties honestly and that too by quoting Mahatma Gandhi in support of your argument.

[English]

Mahatma Gandhi said :

"What is God ? Duty is God."

[Translation:]

They do not do their duty because you have been to their rescue. Of course, it is your duty. But I am pained to see when I go to any department and found people not doing their duties. Earlier people used to do their duties earnestly now they do not do their duties. This is the reality. Instead of taking Minister to task, you should persuade them to do the work. They will also be rendered unemployed. What will then they do ? Are you advocating for eradication of unemployment or creation of unemployment ? I therefore, tell you that as far as your duty as opposi-

tion is concerned, you are free to say any thing but you have not said anything about necessity of land reforms in India. You consider India as a industrial country but it is not so. It is, actually, an agricultural country because 90% of our population depends on agriculture. You did not mentioned this fact in your speech.

I think if land reforms are carried out, problem of unemployment as well as terrorism would be solved. You see, only the youths belonging to big zamindar families have turned into terrorists, not of small and poor zamindar families. But you have spoken against the land reforms. I can say you with my own experiences gained since 1927 that problem of unemployment can not be solved unless the land reforms are carried out and surplus land is distributed to the labourers, Scheduled castes and landless persons. I would like to tell that you first of all, set your own house right rather than giving sermons to others, I would like that the land reforms be carried on as early as possible so as to solve the problems of unemployment and terrorism. These terrorits belong to the families who have posses thousands acre of land.

[English]

"All expansion is life, all construction is death. All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. Love is, therefore, the only law of life. He who loves, lives; he who is selfish, is dying. Therefore, love for love's sake because it is the only law of life."

[Translation]

That is why everyone, be it educated or uneducated, is running after Government job. One would like to join a service after shutting down his factory if it fails. You only pin pointed the duties of the Government, you never talk of your responsibilities. I want that everyone, be it educated or uneducated, should take his meal only after doing some work. You ask that Government should provide employment to everybody. How is it possible ? You will also do the same thing if your Government is formed. We would have to improve ourselves before giving sermens to others. Mahatma Gandhi had first set his own

[Ch. Sunder Singh]

house right, only then he expected to do so from others.

[English]

“Nobody can kill Gandhi, only Gandhi can kill Gandhi.”

[Translation]

With these words, I would like to say that problem of unemployment is not to be removed only by giving jobs but everyone would have to perform his duty honestly. Even performance of our police is not well. We all should take part in removing the problem of unemployment. Government can not do it alone without our cooperation. We all should work for our respective regions. I have also worked for my own region. Mahatma Gandhi said that we should speak the truth and truth only. We are basically labourer even if we may hold highest post. Man is basically a labourer.

[English]

As long as millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who has been educated at their expenses and pay not the least heed to them, Swami Vivekananda said.

[Translation]

Expressing my views on this bill I would like to say that we shall have to undertake the task of land reforms. Only then the problem of unemployment could be solved. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Mr. Thampan Thomas for bringing this Bill to make right to employment a fundamental right in the Constitution. Today this discussion touches the life and the future and the million of the unemployed younger people of our country and we make it duty-bound to support this Bill so that the commitment of our country, the commitment of the society realised in the form of providing jobs for them.

We can see that unemployment is going up day by day, plan after plan. This rise in unemployment has been phenomenal. When we talk about planning as a mean to provide better life for the people of our country, we have seen that all the plans have failed to ensure the basic amenities of life to the people. One can very well describe that. The aims and objectives of plan have failed in our country and, the number of millions of unemployed is rising the magnitude cannot be gauged properly because Government has no effective machinery for that. We are told that more than 30 millions are registered in the live register of the employment exchanges. But the real figure must be more than that. One statistics is that it must have crossed 10 crores. If you count the underemployed and the disguised unemployment, if you count women, if you count the rural labour force, then the total picture would be very horrifying. Then, how to combat it? That is the main thing that we have to discuss. This Bill in itself cannot be ensuring, in reality, jobs for everybody. But it can be the beginning of a process. Why is it so that after independence, when we framed our Constitution, we did not include this as a fundamental right in our Constitution?

17.00 hrs.

Why could we not include 'Education' as a fundamental right?

It is not that simple that the framers of our Constitution though that after getting independence, it would not be possible for our economy to provide the basic needs of the people. That it was not done at that time reflected a very specific trend of thinking, specific type of understanding which is behind the running of the economy since independence of our country. It was not a default. It was a deliberate omission, I must say, because this Government has never regarded it its duty and as the duty of the society, to provide jobs to the younger generation. They considered that if somebody is unemployed, it is his fault. He is deficient in certain aspects. But a Welfare State, a State committed to its people, committed to the development of its people, to the well-being of its people, cannot be so oblivious to the needs of the population.

It is not that they are deficient. They are coming forward in life to contribute to the growth of the society. They are demanding jobs. They are registered in the Employment Exchange for years. But they are not given any job. Whose fault is this? It is not that they are not willing to do any labour. They are willing. You can see that many educated unemployed, the MAs, and BAs, Engineers and Doctors in many instances, are doing such jobs as are not expected to be done by them. You can see that for a very lower level of job the kind of applications that comes the kind of degree that the applicants hold and it depicts a great crisis in our society.

In education, we have not achieved great success. More than 70% of our people are still illiterate and only 2% receive higher education and here also you see that this economy of ours has failed to provide suitable jobs for a particular kind of learning that the applicant is having, for the particular profession that he wants. How is it happening? Who is responsible for this?

I want this article to be included to see that the younger generation particularly, and the population as a whole, are awakened to this understanding that right to work is their fundamental right and that the directive principle has no meaning. It has no meaning. Who is to enforce the Directive Principles of the Constitution? What is the legality for its? Nothing. We ought to tell the suffering people of this country that they are very much part of the society and that they are as equally honoured as the other citizens of this country. There, we have to guarantee these minimum two rights and one of which is the right to employment. That, you have to guarantee. It is not that as a kind of mercy we have to look at this problem; that we have to give him job only for his security; only for his livelihood. It is not only so. This is an important vehicle to integrate the younger-generation of our country in the building of the society. You give them job and thereby the understanding for the integration will generate. If you do not give them job, then disintegration will come. Today, there may be many other reasons. There are conspiracies hatched outside to dismember this country. There is no doubt

about this. But now is it that these evil forces are able to recruit people from inside the country. How? Because, we have our dissatisfied, disgruntled, frustrated younger-generation, who do not find any hope in front of them and they are lured, diverted and misled. While this Government, who do not ensure the right to work as a fundamental right, play with the unemployed people and who for their narrow political ends try to sow the discord among them, whose leaders raise the slogan of the son of the soil and the poisonous effect of this kind of activity can be seen in the form of secessionist movement in our country. The kind of movement that we saw in Assam, I understand that a particular community. . . .

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta) : This is not correct, Assam did not want to secede from the rest of India. We have the maximum number of outsiders in our State. We have got Biharis, Marwadis etc. They are controlling Assam now-a-days and not the Assamese people.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : No. It is about the sons of the soil policy, I am talking about.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : As I said, we have the Biharis, Marwadis etc.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Now-a-days also !

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : Yes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : The kind of movement that was there in Assam that created the discord among the different communities. I do not blame any particular community for that. It is a real problem that we have to look into. There are millions of unemployed people in our country. If they do not get job, if they do not get adequate amenities for their life, then they are vulnerable to this kind of campaign like this : "See somebody-else has come here. This is your land.

[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

You drive him out and get the job"... Therefore, what is the background for that? The background for that is we have seen in Bihar where the slogan for the son-of-the soil policy was raised. This is the thing that is spreading all over the country now.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : You please speak of Bengal.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : I will tell you. Anyway, she wants to know about Bengal. In Bengal, never this kind of slogans are raised. There, more than 70 per cent of the working population—Calcutta—are non-Bengalis. But no body raises that slogan that they have to go in order to ensure job for the particular communities. . . . (Interruptions)

That is why the *Amara Bengali* movement cannot rise their head. The point is that many social evils are rampant now-a-days. There are different kinds of secessionist movements and fundamentalist forces. How they are growing in our country now? Because, we have failed to integrate them through our education, through, our employment etc. We have failed to integrate them. So long as they remain unintegrated, these different kinds of evil forces will try to cultivate such people. This is what is happening now. What we should try to do is to integrate them. That is why I am trying to support this Bill with a view that the different sections of our people, different language-speaking people, different religious people of our country living in different provinces, they should all forget about their region of living, the language they speak and they should come together and in one voice they should demand jobs for all. That demand, they should raise before the Government. It is not the job for Bengalis; it is not the job for Assamese; it is not the job for Biharis, but as Indians we have to ensure job for everybody. And that unitedly they have to come and demand before this Government. But then, what will this Government do? Any country which achieved independence. . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Including the West Bengal Government.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : West Bengal is not a different country. We do not treat it as a separate country. We do not make us think that we are in a different country. (Interruptions) We are part of India.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : When we heard you, we felt that something which was right had come. But you come out with such a bitterness that it seems that you are not serious.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This bitterness is out of the feeling for those people. I know, I have to meet these people. . . (Interruptions) You also do that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : This Government talks of socialism. What kind of socialism we are having? What are the pre-requisites of building a socialism? In a country, which has socialism, if you take an instance of that country, you will see that at the very initial stage, they make this Right to Work as a Fundamental Right. Not that, they wait for forty years or twenty years. Let us first achieve a particular stage for the development of our economy. Let us be efficient for giving job to everybody and then we ensure it in our Constitution. No. You have to begin with it. That should be your direction. That should be your aim. But here, it is just reverse. That is what we have not yet achieved. And I do not know when we are going to achieve it.

Now, the important thing that we have to do is to ensure this Right to Work as the Fundamental Right to our people and to give job to our millions who are unemployed. What should you do? Many other things are being told by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. But the main thing which I

want to know is : "what should be the role of this Government ?" I want to know whether this Government wants to have a role in the running of the economy or not ? Or they just want to remain in the top as a kind of ornamental Director. Just over see the affairs of the private sector and hand over the public sector to the private sector. In that kind of private sector dominated economy, there cannot be any concern for the job for the millions. Their motive is to run for the profit at the expenses of the working force. This is the idea running in the minds of the Government also. The same idea is running. And that is dangerous. You are not thinking, to begin with, about giving job to the population. No. When you talk of increasing agricultural production, increasing industrial production, do you talk about that in terms of giving employment to people ? No. That is for securing profit. The growth of this country, the development of this country, is not the development of its people so far. It is for the benefit of the handful few in our country. There you have to tell us : "how is that more than 1,50,000 industries are closed in our country ?" Have you brought here any legislation to put a curb on the private sector ? Have you told them that they just cannot declare lay-off. You just cannot close down your industry. You just cannot retrench the employees. Have you come with such legislation ? No. Because it has been said before that you yourself would do it. You are closing down industries that you had taken over. You are not making them run efficiently. You are not showing your concern for the future of these workers who are working there. Not for their families, not for their children and women. In this situation you have come out not with a law to give jobs to the people but with an executive order banning employment. It is not that you are trying to give jobs, jobs are created as a by-product, as a corollary of your economic activities and not as the prime motive to create job that you are doing your economic activities. That is the problem. Then you show your concern. At such a rate this is growing.

Everywhere the employment opportunities are declining. If you see the organised sector, it is declining. Then the drive of

modernisation. Nobody is objecting to modernisation, nobody is opposed to science, but are you using the science for the benefit of the people, to give them jobs ? No. You are using it to really put them into more difficulties, to bring more miseries to their lives.

Who is showing concern for the working population in the rural areas ? Even in this budget you have said that you have a lot of concern for them. You have said that you have increased the allocation for NREP and RLEGP by 6%. What does it mean ? When your economic survey predicts price rise to the tune of 10%, you are saying that you have increased the allocation for NREP and RLEGP by 6%. That means actually it is declining.

The so much trumpeted budget for agriculture, budget for rural sector is a complete farce. That can be seen from the figures. When you say that for agriculture and irrigation you have increased the allocation by 40%, that is a fraud. The figures do not tally with the claim. It is a jugglery of figures. You can very well see that actually there is a decline. When the Budget debate will be there, that will be discussed.

In actuality you don't know how to generate more employment. One of the vital sectors where you have to do some work very seriously is the area of land reform. What is the record of this Government in that regard ? You will say that land reform is the State subject. Well, in some of the States where the same party is ruling as the ruling party in the Centre—in many States they are ruling—what is their record in this respect ? More than 50% of the land distributed all over India, has been distributed in West Bengal. In all the rural programmes including running a Panchayat you will see that the record of West Bengal is brighter than that of any other State. You tell us what is the land reform record in Bihar ? Who is taking care of that ?

Day by day the number of the agricultural labourers is swelling.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You don't have to impress Mr. Sathe. He supported that Amendment Bill in 1979. It was a Private Members Bill.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : I did support.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You continue here also.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : You are in the Government now. So you can support it now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Day by day the rank of the agricultural labourers is swelling. The marginal and poor farmers are losing their lands. It is known to you also. Then how it is happening? Where from the direction, the thrust for effective land reform will come, who will do that? Will the officials and bureaucrats do that? Then, political parties will have to play a greater role. What is the role of the political parties, of the ruling party?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I cannot support the Marxist's philosophy of making a public sector uneconomic, indecisive and sick. That is what I cannot support. . . *(Interruptions)*. . . over employed and sick right from the word go. They are anti public sector.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Do you support this Bill or not?

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Personally if you ask me I support that right to work should be made a fundamental right.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : To reply to the hon. Minister I must say that we want to see a very efficient public sector and for that if we find and if we have anything to say in the running of the system any time in future the Minister will be the first man to be responsible for the fault in the public sector. He will have to answer. Here the Minister comes and says that the public sector is not doing well. Who is responsible?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Ministers are not running the public sector. The workers are there.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : It is your responsibility. How you are treating the workers?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You are running with the hare and hunting with the hound. You tell the workers more employment here, do minimum work and ask for maximum pay. If this sort of attitude is adopted by our friends who call themselves Leftists then this country will go to ruins. This is what you are doing. *(Interruptions)*

Is it not surprising that those who are in power in West Bengal—have you seen anywhere in the world—that Government itself calls for a 'bandh'. This is the most ridiculous thing which you see nowhere in the world. It is like management calling for a lockout. Here is a government which is calling for a 'bandh'. This is the most ridiculous thing which can ever happen. This is the rarest phenomenon which can happen. Should such people talk of progress? They want to close down power plants. Who will be adversely affected? If West Bengal government says that power plants should be shut down who will suffer? You call yourself pro-labour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Now you see how they were running this public sector of which they say that they want to see that the employees and the workers are working properly. How you are doing this? What is the motivation you are putting before them?

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Whom do you want to compare with? Compare yourself with the per capita income of the lowest man in the country. It is Rs. 300 per annum and how much does the organised worker gets. It is Rs. 2000 per month. What a difference! He does not get Rs. 300 per month and you get Rs. 2000 p.m. and you want to compare,

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : He has to compare not between these two—the agricultural labourer and the employee in the organised sector.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : If you don't want to support the agricultural labourer,

then don't talk about the agricultural labourer.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Mr. Sathe, you have to compare these two both—the agricultural labourer and the employee in the organised sector—with the black-moneyed people. *(Interruptions)* Some people are bleeding our economy. Why? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : When the agricultural labourer raises his demand to increase the wage, we support. It is a genuine demand. When in a public sector employees demand the neutralisation of DA, we support that. That is also a genuine demand. You don't talk of lack of money.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chowdhary, come to employment.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : I am coming to that, Sir. How can you get employment? They say, we don't have resources. The money is being stashed outside—black money about Rs. 40 crores of our country—and they talk of lack of resources. For resource mobilisation, wherefrom we have to get the resources? You do not take action against those people for mobilisation of resources. *(Interruptions)*

Sir, the question of giving employment is integrally connected with the state of economy in a country. Now when I talk of giving employment, I just cannot be oblivious of the fact that what kind of economy is there in our country. It is an economic problem. Then, if you again see in proper perspective, it is again a political problem. They don't have that political motive. It is the very politics that is running the economy. So, I just cannot separate these two.

Sir, they advance different kinds of arguments. They say that unemployment is increasing because the population is growing in our country. Abstractly you can say that. But the point is that how can we be able to effectively combat the population problem. Unless you ensure

education, unless you remove poverty, you cannot combat this population growth also. The population growth is not the reason for the poverty but poverty is the reason for the population growth in our country. You just can't say that population is growing, what we can do. Then we have to take the real measures for it. You try some measures. We should do some family planning. We support that also. But that cannot bring the desired results. For that what we have to do is, we have to take a new look at our Constitution. We have to insert these two things minimum—employment and education—as a fundamental right. Put all our efforts in that direction. Defence is important but more important is education. More important is employment. If you have satisfied people, if you have an integrated younger generation in our country with patriotism, with higher motive, then nobody can defeat you. When that kind of situation does not come, a country may be a poor country, a country may be riddled with many problems. I can tell even the agricultural worker to donate Rs. 2 out of Rs. 4 he gets to the fund of this country for defence. He will happily contribute it, at any time, on any occasion, in any emergency. They are not lagging behind in patriotism but they will have to be told and convinced that nobody is exploiting them and nobody is taking away what they are producing and that is the feeling of integration. Employment is not a technical thing that you are giving some job to somebody. It is a question of unity and integrity of this country in the present juncture. It is the question of integrity of the human beings in the society, it is the interaction. It is a question of production. Everything is connected with it. I will not be going into the details now. I would like to mention about the conspiracies we are facing in our country. In some parts, unemployed people were used by certain sections of the vested interests to put them against the fighting organised working class. That poses a great problem sometimes. A particular party raises a slogan that unemployed people can get job if they occupy the chair of the employed people. I am sure a political campaign is necessary to combat such aberrations. Unemployed people should not walk into that track of fighting with those having jobs and those who are having

[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

job in our country should also understand them and have to stand by the side of the unemployed to support them in their demands for getting a job. These two are very important. Otherwise, there will be division, dissention and fighting and this will endanger the integrity of the country. So, employment is a very big question. It is not only a job and livelihood, no doubt it is very basic but it is more than that. It is the very human existence which is in question. In that regard, when I talk about education, you will understand that. I just cannot blame our education for failing to provide job for the people. What does education do? We tried many things, the vocational training, there may be deficiencies and we have to remove them but in itself it cannot provide jobs for the people. What is happening to education itself? The kind of new things, the economic policy the textile policy the education policy have gone to serve the interest of a few. Will Navodaya schools serve us? It is said that poor people from the rural areas will be able to come. I have no dispute over that but will it help that? In a district you are going to set up one Navodaya school. You are going to give or spend Rs. 2 crores. What will happen to the other schools, may be 20 or 30 schools? Why don't we begin to give this Rs. 2 crores for some schools in the district and next year you can give more to other schools. This will help all schools to come up. But with your approach you are trying to undermine the general education system in our country. What does delinking jobs from education mean? You may theorise it effectively. You may say many things. But the point is that you don't want to be blamed in this regard that I have a degree but I am not getting a job. You think you are free from the responsibilities. Anyway, I must say, Sir, there is no effort, no direction of the Government to help the unemployed people of the country. They talk of self-employment programmes. Now, Rs. 25000 was to be given to the unemployed persons but now it has been increased to Rs. 35000 but it also becomes insignificant. You know about the rise in prices. Today if I get Rs. 25000, after two years, what is the value of this?

Day by day prices are going up. What I plan with Rs. 25000 today, tomorrow it is not relevant. Are you compensating for this? Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 have become insignificant. Who will ensure market for his product? You will tell banks to give loans or organise loan melas. That is politics not economics. You do that on the eve of elections. Tell me if by giving loans you can achieve jobs. You cannot. You have to take responsibility to see that their products are marketed properly and they get raw material. But there are so many loopholes. You have to plug that. You have to set up seriously a kind of machinery whose work would be only to see that the unemployed people are given jobs. I do not know whether you can do it or not, but I sincerely feel that with the kind of economy polity with which you are trying to run this country, it is impossible to ensure jobs for the millions of people.

What is the alternative? Alternative cannot be to go secessionist or go Khalistan way. We must unite, unite in rebellion and demand jobs from this Government and do not allow yourselves to be used against the organised population. We are demanding better livelihood. I hope that in the coming days the younger population of our country may be illiterate or literate, will become politically enlightened and will work in the direction I have stated. And with that intention, I have taken part in this debate and I support the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BASANT SATHE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I have the opportunity to participate in this debate? This is a Private Member's Bill and I want to congratulate the mover of this Bill for having brought this Bill. A very important subject has been raised that right to work should be made a fundamental right.

We have right to property a fundamental right in our country, but it is really sad that right to work which provides right to live should not be made a fundamental right and should only be a Directive Principle. Why has this happened? Why could it not be made a fundamental right till now?

It is known that once it becomes a fundamental right, it becomes justiciable;

that means a person can go to the court, High Court or Supreme Court and say that it is his fundamental right and he must get a job. But as the Government was not sure that it would be able to provide employment to every citizen, it did not do so. Because a fundamental right cannot be made only for a particular age group; it is for citizens and every unemployed citizen can come to the court and claim his right for a job to be given to him. That was the real apprehension, reluctance on the part of the Government, but this helps us to raise a larger economic issue of how we can create conditions in our country where every work worthy person would have a job. It is this subject which is being debated and this is what should be debated as the most important subject in the Parliament and in the country today.

Unfortunately, I find very few people taking interest in this. Today, if we just introspect and sit a little coolly and consider how much energy is being wasted on more or less trying to win debating points, trying to be sensational, trying to have more superficial debate in this country on issues, which are basically non-issues, we will find, we are doing that too much. But the real issue is how to provide employment, work, productive work to every young man of this country because after all what is socialism? When we say that we have pledged ourselves in the Preamble that we will establish a democratic, socialist, secular sovereign republic, what does it mean? What is socialism? Shorn of all verbiage and all dialectic debate. It means all members of our society must have an equal opportunity to live a decent human living. Such conditions must be created in our society where every single individual should have that right. That is the simple meaning of the word 'socialism'. A Society where a few do not have an opportunity and a right to exploit and extort. Such a society should be created and this is what socialism mean. And to bring it about within the frame-work of a democratic structure, *i.e.* by the will of the people, is the meaning of the concept which our founding fathers have enshrined in the Constitution when they said that we will have a democratic, socialist society. Let us ask ourselves this question, have we succeeded in doing it.

When I am participating in the debate today, I am not going to speak from the point of view of winning or scoring the debating points between people on this side or that side. I think it is the duty of all of us. These 800 people in this House and in that House who have been entrusted by 80 crores people of this country with the task of doing something that will change the destiny and change the life, it is incumbent on us to sit down and to give the topmost priority to consider as to how can we achieve this. And if this is given priority, Sir, I am sure a way can be found. Instead of wasting our energy on other matters, let us concentrate on this matter. I am absolutely one with my friend when they say that this should be given the top priority.

What do the young people of this country expect? Why are they restive? Why are they frustrated? Why are they getting lured and lured by population? It is because they are not employed. They do not have productive employment, creative employment. That is why they feel frustrated. By and large, if this is the fact, Sir, then let us consider how this can be achieved.

One thing is certain and that is if you want to provide an employment that employment must be productive. What is wealth. Wealth is goods and services. It is not notes, the currency notes are actually the means of exchange. The wealth is goods. What is a quality to life? When do you say that a man is poor? It is when he is not able to have even the necessities of life. When he is not able to have the essential goods, *i.e.* food, cloth, shelter, medicine, etc. Now, how can you make it available to him? Obviously first it must be produced and then he must have the purchasing power to buy it. How can he have the purchasing power unless he has remunerative work? So, these are the elementary things and more so work for our people in their own habitat. Majority of our people live in rural areas. 80 per cent of our people live in rural areas. Unless you provide work to these people in the rural areas, many of them have been educated in the general education sense, *i.e.* they may be matriculate or so, they will remain unemployed.

[Shri Vasant Sathe]

You have made them unemployable because they no longer can now take to that work which they were doing traditionally. You have not given them any new source of employment. The result is they are angry youngmen. Then what do they do? They try to flood the metropolitan cities. They are forced to migrate from rural areas and come to Calcutta or Bombay or to other cities in search of employment. What do you see today in Calcutta or Bombay? Do you think that people come there out of pleasure to live in utters and to live in slums? They don't. But they are forced out of their rural areas to go there to eke a living in urban areas because there, every member of the family, even a child by just picking garbage is able to make two to three rupees or four rupees. That is how they can survive. They are not getting jobs in the rural areas. Now you want to create jobs in the rural areas. Which job you will create? This brings us to that fundamental question. Can you have industries—agro—industries—or industrialisation/our rural areas? What industries will you start? With what will you start industries? For industrialisation, first you need basic infrastructure inputs like, steel, power and other metals like aluminium, copper or what have you. To produce it this is what was visualised by founders like Jawaharlal Nehru. They saw this vision. First let us start infrastructure industries. The private sector has no capacity to build dams or steel plants. Public money must be used to establish these infrastructure industries. That is how Durgapur Steel Plant was started. That is how the Bhakra Nangal and big dams were established which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru called as 'modern temples'. What was the idea? The idea was to produce more infrastructure, use the resources. We have rich natural resources. Use them. Produce steel at a much cheaper cost and at a much larger scale. Then based steel have downstream industries—steel based industries. Modernise your agriculture. Modernise your transport like bullock-carts, etc. Have electricity in every village. Start agro-industries there. Create employment opportunities in the rural areas. That was the vision of Jawaharlal Nehru. But what

happened? We started public sector. I want this to be considered in an atmosphere or in an attitude of introspection not in an attitude of trying to find fault with this side or that side or criticise this side or that side. If you do this, we somewhere have made a mistake. A very serious mistake. Compare ourselves even with China, if you like. What happens? They started on a lower scale, than what we were in 1947. Today China produces 900 million tonnes of coal, which is a basic infrastructure for producing power. Their cost of coal is Rs. 24 per tonne. Most of it—97 per cent—come from underground mining. The worker earns Rs. 11 a tonne. They produce 2 tonnes per man, per day. It comes to 900 million tonnes. In steel, they are producing 60 million tonnes today. They are importing iron-ore from us. We are stuck. I do not want to give examples of South Korean and other countries which have done better—our own Asiatic countries. In our country what did we do? We started thinking that public sector units have a social objective. What was the social objective? To provide maximum employment in public sectors. What happen? With this feeling that we have cheap labour, let us have a social objective, employ maximum number of people here, we made our public sector units uneconomic right from the word go. The result is today, our steel production is one of the costliest in the world at Rs. 7000 per tonne. As a result, during the last 20 years, we are stuck at about 10 million to 11 million tonnes of steel production. One million tonnes of steel provides an indirect employment to about 2.5 lakh people. In China, with 50 million tonnes of steel, imagine how many crores of people are getting employed downstream, and right into the villages and small and medium industries, based on steel.

Here in our country, one million tonnes of steel more, and you have a glut; one million tonnes of less steel, and you have a situation of shortage. How have we brought this about? A situation of market economy where you produce steel to sell it at Rs. 7,000 per tonne—who can afford to buy this steel? A very limited class of people living in urban areas, the well-to-do or the rich. We have created a distortion.

Let us examine it for ourselves. Don't ask who is responsible. and what is responsible. we are all responsible. We, atleast we who are in Parliament and who represent the people of this country, should we not accept this responsibility on ourselves, and say that this distortion has taken place ?

As I said, let us not go with the attitude of winning a debate, because I can give so many examples, if we have only to win a debating point. This does not help anyone. If you really want to create a situation in this country where the right to work, and where the right to employment should be guaranteed, then we must seriously look into the core sector industries where we have taken the responsibility. I have always maintained that public sector has a responsibility to the public, to the people, because it is using public money. If we have to have commanding heights, we must ensure that the public sector becomes the most efficient sector—competitive not only internally, but competitive internationally. And we could, believe me, we could produce steel in this country cheapest in the world and beat the whole world. That little country, South Korea, imports iron ore, imports limestone, imports coking coal, and produces steel at Rs. 3,000 a tonne; and it has a ship-building industry, which is the biggest and the best in the world today. Its electronic industry is one of the biggest in the world. They export Rs. 10,000 crores worth of electronic items. In automobiles and every other industry, that little country with a 4-crore population has shown such a tremendous example in growth. Could we not do it ?

We have the best brain; we have excellent talent, scientific talent, technological talent in this country; and we have rich natural resources. Can you consider a greater tragedy than this ? Iron ore we have; bauxite we have; everything we have. But do you know what we do ? We export our iron ore. Can there be a greater travesty than this ? And we earn a pittance of Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 selling two tonnes of iron ore which, converted, could mean one tonne of steel which costs today in the world Rs. 4,000 a tonne. What should we have done; should we have made steel, or should we have been exporting iron ore ? Should

we have been exporting bauxite, or converted it into aluminium ? Aluminium has the capacity to have 3,000 industries of various types; and that could be produced in villages, that could be given to all our people, and that could generate employment, transport and everything.

We have rich natural resources. But you have made power costly. How have you made power costly ? As I said, you have made coal costly. You see, we have landed ourselves in a very vicious circle of distorted, high-cost, cost-push, inflationary, stagflationary economy today. Unless we are honest to ourselves, unless we are willing to examine how we can correct this situation today, we will go into a situation of great internal crisis, because of unemployment or unrest. People will try to exploit; political people will try to exploit the situation. Yes, at a cost to the nation, at a cost to its integrity, at a cost to its unity. This is a what the real danger is.

I am thankful to the mover for bringing in this resolution on a very important subject.

Let us consider it. On some day, I believe, more thought should be given by this Parliament to this. If you ask me very frankly, Mr. Chairman, I would say, they do it in the election of a Pope. You call all the members in the House. Then you close all the doors as you do it in the case of a Division and tell them, discuss this issue till you have come to a conclusion, till you find a solution. What direction will you give ? How will you build this nation as a strong, self-reliant nation ? How will you build this nation where every work-worthy young man will be working, doing productive job. You think of it and then find a solution to this. Till you find a solution, you owe to the people; you will not be allowed to get out of these rooms. You say this to the members of this Parliament this is what they owe to the people of this country. Unless this happens, let us ask this question to ourselves. We are failing our people. This is what I feel very honestly; this is what I thought I should express on this important occasion. I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time for this Bill is over and many more members are left to speak. So, I leave it to the House to decide.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : You extend the time for this Bill by two more hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the time by two more hours should be extended for this Bill ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, the time extended for this Bill is two more hours.

Shri Ataur Rahman.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the speakers who have preceded me have given a very grim picture of the economic situation, employment situation and a very depressive situation of the country. Mr. Thampan Thomas has brought this Bill not a day too late. Before him, a similar Bill was brought by Shri G.M. Banatwalla. I am so glad to know that Shri Vasant Sathe in 1979 was speaking in favour of this sort of a Bill, and I am so glad that he has again contributed to the debate in a very constructive manner, which I never expected so much so that some members who heard him should have replied approvingly but they had left the House.

Well, we have figures galore, statistics galore, but figures and statistics would not solve our problem. Every year, to a figure of

16 million unemployed people, the figure of 8 million unemployed people are added. Well, the best index of the economic situation in the country is when we go through a town. When we go through a town, you see scene of a beggar approaching a dust-bin and simultaneously a dog approaching that very dust-bin. After that, you see that there is a fight between the beggar and the dog for the treasure full of muck of the town. This is what is happening.

18.00 hrs.

We are sending rockets into the sky, but we are not spending enough money for the poor and the needy people of this country. We have made serious mistakes in various fields, as has been very kindly pointed out by Shri Vasant Sathe and other friends here. I am glad to see that this debate is cutting across party lines, which is a very healthy sign. Well, the situation is so bad that when we go to our constituencies we do not get any rest.

We are surrounded by an army of unemployed boys and girls. Not only in the villages, when we go back home there also we are surrounded by unemployed youths.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rahman, you can continue next time.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,
March 14, 1988 (Phalgun 24,
1909 (Saka).*