

LOKSABHA DEBATES
TENTH SERIES (VOL.XXIV No. 12)

AUGUST, 13, 1993

SEVENTH SESSION



TENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

Vol. XXIV [Tenth Series, Seventh Session, 1993/1915 (Saka)] No. 12

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 13, 1993/Sravana 22,
1915 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock
(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Honourable Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Prem Kishan Khanna.

Shri Prem Kishan Khanna was a Member of the Third and Fourth Lok Sabha during 1962—67 and 1967—70 representing Karimganj and Shahjahanpur Parliamentary Constituencies of Uttar Pradesh respectively.

Shri Prem Kishan Khanna was also a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1945—57.

Shri Khanna took an active part in the Freedom Struggle. He was associated with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association which stood for armed revolution for the freedom of the country and suffered imprisonment in 1924 for fifteen years in the Kakori Conspiracy case.

Keenly interested in rural development, Shri Khanna founded a number of educational and agricultural institutions in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Khanna passed away on 3 August, 1993 at the age of 96 at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

NRI INVESTMENT

*241. PROF.† PREM DHUMAL :

SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given several incentives to Non-Resident Indians for capital investment in India under liberalised economy policy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and their response thereto ;

(c) the total capital investment made by the Non-Resident Indians during the last two years ;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to provide more incentives and to relax rules and regulations in order to attract more NRI investments ; and

(e) if so, the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) In accordance with the Industrial Policy announced by the Government of India during July 1991. Government have decided to raise the investment in industrial ventures in India of

Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) as well as of Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) which are predominantly owned by NRIs and to simplify the approvals/procedures for such investments.

(b) Details are contained in the Annexure.

(c) Subsequent to approval of investment proposals by Government figures of actual inflow of capital invested are not maintained. However, Capital Investment proposals of NRIs approved by Government during the last two years are as follows :—

Rs. in Crores

(i) 1991	19.70
(ii) 1992	439.13

(d) and (e) Government is fully committed to economic reforms as a continuous process and keeps on examining various incentives to domestic, NRI and foreign investors on an on-going basis.

Statement

FACILITIES TO NRIs

Government has taken a number of steps since July, 1991 to make NRI investments in India still more attractive. The new initiatives are summarised below :—

(a) NRIs and their OCBs are now allowed to invest up to 100% on repatriation basis in high priority industries. A procedure of automatic clearance of such proposals has also been made.

(b) The ceiling of 5% on overall NRI portfolio investment in an Indian company has been raised to 24% provided the company passes a resolution to this effect.

(c) NRI investment is now allowed in the previously forbidden areas of real estate, housing and infrastructure also, on the basis of 100% repatriation of the original investment.

(d) Foreign citizens of Indian Origin have been permitted to acquire house property without the permission of RBI by granting them exemption under Section 31 of FERA.

(e) It has been decided to establish the office of Chief Commissioner for NRIs in order to provide a focal point for interface with NRIs.

(f) Hitherto, NRIs were required to declare the foreign exchange assets abroad on return to India. This requirement has been dispensed with in case of persons who have stayed abroad at least for a minimum period of 1 year.

(g) NRIs returning for good will be allowed to maintain foreign currency resident accounts with Indian banks in lieu of the earlier RIFEE scheme.

(h) NRIs have been allowed to import gold up to 5 kg. on payment of duty of Rs. 220/- per 10 gms.

(i) Non-Resident (Non-Repatriable) Rupee Deposit scheme under which the term deposits can be made by NRIs on attractive interest rates to be determined by the banks themselves. Both Principal and interest are non-repatriable.

(j) Foreign Nationals of Indian Origin have been allowed to :—

(i) to act or accept appointment as Agents in India of any person or company in the trading or commercial transactions.

(ii) to act or accept appointment as technical or management adviser in India of any person or company.

(iii) to permit any trademark, which he or it is entitled to use, to be used by any person or company for any direct or indirect consideration.

(iv) carry-on in India or establish in India a branch office or other place of business for carrying on any activity of a trading, commercial or industrial nature.

(v) acquire the whole or any part of any undertaking in India of any person or company carrying on any trade, commerce or industry or purchase of shares in India of any such company.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part (c) of my question, it has been replied that subsequent to approval of investment proposals by Government, figures of actual inflow of capital invested are not maintained. I am of the view that this is the reason why all our policies are not implemented properly. The Government only knows about the proposals and does not have figures about what actually happened then, what it can tell us? I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why these figures are not maintained and whether any such analysis about the actual investment made by the NRIs before the declaration of this economic policy till 1990, will be made in future? Does the Government have figures about the total investment made during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94 till date? The hon. Minister should also give details about the investment made by foreign investors other than NRIs.

DR. ABRAR AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has approved 995 proposals out of the total proposals received from the NRIs. The hon. Member wants to know about the total investment actually made and whether the Government will adopt any such procedure in future, which can give the actual figures of total investment made. I would like to tell him that I have already informed about the approvals given to these proposals by the Government. There is a procedure, according to which funds are invested under different heads. So, it is not possible to say immediately about the total investment made. It is very difficult to estimate, but now an effort will be made to adopt a procedure in this regard.

Besides, the hon. Member wants to know about the investment made during 1990 to 1994. I have already given the figures of 1991-92 in my reply. I would like to inform him that the proposals given by NRIs in 1990, 1991 and 1992 were of Rs. 5.24 crores, Rs. 19.70 crores and Rs. 439.13 crores respectively. Proposals for Rs. 255.86 crores were approved by June, 1993. This clearly shows that where as the number of proposals received in 1990 was very less, it increased a lot in 1991

and in 1992. It went up by 22 times. Even by June 1993, the Government had approved proposals for Rs. 255.86 crores.

Besides this, the hon. Member wants to know about the foreign investment. The foreign investment made in 1990, 1991 and 1992 was Rs. 123.08 crores, Rs. 514.41 crores and Rs. 3448.41 crores respectively. A foreign investment of Rs. 3696 crores have been made by June 1993. So, it is clear that there has been a steady increase in foreign investment. This trend shows the success of our new economic policy and liberalisation policy.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : In his reply, the hon. Minister has claimed success of the new economic policy of the Government. But what are the views of the NRIs in this regard. What comments were given by Shri Swaraj Paul, leader of the NRIs. Although, the Finance Minister said that investments have reduced or stopped due to the Avodhya incident. Shri Swaraj Paul says that the BJP ruled...

MR. SPEAKER : No, no.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : The question is related to this.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, this is not correct.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : I am only repeating what the NRIs say.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please follow the rules. This is not correct. You cannot quote the newspapers here.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL : NRIs say that they are not investing here, because democratically elected Governments are dismissed in this country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you as to the States which have been preferred by the NRIs for capital investment and in which industries they want to invest. The 'B' part of my question is that in foreign countries services are provided through one

window. In view of that, will the Ministry of Finance in consultation with other ministries consider to provide this facility here and whether it is getting cooperation in this regard. According to my informations...

MR. SPEAKER : Please, let the first question be replied. You have asked a very good question.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Please say this much whether one window system is going to be adopted for NRIs.

DR. ABRAR AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member said that the NRIs have lost their faith in us. Just now, I gave the figures from 1990 to June 1994 and the trend shows an upward rise. If they had really lost faith, we would not have got such results.

Secondly, the hon. Member has asked about the industries in which the NRIs want to invest. As I said just now that 995 proposals have been approved and there is a list of these proposals. If the hon. Member wants, I will send it to him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no please, classify the industries. If you do not have the information, send it to him later.

DR. ABRAR AHMED : All right, I will send that information to him later. So far as the question of one window system is concerned, I would like to tell that one window system has not been adopted in our country till now, but regarding the views expressed by the hon. Member that the NRIs face a lot of difficulties for setting up units in the States, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Finance have continuously communicated to the State Governments to provide maximum facilities to the NRIs for setting up industries and this effort is still on.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, in common parlance lending is also considered to be a part of the investment. I put a question on that. Periodic statements are made—I am not sure—that during the year 1990-91 our foreign exchange inflow from NRIs was almost zero

or negative. To what extent is that due to the war in Kuwait and Iraq? Do you have this segmentation flow from Middle East, flow from Europe and flow from United States separately and indicate to us how the flows fluctuated from the Middle East from 1990-91 to 1992-93?

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED : MR. Speaker, Sir, it has no direct relation with this question.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has mentioned about various steps taken by the Government of India for the NRI investment. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government received a proposal for the investment from N. R. Is. for constructing Cochin international airport and if so the details thereof.

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no information about this particular proposal, but I will collect the information and send it to the hon. Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a specific question. You collect the information and send it to him.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister made a comparison of the proposals of the NRIs received during 1990 and 1993. But the rate of foreign exchange in 1992 was 22 to 23 per cent less than what it was in 1990 and this is not shown. This is the jugglery of figures made by the department. The hon. Minister had himself stated that there was constant reduction and withdrawal of the deposits by NRIs after the Ayodhya incident. Now he is saying that 100 per cent investment can be made in the high priority industries with the condition that the investors will have to come back to India. I would like to know clearly from the hon. Minister about the total number of NRIs proposals for

high priority sectors, their percentage and whether these proposals are less or more in view of the decrease of 22 to 23% in foreign exchange in July 1991 as compared to 1990?

DR. ABRAR AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the deposits, I would like to tell the hon. Member through you that our deposits till 30 April, 1993 was of the order of Rs. 25793 crores and it has increased. It is equal to 8238 million U.S. dollars. Besides this, the hon. Member has sought to know about the high priority industries. At present, I do not have the details of the percentage of investment made for the high priority sector and low priority sector. If the hon. Member wants to know, I will send him the information.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : While replying to the question of the hon. Member, the hon. Minister stated that one window policy has not yet been adopted but the State Governments have been asked to provide them maximum facility. I would like to know as to what is the problem in adopting this policy and why the Central Government does not take the initiative in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : It is crystal clear question. You can sit down and get the answer. Why are you not doing that?

[Translation]

DR. ABRAR AHMED : I have noted the suggestion of the hon. Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is an assurance on the floor of the house. You have got a good reply.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether they are considering to grant dual citizenship to the NRIs and give them some incentives for attracting more foreign exchange from them.

MR. SPEAKER : It is too wide a question. If you want to reply, you can; otherwise it is not necessary.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker,

Sir, this proposal has been under consideration. There are several variants on that and this is being considered.

[English]

CUSTOMS DUTY COLLECTIONS

*242. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH † :**

SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the customs duty collections have fallen during 1992-93 ;

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

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Government to improve the situation ?

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

(a) to (c) The customs duty collection during the year 1992-93 have fallen short of the sanctioned Budget Estimate by 5.53% and by 6.60% with respect to the Revised Budget Estimate.

The shortfall in customs revenue had resulted mainly because of the fact that the value of imports during the year was lower than the anticipated level. With the expected improvement in the rate of economic growth and industrial production, customs revenue collection will improve.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a simple question. In his reply, he has stated that the main reason of shortfall in customs duty collections is the 5.53% and 6.60% reduction made in the original and Revised Budget Estimates respectively. He has told half the truth. The main reason of the shortfall in customs revenue is the exemptions given in custom items under the new economic policy of the Government. These items are not of commonman's item. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps being taken to make up the gap in original and Revised Budget Estimates. It may not so happen that the Government may meet the shortfall by imposing more tax on the public.

[English]

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main reason behind this shortfall is due to the fall in total volume of imports. During the year 1992-93, we have anticipated imports for about 23 billion US dollars, but the value of imports during that year was only 21.7 billion US dollars. In other words, the value of imports during that year was reduced by Rs. 4,726 crores that what was anticipated earlier.

If you take the overall average on duty incident consequent on the revenue fall, it is more than 37 per cent of the total loss due to lower volume of imports which amounts to nearly about Rs. 1,705 crores. I do not agree with the hon. Member that because of the new economic policy and concession of customs duty, the value of the short fall has come down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can make us understand in this regard. The hon. Minister is not admitting that it is due to wrong new economic policy of the Government. A lay-man can understand it. If you give concessions in customs duty, the collections would be less. There is nothing wrong in saying it...

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that it was due to the fall in total imports.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : It has fallen but it has also fallen due to concessions given with regard to duty. Concessions means less collection. Even an ordinary literate person can very well understand it.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, now you ask the second question.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Secondly, I would like to ask the name of those items which the Government is going to import more. Whether these items are already being indigenously produced? If you intend to import such items what would be the fate of indigenous factories? I would like to know the factual position. What has been the reduction in percentage of import than the original estimates.

MR. SPEAKER : He has just given the statistics in this regard.

[English]

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : As I have already replied earlier, the major reason attributed to this shortfall in Customs revenue is the lower volume of imports and beyond that because of the disruption of economic activity and industrial production after December, we are facing this problem. But as regards the items of import we have allowed, we have taken sufficient care to protect the interests of the indigenous manufacturers.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK : I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you whether the Conference of Customs Collectors has recently recommended any proposals to increase the Customs duty collection and, if so, what has the Government done in the matter.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Recently we had the Conference of Collectors, Customs and Excise and the recommendations of Dr. Chellaiah Committee were discussed in detail. On many of these areas, we have still to come to an agreement. We have instructed the Collectors of Customs and Excise to put all their efforts to increase the collection of revenue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the other countries have reduced the customs duty on the goods imported by them from India as has been done by us in the case of imported items.

MR. SPEAKER : Which countries?

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : The countries like U.S.A., U.K. who import the Indian goods. Whether they have reduced the customs duty on Indian goods or not? In India, the customs duty on the imported goods has been reduced. Therefore, I would like to ask whether the foreign countries who are importing Indian goods have also reduced the customs duty on the Indian goods or not?

[English]

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, there is the changing economic scenario in the other parts of the world. Considering that, we have taken up this new economic policy and liberalisation to compete with the other developing countries. We have taken sufficient care to protect the local industries. Even in the case of imports and exports, we have safeguarded our interests.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is whether the other countries have reduced the customs duty on the goods which are imported by them from India.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact of the matter is that in the year 1991, India's customs tariff rates on imported commodities were probably the highest in the world. All over the world, there has been a trend towards reduction in customs duties. The average manufacturing tariffs in the European Community are no more than 4-5 per cent. The same is the case in the United States. If you look Eastwards, in countries of South-East Asia and East Asia also, there has been a progressive reduction of customs duties. We have reduced these duties to help our industry; to help India's farmers; to help India's consumers. Therefore, what we have done is in the interest of our national economy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Sir, I have yet to receive the reply to my question. The Government has not mentioned the name of any country. I am asking very clearly whether the country like U.S.A. has reduced the customs duty on the goods imported from India or not?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I do not have to mention a single country. In the whole world, I think the trend has been towards moderation in imports. I will have to look into the whole world. (*Inter-ruptions*)

DR. B. G. JAWALI: Sir, it is a fact that just to encourage the industrial pro-

duction, agricultural production and other production, the import has been liberalised by reducing the customs duties. Having reduced the import duty, definitely the import quantum should have been increased. On the contrary, it is most ironical that it has been reduced. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the factor involved in this. If this has resulted in the reduction in the duty, whether this has been recovered from the other aspects, say, for example, from industrial or agricultural fronts. I would also like to know whether any revenue from the other side has been indirectly recovered. If the benefits have not been achieved, whether the Government has got any re-thinking on this, on the reduction of the customs duties.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Until November 1992, the customs duty trend was far above the trend implicit in the budget estimates for the year 1992-93. But, unfortunately, from December onwards—December, January, February and March the events that shook this country had an unfortunate effect. I have mentioned on several occasions in this House that the cost of Ayodhya and related subject is at least Rs. 5,000 crores in terms of loss in trade. That is the explanation.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, specifically I draw your attention to part (c) of the answer about the expected improvement in the rate of economic growth and industrial production. What is the scenario in the domestic front, in the industrial production front and economic growth in the year 1993-94 till June which will enable you to have more import and more revenue? May I know from the hon. Minister what is the trend in the industrial production front and in the domestic front in 1993-94 till June?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: The overall industrial trend is not encouraging. But, certainly, in relation to last year, there is definitely an improvement and I expect that in the remaining part of the year, there will be further improvement.

[Translation]

MANAGEMENT OF AIRPORTS

*243. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) the conditions/norms laid down for taking over management of an airport by the National Airports Authority;

(b) whether the National Airports Authority has any proposal or it has received proposals from the State Governments for taking over management of some more airports;

(c) if so, the names of the airports particularly in Gujarat in respect of which such proposals have been considered/received during 1992 and 1993 so far; and

(d) the present position in regard to each of these proposals ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (b) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) National Airports Authority (NAA) have not laid down any norms for taking over management of airports.

(b) to (d) Proposals were received from the Government of Gujarat for taking over of Surat airfield and from the Government of Maharashtra for taking over of Nanded aerodrome by NAA. Due to paucity of resources and the fact that these airports are economically unviable, it was decided that NAA would not be able to take over these airports.

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Surat is an important city for commercial and industrial point of view. Its population is of about 15 lakh. Several important industries of Government of India in the public sector and private sector are functioning here. Sir,

the facility of air service is not available to the people in the absence of a national airport in Surat city. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any proposal to handover the Surat Airport to the National Airport Authority ? If so, the details thereof and whether the Government of India propose to bring the Surat Airport under the National Airport Authority as a special case and if so, by when ?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as Surat is concerned, it is a renowned place in Gujarat and several industries have been set up there. But our biggest aviation problem is with the National Airport Authority. There are about 116 airports under the National Airport Authority at present out of these 90 per cent airports are running in loss and are not in a position even to meet the operational cost and about 31 airports are non functional and not even a single flight operates from there. Twelve airports are such that only one flight operates from there in a day. From 7 airports only one or two flights operate in a week. The more airports we bring under the National Airport Authority, the more burdened the National Airport Authority will be. By doing so we are making it more sick. The reason is that we have to spend every year Rs. 15 lakh on the maintenance of even an idle airport from where only one flight operates in a week. During the last 2-3 years we have received requests from two states. One was from Gujarat about Surat and another was from Maharashtra with regard to Nanded and third request was also received from Himachal Pradesh in respect of newly set up airport at Kangra. Out of these, only Kangra airport was taken over. Surat and Nanded airports have not been taken over. You have rightly said that there are many industries in Surat and it costs Rs. 8 or 9 crores. The Government is providing assistance to many airports in Gujarat, e.g., Baroda, Ahmedabad, Porbander, Bhuj and Bhavnagar. These are being upgraded and a Terminal Complex is being set up there. I was in Baroda two weeks back. There also I have requested

the concerned Minister of the State Government that they should invest Rs. 8-9 crore in this work. For the purpose of extension of the airport we will provide assistance on behalf of the National Airport Authority under the Navigation Act.

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is whether the Government of India had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri K. T. Satarawala, the Advisor of the then Governor of Gujarat for providing a full-fledged airport in Surat.

If so, what are the recommendations of the said Committee and details thereof and the reaction of the Government of India thereon ?

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : I am not aware of that Committee. But I know that a team on behalf of the National Airport Authority had paid a visit to Gujarat and had requested the State Government to procure 135 crore of land for construction of runway, 13 acre of land for approach line and 41 acre of land for terminal purposes and construct the complex and runway. So far as the navigation unit is concerned, the National Airport Authority will provide assistance.

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHAVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a proposal with regard to Amreli was sent by the State Government and the Central Government had agreed to it. In this case, the State Government has constructed the airport by bearing full expenditure. I would like to know the time by which the flights will start operating from this airport.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : The flights are related to traffic. It is also a matter of availability of aeroplanes. We are short of small aeroplanes and we have withdrawn Boeing 737 also from several airports due to shortage of pilots. It is difficult to say anything at present. Only after having an assessment of traffic in Amreli, something can be said.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to ask a question regarding Surat. I, being the M.P. from Surat, may be given the opportunity to ask. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 244, Shri Venkateswara Rao.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You shall have to behave in a proper way in the House. If you do not behave properly in the House, I shall be constrained to take action against you.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record. Shri Venkateswara Rao to speak now.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not behave properly in the House, I shall be constrained to take action against you. I am repeating it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Is it a constitutional provision ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The proceedings of the House cannot be run according to the whims of each and every person.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking the Whip of the Party to speak to their Members. If you do not do it....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. I cannot allow this kind of a thing.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record please. I will ask the leader of their party to consider it. Mr. Minister had replied to the Surat question very clearly and said that it cannot be done. If he has answered in that fashion, there is no point in asking further questions. If you want some more discussion on this, there is a provision in the Rules for this; you can ask for a half-an-hour discussion if the Members have not studied the rules, if Members have not heard the reply given

*Not recorded.

by the Minister, they cannot impose their will on other Members who want to ask questions. Please be kind to other Members also. I am not asking the question; it is you who are asking the questions. If you want to pressurise the House just by raising the voice, it cannot be allowed to be done.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You give notice for half-an-hour discussion.

(Interruptions)

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

*244. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have not responded favourably to the Employees' State Insurance Corporation move to extend its schemes of medical benefits to new areas and sectors of employment;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The State Government have generally responded favourably to extension of the ESI Scheme in new areas. However, due to financial constraints, sometimes they find it difficult to complete the arrangements for medical care the responsibility for which vests in the State Governments. In order to overcome this difficulty, the ESI Corporation has decided to meet the total expenditure on medical care in respect of new areas for an initial period of three years.

2. As regards the extension of the ESI Scheme to new sectors of employment,

some State Governments have not favoured extension of the Scheme to Plantation Workers on the ground that the workers are already enjoying medical benefit free of cost provided by their employers under the Plantations Labour Act and Plantations are scattered in interior or hilly and inaccessible areas. Hence the matter is not being pursued.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : According to the information 7.2 million industrial workers are under the coverage of ESI medical benefits. Another 8.92 lakh industrial workers are yet to get this benefit under ESI scheme. As per the information given by the Minister, the ESI medical benefits are being extended to some other areas. Some States are not willing for this. Initially ESI Corporation is going to cater to the medical needs of these areas for three years only. What are all the new areas the ESI is going to cover ? Is it going to cover construction workers as well as sugar industry workers ? When it is going to be for three years only, I would like to know what the Government is contemplating to do after the expiry of three years, if the State Government is not coming forward for extending this scheme to the beneficiaries.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The hon. Member is right that there are about 8.9 lakh workers identified who are eligible to be covered under the ESI scheme. Our intention is to cover them progressively year after year. Our target for 1993-94 is 1.5 lakh workers. The details of these 1.5 lakh workers for this year as well as the details of the entire 8.9 lakh workers who are coverable throughout the country is a long list Statewise. I will supply it to the hon. Member.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : I asked specifically the two areas—firstly construction workers in various States and secondly sugar industry workers. There was a recommendation by a tripartite group to this effect in 1982. There was another ESI Review Committee in 1982. These two groups made several recommendations to the Government. I would like to know whether the Government is going to take these recommendations into consideration and implement the Scheme.

After three years if the State Governments are not coming forward according to the information for three years period only the ESI Corporation is going to cater to the medical needs—what is the Government contemplating to do ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, as far as the eligibility of coverage is concerned, the Scheme is coverable in an industrial unit which employees 10 workers with power and 20 workers without power. This is one criterion for eligibility. The second is that they should be drawing a salary of up to Rs. 3000/- per month. These are the two criteria on which the workers are covered under the Scheme.

As far as the reference to 1982 Committee is concerned, this was confined mainly to application of ESIC Scheme to plantation workers. Under the Plantation Act of 1951, Section 10 of the Act provides that the employer in a plantation industry should give free medical service to the plantation workers. The Plantation Act itself provides for medical facilities. The question was whether there should be another scheme introduced through ESIC. Therefore, a Committee was appointed and the Committee went into it; they found that the medical benefits given to the plantation workers are not adequate. Therefore, they did recommend that ESIC Scheme should be covered in the plantation area also.

Then, the Central Government consulted the State Governments where there is predominantly plantation industry, like Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamilnadu and Assam. Out of the five States, Kerala, West Bengal and Tamilnadu did not agree for the introduction of ESIC Scheme in the plantation area, on the plea that they already have their own scheme. Therefore, the Central Government did not pursue with that.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there comes a time in the life of a man when the need for medical facilities becomes more critical for him. After having put in entire life's work in a factory or in any establishment, when a person retires, gives up work, the need for having medical facilities then, is felt by him. I would like to know from the hon. Minister

as to what steps he proposes to take in this direction to ensure that a member who wants, gets the benefit of ESI Scheme and continues to do that for his life time.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, the medical benefits are available to the insured persons after retirement also. As of today, the total number of employees covered under this Scheme is 64 lakhs; but the total number of insured persons including those who have already retired comes to 74 lakhs. Therefore, persons who are already retired from their services are getting benefit of the medical facilities under the ESI Scheme.

As far as the other areas are concerned, we have, as I have stated, 74 lakhs insured persons who are getting benefit out of the Scheme. Our norm, for example, for the facilities in hospital, is to have four beds for one thousand insured persons. Therefore, the number of beds required at the moment would have been about 29,600, out of which we have been able to provide 25,443. So, we do have a gap of about 4,000 beds. But, if we look at the functioning of the various hospitals, we also find that there is still under-utilisation of the existing facilities.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Would the hon. Minister like to State whether the Ayurvedic system of medicine will be introduced in the ESI Dispensaries ? After all, why such a nice medical system is being discouraged by the State Governments ? Whether it is a fact that despite the construction of a huge building of E.S.I. in the industrial city, Kota in Rajasthan, proper arrangement has not been made because the Central Government is not providing adequate funds ? If so, whether the Central Government would provide adequate funds for an industrial city like Kota ? If not, the reasons therefore and if yes, the time by which it will be provided ?

[*English*]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, we have already introduced homoeopathy in the ESI hospitals.

We are also actively considering the introduction of Ayurvedic system. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Sir, when this ESI scheme is extended to newer areas, in certain parts, especially in traditional industries, like coir where the spinning sector is scattered into 250 villages, it is very difficult to provide the medical facilities there. So, we have not implemented it in that area.

Recently, some of the cooperatives have asked the department to remit lakhs of rupees to help in increasing the emoluments of the workers by organising co-operatives. If the Government asks them to remit lakhs of rupees for ESI benefits how can they actually continue their functioning? Will you consider to exempt these areas, especially having scattered industries, where it is not possible to give medical facilities? They have also a special medical facility in their welfare scheme. Will the ESI consider the question of giving contribution to these traditional industries for medical schemes implemented by the State Government?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Generally, we introduce a scheme in an area where there are at least 1,000 industrial workers. As the hon. Members has rightly point out, in an area where the workers are so scattered, it is very very difficult to introduce that scheme. Therefore, the minimum number of industrial workers required for introduction of this scheme is 1,000.

As far as the exemption is concerned, if the industry or the employer is giving either similar medical benefit or better medical benefit, they can always apply for exemption. On a case-to-case basis, we do grant exemptions. That is precisely the reason why we could not implement this scheme in the plantation area because the Act also provides for medical facilities there. Therefore, on a case-to-case basis, whenever a request comes, we do consider for exemption.

[Translation]

DR. G. L. KANAUIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that previously the doctors of the Provincial Association of Medical Services and the E.S.I. hospitals belonged to the same cadre. Now, the Government has made separate cadres for them. But ins-

pite of separating of their cadres, their seniority has not been fixed and as a result thereof, good doctors are leaving. What the hon. Minister is doing in this regard?

I would also like to ask that as per the Budget provisions, how much purchase of medical items is made direct and how much from local market. Is the Government aware of the fact that the local purchase is forged? What measures have been taken to prevent this forgery?

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The medical benefits in the hospitals are administered and implemented by the respective State Governments. Therefore, there is no question of a separate medical cadre under the Corporation except for Delhi area where we do run it ourselves. But in all other States, it is run by the respective State Government. It is for the respective State Government to decide about the cadre. Whether they want to have a separate cadre for the ESIC or they want to merge the cadre with the State medical officers, this is for the State Governments to decide. So, we have nothing to do with it.

The question about purchase of medicines is entirely for the State Governments. We only reimburse the money which they have already spent for purchase. Whether they have purchased locally or from outside, we have nothing to do with it.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Employees State Insurance Corporation has set up a General Purposes Sub-Committee which visits various States and gives its recommendations for providing better medical facilities there. I would like to know from the Government the suggestions made by this Sub-Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon.

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : We have a General Purposes Sub-Committee which is a tripartite body which is also represented by the Members of Parliament duly elected to this Committee and this Committee goes round the country at least two to three times in a year to find out how medical

facilities are being provided to the industrial workers and whether the hospitals are being run properly or not. So, they do give their findings and report to the Government; they do give their recommendations from time to time and those recommendations are normally sent to the State Governments for implementation because it is the State Governments who implement them.

SHRI P. C. CHACKO : Sir, many public sector undertakings as well as industrial establishments have got better medical facilities than available from the ESI Corporation. Many institutions or industrial establishments have requested the ESI Corporation to exempt them from the scheme. It is stated in the answer that due to financial constraint, the State Governments are not able to provide facilities. This will help the ESI Corporation to lessen their burden and the workers also will get better facilities. Such requests are pending before the ESI Corporation. What is the policy of the Government regarding exempting industrial undertakings, who have got better medical facilities than provided by ESI Corporation, from the scheme?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I have already stated that wherever there are better schemes available, we do give exemptions.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : We have made lot of representations but you are not doing it.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : No exemption is granted.

MR. SPEAKER : You reply to Mr. Chacko's question please.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : What is better and what is not better is a judgement and it can vary because an employer who wants to get exemptions will always claim that his scheme is better. Therefore, it is very difficult to say which is better. But, as I said, we do give exemptions in areas where we find that they are getting better medical facilities from their employers. In 1985, we had 61 lakhs of employees covered under the scheme and in 1992, it dropped from 61 lakhs to 53 lakhs. We have granted exemptions in many cases because we were convinced that their schemes are better. It is true that there

are quite a number of applications still pending with the Government asking for exemptions and quite a number of them have been recommended by the hon. Members. I can assure the hon. Members that I will strictly go by the merit of the case.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : The policy seems to be that exemption can be granted and as you said, it is for the employees to say which is better. If the employees themselves come and state before the authorities and if all the unions together come and state before the authorities that they may be exempted from ESI scheme, then why not they be exempted? Why should that case be held for one and a half or two years? I think it is too unfair. I urge upon the Minister and I appeal to the Minister that such cases will have to be decided immediately so that employees will be allowed to get better facilities which are given by the public sector undertakings.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I request the hon. Member to indicate to me the particular case which he is referring to and I will give my opinion on it to him.

SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI : Sir, Andhra Pradesh is the richest coconut producing State in the country. My constituency, Amalapuram, is exporting nearly Rs. 500 crore worth of coconut every year. There are a number of coconut workers involved in plucking coconut and processing coconuts. So far, neither the State Government nor the Central Government has given benefits to the coconut workers in the field. Nearly one lakh coconut workers are there in Andhra Pradesh itself and 40,000 workers are there in my constituency. I want to know from the hon. Minister through you whether Government is going to extend the ESI Scheme to coconut workers and also provide financial assistance and insurance schemes to the unorganised coconut workers.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I have already answered about the criteria on the basis of which, this scheme can be introduced. I have statewise figures where the areas have been identified for coverage and we have already planned the programme for 1993-94. I will pass on the details to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

PSE SHARES

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

(a) whether the Government are considering debt-equity swap of PSE shares with high interest bearing government securities held by public sector banks;

(b) if so, whether any methodology of pricing the PSE equity has been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are also considering to swap external commercial debt with PSE equity; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

RBI DIRECTIVES

*246. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to impose fines on the public sector and other banks which violate its directives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria and norms formulated by the Reserve Bank of India in this regard; and

(d) the number of banks fined so far after the above decision of RBI and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and relevant statutes authorise Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue directives to all banks on various aspects of their functioning. RBI are also authorised to impose penalties for violation of their directives.

(b) to (d) During 1992, RBI had observed that two nationalised banks were making excessive borrowings from the call money market and were extending credit facilities beyond their means. RBI, therefore, issued directives to the said banks in August, 1992 restricting their level of non-food credit and their borrowings from the call money market and term deposit market.

Penalties were imposed on the two banks for violating the above directives. The norms for imposing penalty were as under :—

(i) the rate of interest payable on eligible CRR balances would stand reduced in proportion to the excess over and above the ceiling fixed for call money term deposit and bill re-discounting borrowings.

(ii) the amount of non-food credit in excess of the specified level would be reduced from the eligible CRR balances for the purpose of calculation of interest payable on them. This penalty would be over and above the penalty indicated at (i) above.

INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

*247. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Airports Authority had withdrawn the Instrument Landing System from the main runway (No. 28) at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the progress made so far in regard to re-installation of the system to ensure safe landing of aircraft at the airport ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Instrument Landing System (ILS) at runway-28 was withdrawn on 3rd July, 1993 and replaced by a new ILS which became operational on 31st July, 1993.

The previous ILS had to be replaced as there were reports of its inconsistent performance from pilots.

WESTLAND HELICOPTERS

*248. **SHRI CHITTA BASU :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to dispose of the Westland helicopters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to dispose of these helicopters;

(d) whether the Government propose to purchase new helicopters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Global tender has been floated for disposal of the entire fleet of Westland helicopters of Pawan Hans Limited.

(d) and (e) There is, presently, no proposal with Government for purchase by Pawan Hans of new helicopters as replacement of Westland helicopters.

SOCIAL HOUSING SCHEMES IN MEGHALAYA

*249. **SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the General Insurance Corporation of India have launched any social housing schemes in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided by LIC and GIC to Meghalaya for implementing these schemes during the last three years and proposed to be provided during the current year.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) have not launched Social Housing Schemes in any State.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Planning Commission allocates funds of LIC/GIC, which are provided as negotiated loans under Plan Head, to Meghalaya to support their socially oriented rural and urban schemes in the Housing Sector. The details of LIC and GIC fund allocations and disbursements made to the State for the last three financial years and the current financial year are as under :—

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
	(Rs. in Lakhs)			
Allocations :				
L.I.C.	63	289	286	286
G.I.C.	20	77	85	87
Total	83	366	371	373
Disbursements :				
L.I.C.	45	49	Nil	—
G.I.C.	15	16.5	7	—
Total	60	65.5	7	—

CHILD LABOUR

*250. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have set up Advisory Boards on Child Labour for better enforcement of provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the particulars of the States which have not set up Advisory Boards and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Assam has sent any proposals to the Union Government for amendments to the Plantations Labour Act, 1951;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard ?

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

(b) As reported by the States/Union Territories, Advisory Boards on Child Labour have not been constituted in the following States/Union Territories :—

Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

(c) and (d) Government of Assam has proposed restoration of Section 24 of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951 which prohibited employment of child labour.

(e) The proposed amendment is included in the Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill, 1992 introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

TRIVANDRUM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

*251. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the terms for sharing of cost between the Union Government, the Government of Kerala and the International Airports Authority of India for expansion and modernisation of the Trivandrum International Airport;

(b) whether the land has been acquired therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the revenue earned by the Trivandrum International Airport during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There is no arrangement for sharing of costs between the Govt. of India and the State Government. However, International Airports Authority of India has requested the Government of Kerala to make available 245 acres of land free of cost for development and expansion of the Trivandrum Airport.

(b) and (c) Government of Kerala have already acquired 45 acres.

(d) The revenue earned is as follows :—

1990-91	Rs. 2.97 crores
1991-92	Rs. 5.87 crores
1992-93	Rs. 6.86 crores

PASSENGER/GOODS AIR TRAFFIC IN DOMESTIC SECTOR

*252. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study/survey of the market potential for passenger/goods air traffic in the domestic sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of such surveys done by some private carriers that have entered the market in the last two years; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) While no specific study/survey has been carried out recently by the Government, in the fleet renewal and expansion plan of Indian Airlines, an 8% growth per annum in domestic passenger traffic has been assumed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE FAIR,
SHARJAH**

*253. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to participate in the International Textile Fair to be held in Sharjah (UAE) in October, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the textile manufacturers including handloom sector and garment sector would be associated with this project; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote export of textiles to the Middle East countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Government have informed the Textile Export Promotion Councils regarding the International Textile Fair to be held in Sharjah in October '93 so that the Councils could either arrange for their participation directly in the fair or they could advise their member exporters regarding the proposed fair.

(c) The Textile Export Promotion Councils have been undertaking various export promotional activities to promote textile exports to Middle East. The steps taken include sponsoring of trade delegations and sales cum study teams, Organising Buyer Seller Meets and Exhibitions/Fairs, conducting Market surveys, carrying out publicity campaigns, etc.

[Translation]

SICK SPINNING MILLS

*254. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of spinning mills at present functioning in the country, State-wise.

(b) the number of sick spinning mills out of those;

(c) the number of mills closed down due to sickness; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive these mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) As on 31-12-92, there were 866 Spinning Mills in the Country. Statement indicating State-wise break-up is attached.

(b) As per information furnished by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as on 12-7-93 there were 247 spinning & composite mills registered with BIFR.

(c) 22 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills undergoing liquidation (Companies Act) and One Wollen Textile Mill under I. D. Act were closed as on 31-5-93.

(d) Govt. have set up Nodal Agency/ BIFR to evolve and manage Rehabilitation package in respect of closed/sick Mills. A Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme had also been introduced to provide financial assistance for modernisation.

Statement

STATE-WISE BREAK-UP OF COTTON SPINNING MILLS

Sl. No.	State/Uts.	No. of Spinning Mills
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	71
2.	Assam	4
3.	Bihar	7
4.	Goa	1

1	2	3
5.	Gujarat	31
6.	Haryana	14
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
9.	Karnataka	34
10.	Kerala	25
11.	Madhya Pradesh	15
12.	Maharashtra	61
13.	Manipur	1
14.	Orissa	13
15.	Punjab	24
16.	Rajasthan	28
17.	Tamilnadu	457
18.	Uttar Pradesh	42
19.	West Bengal	23
20.	Delhi	—
21.	Pondicherry	6
Grand Total		866

[English]

PERSONS BELOW POVERTY LINE

*255. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the latest estimates available regarding persons below the poverty line;

(b) its comparison with the earlier estimates;

(c) whether the Government have made any survey of household expenditure recently;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) the estimated reduction in the poverty level as a result of the latest survey?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (e) The estimates of poor are made on the basis of the quinquennial Round of National Sample Survey on household expenditure, the latest survey is for the year 1987-88. The estimates released for the latest and the earlier years are as follows :—

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE

Year	Lakh Persons	Percentage of Population
1972—73	2915	51.5
1977—78	3068	48.3
1983—84	2710	37.4
1987—88	2377	29.9

[Translation]**1984 RIOT AFFECTED BORROWERS**

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

(a) whether the Government have issued any orders to write off the loans upto Rs. 25,000/- and the interest thereon for borrowers affected by 1984 riots;

(b) if so, the number of such riot affected persons;

(c) whether these orders are also applicable to all the State Governments and their financial institutions, from where the riot-victims had taken loans;

(d) if so, the number of such riot affected persons; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Government nave in June, 1993 circulated to all scheduled commercial banks for implementation of a Debt Relief Scheme for November, 1984 Riot Affected Borrowers. The Scheme envisages that the aggregate of eligible loans from all banks upto and inclusive of Rs. 25,000/- as principal, together with outstanding interest, in the case of borrowers affected by November, 1984 riots may be written off.

(b) According to available information the total number of November, 1984 riot affected borrowers against whom loans (Principal+Interest) were outstanding are 7671 as on 31st March, 1992.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) It is for the concerned state Governments to take a decision in regard to the write off of loans extended by them or their financial institutions to the persons affected by November, 1984 riots.

[English]**DIRECT FLIGHTS TO TOURIST SPOTS BY PRIVATE AIRLINES**

*257. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE : Will the Minister

of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from private air taxi operators for introduction of direct flights to various tourist spots in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the tourists spots which are proposed to be so airlinked;

(c) the details of the proposals cleared so far; and

(d) the present position in regard to each of the remaining proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Air taxis are free to operate to any airport which is open to scheduled operations. No specific proposals have been received from Air Taxi operators to operate flights to places of tourist interest. However, some Air Taxi operators are serving places of tourist interest such as Goa, Kulu, Varanasi.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]**TRAINING TO PILOTS**

*258. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to the Indira Gandbi Rashtriya Uran Academi to impart training to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates;

(b) whether these instructions are being followed;

(c) if so, the number of candidates who were imparted training of commercial pilot in the Academi during the last three years and the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes out of them; and

(d) the total number of successful candidates and the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes out of them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) candidates are given relaxation of two years in upper

age limit and are paid travelling allowance for attending the entrance examination for admission to the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi. Besides, out of the SC/ST candidates who get admitted to Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) course in the Akademi, three persons are exempted from payment of fee.

(c) and (d) In the last three completed courses for Commercial Pilot Licence, a total of 101 persons were trained, of which 5 belonged to SC/ST. The total number of successful candidates was 98, out of whom 5 belonged to SC/ST.

[English]

IMF LOAN UNDER EXTENDED FUND FACILITY

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

(a) whether the Government propose to approach International Monetary Fund for a loan under the Extended Fund Facility;

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

(c) the manner in which this loan is likely to be used and how far the debt cushion will go to improve the balance of payment and the efficiency of the economy; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to cut down wasteful expenditure and check the fiscal deficit ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government has held preliminary discussions with the International Monetary Fund for possible assistance under the Extended Fund Facility with a blend of concessional resources under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility. This assistance will enable us to bridge the financing gap in our balance of payments over the medium term (1994-96). Details of the arrangement will be known only after the negotiations are finalised.

(d) As a part of its medium term strategy the endeavour of the Government is

to progressively reduce its external account deficit to levels that are manageable through non-debt creating capital inflows. Towards this objective, the Government has been undertaking fiscal consolidation since June 1991 and this process is continuing. The steps taken by the Government include cutting down of current and wasteful expenditure, reducing budgetary support to public sector undertakings except in social and infrastructure sectors etc., as well as measures to improve revenue collection such as reform of the structure of taxation, widening the tax base, streamlining procedures and strengthening tax administration.

HANDLOOM TEXTILES

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

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the production of handloom textiles in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided by the Government to States for development of handloom during the above period State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the handloom industry, especially in tribal areas of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The estimated production of handloom cloth in the country during the year 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 was 4295 million square metres, 4123 million square metres and 4255 million square metres respectively. It is not possible to estimate the State-wise production of cloth in view of the decentralised nature of handloom sector.

(b) The State-wise details of financial assistance released by Government for the development of the handloom sector during the last three years are given in the *statement attached*.

(c) Government of India is implementing a number of on-going schemes for the

promotion and economic upliftment of handloom weavers in the country including those in tribal areas of Bihar. These schemes include Janata Cloth Scheme,

Project Package Scheme, Margin Money for Destitute Weavers Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, and Health Package Scheme.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Amount released		
		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1.	Assam	1,230.46	1,471.84	1,578.423
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2,477.23	2,667.76	2,177.993
3.	Bihar	542.45	475.93	394.25
4.	Gujarat	634.24	141.84	174.03
5.	Himachal Pradesh	49.29	84.80	86.49
6.	Haryana	20.00	68.20	17.79
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	132.81	47.04	142.93
8.	Kerala	205.63	174.00	241.998
9.	Karnataka	1,292.46	1,451.54	1,407.28
10.	Maharashtra	952.96	1,590.24	872.56
11.	Manipur	42.41	3.42	16.35
12.	Madhya Pradesh	704.28	550.69	651.66
13.	Mizoram	22.30	2.80	—
14.	Nagaland	—	2.32	—
15.	Orissa	1,211.14	1,441.83	1,115.98
16.	Punjab	50.62	43.86	112.70
17.	Rajasthan	368.32	395.28	194.095
18.	Tripura	101.47	26.63	177.102
19.	Tamil Nadu	3,624.64	4,005.00	3,007.489
20.	Uttar Pradesh	4,499.84	3,769.42	3,617.638
21.	West Bengal	1,573.86	762.56	2,251.375
22.	Pondicherry	0.94	18.26	17.60
23.	Delhi	0.27	114.06	57.30
24.	Meghalaya	0.50	—	—
Total		19,738.12	19,309.32	18,313.033

RECOMMENDATION TO BRING BANKS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF PARLIAMENT

2679. MAJ. GEN (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1766 on March 5, 1993 and state :—

(a) whether the examination of the recommendations of Parliamentary Committee regarding bringing certain banks

under the purview of the Parliament has been completed ;

(b) if so, the decision of the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) The recommendations made by the Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) in their 8th Report about bringing Reserve Bank of India, nationalised banks, State Bank of

India and its subsidiaries and other financial institutions under the purview of COPU are still under examination. Decision on the recommendations of the Committee (COPU) will be taken shortly.

[Translation]

LOSS TO COOPERATIVE BANKS IN GUJARAT

2680. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cooperative banks in Gujarat are running in loss due to their heavy administrative expenditure;

(b) if so, the details of such banks and the details of the loss suffered by them during each of the last three years;

(c) the administrative expenditure incurred by each of such banks; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the loss incurred by cooperative banks in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that out of the total 18 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) in Gujarat as on 31-3-1992, 6 were running in loss. The administrative expenditure is one of the factors for causing losses in the cooperative banks, besides other factors such as lower interest spread, high overdues/bed debts, etc.

(b) The details of loss making DCCBs are as under :

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	No. of reporting DCCBs	No. of loss making DCCBs	Amount of loss
1989-90	18	5	2872
1990-91	18	3	2758
1991-92 (latest available)	18	6	1328

(c) The administrative expenditure (cost of management) of the five DCCBs during 1989-90 (Latest available) was Rs. 752 lakhs.

(d) In order to check the losses of the Cooperative Banks, NABARD has taken various measures such as detailed examination of financial/administrative expenditure incurred by State Cooperative Bank (SCB) / DCCBs during their inspections, emphasising the need for reduction in expenditure during Annual Action Plan discussions, rationalisation of interest spread available to cooperative banks etc. Recently, the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) have been advised by NABARD to prepare action plans for improving their own financial position and that of DCCBs which have

been identified under the proposed institutional strengthening programme.

REGIONAL OFFICE OF BANK OF INDIA IN U. P.

2681. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the sanction for opening regional office of Bank of India in Hardoi district in Uttar Pradesh has been received,

(b) if so, when; and

(c) the reason for not opening regional office there so far and the time by which this office is proposed to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FRAUDS IN NATIONALISED BANK IN U. P.

2682. SHRI UDAI PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of frauds, embezzlement, looting and misappropriation detected in the nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and the total loss suffered by the nationalised banks each year as a result thereof;

(b) the names of the banks where such incidents have taken place indicating the locations thereof in Uttar Pradesh and the action against the persons involved in those cases;

(c) whether some banks employees were also found involved in such cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) The present data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, the total number of frauds reported by Public Sector Banks in India to RBI during the years 1991-92 and 1993 (upto March, 1993) and the amounts involved therein are as follows :—

Year	No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in crores)
1991	1535	62.65
1992	1702	119.79
1993 (upto March)	509	16.43

The amounts involved in the cases of frauds do not necessarily represent the actual losses which the banks may have to ultimately suffer. The banks generally have some securities to cover advances made by them. Banks also file civil and criminal suits and seek appropriate relief. Besides, banks take insurance cover. Available information in respect of employees dismissed/discharged/removed from service, etc. during the years 1991 and 1992 for their involvement in fraud cases is given below :—

	1991	1992
(i) No. of employees convicted	82	51
(ii) No. of employees given penalties (major/minor)	829	849
(iii) No. of employees [out of (ii) above] dismissed/ discharged/removed	289	737
(iv) No. of employees against whom prosecution is Pending in the Courts	640	737
(v) No. of employees against whom departmental proceedings are pending	1563	1718

As regards incidents of robberies/dacoities which occurred in public sector banks in Uttar Pradesh during the years 1991, 1992, 1993 (upto March), the details in

respect of these incidents are given in the attached statement. As per available information, no bank employee has been reported to be involved in these incidents.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Branch	Date of occurrence	Amount involved (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of persons arrested
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1991					
1.	Allahabad Bank	Basantpur, Sainthal i, Ghaziabad	15.5.1991	0.61	—
2.	Allahabad Bank	D. Y. College Extension Counter Orai, Salaam	17-5-1991	0.50	2
3.	Allahabad Bank	Inayatpur Burra, Unnao	6-9-1991	0.30	—
4.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Halalpur, Saharanpur	10-8-1991	—	—
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Shahjahanpur	1-6-1991	3.70	2
6.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Ram Raj and Beggum Bridge, Meerut	27-9-1991	1.00	—
7.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Shahgarh, Pilibhit	24-1-1991	0.56	—
8.	State Bank of India	Barapura, Pilibhit	17-1-1991	2.13	—
9.	Syndicate Bank	Ikri, Meerut	3-6-1991	0.50	—
1992					
1.	Canara Bank	Extn. Counter, Agra	5-5-1992	0.17	1
	Punjab National Bank	Extn. Counter, IDPL Veer Bhadra, Dehradun.	8-8-1992	8.82	—
3.	State Bank of India	Kala Ground Service Counter, Dehradun.	5-6-1992	2.00	—
4.	Union Bank of India	Ukaura, Varanasi	23-10-1992	2.23	—

1993 (upto March)

— N I L —

[English]

BANK DEPOSITS IN BIHAR

2683. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bihar Chamber of Commerce has given a call to the State Government and to the general public to stop making deposits with the branches of such banks whose overall investment-deposit ratio in Bihar is less than 30%.

(b) if so, the names of such banks as on April 1, 1993, taking into account the the overall picture of their operations in Bihar;

(c) the total deposits and investments by each one of them for the State as a whole as on March 31, 1993; and

(d) the reasons for their investment-deposit ratio being lower than the overall average of the banks operating in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

PROJECTS TO BE DROPPED IN U. P.

2684. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to cut the plan size and drop some important projects in the State of U. P.;

(b) if so, the particulars of the projects which are likely to be dropped; and

(c) the reasons for such consideration to cut the size of the plan ?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

FUNDS FOR NTC MILLS

2685. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to handover some of the sick NTC mills to the cooperative societies;

(b) if so, the details of such mills, State-wise;

(c) the funds provided by the Union Government for revival/modernisation of these, mills during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the funds earmarked for the purpose during 1993-94, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) and (b) Government is willing to support any viable proposal for cooperativisation of NTC mills provided it bears the consent of all parties concerned.

(c) and (d) The funds provided by the Government towards margin money for the modernisation of NTC mills during the last three years are given below :—

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1990—91	20
1991—92	—
1992—93	20
	40

The above funds are not allocated on Stae-wise basis but are released to NTC (Holding Company) on the basis of approved projects for modernisation of their mills. An amount of Rs. 28 crores has been earmarked for released to NTC during 1993-94, to meet their margin money requirements for modernisation.

TEXTILE MILLS

2686. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the textile policy of the Government particularly for encouraging powerlooms has posed a serious threat to the textile mills in organised sector and the handlooms;

(b) if so, the percentage of total textile production as between mills, powerlooms and handlooms as on March 31, 1993 as compared to three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure optimum utilisation of capacity of each sector?

Year	Mills Sector	Handlooms Sector	Powerlooms Sector
1992-93	9.75	18.39	71.87
1991-92	10.52	18.25	71.23
1990-91	11.29	18.73	69.98
1989-90	12.95	19.05	68.00

(c) Government have taken several measures some of them are as follows :—

- (i) Licensing procedure for capacity creation has been adequately liberalised keeping in line with the current policy of the Government.
- (ii) Imports of Textile Machinery have been liberalised and duty structure modified.
- (iii) The export quota of fabrics and made ups under bilateral agreements for powerloom manufacturers has been increased from 3% to 5%.
- (iv) Financial assistance for modernisation/renovation/purchase of Handlooms is provided.

FICCI REPORT REGARDING IMPORTS

2687. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has submitted a detailed report to the Government listing the anomalies which have crept into the Budget making it cheaper to import the finished products instead of manufacturing them in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) Government is committed to the harmonious growth of all the three sectors of textile industry.

(b) Percentage of total cloth production for 1992-93 and comparative figures for last three years are :—

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHRA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) In their letter dated 19-4-93, FICCI has enclosed a note on the Finance Bill, 1993. The note brings out certain anomalies as perceived by the Federation, in the customs and excise duty structure, as a result of which the rate of duty on the final product is less than on inputs and raw materials. This is not exactly the same as saying that it is cheaper to import the finished products instead of manufacturing them in the country. The list of industries covered in the note include Auto components, Electronic components, Tyres, etc.

(c) The Government have examined the points raised and have since reduced the import duty on specified automobile sub-components and diffused silicon wafers out of the items mentioned by them. It has not been found possible to accede to other recommendations at present.

JUTE BAGS

2688. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Government in the continued use of jute bags for packing of cement, fertilisers etc.;

(b) whether any relaxation is proposed to be made in the existing order;

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

(d) its impact on the jute industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) The entire production of foodgrains, sugar and Urea and 70 % of the production of cement (65% in the case of cement plants located more than 1200 Kms. from Calcutta) is required to be compulsorily packed in jute material under the Orders issued under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. Mini cement plants having an installed capacity of upto 100 metric tonnes per day are exempt from the operation of these Orders. The existing level of usage of jute material, the quantity of raw jute available, the quantity of jute material available, the protection of interests of persons engaged in the jute industry and in the production of raw jute, the need for continued maintenance of jute industry, the quantity of commodities likely to be required for packing in jute material are reviewed from time to time to determine the commodities, or percentages thereof, required to be packed for supply and/or distribution in jute material.

ASSISTANCE TO ANDHRA PRADESH

2689. DR. K. V. R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of the loan assistance provided by the Union Government to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the works/programmes undertaken/implemented with this assistance during the above period; and

(c) the location where such works/programmes are being undertaken/implemented during 1992-93 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) The Central Government provided loan assistance of Rs. 759.80 crores, Rs. 872.39 crores and Rs. 977.10 crores during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 respectively to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Central assistance to States for States' Annual Plan is released in the shape of block loans and block grants. The States are also released loan to the extent of 75% of net small savings collection made in the State during a year. These loans are not tied to any particular head of development, or scheme or works in any particular area, but for the implementations of State's Annual Plan is a whole.

[Translation]

BUSINESS DONE BY LIC

2690. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the amount of business done by the Life Insurance Corporation of India by means of issuing various insurance policies through its branch managers separately all over the country during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : The agents of the Life Insurance Corporation of India recruited by the Development Officers procure new business under the guidance of the Development Officers. The Branch Officer is overall incharge of a Branch and does not procure an business himself separately.

The new business performance of the Corporation for the last three years is as follows :—

Year	Policies	Sum Assured (In Crores)	F.P.I (In Lakhs)
1990-91	8645386	28139 07	75301.87
1991-92	9238264	32064 44	86169.68
1992-93	9957848	35956.82	99525.13

[English]

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN ORISSA

2691. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of families assisted under the Integrated Rural Development Programme in Orissa during each of the last two years; and

(b) the amount disbursed during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The number of families assisted and the amount disbursed by Cooperative Banks, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in Orissa during the last two years are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of families assisted	Amount disbursed
1991-92	111712	3869.12
1992-93 (provisional)	93226	3479.03

BRANCH OF SMALL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

2692. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of requests received by the Small Industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in its Cochin Branch for the revival of SSI sick units during 1992-93;

(b) the number of units which were revived under the revival of nursing programme and the amount sanctioned for the same during the above period;

(c) the number of requests rejected;

(d) the number of cases pending for disposal as on June 30, 1993;

(e) whether the Government propose to open one more branch of SIDBI in Trivandrum; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The initiative for sanctions and disbursements of assistance under Small Industries Development Bank of India's Refinance Scheme for Rehabilitation at grassroot level rests

with banks and State Finance Corporations (SFCs). If the resources position of primary lending institutions in comfortable, they will not seek refinance from SIDBI. However, one application under SIDBI's refinance scheme for rehabilitation of sick SSI units was received by their Cochin Branch Office during 1992-93. Refinance assistance of Rs. 3.36 lakhs was sanctioned towards this proposal against which Rs. 75,000/- was disbursed.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

NEW FLIGHTS OF INDIAN AIRLINES

2693. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines have introduced some new flights w.e.f. January 15, 1993; and

(b) if so, the routes on which these new flights have been introduced ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

NATIONAL HOUSING BANK

2694. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a National Housing Bank to provide soft loan to housing sector; which has been declared a priority sector;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives with which the National Housing Bank was constituted and the extent to which it has come up to the aims and objectives;

(c) whether individuals are eligible to apply for loan from this Bank; if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to give loans to Government servants directly or through their employers at concessional rate of interest to help them build flats; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The National Housing Bank (NHB) was established on July, 9, 1988 under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Promotion of a healthy housing finance system by encouraging setting-up of housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels and provision of adequate finance to the housing sector are the principal functions of NHB. NHB is also playing a positive role in the development of the housing sector, including promotion of research and studies connected with shelter, housing and human settlement. The regulatory functions in respect of housing finance companies have been transferred from RBI to NHB effective from June 26, 1989. The Bank, as per NHB Act, is empowered to make loans and advances among others to scheduled banks in respect of their lending for housing.

NHB has taken various initiatives to increase the flow of funds in the housing sector. These include development of

institutional framework for housing finance, mobilisation of savings specific to housing needs and augmentation of supply of real resources.

(c) to (e) As per provisions of NHB Act, 1987, NHB does not give loans to individuals directly. However, it provides refinance to scheduled banks housing finance companies and State level apex co-op. housing finance societies in respect of eligible housing loans disbursed by them. By the end of July, 1993 and cumulative disbursement under NHB finance scheme through these primary lenders together with subscriptions to Special Rural Housing Debentures (SRHDs) floated by State level Land Development Banks in respect of their eligible housing loans, amounted to Rs. 1697.11 crores. The Government servants are also eligible like any other borrower, to obtain loans from banks at rate of interest prescribed by RBI from time to time for acquiring flats.

[Translation]

STOCK HOLDING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED

2695. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI VISHWESHWAR
BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited proposes to provide its services to the private sector also along with the public sector;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints regarding procedure adopted and time taken by the Corporation in disposal of work; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for speedy disposal of work by the Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Stock Holding Corporation of India

Limited (SHCIL) has no intention at present to offer its services to the private sector. As the volume of business serviced by the Corporation has been increasing substantially in the recent past, the Corporation has decided to create additional infrastructural facilities for the envisaged growth in business before offering services to additional clients. Besides, the Corporation will have to initiate measures to deal with risk management issues associated with the need to protect the assets in custody prior to expansion of business.

(c) and (d) There were some complaints relating to the manner in which the SHCIL was rendering services like delivery, payment and registration of share certificates in the name of the institution. SHCIL had informed the Government in December, 92 that the average processing time of transfer deeds was reduced from 38 days in 91-92 to 20 days in 1992-93 (till 16th December, 1992). Subsequently, SHCIL has taken steps in terms of deployment of additional manpower and other resources with improved control procedures for streamlining work on processing of orders. However, the average time for processing delivery orders, receiving the deliveries, processing the transfers and lodgement of securities has been 22 days during January 1993 to June 1993, with the volume of business being to an extent of Rs. 1,965 crores for this period compared to only Rs. 1,138 crores for the corresponding period in the year 1992. The primary responsibility for improving the efficiency of operations of SHCIL vests with the management of the Corporation.

EXEMPTION TO BANKING INDUSTRY FROM REGIONAL PROVIDENT FUND ACT, 1952

2696. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GAN-
GWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banking industry has been exempted from the application of the Regional Provident Fund Act, 1952; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA) : (a) and (b) At present the

EPF & MP Act, 1952 is applicable to the banks which are doing business in one State/Union Territory and have got no departments/branches outside that State/Union Territory. The provisions of the Act have not been extended to the banks which have got branches in more than one State/Union Territory.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS BILL

2697. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Bill during the current session of the Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

2698. SHRI DHARMANNA MON-
DAYYA SADUL : Will the Minister of
PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IM-
PLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the allocations for irrigation projects in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the allocations for Maharashtra for these projects; and

(c) the projects likely to be completed in the State during the Plan Period and their break-up for each year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PRO-
GRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI
GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (c)
An outlay of Rs. 28003.79 crores has been approval for Major, Medium and Minor

Irrigation Projects/Schemes in the Eighth Five Year Plan of States and Union Territories. This includes an outlay of Rs. 3003.71 crores for Maharashtra. As per the statement attached, eight major and forty two medium irrigation projects in Maharashtra are scheduled to be completed during the Eighth Plan period.

Statement

MAHARASHTRA

IRRIGATION PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE EIGHTH PLAN

MAJOR PROJECTS

Sl. No. Name of the Projects

1. Jayakawadi Stage I & II
2. Khadakwasla
3. Krishna
4. Lower Tirna
5. Lower Wunna
6. Karwa
7. Arunawati
8. Wan

MEDIUM PROJECTS

1. Nagya-Sakya
2. Alandi
3. Yeoti-Masoli
4. Kasari
5. Jawalgaon
6. Deorajan
7. Sakol
8. Pakadi-Guddam
9. Kajala
10. Masalga
11. Benetura
12. Purna-Neopur
13. Shahnoor
14. Aran (Pumpri)
15. Mun
16. Upper Manjara
17. Wadivale
18. H'vara

19. Anjana Palahi
20. Bramhagavan
21. Sakat
22. Tajnapur L. I.
23. Haranbari
24. Sankh
25. Hetavane
26. Bahula
27. Patgaon
28. Tembhapuri
29. Bor-Dehegaon
30. Jam
31. Narangi-Sarangi
32. Sayakti
33. Dehali
34. Amravati
35. Kar
36. Pentakali
37. Deogad
38. Kumbhi
39. Kadvi
40. Jangamhatti
41. Kasarsai
42. Kashyapi

[Translation]

**EMPLOYMENT TO EDUCATED/
UNEDUCATED YOUTH**

2699. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on providing employment to educated and uneducated youth under the self-employment scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of youth benefitted therefrom;

(c) the number of unemployed educated and uneducated youth Statewise; and

(d) whether the Government have prepared a scheme to provide employment to all youth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGU): (a) and (b)

The amount spent on the important self-employment schemes specifically for the benefit of youth during the last 3 years are as under :

Name of Employment Scheme	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. crores)		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Scheme for Self-Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth (SBEUY) (Capital Subsidy)	44.51	37.18	39.5
Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM)	32.61	48.79	47.46

Details regarding the youth benefitted under TRYSEM during the 3 years as under :

Year	No. of Youth Trained	No. of Youth self-employed	No. of Youth wage employed	Total No. of youth employed
1990-91	2,36,177	1,23,785	41,493	1,65,278
1991-92	3,07,044	1,19,959	47,459	1,67,418
1992-93 (Prov.)	2,74,130	99,023	41,868	1,40,891

Under SEEUY Scheme, 2.65 lakh educated youth benefitted during the 3 year period under reference. State-wise/year-wise break-up of the youth benefitted under the Scheme is given in the attached *Statement-I*.

(c) State-wise estimates of total unemployed persons and the number of educated amongst them, based on the last

comprehensive survey on employment and unemployment, conducted by the NSSO in 1987-88, are given in the attached *Statement II*.

(d) The employment strategy of the Eighth Five Year Plan envisages achievement of a near full employment situation by 2002 AD. The Government have, however, not prepared any specific scheme to provide employment to all youth.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of cases sanctioned loan by banks		
		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8047	6849	5258
2.	Assam	3067	3480	2470
3.	Bihar	11545	8975	6400
4.	Gujarat	2419	1145	434
5.	Haryana	2545	2502	1957
6.	Himachal Pradesh	870	937	850
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	236	310	NR
8.	Karnataka	5415	4771	3894
9.	Kerala	6249	4980	2949
10.	Madhya Pradesh	6751	7229	6173
11.	Maharashtra	9027	10131	8953

1	2	3	4	6
12.	Manipur	750	750	680
13.	Meghalaya	24	73	78
14.	Nagaland	100	83	79
15.	Orissa	4578	4353	3185
16.	Punjab	7453	7167	5773
17.	Rajasthan	5330	5779	4470
18.	Sikkim	28	55	NR
19.	Tamil Nadu	8015	8245	6597
20.	Tripura	502	4206	312
21.	Uttar Pradesh	13201	11888	8994
22.	West Bengal	4225	3056	385*
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	23	30	15
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	22	12	19
25.	Chandigarh	127	151	89
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	20	36	37
27.	Goa	199	73	60
28.	Mizoram	136	68	69
29.	Pondicherry	305	299	214
30.	Lakshadweep	12	14	14
31.	Daman & Diu	12	7	18
Total		101233	93868	70346

NR—Not Reported

*—Provisional

Statement-II

State-wise estimates of total and educated unemployed during 1987-88

State	Estimated Number (000)		
	Total	Educated	
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1200	353
2.	Assam	320	134
3.	Bihar	727	313
4.	Gujarat	371	112
5.	Haryana	309	147
6.	Himachal Pradesh	69	38
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	62	40
8.	Karnataka	430	229
9.	Kerala	1725	727
10.	Madhya Pradesh	414	106
11.	Maharashtra	870	365
12.	Manipur	9	9
13.	Meghalaya	2	1
14.	Nagaland (Urban)	2	2

1	2	3	4
15.	Orissa	583	194
16.	Punjab	272	159
17.	Rajasthan	464	94
18.	Sikkim	5	1
19.	Tamil Nadu	1378	488
20.	Tripura	33	23
21.	Uttar Pradesh	317	387
22.	West Bengal	1269	476
23.	A. & N. Islands	4	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Negligible
25.	Chandigarh	16	9
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	Negligible
27.	Delhi	115	53
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	36	16
29.	Lakshadweep	2	1
30.	Mizoram	—	Negligible
31.	Pondicherry	21	8
	All India	11525	4537

[English]

ACCIDENTS IN MINES

2700. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANGARU :

SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the mine accidents in the country during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry to find out the main

causes for increase in the number of accidents;

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety arrangements in the mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The position regarding occurrence of accidents in mines during the last seven years is indicated below :—

Sl. No.	Year	Number of Accidents	
		Fatal	Serious
1.	1986	250	1558
2.	1987	230	1312
3.	1988	226	1067
4.	1989	207	1148
5.	1990	214	1206
6.	1991 *	235	1099
7.	1992 *	233	963

*Figures for 1991 & 1992 are provisional.

It may be seen from the above figures that there is a general declining trend in serious accidents. In regard to fatal accidents, the figures show a fluctuating trend.

Statutory enquiries under the Mines Act, 1952 are conducted by the officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety in respect of all fatal accidents. Depending upon the gravity of the situation, certain serious accidents are also enquired into. Some of the major causes of accidents are fall of roof/sides, transportation machinery, rope haulage etc.

(d) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rule and Regulations framed thereunder. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions and to take action as provided under the Mines Act 1952, in case of default.

PROJECT ADVISORY SERVICES

2701. DR. VASANT NIWRUTH PAWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Project Advisory Services abroad to attract foreign investors;

(b) if so, the countries chosen for such centres; and

(c) the areas, the Government propose to take up for inviting the foreign investments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINIS-

TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Foreign Investment is being invited in all identified priority areas by the Government, including sectors such as power, hydrocarbons electronics and software, tourism etc.

CURRENCY NOTES

2702. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Reserve Bank of India's estimated requirement of currency notes for circulation during each of the last three years with its value denomination;

(b) the details of actual currency notes printed and put into circulation with its value denomination during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether there was a short fall in the printing of notes as compared to demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The details are given in the *statement* attached.

(c) Yes, sir.

(d) In order to augment indigenous production, Reserve Bank of India is setting up two new note printing presses. Government is also considering modernisation/expansion of the existing note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas to augment existing production capacity.

Statement

RBI's Indent/Production : In Million Pieces
Value : Rs. In crores.

Denomination	1990-91					1991-92					1992-93		
	RBI's Indent	Value	Production	Value	RBI's Indent	Value	Production	Value	RBI's Indent	Value	Production	Value	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Re. 1/-	350	35	428	42.8	—	—	260	20	—	—	110	11	
Rs. 2/-	1300	260	1582	316.4	1100	220	248	49.6	1230	246	390	78	
Rs. 5/-	1600	800	1333	666.5	950	475	1647	823.5	740	370	358	179	
Rs. 10/-	3000	3000	1000	1000.0	3000	3000	1078	1078.0	5100	5100	1547	1547	
Rs. 20/-	1000	2000	152	304.0	470	940	17	34.0	200	400	—	—	
Rs. 50/-	2200	11000	1014	5070.0	1000	9000	1337	6685.0	2000	10000	819	4095	
Rs. 100/-	2700	27000	740	7400.0	3000	30000	658	6580.0	5300	5300	970	9700	
Rs. 500/-	100	5000	12	600.0	500	25000	7	350.0	2000	10000	120	6000	
Total	12250	49095	6261	15399.7	10829	68635	5252	15626.1	14770	79116	4314	21610	

REVENUE LOSS

2703. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has unearthed a revenue loss of hundreds of crores of rupees due to under assessment of indirect taxes through a test audit of post-assessment records of Customs and Central Excise departments for the period April, 1991 to March, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether such a test audit of post assessment records of income tax and sales tax departments has also been carried out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) The Comptroller & Auditor General of India has, in his report for the year 1991-92 (No. 4 of 1993), indicated alleged under-assessment and loss of revenue, in respect of customs and central excise duties, of the order of Rs. 248.12 crores. Many of these audit objections have been examined and, the Department's comments, thereon forwarded to the C & AG. In cases where audit objections have been admitted, the Department has also initiated action, as provided under the law, to recover the short levied amount.

(c) and (d) In respect of Income Tax Department, the C & AG do carry out audit of post-assessment records. During 1991-92, they raised 16,049 objections which are under process and the quantum of revenue involved will be known only when these objections are finally settled with the C & AG.

As regards audit of post-assessment records of sales Tax Department, the Union Government does not maintain any information as the collection of sales tax is made by the State Governments and the subject is a State subject.

[Translation]

SECURITY AT AIRPORTS

2704. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the responsibility of security at the airports has been assigned to private agencies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the services of the security personnel, rendered surplus as a result thereof, are proposed to be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The responsibility of security at airports vests in the respective State Police under the overall supervision of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. However, at some of the airports, private security agencies have been engaged for watch and ward duties.

(c) The question of redeployment of surplus security personnel does not arise as private agencies are employed where the watch and ward functions required to be supplemented.

[English]

BANK DEPOSITS

2705. SHRI K. M. MATHEW : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the deposits of public sector and other banks during the last three years;

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

(c) the increase in the deposits made by the Non-Resident Indians in the above banks during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bank-wise and State-wise details of deposits of scheduled commercial banks including Public Sector Banks as at the end of March 1991, 1992 and 1993 are given in *Statement-I and II* respectively.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) do not have full details regarding the deposits made by the Non-Resident Indians. However, the total of the outstanding balances

in the foreign currency (Non-Resident) Account and the Non-Resident (External) Rupee Accounts as on the last Friday of March 1991, March 1992 and March 1993 were Rs. 23043 crores, Rs. 28547 crores and Rs. 34336 crores, respectively registering an increase of Rs. 5504 crores in March 1992 over 1991 and an increase of Rs. 5789 crores in March 1993 over March 1992.

Statement-I

Bank-wise deposits of scheduled Commercial Banks (amount in Rupees Lakhs)

Name of the Bank	Deposits		
	March 1991	March 1992	March 1993
1. State Bank of India	4077344	4975618	5813177
2. State Bank of Hyderabad	237456	294156	334026
3. State Bank of Mysore	144140	168965	207105
4. State Bank of Patiala	231820	259334	295923
5. State Bank of Saurashtra	110130	125488	166599
6. State Bank of Travancore	211126	253444	313665
7. State Bank of Indore	107630	118809	134825
8. SBBB&J	227694	247881	287046
9. Bank of Baroda	1049975	1332273	1632947
10. Allahabad Bank	610140	664695	733745
11. Bank of India	1108202	1280136	1593786
12. Bank of Maharashtra	299780	331381	378843
13. Canara Bank	1172692	1368001	1530180
14. Dena Bank	274445	330540	403609
15. Indian Bank	648881	724855	913320
16. I.B.S.	549531	586213	692459
17. C.B.I.	1169820	1269066	1371024
18. Union Bank	691970	787685	930172
19. P.N.B.	1341612	1503110	1663508
20. United Bank	460430	492489	585239
21. UCO Bank	575657	573389	667310
22. Syndicate Bank	591258	644013	708485
23. Andhra Bank	317430	359303	395356
24. Corporation Bank	170256	207710	258968
25. O.B.C.	281340	316888	403772
26. Punjab & Sind Bank	245555	260342	297987
27. New Bank of India	196856	207329	229137
28. Vijaya Bank	246334	270493	374133

Statement-II

Statewise details of deposits of scheduled Commercial Banks as at the end of March, 1991, 1992 and 1993. (Rs. in lakh)

	1991	1992	1993
Haryana	395576	434248	506400
Himachal Pradesh	140851	159086	185579
Jammu & Kashmir	196862	201194	223340
Punjab	992147	1106384	1255112
Rajasthan	553960	615938	725611
Chandigarh	142936	159084	197762
Delhi	1857493	2084383	2355927
Arunachal Pradesh	14636	17400	20051
Assam	217836	242402	266785
Manipur	10780	10916	10512
Meghalaya	37383	38233	11777
Mizoram	10339	10654	11301
Nagaland	21424	22690	24170
Tripura	27862	30625	33729
Bihar	933114	995963	1110872
Orissa	273515	302254	359110
Sikkim	11031	10452	12187
West Bengal	1888682	2081503	2387626
Andaman and Nicobar	5706	5958	7917
Madhya Pradesh	773714	849156	944404
Uttar Pradesh	2039583	2253938	2543128
Goa	146019	166002	198805
Gujarat	1172271	1371687	1614535
Maharashtra	3916673	5298707	6525720
Dadra and N.H.	1514	1911	2870
Daman & Diu	5935	6998	8419
Andhra Pradesh	1101235	1216701	1389579
Karnataka	963161	1121662	1336674
Kerala	769578	938643	1172671
Tamil Nadu	1349388	1515336	1874515
Lakshadweep	884	1152	1361
Pondicherry	31384	36768	43366

[Translation]

COMPLIMENTARY AIR TICKETS

2706. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 741 on April 26, 1993 and state :

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(a) whether investigations into the irregularities in issue of complimentary air-tickets in the Air India have since been completed;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in evolving system of checks and verification at multiple levels to check these irregularities ?

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

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

(c) Measures have been taken to ensure that the lists of entitled employees are kept upto date and the identity of the employee/family member is properly verified before issue of the complimentary ticket.

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

2707. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE : will the Minister of PLANNING AND

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent on rural and urban employment schemes during the last three years;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) the expenditure incurred on the important special employment schemes during the last three years is as under :—

Name of Employment Scheme	Expenditure incurred (Rs. Crores)		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)	809.49	773.09	704.56 (Provisional)
Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)	2,600.03	2,639.33	2687.65 (Provisional)
Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY)—(Central Share)	112.00	103.00	71.00
Scheme for Self-Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth(SEEUY)—(Capital Subsidy)	44.51	37.18	39.55

(b) and (c) Concurrent evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is being done on a regular basis since October, 1985. Main findings of the evaluation done during Jan-December, 1989 are at *Statement-I*. The Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission conducted a quick study of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in 1991-92. Main findings of this quick study are given at *Statement-II*. Concurrent evaluation of JRY has also been initiated in January 1992. Regular monitoring of the SEEUY Scheme has shown that 2.65 lakh persons have been benefited under the Scheme during the last 3 years.

Statement-I

Main Findings of the Concurrent Evaluation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)—January 1989 to December 1989.

1. Total annual family income of the beneficiaries had increased by more than 50 per cent in 73 per cent of the cases.

2. The old beneficiaries of the IRDP had crossed the poverty line of Rs. 3,500 in 81% cases and revised poverty line of Rs. 6,400 in 28% cases at the national level.

3. The families belonging to destitute and very very poor groups had crossed

the poverty line of Rs. 3,500 in 67% cases and the revised poverty line of Rs. 6,400 in 16% cases at the national level.

4. About 37% of the beneficiaries had no over dues and 20% beneficiaries had overdues less than Rs. 1,000.

5. Ineligible families were assisted in 16% cases.

6. After care support and Government support was not made available to the beneficiaries in 53% cases out of 71% cases requiring such support.

Statement-II

Main findings of Quick Study by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission on the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) conducted during 1991-92 in 10 major States.

1. The share of the SC/STs in employment generation was more than 50%. The share of the women in employment generation was only 22—25% at the district level and 15 to 18% at the village panchayat level.

2. The Yojana did not provide employment to the extent expected as the average number of days for which a person got employment was 11.44 days during 1989-90, 15.68 days during 1990-91 and 12.81 days in 1991-92 (up-to September, 1991).

3. 89% of the selected beneficiaries described the assets as useful.

4. Adequate attention was not given to maintenance of assets.

5. Some of the village panchayats did not utilise the funds provided to them.

6. Contractors were also engaged by some Gram Panchayats for the execution of some work.

[Translation]

JANATA DHOTIES

2708. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise number of Janata Dhoties and Sarees supplied during the last three years to Bihar; and

(b) the target for supply of Janata Dhoties/Sarees to the State during the next two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) The deliveries of handloom janata cloth in Bihar during the last three years as under :—

(In million square metres)	
Year	Quantity delivered
1990-91	12.00
1991-92	12.73
1992-93	11.80
	(Estd.) †

(b) The State of Bihar has been allocated a target of 21.50 million square metres for production and distribution of handloom janata cloth during 1993-94. The target for subsequent years will be finalised in the beginning of each year.

[English]

SOUND AND LIGHT SHOWS

2709. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL :

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposals from the State Governments for financial assistance to organise Sound and Light Shows at tourist spots to attract more tourists;

(b) if so the details of each such proposal received during the last three years including the amount of assistance sought;

(c) the details of the proposals approved so far;

(d) the present position in regard to each of the remaining proposals;

(e) the names of the tourist spots where the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) organised Sound and Light Shows during the last three years; and

(f) the names of the tourist spots where the ITDC propose to organise such shows during 1993-94 ?

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

(b) to (d) As per *statement* attached.

(e) During the last three years there are two shows namely one at Golconda Fort Hyderabad and the other at Cellular Jail, Port Blair being organised by ITDC.

(f) There is no proposal in ITDC for mounting of SEL Shows during 1993-94.

Statement

SOUND AND LIGHT SHOWS

1990-91 : No proposal received.

1991-92

Sl. No.	State	Proposal	Amount sought (in lacs)	Latest position
1.	Rajasthan	Sound & Light Show at Chittorgarh Fort	49.50	Clarification sought from ITDC.
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Sound & Light Show at Varanasi and Fatehpur Sikri.	5.00	Further details sought from the State Govt.
1992-93				
1.	Pondicherry	SEL Show at Pondicherry.	40.00	State Govt. has been asked to re-submit the proposal as per guidelines.
2.	Uttar Pradesh	SEL Show at Jhansi.	40.00	Further details sought from the State Govt.
3.	Uttar Pradesh	SEL Show at Agra Fort	30.00	Further clarifications are sought from the State Govt.
4.	Tamil Nadu	SEL Show at Thanjavur	50.00	State Govt. has been asked to resubmit the proposal as per guidelines.
5.	Maharashtra	SEL Show at Saniwar-wada.	85.00	Further clarifications sought from the State Govt.

WOMEN CANDIDATES IN PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS

2710. SHRI C. P. MUDALAGIRI-YAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether adequate representation is given to women candidates and the candidates belonging to minorities in recruitment in various public sector banks;

(b) if so, details thereof, during each of the last three years;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) There is no specific reservation in favour of women

and minorities in recruitment or promotions in the public sector banks. The question of accumulation of any backlog does not, therefore arise. Public sector banks have, however, been advised to provide pre-recruitment training to the candidates belonging to the minority communities to enable them to improve their chances of selection in the recruitment examinations conducted by the Banking Service Recruitment Boards (BSRBs)/banks. The BSRBs/banks also include a member belonging to the minority communities in the selection committees constituted by them for recruitment to clerical/sub staff cadres. The data reporting system currently in vogue in the public sector banks does not yield information regarding representation of women and minority communities in the services of the public sector banks. However, according to the information available with the Indian Banks Association, the percentage of women employees in the nationalised banks is 13.52. Similar information in respect of minorities is estimated as per a sample survey figures received from 10 of the 28 public sector banks is around 10%.

[Translation]

CIRCULATION OF COINS

2711. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the different denomination of the coins which are in circulation at present in the country; and

(b) the specific denominations of the coins coined in each of the mints ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The different denomination of the coins presently in circulation in the country are Rs. 5, Rs. 2, Rs. 1, 50 paise, 25 paise, 20 paise, 10 paise and 5 paise.

(b) The following are the denomination-wise details of coins minted in the Government Mints :—

BOMBAY MINT	CALCUTTA MINT	HYDERABAD MINT	NOIDA MINT
Rs. 5	Rs. 5	Rs. 5	—
Rs. 2	Rs. 2	Rs. 2	—
Re. 1	Re. 1	Re. 1	Re. 1
50 paise	50 paise	50 paise	50 paise
25 paise	25 paise	25 paise	25 paise
10 paise	10 paise	10 paise	—
—	5 paise	5 paise	—

[English]

SCICI FINANCE FOR AQUACULTURE

2712. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India provide financial assistance to aquaculture farms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount provided during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) SCICI has given financial assistance amounting to Rs. 60.17 crores during the

last three years as under:—

	<i>(Rs. in crore)</i>
1990-91	18.30
1991-92	11.86
1992-93	30.01
	<u>60.17</u>

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE FOR REVIVAL OF NTC MILLS

2713. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had agreed to provide funds to the NTC mills in West Bengal, Assam, Orissa and Bihar to facilitate their revival and to undertake short-term modernisation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which these funds are likely to be provided by the Government; and

(d) the reasons for delay in providing the funds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) In a meeting held on 10th June, 1993, the requirements of additional working capital for the mills under NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd., for 6 months had been assessed at Rs. 11.00 crores, out of which a sum of Rs. 6.40 crores and 400 bales of cotton worth Rs. 25 lakhs has already been released.

REVISION OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE

2714. PROF. ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it was the recommendation of Fourth Pay Commission that three years after the implementation of the report of the Commission, 10% House Rent Allowance will be increased; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not revising the House Rent Allowance even after seven years after the implementation of Fourth Pay Commission Report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No such recommendation was made by the 4th Central Pay Commission.

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

[Translation]

EXPORT OF COTTON BALES

2715. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the amount of foreign exchange earned by India during the last two years through the export of cotton bales ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : Foreign exchange earned by India through export of cotton bales during last two cotton years are as under :

(Value in million US \$)

Year	Foreign exchange earned in million US \$
1991-92	13.60
1992-93	208.40
(Till 27-7-93)	

[English]

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES TO PROMOTE ADVENTURE TOURISM

2716. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals received from each of the State Governments for seeking financial assistance to promote adventure tourism during 1992-93 and 1993-94 so far;

(b) the amount of assistance sought for each project;

(c) the details of the proposals which have been approved;

(d) the amount of financial assistance given during 1992-93 and 1993-94 so far for each project; and

(e) the time by which the pending proposals, if any, are likely to be cleared ?

NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) A detailed statement is attached.

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM

(e) The proposals will be finalised on their merits, inter-se priorities and subject to availability of funds.

STATEMENT

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES TO PROMOTE ADVENTURE TOURISM

Approved Proposals for 1992-93

S. No.	State	Name of proposal	Amount asked	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5
			(Rs. in lacs)	(Rs. in lacs)
1.	West Bengal	Floating Restaruant at Hooghly, Calcutta	42.82	42.82
2.	Orissa	Trekking Equipment	11.00	1.99
3.	Bihar	Trekking and Camping equipment	18.86	2.47
4.	Assam	Water sports equipment	12.21	5.56
5.	Assam	Tented Accommodation	24.98	15.88
6.	Assam	Angling Equipment	14.38	4.40
7.	Meghalaya	Tent/Camp accommodaion	13.77	9.76
8.	Manipur	Mountaineering Equipment	25.06	9.70
9.	Manipur	Mountain Bicycles	1.26	1.05
10.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tented Accommodaton	11.48	9.35
11.	Sikkim	Water Sports equipment	6.27	6.28
12.	Maharashtra	Tents	24.11	20.00
13.	Maharashtra	Tents	2.05	2.05
14.	Maharashtra	Water Sports equipment	16.31	16.31
15.	Maharashtra	Water Sports equipment and OBMs.	12.40	12.40
16.	Goa	Tented accommodation	15.60	10.35
17.	Gujarat	Project equipment	29.08	15.90
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Flood lighting	4.98	4.98
19.	Daman & Diu	Tented accommodation	35.00	28.50
20.	Andhra Pradesh	Camping site	3.00	3.00
21.	Andhra Pradesh	Trekking equipment	10.54	2.65
22.	Andhra Pradesh	Trekking equipment	10.54	2.35
23.	Tamil Nadu	Rock climbing and Trekking equipment	15.42	4.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	Hang Gliding Equipment	4.12	4.12
25.	Kerala	Mountain Bicycles	1.50	1.50
26.	Karnataka	Tents	37.00	34.00
27.	Karnataka	Rock climbing Eqpt.	22.57	3.37
28.	Karnataka	Water sports and Trekking Eqpt.	5.60	4.60

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
29	Karnataka	Camping Equipment	5.20	5.00
30.	Karnataka	Project Equipment	7.65	7.65
31.	A & N	Cruise Vessel	40.00	40.00
32.	A & N	Water Sport Eqpt.	30.00	30.00
33.	Uttar Pradesh	Flood lighting	37.50	10 00
34.	Uttar Pradesh	Flood lighting	15.00	15.00
35.	Rajasthan	Comping site	17.55	10.55
36.	Rajasthan	Flood lighting	6.86	6.86
37.	Rajasthan	Camping Site	17.25	10.55
38.	Rajasthan	Camping site	17.25	10.55
39.	Haryana	Para Sailing and Para Gliding Eqpt.,	11.00	7.00
40.	Chandigarh	Camping site	10.90	4.19
41.	Himachal Pradesh	Water Sports equipment	3.00	2.99
42.	J & K	Tented accommodation	30.00	30.00
43	J & K	Mountaineering Eqpt.	11.28	5.63
44.	J & K	White water sports	44.57	5.93
45.	Delhi	Platform for training purpose	1.40	1.40
46.	Delhi	Addl. Water Sports equipment	13.70	11.40
Total			752.02	482.64

Approved Proposals for 1993-94

1.	Madhya Pradesh	Tented Accommodation	5.00	2.85
GRAND TOTAL			757.02	485.94

PENDING 1992-93

Sl. No.	State	Name of Proposal	Amount asked	Latest Position
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(Rs. in lakhs)				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	White Water River Rafting equipment	15.00	Further details sought from the State Govt.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Forest lodge at Srisalem	20.00	Do.
3.	Assam	Water Sports equipments	26.00	Do.
4.	Assam	River Rafting equipment	12.36	Do.
5.	Assam	Launching indigenous Hovercrafts	18.27	Do.
6.	Assam	Angling Equipment	20.00	Do.
7.	Assam	Jungle Camp	20.00	Do.
8.	Andaman & Nicobar	(i) Land-scaping of Dilthaman tank, (ii) 60 bedded Yatri Niwas.	36.00	Under Process.
9.	Chandigarh	Boats at Sukhna Lake	5.00	Further details sought from the State Govt.
10.	Delhi	Tents for Delhi Tourism	11.00	Do.
11.	J & K	Trekking equipment	7.00	Do.
12.	J & K	Mountaineering	31.05	Do.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
13.	Karnataka	Centres for Aero sports	30.00	Further details sought from the State Government
14.	Karnataka	Kaveri Fishing Camp Bhimeshwari	11.64	Do.
15.	Lakshadweep	Speed boats for ferrying tourists	59.87	Do.
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Aero sports in Madhya Pradesh	16.64	Do.
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Water sports in Omkareshwar and Maheshwar	5.00	Do.
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Tented accommodation	8.50	Do.
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Tented Camp	2.00	Do.
20.	Meghalaya	Hang Gliding and Para Gliding equipments	39.58	Do.
21.	Meghalaya	Mountain Bikes	14.55	Do.
22.	Meghalaya	Introduction of Water Sports	22.42	Do.
23.	Nagaland	Rock climbing	8.48	Do.
24.	Nagaland	Tented accommodation	12.75	Do.
25.	Nagaland	Mountain Bikes	22.00	Do.
26.	Orissa	Hovercrafts	13.09	Do.
27.	Orissa	Tented accommodation	15.00	Do.
28.	Pondicherry	Deep Sea fishing boats	29.50	Do.
29.	Pondicherry	Cruising boats	30.00	Do.
30.	Pondicherry	Boat House	3.00	Do.
31.	Pondicherry	Trekking equipment	7.00	Do.
32.	Tamil Nadu	Tents	30.00	Do.
33.	Tamil Nadu	Tented accommodation	5.00	Do.
34.	Tamil Nadu	Adventure Sports equipment	71.51	Do.
35.	Tamil Nadu	Boats	25.00	Do.
36.	Tamil Nadu	Adventure Sports equipment	25.00	Do.
37.	Tamil Nadu	Ten Hang Gliders for Ooty	3.00	Do.
38.	Uttar Pradesh	Aero Sports Institute in Dehradun	48.60	Do.
39.	Uttar Pradesh	Water Sports Centre/Water Sports Equipment.	36.52	Do.
			865.50	

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Pending 1993-94				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	River Rafting equipment	16.00	Further details sought from the State Govt.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Water sports equipment	27.00	Do.
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tents/water sports equipment	17.00	Do.
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Mountain bicycles	0.60	Do.
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Water sports equipment	17.00	Clearance required from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Water sports equipment	17.00	Further details sought from the State Government
7.	Delhi	Trekking Equipment	5.84	Under process
8.	Delhi	Pedal Boats	8.21	Do.
9.	Haryana	Water Sports	7.00	Further details sought from the State Government
10.	Haryana	Hovercrafts	14.00	Clarifications sought from the State Govt.
11.	Haryana	Bumping Boats	2.50	Further details sought from the State Government
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	Aquatic Water Sports	2.90	Do.
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	Do.	28.00	Do.
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	Do.	40.00	Do.
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	Do.	3.90	Do.
16.	Kerala	Flying Inflatable Boats	28.00	Under Process
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Tented Accommodation	5.00	Further details sought the State Government
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Tents	9.00	Do.
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Tents	5.00	Do.
20.	Punjab	Tented Accommodation	11.00	Do.
21.	Tamil Nadu	Boat	5.00	Under process

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
22.	Tamil Nadu	Boats	5.00	Under process
23.	Tamil Nadu	Boats	5.00	Do.
24.	Tripura	Para Sailing equipments	8.00	Do.
25.	Tripura	Watch Tower	3.00	Do.
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Ski Equipments	60.00	Clarifications sought from the State Govt.
27.	Uttar Pradesh	River Rafting Unit	18.00	Do.
		Total	368.95	

[Translation]

MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE BEEDI INDUSTRY

2717. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow multinational companies to enter in the Beedi manufacturing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the entry of multinational companies in Beedi manufacturing industry is likely to create an unemployment problem for the workers engaged in the industry ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present before the Government to allow multinational companies to enter in the Beedi Manufacturing industry.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

PRODUCTION OF TEXTILES

2718. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total consumption of cloth in the country and the percentage of total consumption which is being produced in our country;

(b) the types of cloths being imported and the types of clothes being exported together with the mode of export; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to encourage the textile industry in various parts in country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) The cloth is consumed in the household and non-household sectors. Consumption in household sector in 1991 was estimated to be 12150 million linear metres. Figures for non-household sector are not available. India fully meets its demand of cloth.

(b) Import of almost all types of clothes are restricted. However some fabric is imported against Advanced Licensing Scheme. India exports almost all types of cloth like cotton, wool, man-made fibre/fabrics, silk etc.

(c) Government have taken various measures like :-

- (1) Licensing procedure for capacity creation has been adequately liberalised keeping in line with the current policy of the Government.
- (2) Imports of Textile Machinery have been liberalised and duty structure modified.
- (3) The Export quota of fabrics and made ups under bilateral agreements for powerloom manufacturers has been increased from 3% to 5%.
- (4) Financial assistance for modernisation/renovation/purchase of Handlooms is being given.

UNAUTHORISED STOCK EXCHANGES

2719. SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANGHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of stock exchanges in the country, specially in Gujarat, are working without the permission of the Government;

(b) if so, the details in regard thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to impose a ban on these stock exchanges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) According to information available with Government, the Surat Stock Exchange Association had issued an advertisement on 1st June 1993 inviting applications for membership of the Association. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sent a letter dated 8th June, 1993 to the Association asking them to put an immediate stop to the enrolment of members as well as to sharetrading activities, keeping in view the provisions of Section 19 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act 1956. In addition, a stock exchange has also been established at Thiruvananthapuram without the permission of Government, matters on which are at present under litigation in the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) Stock exchanges other than those recognised by the Government are already prohibited under the provisions of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

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

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON BONDED LABOUR

2720. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the group of eleven State Labour Ministers, set up to examine the

proposal for National Commission on Bonded Labour, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : A Committee of 13 State Labour Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Labour Minister of Maharashtra has been appointed to examine the proposal for setting up of National Commission on Bonded Labour. The report of the Committee is awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The delay is due to pre-occupation of the members of the Committee.

[English]

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN POWER SECTOR

2721. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA) : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to raise funds from international market for investment in power sector;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions therefor and the implications involved with regard to the balance of payments position;

(c) whether the Government have considered the question of approaching the World Bank or to raise bonds in the international market as in the case of IDBs; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have approached the World Bank from time to time for assistance for power projects, but have not hitherto raised bonds for this purpose in international markets.

(d) Government has hitherto never directly borrowed in international markets, and currently has no intention of doing so.

[Translation]

WAIVING OFF LOANS OF TRADITIONAL FISHERMEN

2722. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to waive off the loans of traditional fishermen upto rupees ten thousand as being done in the case of poor farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of traditional fishermen whose loans are likely to be waived off during the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government of encourage fisheries in West Bengal and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) Perhaps the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (AR-DR) Scheme, 1990, formulated for providing debt relief in respect of selected category of borrowers who had taken loans from public sector banks, cooperative banks and regional rural banks to the extent of Rs. 10,000/- per borrower. All loans disbursed for agriculture, including horticulture, animal husbandry, forestry dairy, poultry farming, pisciculture (fisheries) and other allied activities are eligible for relief under the Scheme. The scheme was effective for 15th May 1990 and came to a close on 31st March 1991. The data reporting system does not generate separate category-wise information in respect of the beneficiaries and the amount of debt relief provided to them. However, the total number of beneficiaries including fishermen to whom relief was provided under the Scheme was 316 lakhs and the amount of relief provided was Rs. 7760 crores.

Bank finance to fisheries is regulated by the existing guidelines of Reserve Bank of India on Priority Sector lending. A

number of steps have been taken all over the country including West Bengal and Bihar, with a view to increase flow of credit to fisheries under Priority Sector lending. The important ones are:

1. The interest on loans upto Rs. 25,000/- is kept low at 12.0%.
2. Term loans are provided at concessional rates.
3. No third-party guarantee or collateral security is to be insisted upon for loans upto Rs. 10,000/-.
4. There should be no compounding of interest on current dues.
5. Appropriate sanctioning powers have been delegated to the Rural Branch Managers so that majority of loan applications are sanctioned at branch level itself.

[English]

CUT IN POSTS IN AUTONOMOUS ORGANISATIONS:

2723. PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 10% cut in sanctioned posts/salary provision of autonomous organisations has been ordered by the Government;

(b) if so, the basis on which this percentage has been uniformly fixed; and

(c) whether there has been any discussion with workers and employees of these bodies on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister had announced in December, 1991 in the National Development Council that the Government would achieve a significant reduction in senior level posts. Accordingly, all Ministries/Departments had been advised to reduce their staff strength by at least 10%. These instructions cover autonomous bodies also. Information regarding discussion with workers and employees is not centrally maintained.

[*Translation*]**TEXTILE POLICY**

2724. SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken so far by the Government on the report submitted by Abid Hussain Committee constituted with regard to Textile Policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY) : Government have considered the various recommendations of Abid Hussain Committee in consultation with State Governments/concerned Central Ministries etc., and have decided not to bring out a new policy for the present.

IMPORT OF SILVER

2725. DR. G. L. KANAUIJA :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of silver imported under the Silver Import Scheme introduced in February, 1993 till date;

(b) the total revenue earned as customs duty by the Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for allowing import of such a huge quantity of silver;

(d) whether the Government propose to raise customs duty on silver imports coming in as part of passenger baggage; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) A quantity of 1690 tonnes of silver has been imported under the Silver Import Scheme from February, 1993 to 31st July, 1993.

(b) An amount of Rs. 85 crores in convertible foreign currency has been earned as customs duty on the above import.

(c) The Silver Import Scheme has been introduced to check smuggling of silver by making the smuggling of silver less remunerative.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration of Government at present to raise customs duty on silver being imported as part of passengers baggage.

[*English*]**BRANCHES OF STATE BANK OF INDORE**

2726. SHRI RAM BADAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of the State Bank of Indore in the country at present; and

(b) the number of the branches out of them which have earned profit alongwith the name of such branch and amount of profit earned during 1992-93 and the number of branches which have suffered losses including name of the branch and amount of loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) State Bank of Indore has reported that its 338 branches were functioning in the country as on 31-3-1993.

(b) Of these, 272 branches have earned profit and 66 branches have shown losses during 1992-93. The details of these branches alongwith the amount of profits earned/losses incurred is given in *Statement I & II*.

Statement I

S. No.	Branch	Profit (Rs. in 000)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	Fort Bombay	34230/-
2.	D. Y. Road	28000/-
3.	T. T. Nagar	14595/-
4.	Worli Bombay	12794/-
5.	Y. N. Road	12274/-
6.	Jawaharganj Jabalpur	10974/-

S. No.	Branch	Profit (Rs. in 000)
(1)	(2)	(3)
7.	Ind. Estate . . .	10959/—
8.	Navlakha . . .	10464/—
9.	Dewas . . .	7233/—
10.	Kandla . . .	5641/—
11.	Can. Cir. N. Delhi . . .	4764/—
12.	Baroda . . .	3724/—
13.	Shiyaganj . . .	3324/—
14.	Guna . . .	3283/—
15.	Murwara . . .	3232/—
16.	Broad Way Madras . . .	3218/—
17.	Shahpura . . .	3143/—
18.	Cloth Market Indore . . .	3095/—
19.	Shivpuri . . .	3075/—
20.	Banyogitaganj . . .	3054/—
21.	Ind. Finance Bombay . . .	2956/—
22.	Chandni Chowk Delhi . . .	2852/—
23.	Vidisha . . .	2834/—
24.	Pithampur . . .	2773/—
25.	Sendhwa . . .	2704/—
26.	Patrakar Colony . . .	2689/—
27.	Shaktinagar . . .	2514/—
28.	Basoda . . .	2444/—
29.	Hoshangabad . . .	2407/—
30.	Ashoknagar . . .	2397/—
31.	Bhind . . .	2369/—
32.	Green Park New Delhi . . .	2337/—
33.	Manawar . . .	2313/—
34.	Sagar . . .	2259/—
35.	Sheopur Kalan . . .	2153/—
36.	Dabra . . .	2120/—
37.	BNP Dewas . . .	2064/—
38.	Khargone . . .	1993/—
39.	Vallabh Nagar . . .	1974/—
40.	Municipal Corpn. . .	1917/—
41.	Rajmohalla . . .	1903/—
42.	Gohad . . .	1864/—
43.	Amana Dewas . . .	1781/—
44.	Jhabhua . . .	1749/—
45.	Dhar . . .	1730/—
46.	Gorakhpur . . .	1667/—
47.	Cotton Street Calcutta . . .	1645/—
48.	Uria . . .	1561/—
49.	Chandari . . .	1555/—
50.	Ameri . . .	1531/—
51.	Brab. Rd. Calcutta . . .	1485/—
52.	Maharana Pratap Nagar . . .	1440/—
53.	Baroda Moreia . . .	1414/—
54.	Jadra Adb . . .	1403/—
55.	Sukliya . . .	1364/—
56.	Khetia . . .	1352/—
57.	Hydrabad . . .	1352/—

S. No.	Branch	Profit (Rs in 000)
(1)	(2)	(3)
58.	Nalkhera . . .	1339/—
59.	Morar . . .	1331/—
60.	Mill Area . . .	1295/—
61.	Palsikar Colony . . .	1253/—
62.	Essagarh . . .	1244/—
63.	Pichore . . .	1208/—
64.	Kampoo . . .	1183/—
65.	Gulabganj . . .	1118/—
66.	Raipur . . .	1109/—
67.	Karera . . .	1078/—
68.	Mahesh Nagar . . .	1073/—
69.	Jhansi . . .	1059/—
70.	Korba . . .	1059/—
71.	Bamori . . .	1057/—
72.	Ind. Finance . . .	1053/—
73.	Mhow . . .	1033/—
74.	Pipalgohe . . .	1015/—
75.	Alapur . . .	1012/—
76.	Lashkar . . .	1006/—
77.	Barnagar . . .	981/—
78.	M. G. Road . . .	959/—
79.	Raisen . . .	946/—
80.	Satna . . .	943/—
81.	Mungali Adb . . .	932/—
82.	Kanpur . . .	909/—
83.	Bhitarwar . . .	904/—
84.	Lucknow . . .	866/—
85.	Bhanpura . . .	849/—
86.	Phadnis Colony . . .	848/—
87.	Hajira . . .	820/—
88.	Ambaha . . .	816/—
89.	Morena . . .	796/—
90.	Birhana Rd. Kanpur . . .	774/—
91.	Lahar . . .	764/—
92.	Antri . . .	741/—
93.	Anjad . . .	736/—
94.	Rannod . . .	721/—
95.	Rampur . . .	709/—
96.	Joura . . .	704/—
97.	Rajouri Garden Delhi . . .	701/—
98.	Mehgaon . . .	695/—
99.	Maksudangarh . . .	679/—
100.	Barkhedi . . .	678/—
101.	Mandsaur . . .	675/—
102.	Pansemal . . .	661/—
103.	Betul . . .	651/—
104.	Nayagaon . . .	646/—
105.	Radhogarh . . .	645/—
106.	Sooni . . .	617/—
107.	Bareth . . .	617/—
108.	Maheshwar . . .	612/—
109.	Balaji Nagar Madras . . .	604/—

S. No.	Branch	Profit (Rs.in 000)
(1)	(2)	(3)
110	Free Ujjan	595/—
111.	Chhatarpur	589/—
112.	Badarwas	579/—
113.	Alirajpur	567/—
114	Kurwai	563/—
115.	Nahargarh	550/—
116.	Badnawar Adb	543/—
117.	Pipalkheda Kalan	539/—
118.	Laxmibai Nagar	525/—
119.	Patni Bazar Ujjan	518/—
120.	Ratlam	511/—
121.	Harda	509/—
122.	Garoth	502/—
123.	Dharamपुरी	498/—
124.	Burhanpur	492/—
125.	Damoh	492/—
126.	Depalpur	489/—
127.	Kampel	484/—
128.	Aurangabad	471/—
129.	Shajanabad	471/—
130.	Lateri	462/—
131.	Bairagarh	457/—
132.	Bidwal	456/—
133.	Narwar	450/—
134.	Julwania	433/—
135.	Mahidpur A b	431/—
136.	Baidra	421/—
137.	Kulhar	420/—
138.	Narsingpur	418/—
139.	Simlawada	417/—
140.	Kota	417/—
141.	Bhikangaon	416/—
142.	Marwari Rd, Bhopal	406/—
143.	Tirla	405/—
144.	Vijaypur	396/—
145.	Pardeshpura	395/—
146.	Rajgarh	377/—
147.	Kummbhraj	373/—
148.	Onkareshwar	365/—
149.	Janak Puri Delhi	365/—
150.	Revli Devli	364/—
151.	Pandola	360/—
152.	Akola	358/—
153.	Barwani	358/—
154.	Khadawada	357/—
155.	Mungaoli	356/—
156.	Pohari	352/—
157.	University	349/—
158.	Parwaha	344/—
159.	Bolia	339/—
160.	Itarsi	328/—
161.	Alote	321/—

S. No.	Branch	Profit (Rs in 000)
(1)	(2)	(3)
162.	Sitamau	313/—
163.	Kod	311/—
164.	Jobat	308/—
165.	Bakaner	301/—
166.	Nai Abadi Mandasaur	301/—
167.	Badi Polai	299/—
168.	Rajgarhodhar	292/—
169.	Sirigitti	287/—
170.	Tilakheda	282/—
171.	Dhulia	275/—
172.	Shajapur	264/—
173.	Petlawad	259/—
174.	Sanawad	258/—
175.	Barkheda Hat	257/—
176.	Sonkatch.	250/—
177.	Padhana	245/—
178.	Barotha	243/—
179.	Pipoda	242/—
180.	Khawasa	242/—
181.	Karhal	239/—
182.	St. Rd. Jaipur	239/—
183.	Gogawa	238/—
184.	Navdapanth	237/—
185.	Gandhi Sagar	236/—
186.	Barwaha	235/—
187.	Piplon Kalan	233/—
188.	Neemuch	228/—
189.	Ichhapur	225/—
190.	Deori Hatai	224/—
191.	Gandhwani	220/—
192.	Dinara	217/—
193.	Bistan	213/—
194.	Tal	206/—
195.	Bank Park Jaipur	205/—
196.	Bhander	203/—
197.	Itawa	203/—
198.	Bilaspur	203/—
199.	Narsinagar	202/—
200.	Sumerkheda	200/—
201.	Shujalpur City.	193/—
202.	Thandla	192/—
203.	Chindwara	192/—
204.	Sanwer	187/—
205.	Kasarawad	187/—
206.	Kanhod	184/—
207.	Nagpur	175/—
208.	Udankhedi	175/—
209.	Lukwasa	171/—
210.	Shakti	170/—
211.	Raj. Chowk	168/—
212.	Kolatus	164/—

S. No.	Branch	Profit (Rs. in 000)
(1)	(2)	(3)
213.	Tarana	163/-
214.	Ranjhi	157/-
215.	Singoli	157/-
216.	Sherpur	156/-
217.	Multai	156/-
218.	Onder	150/-
219.	Chhatona	146/-
220.	Borlai	141/-
221.	Rampura	140/-
222.	Ruthai	138/-
223.	Khategaon	137/-
224.	Sumaoli	133/-
225.	Rewa	138/-
226.	Bercha	119/-
227.	Kukshi	112/-
228.	Baidia	109/-
229.	Aron	107/-
230.	Ahmd. A. R.	107/-
231.	Shamshabad	106/-
232.	Bhaursa	105/-
233.	Nateran	99/-
234.	Bardha	98/-
235.	Icklera	97/-
236.	Ratlam I. E.	96/-
237.	Rajpur	92/-
238.	Chachoda	91/-
239.	Udainagar	86/-
240.	Rayatpur	81/-
241.	Khaniadhana	73/-
242.	Rampur Kalan	72/-
243.	Choli	71/-
244.	Bichhodana	68/-
245.	Umar Khali	64/-
246.	Greater K. N. Delhi	63/-
247.	Jawad	57/-
248.	Susner	56/-
249.	Kanasia	56/-
250.	Shujapur	54/-
251.	Murwas	54/-
252.	Nimerkhedi	49/-
253.	Pipalidhar	38/-
254.	Rahatwas	33/-
255.	Swiss Park, Calcutta	32/-
256.	Datia	32/-
257.	Kanhawara	29/-
258.	Sadgunwa	28/-
259.	Dharad	25/-
260.	Mayana	24/-
261.	Badnawar	21/-
262.	Sarangpur	15/-
263.	Runija	12/-

S. No.	Branch	Profit
(1)	(2)	(3)
264.	Bijaypur	10/-
265.	Dhodhar	9/-
266.	Pagara	7/-
267.	Siyalpur	6/-
268.	Akya-Chauhani	5/-
269.	Agar	5/-
270.	Laloni	5/-
271.	Bagli	5/-
272.	Runaha	2/-

STATEMENT II

Sl. No.	Branch	Loss
1.	Service BR. Bombay	1934.00
2.	Service Branch, Indore	1779.00
3.	Bhuleshwar	1016.00
4.	Surat	762.00
5.	Sironj	605.00
6.	Kanthaj Ujjain	475.00
7.	Allahabad	422.00
8.	Jodhpur	422.00
9.	Bikaner Rajasthan	408.00
10.	Nagpur (Timki Bazar)	387.00
11.	Malad	372.00
12.	Babuganj	326.00
13.	Nevha-Sheva	317.00
14.	Durg	263.00
15.	Ratlam St. Rd.	258.00
16.	Mehidpur	248.00
17.	Bangalore	184.00
18.	Ajner (Bhind)	184.00
19.	Amora	182.00
20.	Saasram (Murena)	171.00
21.	Malhargarh	167.00
22.	Sohagpur	167.00
23.	Pandu Talab	162.00
24.	Jhantia	158.00
25.	Sanawad ADB	152.00
26.	Kacannav Kalan	143.00
27.	Loni	140.00
28.	Anand, T. R.	125.00
29.	Anand, G. K.	124.00
30.	Nemi Nagar Indore	124.00
31.	Mathura	124.00
32.	Kamtari	123.00
33.	Nandel	120.00
34.	Falod	119.00
35.	Rajkot	119.00
36.	Rithond	116.00
37.	Khandwa	109.00

LOSSES IN NTC MILLS

Sl. No.	Branch	Loss (Rs. In 000)
38.	Purni	102.00
39.	Kamad	92.00
40.	Naraua	86.00
41.	Agra	81.00
42.	Asinder	75.00
43.	Mooh	75.00
44.	Sailana	74.00
45.	Damaron kalan	71.00
46.	Sadiya Kuwa	66.00
47.	Jaora	65.00
48.	Kandivali	64.00
49.	Phookhedi	63.00
50.	Ratwai (Parsen)	60.00
51.	Saraskhedi	60.00
52.	Khilohipur	54.00
53.	Miragpura	52.00
54.	Malwan	48.00
55.	Moyda	47.00
56.	Rampohari	44.00
57.	Choral	42.00
48.	Bothia	40.00
59.	Malwani	40.00
60.	Jawi	40.00
61.	Bhalika	38.00
62.	Fazalpur Ujjain	35.00
63.	Bata	30.00
64.	Sehora	28.00
65.	Uchhod	14.00
66.	Kadwaya	14.00

2727. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the losses incurred by Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry units of the National Textiles Corporation during each of the last three years ;

(b) the reasons for losses ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for making these units profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) A *statement* indicating net profit/loss incurred by the mills under NTC (TN&P) is attached.

(b) NTC mills have been incurring losses due to, inter-alia, old and obsolete machinery, low productivity, low capacity utilisation, high costs of raw material, unsatisfactory management, lack of work culture, over staffing at various levels etc.

(c) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC involving, inter-alia, selective modernisation, financial and managerial restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme etc.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the Mills	Year (Rs. in Lakhs)		
		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Om Parasakthi Mills . . .	(+) 25	-69	-68
2.	Combodia Mills . . .	(+)178	-07	-89
3.	Krishnaveni Mills . . .	(+) 77	-14	-53
4.	Sri Rangavilas Mills . . .	(+)127	- 6	-134
5.	Pankaj Mills . . .	(+)157	(+)33	-24
6.	Pioneer Mills . . .	(+)56	- 2	-35
7.	Balaramavarma Mills . . .	(+)100	(+)43	-35
8.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' . . .	(+)197	(+)122	-01
9.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills . . .	(+)155	(+)27	-24
10.	Somasundaram Mills . . .	(+)114	(+)64	-156
11.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'A' . . .	(+)31	-83	-285
12.	Sri Bharathi Mills . . .	(+)12	-62	-298
13.	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills . . .	(+)129	(+)169	-344
14.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills . . .	-104	-158	-333
15.	Sri Sarada Mills . . .	(+)93	(+)31	- 53
16.	H.O. (RMD) . . .	(+)283	(+)271	-16
17.	NTC (TN&P) Ltd. . . .	(+)1629	(+)63	-1948

[Translation]

REWARD TO INCOME-TAX INFORMERS

2728. DR. P. R. GANGWAR :
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Income-Tax evasion informers rewarded during 1992-93 and the details of the amount given to them ;

(b) the number of informers who did not get their reward during this period ; and

(c) the reasons for not giving reward and the time by which they are likely to get reward ?

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

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

[English]

THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE ACT, 1947

2729. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the All India Federation of Sales Executives Association for an amendment in the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 and the Sales Promotion Employees' (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976 ; and

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

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

(b) acceptance of the demand for amendments in these acts for the purpose of coverage of Supervisors has not been found feasible.

[Translation]

CLOSURE OF BRANCHES OF SBI IN NAGALAND

2730. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of State Bank of India in Nagaland ;

(b) whether some branches of the above Bank have been closed in Nagaland due to terrorist activities ;

(c) if so, the total number of such SBI branches and since when these have been closed ;

(d) whether the above branches were given complete protection by the Government ;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to reopen such branches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) There are 43 branches of State Bank of India in Nagaland.

(b) and (c) Four branches and a Regional Office of State Bank of India operating at Dimapur are not operating with effect from 17-6-1993 due to the said threats.

(d) to (f) The banking activities in the State had been adversely affected due to threats from underground activist organisation. In view of the prevailing disturbed law and order situation in the State, Government of Nagaland have been requested to take necessary security measures so as to instill confidence among the bank functionaries.

INCOME TAX DEFAULTERS

2731. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases in which income tax defaulters were prosecuted, arrested and whose property had been

auctioned separately during the last three years; and

(b) the measures being adopted by the Government for the speedy recovery of the outstanding amount of the income tax?

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

(a) the number of cases in which Income-tax defaulters were prosecuted, arrested and whose property had been auctioned during the last three years are as under :

Financial year	No. of prosecution proceedings launched under the Direct Tax Laws for all offences and defaults under the Direct Taxes Acts	No. of persons arrested	No. of persons whose properties have been auctioned
1	2	3	4
1990-91 . . .	3786	—	48
1991-92 . . .	2448	—	49
1992-93 . . .	1491	1	70

(b) Very high priority is given to the work of reduction of arrear demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are continuously taken to reduce the arrear demand of Income-tax. In bigger cases, dossiers are maintained and position is reviewed regularly. In important cases involving high revenue stakes, special counsels are engaged to defend the Government's stand, wherever considered necessary. Courts are also moved for expeditious hearing and vacation of stays, wherever required. Coercive measures like attachment and sale of property, levy of penalty etc. are also taken by the Department in suitable cases for speedy recovery of arrear demand.

LOAN TO SSIs BY IDBI

2732. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-GAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the policy and rules of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to give loans to the Small Scale Industries under the Seed Capital Scheme ;

(b) whether all the State Financial Corporations have been following these rules ;

(c) if not, the financial corporations which have been violating these rules ; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) have reported that consequent upon the establishment of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in April, 1990 the Seed Capital Scheme is being operated by SIDBI. The objective of the Scheme is to provide soft loan to qualified new entrepreneurs who do not have adequate resources of their own for setting up industrial projects in the small scale sector. Seed capital assistance is also available for expansion diversification and modernisation of existing SSI units, as also to those who intend to graduate from small scale sector. A maximum assistance of Rs. 15 lakhs is available under the Scheme. The soft loan would be free of interest but carry a service charge of 1% p.a. for the first five years and 10% thereafter. The repayment of the soft loan is co-terminus with the term loans sanctioned for the project by the State Financial Corporations (SFCs)/State Industrial Development Corporations (SIDCs).

(b) and (c) SIDBI has reported that it has not come across any instance of violation of rules under the Seed Capital Scheme by SFCs/SIDCs.

(d) Does not arise.

SKILLED WORKERS EXPORT COUNCIL

2734. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to constitute a "Skilled Workers Export Council" for sending skilled workers and other professionals of Indian origin to foreign countries;

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

(c) the time by which this Council is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

TOURISTS TO HIMACHAL PRADESH

2735. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of tourists including foreigners were recently stranded on the Manali-Leh Road in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any plan to take care of tourists who get stranded because of natural calamities in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps being taken by the Government to attract more tourists to the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The situation arising out of natural calamities are handled by the respective State Governments. The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments subject to availability of resources.

(d) Steps taken by the Central Government to attract more tourists to the State includes financial assistance for development of tourist infrastructure, production

of publicity material and promotion of identified fairs/festivals.

[Translation]

RESERVATION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

2736. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes recruited in his Ministry, and each Department and Undertaking under it during the last one year;

(b) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in the Ministry, and each Department and undertaking under it; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to fill up these posts at the earliest?

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

[English]

PRODUCTION OF COTTON IN GUJARAT

2737. SHRI HARIBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton produced in Bhavnagar Rajkot, Junagadh and Sumandranagar districts of Gujarat State during the last three years and the percentage of long staple in it;

(b) its share in the national production and the quantity of its marketed, so far; and

(c) the details of the total purchase of cotton by CCI in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Details of quantity of cotton produced in Bhavnagar,

Rajkot, Junagadh and Sumandranagar districts of Gujarat State during the last

three years and percentage of long staple in it are as under :—

District	(Quantity in bales)		
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
1	2	3	4
Sumandranagar	2,10,500	2,03,200	3,50,700
Junagadh	2,11,500	2,41,500	3,86,700
Rajkot	77,100	78,000	1,54,600
Bhavnagar	89,000	50,600	1,28,000
Total	5,88,100	5,73,300	10,20,000
Percentage of long staple	61%	64%	64%

(b) Details of Gujarat's share in the national production are as under :—

Year	National production (Bales in lakhs)	Gujarat	% of Gujarat production to National production
1990-91	117.00	15.00	12.82
1991-92	119.00	15.15	12.73
1992-93 (Estimated)	130.00	20.50	15.77

Almost entire quantity of cotton produced during the current season is reported to have been MARKETED.

(c) Details of the total purchases of cotton by CCI in Gujarat during the last three years is as under :—

Year	Quantity in bales
1990-91	2,04,852
1991-92	1,54,365
1992-93	2,26,602

ASSISTANCE TO TAXI OWNERS IN GUJARAT

2738. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have sought financial assistance from Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) and Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to provide assistance to taxi owners in the State ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) have reported that they have not received any request from the Government of Gujarat to provide assistance to Taxi Owners in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

OPENING OF BRANCHES OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS

2739. SHRI SURAJBHANU

SOLANKI :

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN

SETHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of details of the branches of public sector banks proposed

to be opened in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa during the current financial year; and

(b) the locations of branches, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Under the current (1990—95 Branch Expansion Policy, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not fix any State-wise and year-wise targets for opening bank branches. The opening of bank branches is an on-going process and the banks are expected to open branches at the centres allotted to them within the time frame of the licence given for this purpose. Whenever proposals are received from banks, they are considered by RBI according to norms and merits of each case.

[English]

RATE OF INTEREST CHARGED BY IDBI

2740. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGWAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a marked reduction in the quantum of funds available for refinancing, high rate of interest charged by the Industrial Development Bank of India on such funds and the tardy recovery rate of loans from industry has adversely affected the functioning of Industrial Development Corporations and State Finance Corporations during the last two years:

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

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the details of the representations received by the Government in this regard during the last two years and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the refinance support which was earlier provided by IDBI at 70% was gradually reduced to 55% and 65% of term loan disbursement to State Financial Corporations (SFCs) and State Industrial Development Corporations (SIDCs) respectively. The recovery performance of the SFCs and SIDCs have been generally poor. Further, the allocation of SLR bond quota is also limited due to progressive reduction in SLR requirements of banks. Interest rate structure under the refinance scheme is based on the interest rates announced by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time and by all India Financial Institutions for direct loans.

(b) and (c) The refinance assistance sanctioned by IDBI to SFCs and SIDCs during 1990-91 and 1991-92 together with the percentage of recovery of their term loans State-wise are given in the *Statement*. The State Financial Institutions are taking steps to substantially increase their recoveries in order to have a faster recycling of funds.

(d) Government, IDBI and SIDBI review at various forums the working of State Financial Institutions and take measures to improve their performance. SFCs take various steps for improving their performance like restructuring of management, recapitalisation where there is a low capital adequacy, following prudential norms in the business operations, upgrading the accounting policies and standards, reorganising the resources pattern etc.

STATEMENT

Position of refinance sanctioned to SFCs and recovery position of SFCs during 1990-91 & 1991-92.

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	SFCs	Refinance 1990-91	Sanctioned 1991-92	Recovery % 1990-91	To Term Loan 1991-92
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4395	1784	28	25
2.	Assam	165	78	19	21
3.	Bihar	207	135	17	12
4.	Delhi	242	235	42	44
5.	Gujarat	3319	1456	36	33
6.	Haryana	875	723	39	46
7.	Himachal Pradesh	354	226	21	20
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	203	1	13	12
9.	Karnataka	4675	3055	46	45
10.	Kerala	929	443	33	26
11.	Mahya Pradesh	1686	1668	24	24
12.	Maharashtra	3409	1838	28	35
13.	Orissa	402	283	28	19
14.	Punjab	870	654	51	45
15.	Rajasthan	782	429	36	45
16.	Tamil Nadu	3740	3145	32	33
17.	Uttar Pradesh	3535	2853	33	34
18.	West Bengal	1141	648	31	29
TOTAL		30929	19654	31	13

LALTHANHAWALA SUB-COMMITTEE
OF NDC

2741. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Sub-Committee of National Development Council (Lalthanhawala Committee) has suggested that an educational cess be levied on the urban and rural sources of revenue and various incomes and properties;

(b) if so, whether the Universities are likely to overcome their financial crisis;

(c) whether any decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Committee by the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (d) The National Development Council (NDC) had set up a Committee on Literacy on 3-4-1992 with the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (Shri Kalyan Singh) as Chairman. When Shri Kalyan Singh ceased to hold the office of Chief Minister, Shri Lalthanhawala, Chief Minister, Mizoram was appointed as Chairman of the Committee. The terms of reference of the Committee do not include issues pertaining to universities/ higher education and confine to matters of literacy. The Report of the Committee is yet to be considered by the NDC and the details can be made available only thereafter.

[Translation]

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF AIR ACCIDENTS

2742. **SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA)** : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding non-payment of compensation to some of the dependents of deceased and also to the persons injured in the accidents to Indian registered aircraft during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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

DISBURSEMENT OF LOANS BY BANKS

2743. **SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH-RAO GUNDEWAR** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans disbursed by the banks during last two years in the country;

(Rs. in Crores)				
Year ended	Demand	Recovery	Overdues	%age of recovery to demand
June '91	8496	4937	3559	58.1
June '92*	8719	4686	4033	53.7

*Data Provisional

(c) As per information available with RBI, the bad debts and losses written off by public sector banks in March 1991 was Rs. 472.93 crores and the same in March 1992 was Rs. 732.78 crores.

(d) The recovery of dues from the borrowers in a normal banking activity and

(b) the amount of loans recovered during the said period;

(c) the amount of loans written off during the last two years, year and bank-wise; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to properly recover the loans with interest thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The bank credit outstanding in respect of public sector banks for the last two years were as under :—

(Rs. in Crores)	
Year ending	Total bank credit outstanding
March 1991	108098
March 1992	116421

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) monitors recovery of direct agricultural advances. The recovery performance of public sector banks in respect of their direct agricultural advances for the two years ended June 1991 and 1992 (latest available) is indicated below :—

(Rs. in Crores)				
Year ended	Demand	Recovery	Overdues	%age of recovery to demand
June '91	8496	4937	3559	58.1
June '92*	8719	4686	4033	53.7

the Government or Reserve Bank of India (RBI) do not issue any instructions in this regard. However, various steps have been taken by RBI to reduce the amount of overdues and also to improve the recovery performance of the commercial banks in respect of their advances to various sec-

tors. Some of the important steps are as follows :

1. Banks have been impressed upon to institute a viable recovery system with a view to help recycling the scarce resources of the banks to the needy and productive sectors of the economy on the one hand, and to improve the profitability and viability of the lending banks, on the other.

2. The Chief Executives of the banks have been advised to pay their personal attention to the monitoring of large advances.

3. Introduction of a comprehensive and uniform grading system to indicate the health of individual advances for the purpose of their effective monitoring and follow up.

4. To keep a watch on the recovery of top sticky accounts.

5. Taking corrective action where advances are found to have become sticky.

Statement showing state-wise location of powerloom service centres.

Name of State	Location of Centre
Maharashtra	1) Malegaon 2) Ichalkaranji 3) Nagpur 4) Bhiwandi 5) Sholapur
West Bengal	1) Calcutta
Uttar Pradesh	1) Maunath Bhanjan 2) Tanda 3) Meerut 4) Kanpur 5) Jajajabad
Madhya Pradesh	1) Burhanpur

[English]

VVIP FLEET IN AIR INDIA AND INDIAN AIRLINES

2744. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for maintaining a separate VVIP fleet in the Air India and the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

TEXTILES TRAINING CENTRES

2745. SHRI BHEEM SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to states :

(a) the number of textile manufacturing training centres in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the number of such centres proposed to be set up during the Eighth Plan State-wise, alongwith locations thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) 34 Statement enclosed.

(b) 20 (State-wise details will depend on the proposals by the State Governments).

Name of State	Location of Centre
Rajasthan	(1) Kishan Garh (2) Bhilwara
Bihar	(1) Gaya
Punjab	(1) Amritsar (2) Ludhiana
Tamil Nadu	(1) Erode (2) Sankarankoil (3) Palladam (4) Trenchengode (4) Kokarapalayam
Orissa	(1) Cuttack
Kerala	(1) Trichur
Karnataka	(1) Belgaum (2) Dodaballapur (3) Bangalore
Gujarat	(1) Surat (2) Ahmedabad (3) Dholka
J & K	(1) Srinagar
Assam	(1) Noapara
Haryana	(1) Panipat
Andhra Pradesh	(1) Nagari
Total = 34 Centres	

[English]

INCOME TAX SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

2746. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the places where the Additional Benches of Income Tax Settlement Commission are already functioning;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some new Additional Benches of the said Commission; and

(c) if so, the places where these Benches are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a)
Apart from the Principal Bench at Delhi,
Settlement Commission (Income-tax/
Wealth-tax) has an Additional Bench each
at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

(b) and (c) No decision to set up any
Additional Bench has been taken so far.

TAX EVASION

2747. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drives against tax evasion are being launched by the Government from time to time;

(b) if so, the number of cases of tax evasion detected from January 1 to June 30, 1993; and

(c) the details of action initiated against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The government are continuously striving to curb income-tax evasion and in this regard various measures such as surveys u/s 133A(1), 133A(5) and 133B, searches u/s 132, enquiries in the course of assessment proceedings and

other investigations are taken. No composite data is maintained in regard to tax evasions detected in these proceedings and many cases in which tax evasion was detected in this period would not have been finalised so far. The penalty for tax evasion is generally levied after the appeal against the assessment is decided and therefore in most cases penalty proceedings in regard to evasion detected in this period would also be pending. However, statistics regarding undisclosed assets seized, incomes disclosed u/s 132(4), number of premises surveyed and number of new assessees detected are indicated below :—

**SEARCHES AND SEIZURE STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD
JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1993**

Total No. of searches	Value of undisclosed asset seized (Rs. in Crores)	Disclosure u/s 132 (4) of I.T. Act, 1961 (Rs. in Crore)
1574	87.90	137.64

**NUMBER OF PREMISES SURVEYED AND NEW ASSESSEE DETECTED
FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1993**

Number of premises surveyed	Number of new assessees detected
6,08,092*	5,15,511*

*Provisional

[Translation]

DEVALUATION OF RUPEE

2748. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to devalue Rupee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) Under the unified exchange rate system instituted on 1st March, 1993, exchange rate of the rupee is determined in the market and the movement in the external value of the

Rupee are the result of the interaction of forces of demand and supply as generated by the country's trade flows. The Reserve Bank of India at its discretion, may enter the market to purchase or sell foreign exchange and thus smoothen erratic fluctuations in the exchange rate.

[English]

**ARREARS OF INCOME TAX ON
FILM STARS**

2749. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the film stars owing income tax arrears over one lakh as on March 31, 1993; and

(b) the action being taken to collect the arrears from these film stars?

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

SUPPLY OF SUBSIDISED CLOTH BY NTC

2750. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : Will the Minister of **TEXTILES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether N. T. C. has been supplying subsidised variety of cloth to some States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, details of such supplies, State wise;

(c) whether supply of such cloth was discontinued to some States and Union Territories in the past;

(d) if so, the names of such States and Union Territories along with the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure regular supply of these items in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

EXPORT OF JUTE

2751. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of **TEXTILES** be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the jute export made during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the profits earned by the Government through this export during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.

VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Details of export of jute during the last three years are given below :—

Year (July—June)	Quantity exported (Lakh bales)
1990—91	0.55
1991—92	0.11
1992—93	0.60

(b) The Jute Corporation of India earned a profit of Rs. 11.28 lakhs on export of raw jute during 1990-91. The export of raw jute during 1991-92 & 1992-93 was transacted through private trade.

[English]

CINE WORKERS WELFARE FUND

2752. SHRI G. MADEGOWDA : Will the Minister of **LABOUR** be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Cine Workers Welfare Fund was created;

(b) the amount available in this fund as on July 31, 1993; and

(c) the number of cine workers who have been assisted out of this fund during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act 181 was enacted in September, 1981 and enforced w.e.f. 1-11-1984.

(b) As on 30th June, 93 Rs. 73.29 lakhs was available in this Fund.

(c) In :—

1990—91	307
1991—92	333
1992—93	350

[Translation]

PER CAPITA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN MADHYA PRADESH

2753. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of **PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION** be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita income and expenditure in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the per capita income and expenditure in Madhya Pradesh is less than the national average; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to increase the per capita income and expenditure in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI

MONTHLY PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

(in Rs.)

	1988-89		1989-90		1990-91	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
All India	175.10	266.85	189.46	298.00	202.12	326.75

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been implementing development plans for raising per capita income and consumption expenditure. These plans include investment for the development of agriculture, industry infrastructure, irrigation, rural development, education, health etc. In addition, some programmes to generate direct employment and income to the poor are also under implementation.

LOAN TO U. P. BY NATIONALISED BANKS

2754. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loan given by the nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years to open and expand cottage industries in rural areas, bank-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether less amount of loan is being given by the banks for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) The date reporting system does not generate the information in regard to the amount of loan

GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The per capita income in the country (Per capita Net National Product) at current prices in 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 was Rs. 4313, Rs. 4934 and Rs. 5528 respectively. The monthly per capita household consumption expenditure in the country for Rural and Urban population for 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 is given below :

extended to cottage industries in rural areas, bank-wise and district-wise. However, the outstanding amount of advances extended to artisans, villages and cottage industries in Uttar Pradesh by all scheduled commercial banks as at the end of September, 1989, September, 1990 and March, 1991 (latest available) are given below :—

As on	Amount outstanding (Rs. in Crores)
September, 1989	118
September, 1990	132
March, 1991	134

The outstanding amount of advances extended to artisans, village and cottage industries in Uttar Pradesh has been increasing as is evident from the above table.

[English]

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF BANKS

2755. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Chairmen, Executive Directors and nominated Directors have been nominated/appointed for all nationalised banks;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the existing vacancies in each category; and

(d) the time by which the vacancies likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) The Boards of Directors of the nationalised banks are continuing entities and vacancies that arise are filled up from time to time. at present, the post of Chairmen and Managing Directors are vacant in 2 banks and the posts of Executive Directors are vacant in 4 banks. There are also 90 vacancies of non-official Directors on the Boards of the nationalised banks. Government have already initiated necessary action for filling up of these vacancies.

INSTALLATION OF FULL BODY SCANNERS AT AIRPORTS

2756. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to instal full body scanners' at major national and international airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these 'full body scanners' are available in the country or these are proposed to be imported; and

(d) if these are proposed to be imported, the time schedule in regard to the import and installation thereof at the airports?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

CONTRACT LABOUR IN JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT TRUST

2757. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust is still employing contract labour for sweeping, dusting and general maintenance;

(b) whether the Government have banned the employment of contract labour for such work; and

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

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

(b) The Government have prohibited employment of contract labour for sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings owned or occupied by establishments in respect of which the appropriate Government under the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 is the Central Government. However, an exception has been made in case of outside cleaning and other maintenance operations of multi-storeyed buildings requiring specialised experience.

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

RBI DIRECTIONS TO NON-BANKING FINANCIAL COMPANIES

2758. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued directions to non-banking financial companies to each the various transitional problems faced by these companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) In the first phase of the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group of Financial Companies, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued directions on April 12, 1993 to all non-banking financial companies. These directions required the financial companies, other than hire-purchase, financial and equipment leasing companies, to maintain liquid assets to the extent of 5 per cent of their deposit liabilities. RBI, after taking into account representations of various associations, have modified the said directions allowing financial companies to accept inter-corporate deposits upto two times of

their net owned funds for a maximum maturity of 12 months without any stipulation as regards minimum period and rate of interest. RBI have also allowed financial companies time upto March, 1994 to comply with the requirements in regard to maintenance of liquid assets.

TOURIST CIRCUITS

2759. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether some tourist circuits in the country had been identified for promotion during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to stop promoting some of these tourist circuits ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During the financial year 1991-92, no new Tourist Circuits in the country were identified.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

EXPORT OF JUTE

2760. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Bangla-India trade war over jute feared" appearing in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi on July 15, 1993;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that its foreign exchange earner jute exporters are not affected in any manner ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It is understood that no firm decision has been taken as yet by Bangla Desh to set up a fund to compensate for losses incurred on export of jute goods. Govt. are, however, keeping a close watch over the development in this regard. Govt. has already taken several measures for the development of Jute industry including, inter-alia, creation of a Jute Modernisation Fund to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry, creation of a Special Jute Development Fund to rejuvenate the jute economy, extension of fiscal, monetary and marketing support etc.

RECOVERY OF AGRICULTURAL LOAN

2761. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to launch agricultural loan recovery drive ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of outstanding loans and the recoveries made during the year 1992-93, State-wise ;

(d) the percentage of recovery to demand during the above period;

(e) whether the Government propose to give fresh loans to farmers during 1993-94 irrespective of recoveries; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The banks were advised to launch a vigorous campaign for recovery of agricultural loans, through proper publicity and field level contact programmes to impress upon the rural borrowers the need for the evaluation of a healthy rural credit delivery system by making prompt repayment.

A communication was sent by Government of India to all States and Union Territories on 31-3-1993 to launch a special recovery campaign and to instruct the District Collectors to extend full cooperation to the lead banks of their districts in

the mounting of such a recovery campaign. The Chairmen & Managing Directors (CMDs) of the banks have also been simultaneously advised to organise the recovery campaign through proper publicity and field level contact programmes in close liaison with the State Government officials.

(c) The State-wise amount of loans disbursed by commercial banks for agricul-

tural purposes as also the percentage of recovery of direct agricultural advances for the period ending June, 1991 (latest available) is in the *Statement* attached.

(d) The percentage of recovery to demand of public sector banks in respect of their direct agriculture advances for the years ended June, 1991 and 1992 (latest available) is as under :

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

	Year ended June	
	1991	1992 (Provisional)
Demand (Rs. in crores)	8496	8719
Recovery (")	4937	4686
Overdues (")	3559	4033
Percentage of recoveries to demand	68.1%	53.7%

(e) and (f) The farmers all over the country are provided loans by public sector banks for agricultural and allied activities undertaken by them on their own or

through any scheme framed by the Government in this regard. The financing of such activities by the credit institutions is a part of their normal lending operations on a continued basis.

Statement

Name of the State/Union Territory	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)	Percentage of recoveries to Demand
(1)	(2)	(3)
Haryana	23857	58.1
Himachal Pradesh	1837	48.9
Jammu & Kashmir	848	33.2
Punjab	28933	63.6
Rajasthan	16049	49.6
Chandigarh	2118	45.0
Delhi	982	42.6
Assam	1546	45.1
Manipur	92	40.4
Meghalaya	194	58.4
Nagaland	288	52.9
Tripura	154	54.9
Arunachal Pradesh	27	66.9
Mizoram	12	42.4
Sikkim	41	84.8
Bihar	13158	59.7
Orissa	11490	57.0

(1)	(2)	(3)
West Bengal	15162	62.9
Andaman & Nicobar	33	53.2
Madhya Pradesh	35291	51.2
Uttar Pradesh	48703	60.9
Gujarat	24733	59.1
Maharashtra	42966	53.9
Daman & Diu	7	53.2
Goa	768	45.2
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	48.5
Andhra Pradesh	73710	56.0
Karnataka	31319	50.7
Kerala	35272	64.2
Tamil Nadu	78459	68.6
Pondicherry	1235	60.1
Lakshadweep	11	62.7
ALL INDIA	489354	58.0

INFLOW AND OUTFLOW OF TOURISTS

2762. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the inflow of foreign tourists in India and outflow of Indian tourists abroad during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from visiting tourists and released to Indian tourists during each of the above years;

(c) the major countries of special interest: abroad for Indian tourists and esti-

mates of average annual visitors to these countries and foreign exchange released in favour of them during the above period; and

(d) the special efforts proposed to be made to ensure that our foreign exchange outgo does not exceed foreign exchange inflow on tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The inflow of foreign tourists to India and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from them during the last three years were as given below:—

Year	Tourist arrivals	Estimated foreign exchange earnings (Rs. Crores)
1990-91	16,13,681	2444.00
1991-92	17,81,892	3318.62
1992-93	18,20,239	3989.50

The statistics of Indian tourists going abroad are not maintained.

(d) The foreign exchange releases to Indian tourists going abroad are regulated under Foreign Travel Scheme and Neighbourhood Travel Scheme. Under the Foreign Travel Scheme, resident Indian citizens are released foreign exchange upto the equivalent of US \$ 500 (US \$ 250 in the case of minors upto the age of 12) once in three years. In the case of Neighbouring countries, the amount released is upto US \$ 250 (US \$ 125 in the case of minors).

EXPORT OF HANDLOOM AND HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

2763. DR. K. V. R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the value of handloom and handicraft products exported from Andhra Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is a vast scope for increasing the export of these items from the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard during 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) State-wise data on exports of handloom and handicraft items is not maintained.

(b) Yes Sir. There is some scope for increasing exports of Andhra Pradesh's handloom and handicraft goods, particularly paper-machine, toys, kalamakari, art-metal-wares, tie and dye, pile carpets, crocheted lace goods etc.

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of handloom and handicraft products from the country, including Andhra Pradesh, such as sponsoring Buyer Seller Meets, Participation in fairs in major markets, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, product development and quality upgradation through appropriate training programmes.

ENTRY OF BANKS INTO CAPITAL MARKETS

2764. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain legislation changes are being worked out by the Reserve Bank of India to enable some of the stronger banks to go to the capital market to mobilise funds on the strength of their balance sheets :

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by which the legislation in this regard is proposed to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) While presenting the Union Budget for 1993-94, the Finance Minister had stated that Government have decided that State Bank of India as well as other nationalised banks which are in a position to do so, will be allowed to access the capital market to raise fresh equity to meet their shortfall in capital requirements over the next three years. Finance Minister had also stated that Government will continue to retain majority ownership and, therefore, effective control in the public sector banks. Government and Reserve Bank of India are considering necessary amendments in the relevant statutes for the purpose.

GARMENT EXPORT PRICES

2765. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced minimum export prices of garments and knitwear during the first week of July, 1993 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether garment exporters have expressed strong reservations thereon and represented against these prices;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to review these prices; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (e) On the basis of export performance of garments and knitwear during 1992 and January—May 1993, Government have announced Minimum Export Prices (MEPs) of such items for quota countries during 1994. The MEPs fixed for 1994 are normally higher than the corresponding 1993 prices in most of the categories. Government have received some representations in this regard from exporters. The basic thrust of these representations is that when the floor prices fixed in US Dollar terms are translated into European Currencies, the percentage increase in terms of some of the European Currencies becomes substantial. The Apparel Export Promotion Council has been requested to examine this aspect and submit suitable proposals to the Textile Commissioner who is the competent authority for fixing floor prices.

	1991-92	1992-93
(i) Number of Instruments rated	155	229
(ii) Volume of debt rated (Rupees Crores)	5,865	20,011
(iii) Number of companies	103	136

[English]

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION SCHEME

2767. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned Rs. 1000 crore for executing a special employment generation programme in selected 50 districts;

(b) if so, the details of the programme;

[Translation]

CREDIT RATING INFORMATION SERVICES INDIA LIMITED

2766. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the functions of Credit Rating Information Services India Limited;

(d) the details of the work carried out by this company during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to make the credit rating of bonds of various shares compulsory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The main function of the Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited (CRISIL) is to rate rupee-denominated debt obligations of Indian companies.

(b) the details of the work carried out by CRISIL during the last two years are given below:

(c) and (d) Government have no proposal to make the credit rating of bonds compulsory.

(c) whether any target has been set in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to implement the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SMUGGLING OF SILVER/NARCOTICS

2768. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any raids have been conducted to find out the smuggling of silver/narcotics in the country during the last six months ;

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

(c) the number of persons arrested, State-wise ;

(d) the number of warrants issued and the number of persons who have gone underground ; and

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

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

(a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

GOLD SMUGGLING

2769. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether gold smuggling have come down by 50 per cent as reported in "Business Standard", Calcutta dated June 9, 1993 under caption 'Gold Smuggling Down 50%' ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the additional steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the gold smuggling ?

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

(a) and (b) Smuggling of gold has come

down since the introduction of the gold import scheme. However, smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to say whether smuggling of gold has come down by 50%.

(c) Anti-Smuggling agencies are alert against smuggling activities. Customs formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, fire arms etc. and the requirements are constantly reviewed. Sophisticated equipments such as baggage X-ray machines, metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly utilised. Close co-ordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

[Translation]

INVESTMENT BY MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

27. PROF. PREM DHUMAL :

SHRI CHETAN P. S.
CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and number of the multinational companies which have increased their share capital in the country under the economic liberalisation scheme ; and

(b) the extent of increase made by them in their respective share capitals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

WEAVERS' COOPERATIVE SPINNING MILLS

2771. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State-wise target has been fixed for providing assistance to weavers' cooperative spinning mills through the National Cooperative Development Corporation ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the criteria followed for granting assistance to such mills ; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to fix the targets therefor ?

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

(b) Assistance under the Central Sector Scheme for loan assistance to Weavers' Cooperative Spinning Mills depends on a number of factors such as (i) requirement for formation of co-operatives by members, (ii) Gap in the availability and requirement of yarn in a particular State, (iii) Resource position of State Governments concerned, etc.

(c) Government of India considers release of assistance to Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Spinning Mills on the basis of the proposals received from the concerned State Governments subject to fulfilment of the following criteria :—

(i) The location of the project should be in an area having large handloom concentration and where there is a demand for hank yarn ;

(ii) The Co-operative Spinning Mills in the concerned State must have fulfilled the Hank Yarn Obligation ;

(iii) The proposed society shall have democratic and professional management ;

(iv) The project should be viable ; and

(v) The mills should obtain firm commitment for sanction of term loan from the All India Financing Institutions.

(d) Does not arise.

HANDLOOM SECTOR

2772. SHRI SURESHANAND SWAMI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose lift reservation from handloom sector in regard to the production of Dhoti, Saree Low Reed Pick Cloth, Kota Doria, Check Shirting, Lungi and Bed Sheet;

(b) If so, the time by which this reservation is to be lifted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Government has initiated steps for re-constitution of Advisory Committee which makes its recommendations to the Government for any modifications in the list of reserved items.

(c) Does not arise.

English]

BANK BRANCHES IN MEGHALAYA

2773. SHRI PETER G. MARBANANG : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more Regional Rural Banks and

Branches of public sectors banks in Meghalaya during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details and the locations thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Under Branch Expansion Programme 1990-95, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not fixed any year-wise and State wise target for opening of bank branches. The opening of bank branches is an on-going process and the bank are expected to open branches at centres allotted to them in a phased manner during 1990-95. RBI has reported that as on 30-6-1992, there were 51 branches of Regional Rural Banks in Meghalaya. Besides, there were 122 branches of other scheduled commercial banks in the State of which 83 were in rural areas.

[Translation]

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST SPOTS

2774. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI KODAKANI GOWDANA SHIVAPPA :
SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA :
SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE :
DR. K. V. R. CHOWDARY :

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

(a) the names of the tourist spots in the country for the development of which financial assistance was given by the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) the amount of financial assistance sanctioned and released, tourist spot-wise and year-wise;

(c) the amount of financial assistance received from foreign countries for the development of tourist spots in the country particularly the Buddhist pilgrimages during the last three years, yearwise;

(d) the names of the tourist spots for which such assistance was received; and

(e) the amount of such foreign assistance allocated to each State/Union Territory, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Union Government sanction 672 projects/schemes amounting to Rs. 8615.84 lakhs during the last three years viz. 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 to all the States and Union Territories. An amount of Rs. 4789.27 lakhs has been released against sanctioned amount till date.

(b) Information is given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e) Government of India signed a loan agreement with Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan for financial assistance to the tune of Yen 9.244 Billion for the development of infrastructure facilities along the Buddhist Travel Circuits in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The places, under the scheme, covered are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Sravasti and Piparhwa in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda and Rajgir in Bihar. Under this scheme OECF has reimbursed Rs. 20.66 crores to the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The Central Government has also signed another loan agreement with OECF for Yen 3744 Million Rs. (70.00 crores approx) for conservation and development of Ajanta and Ellora region in Maharashtra.

STATEMENT
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST SPOTS CENTRAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SANCTIONED & RELEASE TO THE STATE GOVERNMENTS/U.T.s DURING 1990-91, 1991-92 & 1992-93

S. No.	Name of the State	1990-91			1991-92			1992-93		
		No. of Projects/ Schemes Sanctioned	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	No. of Projects/	Amount sanctioned	Amount Released	No. of Projects/	Amount sanctioned	Amount Released
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	73.47	37.50	9	88.36	46.86	4	9.51	7.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	7.35	5.50	1	24.00	1.00	6	48.27	28.00
3.	Assam	2	22.67	11.50	15	174.79	91.47	6	78.66	37.94
4.	Bihar	11	146.96	84.23	12	150.31	74.15	5	54.41	26.33
5.	Goa	—	—	—	5	41.78	40.09	6	47.71	22.76
6.	Gujarat	8	98.55	42.59	15	141.58	76.85	2	20.90	8.00
7.	Haryana	17	203.16	135.74	18	159.01	102.25	8	104.97	49.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7	80.08	41.61	10	150.96	93.43	9	111.94	44.36
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	90.89	61.97	6	65.25	35.00	10	152.75	73.69
10.	Karnataka	9	91.11	45.50	13	185.26	82.85	12	176.79	89.79
11.	Kerala	17	190.19	150.97	8	305.29	278.98	3	114.08	10.75
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12	234.36	168.66	21	285.77	163.26	4	39.07	13.70
13.	Maharashtra	8	135.68	123.41	15	313.53	235.65	13	203.18	61.00
14.	Manipur	4	15.12	7.50	—	—	—	9	66.24	34.38
15.	Meghalaya	3	22.33	12.49	4	92.54	40.00	1	9.77	5.00
16.	Mizoram	2	20.02	14.50	5	62.04	31.91	5	47.70	23.45
17.	Nagaland	3	34.54	18.10	7	69.24	46.19	1	7.17	4.00

18. Orissa	9	121.61	53.83	18	214.60	113.80	4	63	
19. Punjab	5	68.13	20.90	4	31.25	16.00	6	---	
20. Rajasthan	18	152.16	99.88	19	181.38	86.9	16	---	
21. Sikkim	8	59.71	44.11	10	119.98	73.70	7	49.12	
22. Tamil Nadu	13	145.37	76.30	8	74.04	46.04	8	107.42	
23. Tripura	4	23.55	20.20	5	77.29	32.50	5	80.28	
24. Uttar Pradesh	36	397.87	234.75	10	160.59	60.80	8	97.24	
25. West Bengal	10	320.15	168.00	12	189.23	91.17	4	94.10	
UNION TERRITORIES :									
1. Andaman & Nicobar	---	---	---	4	79.35	45.52	3	93.50	
2. Chandigarh	---	---	---	1	17.11	8.55	1	13.70	
3. Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1	3.60	3.00	2	5.52	3.00	---	---	
4. Daman & Diu	---	---	---	2	15.75	6.25	---	---	
5. Delhi	4	20.52	18.28	6	7.22	18.25	---	28.50	
6. Lakshadweep	2	9.25	7.75	2	32.26	15.00	---	58.34	
7. Pondicherry	---	---	---	3	47.23	31.23	---	---	
TOTAL	226	2768.40	1708.68	270	3575.51	2088.75	176	2271.93	991.84

[English]

LOAN AGREEMENT WITH IFAD

2775. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH :

SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM
KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any loan agreement has been signed recently with the International Fund for Agricultural Development to help the rural poor ;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement ; and

(c) by when the loan assistance is likely to be released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Maharashtra Rural Credit Project was signed in June 1993, to increase and improve the provision of financial services to the rural poor in the project area, through the development of formal financial services, informal sector savings and credit and implementation support.

(c) Aid under the loan will commence after the project becomes effective.

[Translation]

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

2776. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the position of foreign exchange reserves meant for foreign trade would not be satisfactory during the coming years on account of repayment of foreign loan instalments and interest thereon ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Government has already initiated a programme of economic reforms aimed at short-term stabilisation combined with longer term restructuring. These reforms would improve the economic condition of the country and revitalise our growth process, including improvement in foreign exchange earnings, so as to enhance our capacity to repay foreign loan instalments and interest thereon.

[English]

REPORT OF NRI ECONOMISTS

2777. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had commissioned some Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Economists to go into the economic reforms in Indian Economy ;

(b) if so, the date on which it was commissioned and the details of terms of reference and charter ;

(c) whether the Report has been submitted by the Economists ;

(d) if so, the recommendations thereof ; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Finance Minister had invited Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, Arthur Lehman Professor of Economics & Professor of Political Science, Columbia University, New York and Professor T. N. Srinivasan, Professor of Economics, Yale University, New Haven to study the on-going economic reforms and to make recommendations for future action. The Report captioned 'India's Economic Reforms', prepared in an honorary capacity was submitted in July, 1993.

(d) A summary of the Report is given in the enclosed *statement*.

(e) The Report has been published in the interest of public information and debate on the on-going economic reforms and to contribute to a wider awareness of the urgent issues which would need to be addressed as the reform process proceeds further.

Statement

Summary of the Report captioned "India's Economic Reforms" by Professor Jagdish Bhagwati and Professor T. N. Srinivasan.

1. The Economic reforms initiated by the government in June 1991 have an excellent rationale. The "macro economic" situation, both external (the balance of payments) and internal (the fiscal deficit), was unsustainable. The economy's inefficiency had also left us behind in the race for development: our policy framework needed desperate overhaul. This overhaul would necessitate what economists call "micro economic" or "structural" reforms. The macro economic problems, in turn, had been accentuated by, if not largely been a result of, the micro economic inefficiencies.

2. Explaining the rationale for the reforms, and the principles of reform making as now understood by economists from worldwide experience (in Section II), the Report highlights the need for momentum, building on the reforms to date with a number of new steps which would complete the transition to the new policy framework which will promote greater efficiency, growth and therewith a surer and deeper attack on poverty alleviation. Indeed, in the absence of further new steps, the returns from the existing reforms may be meager, in terms of productivity and export increases in particular, encouraging the critics of the reforms to accuse the reformers plausibly about being the error when they argued for their necessity.

The Report proceeds to spell out these steps, which include actions to consolidate the important and bold reforms already undertaken to date and to correct for mistakes revealed by experience, and also to argue for several new measures which

would complement and enhance greatly the efficiency of the measures already taken.

3. In the Macro economic area (Section III), two pertinent questions are discussed: (1) have we made the necessary cuts in the fiscal deficit in the best possible way; and (2) since we are following externally, as part of our adjustment and otherwise, are we borrowing "too much"?

(i) The cutting of developmental expenditure appears to us to be a little beyond what appears prudent; growth later may be compromised by this, so the government needs to examine this question carefully. On the other hand, the Finance Minister has been accused of cutting "Social Expenditure", thus stabilising the economy at the expense of budgetary cuts in spending on the poor. This is not a valid criticism, however.

On raising revenue, to reduce the fiscal deficit, we think that the tax base needs to be widened and the tax structure also needs an overhaul. The Chelliah Committee's careful recommendations on reforming our tax system need to be accepted and implemented.

In addition, as privatisation proceeds, the proceeds from equity sales should be set aside to retire the substantial accumulated governmental debt instead of being used to reduce the current budget deficit. This would enable us to reduce quickly the burden of interest payments which affect the budget, while also putting extra pressure on the government to push ahead with necessary fiscal reforms.

Finally, since the banking system is traditionally forced to finance at low cost nearly half of the government's fiscal deficit, financial reform which includes removal of this practice is an essential ingredient in making fiscal responsibility by the government more likely. So is a measure of independence for the Reserve Bank of India which cannot currently play the inflation-restraining role that the independent US Federal Reserve system and the German Bundesbank play. Otherwise, a replay of the 1980s experience with financial excess by the government will remain likely.

(2) On the question of external borrowing, we conclude that we have not borrowed too much. But our calculations suggest that we are close to the margin where, if the returns fall a little, the borrowing may begin to turn counterproductive. Our calculation therefore suggests the critical role of the reforms. If these reforms are completed with the new measures now necessary, then the returns to our investments will indeed rise. But if we hesitate and procrastinate over them, we could wind up having borrowed unwisely.

4. In the micro economic area, we consider several sectors and problems. Among them, the following are important:

(1) Industrial and Trade Licensing : We recognise the sweeping nature of the reforms to date. But we draw attention to several problem areas where reforms are necessary to cement what happened so far : (i) the bureaucracy remains a problem despite extensive delicensing; (ii) state-level restrictions continue largely in place and need to be removed if delicensing is to amount too much; and (iii) the liberalisation of imports, and hence effective convertibility, still awaits substantial unification and reduction of the tariff rates and, besides the imports of consumer goods remain very heavily prescribed. In all three areas, we propose specific steps to be taken, to strengthen the effectiveness of the existing reforms.

In addition, "as we move towards freer imports, we will also need to make certain other changes, to establish the institutions that go with freer trade and which we did not need when we were inward-looking the protectionist. In particular, we need to set up anti-dumping and market-disruption-related machinery to deal with "predatory" trade and with "import surges" respectively.

(2) Direct Foreign Investments : We applaud the changes made in our policy regarding direct foreign investment (DFI). But we stress that there is today much competition of DFI around the world and that ambivalence in policy, as in the continuing bureaucratic hurdles, will not help.

Also, in this context, a compromise in regard to the acceptance of intellectual property rules (however "unfair"), as demanded by the United States and in fact

by other OECD countries, should be treated simply as a (minor) cost of attracting DFI: For, multinationals now treat the acceptance of such rules as an index of the seriousness of a country in attracting DFI.

Also, we suggest that exploring seriously the possibilities of joining one or more of the existing and emerging trade blocs is now a "must" for India. For access to one of these blocs is a powerful incentive for multinationals to come in: this in fact is a main reason why President Salinas has been pushing for NAFTA, the free trade agreement with US and Canada.

(3) Public Sector Enterprises : we recommend, in light of the enormous weight of these inefficiently functioning enterprises in the economy, that the options of both increased competition (through free entry by the private sector, domestic and foreign, through appropriate changes in price policy, labour laws etc. through creation of appropriate institutions such as the National Renewal Fund which will improve the profitability of private enterprises and thus put pressure on the public sector enterprises to improve theirs; and through removal of subsidies so that survival under competition depends only on shaping up) and privatisation become matters of urgent policy.

Equally, we suggest that, except for security-related reasons, Public sector enterprises should no longer be started afresh except where the private sector is unable to enter and a social need is clearly established for such investment. Again, the policy of acquiring new "sick units" should be totally abolished.

In short, the lessons of unhappy experience with the public sector enterprises in all sorts of countries and with diverse social and cultural traditions suggest that it is extremely hard to make them function efficiently. So, our early optimism, based on a prior thinking, should yield to pragmatism: we cannot afford otherwise.

(4) Financial Sector Reform : The need for financial sector reform can hardly be overemphasised. It is part of the new institutional setup that we must acquire as we escape from the old, inefficient policy

framework. Scarce funds have to be channelled to the most efficient uses, and financial sector reforms are critical to that task.

The Bombay scam that became a hot potato has affected the pace of financial reform by creating the impression that it was a product of the limited financial reforms undertaken prior to it. But this is simply false. It is important to distinguish financial sector liberalisation and reforms that are desirable from those that represent undesirable deregulation of a sector that is particularly prone to panics, manias and scams everywhere (including in the UK where the prestigious Bank of England fell victim to the BCCI deceptions and in the US where imprudent deregulation created the S&L crisis).

It is important that, even as we build up the regulatory machinery so that we can perform adequately in the future (though, in the nature of the case, nothing will rule out scams altogether in this susceptible sector), we must push ahead with the demolition of the old and counterproductive rules. We endorse generally the Narsimhan Committee recommendations and their quicker implementation.

(5) Agriculture: Finally, in regard to the important sector, Agriculture, we make several recommendations.

In regard to foreign trade in agricultural products, we recommend that quantitative restrictions (QRs) and canalisation be abolished, replacing the QRs with tariffs.

Regarding the Public Distribution System (PDS), aimed at protecting the poor, we make several recommendations to improve its targeting of the poor, so that the cost resulting from extensive leakage to the non-poor is minimised and more benefits reach the poor even if the subsidies are abolished (as they must) on the macroeconomic ground of reducing the fiscal deficit. The schemes we favour (such as Food Stamps) would also involve the abolition of the Food Corporation of India and its attendant costs.

We also recommend the removal soon of the three major subsidies on agricultural inputs; fertilisers, irrigation and electricity.

We cite studies that show that the entire set of reforms, implemented in conjunction with the subsidy removal, is still likely to be favourable to agricultural incentives, as seems to be the case in many developing countries.

Finally, regarding agriculture credit, we argue that the policy of subsidising interest rates helps predominantly the non-poor farmers and should be withdrawn. The problem for the poor farmers instead is access to credit. This requires the establishment of institutions such as the Bank in Bangladesh. All this is part of the set of financial sector reforms awaiting the government's action.

5. Finally, if we are to move to an outward-oriented strategy, seeking to exploit trade and investment opportunities provided by the world economy, then we must take appropriate action to ensure that these opportunities are available to us maximally. Otherwise, we would be operating with one blade of the scissors and ignoring the other—

Towards this end, we recommend that India play a constructive role in making the Uruguay Round successful since the alternative is the strong asserting their might as with the Super 301 and Special 301 actions of the United States against other nations (including up) and the breakdown of the multilateral trade discipline that, despite its weakness, provides something like a rural of law benefitting us.

More important, we recommend that India now actively start exploring the options of joining in the free-trade blocs that are in place (EC and NAFTA) and which might emerge (in Asia). Else, it stands in danger of losing out to other countries, members of such blocks, in trade access and in attracting investment.

SICK NATIONALISED BANKS

2778. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of nationalised banks in the country have been identified as 'Sick' by the Reserve Bank of India while others are considered to be in a bad shape;

(b) if so, whether in view of the crisis in the Indian banking industry, the World Bank has adversely commented on the industry; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken to improve the current situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not identified any nationalised bank as 'sick' or in bad shape.

(b) Government are not aware of any adverse comments made by the World Bank in this regard.

(c) Does not arise. RBI have, however, been impressing upon the banks the need to strengthen their credit appraisal machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances, to contain growth in establishment expenses and improve staff productivity, to ensure better yield on investments and improve cash management. The banks have also been advised by RBI to prepare action plans for improving their functioning in key areas.

MALPRACTICES IN STOCK EXCHANGES

2779. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jaiprakash 'ulta badla' issue on the Calcutta Stock Exchange has thrown open a fresh debate on the badla system and the role of the Stock Exchanges in the carry forward mechanism, as reported in the 'Financial Express', New Delhi dated June 6, 1993; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to stop such malpractices at the Stock Exchanges in the country and root out the badla system for all times to come?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that the 'badla' system and carry-forward mechanism for specified shares in Stock Exchanges have been debated upon

in the past and that the 'ulta badla' issue relating to M/s. Jaiprakash Industries Limited brought forward the possibility of manipulation by using the 'badla' system.

(b) Government have already established SEBI with statutory powers and functions to, inter alia, protect the interests of investors in securities and to regulate the securities market. The discontinuance of the 'badla' system is under the consideration of SEBI and necessitates the establishment of a legal framework for trading in options in securities.

EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECTS

2780. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of current State specific development projects financed wholly or partially by the IBRD, ADB, IFAD or any other international, inter-governmental financing organisations under agreement with the Central or State Government;

(b) the brief particulars of the projects and the quantum of aid envisaged for each;

(c) the quantum of aid disbursed/released for the projects by the financing organisations and the quantum actually spent so far, project-wise; and

(d) the date of commencement and the envisaged period of completion for cash project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) Details of externally aided projects including the quantum of aid & date of commencement till 1991-92 are given in the External Assistance brochure a copy of which is placed in the library of the house. Information for the year 1992-93 is given in the statement attached.

(c) External Assistance is received in the form of reimbursement of expenditures made against eligible heads. During 1992-93 total expenditure against ongoing projects amounted to Rs. 7942.75 crores.

(d) The period taken for completion of externally aided projects in India is usually five to seven years.

*Statement***LIST OF EXTERNALLY AIDED STATE SECTOR PROJECTS APPROVED
IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1992—93**

Projects	Date of Approval	Loan Amount
WORLD BANK		(\$ Million)
1. Maharashtra Power	25-6-92	350
2. ADP Rajasthan	12-11-92	106
3. Bihar Platenu	19-11-92	117
4. Jharia Mine Fire	17-12-92	12
5. ICDS I	9-3-93	194
NORWAY		(Rs. Crores)
1. Orissa Environmental	16-4-92	16
2. Trout Farming H. P.	26-5-93	0.6
SWEDEN		(Rs. Crores)
1. Orissa Social Forestry	1-4-88	107.8
2. Tamilnadu Social Forestry	1-4-88	130.0
3. Dungarpur Integ. Wastelands	4-3-92	32.8
4. Lok Jumbish, Rajasthan	1-4-92	8.40
EEC		(ECU Million)
1. Rajasthan Irrigation	7-6-33	43
2. Kerala Minor Irrigation	May, 92	11.8
NETHERLANDS		
1. Establishment of Socio Economic Unit in Gujarat Water Supply Sewerage Board	19-3-93	78,080
DENMARK		(DKr. Million)
1. Comprehensive Watershed Dev.	5-10-92	46.3
2. Integrated Livestock, Orissa	22-12-92	19.9
KFW		(DM Million)
1. Orissa Lift Irrigation	19-2-93	—
OECE		(Yen Million)
1. Apprra. Thermal	3-12-92	13224
2. Yamuna Action Plan	21-12-92	17773
3. Brisailalin Power Transmission System	21-12-92	3806

[English]

WELFARE OF LABOURERS

2781. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering a package of measures to improve the conditions of labour and provide them safety ;

(b) if so, the details of such measures taken during the last two years/proposed during the current year ;

(c) the main recommendation of the National Commission on Rural Labour ; and

(d) details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

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

(c) and (d) The National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) has submitted its report on 31st July, 1991. Broadly, the NCRL has highlighted the need for achievement of two major goals for the rural labour, namely improvement in their levels of living and ensuring their effective participation in the developmental process. To achieve this, the NCRL has emphasised further strengthening and improvement, *inter-alia* of land base ; agricultural growth, employment guarantee programme, infrastructure for rural industries, human resource development and provision of basic needs, social security, organisational aspects of rural labour and effective participation of rural labour in the decision-making process through democratic decentralisation.

2. Some of the major recommendations of the NCRL are as follows :—

(i) Free and compulsory education for all children upto the age of 14,

(ii) Prohibition of child labour in all occupations and processes,

(iii) A 'National Credit Fund for Women' for poor women so that they

could get credit without any collateral security upto a specified financial limit,

(iv) Fixation of a National basic minimum wage of Rs. 20/- per day at December, 1990 prices and a provision for increases of wages automatically every six months on the basis of rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

(v) Self-employment programme like the IRDP by linking them to area development plans to be formulated by the elected institutions within the scheme of decentralisation,

(vi) Ban on labour-displacing mechanisation in agriculture, like the use of Combine Harvesters,

(vii) A more concerted policy to assist and provide relief to the migrant labour,

(viii) Credit for consumption to rural labour families at lower rate of interest.

(ix) Easier accessibility of institutional credit to rural labour households through cooperative Banks.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES :

(x) Right to work as Fundamental Right with certain qualifications and an Employment Guarantee Act to implement this,

(xi) A comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural labour providing for their protection and welfare,

(xii) A National Commission for Bonded Labour functioning as a quasi-judicial Authority to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976,

(xiii) A model legislation for protection of home-based workers and their welfare,

(xiv) Land Tribunals at the local level for speedy disposals of land reforms cases.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION

(xv) Active involvement of the Panchayati Raj institutions in the implementation of various recommendations of the NCRL.

(xvi) A separate Department of Rural Labour at the Centre and in the State with an independent Directorate of Rural Labour in the States to deal with all aspects of Rural Labour.

3. The recommendations relating to a Central legislation for Agricultural Workers, a Central Legislation for Construction Workers, social security and constitution of a Commission on Bonded Labour have been referred to a Committee of State Labour Ministers headed by Labour Minister of Maharashtra for consideration and early report to the Government.

4. All Ministers/Departments concerned with specific recommendations have duly examined the recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations in consultation with the State Governments, where necessary, is a continuing process.

[Translation]

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR

2782. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee of labour ministers have submitted its report regarding constitution of National Commission on Labour as per the decision taken in the 41st Conference of Labour Ministers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The 41st Conference of Labour Ministers did not take a decision to set up a Committee of Labour Ministers regarding constitution of National Commission on Labour.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

CREDIT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD AND NO INDUSTRY AREAS IN GUJARAT

2783. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector banks have been directed to extend more credit for the development of backward and no industry areas of the country, particularly Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the deposits made/loans disbursed by the public sector banks in these areas during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The banks make available credit for various purpose including development of industry, irrespective of the places of their locations, taking into account various aspects such as economic viability, technical feasibility, availability of raw material, market for the products, etc. The rates of interest charged by the banks on their advances are linked to the size of loan and are not related to any sector-wise or area-wise activity.

(c) The Data Reporting System of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, amount of deposit and gross bank credit of all scheduled commercial banks in Gujarat and All India as at the end of December, 1990, 91 and 92 is given below :—

(Rs. in Crore)

Deposits	December,	December,	December,
	1990	1991	1992
Gujarat	11063	12975	15478
All India	184961	219542	261588
CREDIT			
Gujarat	6257	7090	8385
All India	121984	133745	153256

[Translation]

URBAN COOPERATIVE BANKS IN GUJARAT

2784. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Urban Cooperative Banks in Gujarat, particularly in tribal areas;

(b) the number of banks, which were granted permission to open more branches in 1992 and the number of branches opened so far;

(c) the number of proposals regarding opening branches of Urban Cooperative Banks in Gujarat pending with the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be accorded approval ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

CONCESSION IN FARE AND FREIGHT CHARGES

2785. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has submitted a proposal to give concession in fare and freight charges to the passengers travelling on long routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

COTTON EXPORTS AFFECTING HANDLOOM AND POWERLOOM SECTORS

2786. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATANAYAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increase in cotton exports has adversely affected the handloom and powerloom industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

INSTALLATION OF PRECISION APPROACH RADAR PROCEDURE AT BANGALORE AIRPORT

2787. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval for installation of the Precision Approach Radar (PAR) procedure at Bangalore airport;

(b) whether the same has been installed;

(c) if so, the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be installed; and

(e) the advantages of installation of the above equipment ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) Bangalore Airport belongs to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). National Airport Authority (NAA) has a civil enclave there. Precision Approach Radar (PAR) installed by HAL

was earlier used only by aircraft of HAL and Indian Air Force. A procedure has now been established and notified by Director General of Civil Aviation, effective from 29th March, 1993, for use of PAR by civil aircraft as well.

The advantages of the system are that it provides vertical and horizontal guidance to the landing aircraft. This system enables the aircraft to land in bad weather conditions.

[*Translation*]

CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT AT BARODA

2788. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Airports Authority has signed any contract with the National Building Construction Corporation to make available management services for the construction of airport at Baroda; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the value of the contract ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per the contract between National Airports Authority (NAA) and National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC), the latter is providing complete Project Management Services for the construction of terminal building and resurfacing of runway at Vadodara airport. The estimated cost of the terminal building is Rs. 11.43 crores and for resurfacing of runway is Rs. 1.53 crores. NAA will pay to NBCC fees at the rate of 5% of the total project cost and additional 0.5% for scrutiny of structural designs and drawings.

SCs/STs BROUGHT ABOVE POVERTY LINE

2789. SHRI SIMON MARANDI :
SHRI SHIBU SOREN :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes/Adivasis who have been brought above the poverty line during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the target fixed during the Eighth Five Year Plan in this regard;

(c) the State-wise amount being spent for this purpose;

(d) the broad details of the scheme formulated in this regard; and

(e) the details of the progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Poverty estimates are available for the years 1983-84 and 1987-88. The number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes below the poverty line came down from 56.3 million and 30.9 million respectively in 1983-84 to 49.86 million and 29.05 million respectively in 1987-88.

(b) While the Eighth Five Year Plan has substantially enhanced the outlays for poverty alleviation programmes, a projection for poverty alleviation by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan has not been specified.

(c) The financial assistance given in the form of subsidy and credit to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe families under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during 1992-93 is in the enclosed *Statement*.

(d) and (e) IRDP is a major self employment programme for poverty alleviation in rural areas. The assistance is given in the form of government subsidy and bank loan to acquire income generating asset to the families living below the poverty line. Under IRDP at least 50% of the assisted families should be Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe. Since inception of the programme in 1980 till 1992-93, 184.67 lakh Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe families have been covered under the programme.

Statement

SC

(S.T.)

State/UT	Data till month	Data				(S.T.)					
		Subsidy (lakhs)	Credit (lakhs)	P.C. Subsidy	P.C. Credit	P.C. Investment	Subsidy	P.C. Credit	P.C. Investment		
Andhra Pradesh		1937.10	2166.10	2650	2963	5613	542.19	595.13	2981	3272	625
Arunchal Pradesh											
Assam		157.64	173.52	3135	3450	6585	274.95	118.65	2015	871	2887
Bihar		2256.88	2885.05	2603	3327	5930	281.38	292.09	2826	2934	5759
Goa		0.36	0.79	3600	7900	11500	191.16	1448.90	2389	2906	5295
Gujarat		284.08	306.08	2802	3019	5820	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana		374.55	435.30	3216	3738	6954	810.18	640.41	3670	3807	7477
Himachal Pradesh		71.37	115.42	2502	4047	8549	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir		26.85	34.36	3434	4394	7827	21.25	26.14	2530	3112	5642
Karnataka		851.51	1158.38	2563	3487	6850	23.21	26.16	2905	3274	6179
Kerala		771.03	810.57	3238	3404	6643	239.22	222.82	3589	3343	6931
Madhya Pradesh		1516.97	1831.91	3397	4102	7499	56.00	57.00	3022	3076	6098
Maharashtra		1424.03	1834.51	2972	3829	6801	2439.33	2814.71	3631	4190	7821
Manipur		3.26	1.81	4794	2662	7456	943.71	1065.35	3031	3422	6453
Meghalaya		—	—	—	—	—	49.06	11.55	2405	566	2971
Mizoram		—	—	—	—	—	129.79	138.23	4311	4591	8901
Nagaland		—	—	—	—	—	170.70	16.94	4914	488	5401
Orissa		850.88	838.46	3424	3374	6798	177.38	115.03	4439	2879	7318
Punjab		453.77	686.87	3516	5323	8839	950.49	866.10	3296	3003	6299
Rajasthan		1102.92	1316.87	3174	3790	6965	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim		1.67	3.32	2319	4611	5931	639.15	143.25	3180	3698	6878
Tamil Nadu		2029.63	2245.49	2995	3314	6309	9.97	19.82	2511	4992	7504
							113.38	124.10	3111	3406	6517

Tripura	48.76	55.71	3148	3597	6744	11.52	124.19	304	3281	3585
Uttar Pradesh	1906.21	14950.15	3654	6909	10562	106.32	189.40	4471	7965	12436
West Bengal	2148.13	2182.43	3523	3579	7102	324.70	333.50	3541	3636	7177
Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—	12.55	16.14	4564	5869	10433
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D & N. Haveli	0.33	0.67	3300	6700	10000	8.23	17.41	3004	6354	9358
Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman & Diu	1.63	2.18	2329	3114	5443	1.90	3.82	2794	5618	8412
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	5.82	6.38	3731	4090	7821
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL INDIA	24219.56	34036.03	3188	4480	7667	9533.54	10233.42	3138	3368	6506

P.C.—stands for "Per Capita".

[English]**BOMBAY DOMESTIC AIRPORT**

2790. SHRI G. MADEGOWDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to rename the Bombay domestic airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to rename Bombay Airport after Jawaharlal Nehru when airport facilities are further upgraded.

[Translation]**COMPUTERISATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS IN U.P.**

2791. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of bank branches of public sector banks in Uttar Pradesh which have been completely computerised, bank-wise; and

(b) the number of bank branches in urban areas in U.P. which are proposed to be computerised in the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) At present no branch of any public sector bank in Uttar Pradesh is fully computerised.

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

[English]**ARMENIAN AIRLINES TO ENTER INDIAN SKIES**

2792. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in pursuance of the bilateral agreement signed this year between

India and Armenia, the Government have permitted the Armenian airlines to enter Indian skies from the middle of August, 1992; and

(b) if so, the full details of the agreement and the flights permitted by India and the reciprocal flights by the Indian Airlines and the Air India to Armenia ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No air services agreement has been signed between India and Armenia so far.

(b) Does not arise.

RURAL COOPERATIVE BANKS

2793. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Government from private institutions for opening rural cooperative banks during the last two years and the current year so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications accepted by the Government State-wise; and

(c) the criteria for giving permission for opening of rural cooperative banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that no applications have been received from private institutions in any of the States for opening rural cooperative bank.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]**YARN PRODUCERS**

2794. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided to yarn producers in Gujarat during 1990-91; 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) the extent to which the demand for yarn made by the handloom weavers was fulfilled vis-a-vis their total requirement during the same period; and

(c) the assistance proposed to be provided to the yarn producers during 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) Under the Central Sector Scheme for loan assistance to Cooperative Spinning Mills in the Handloom Weavers' Sector, no proposal was received from Government of Gujarat during this period.

(b) A number of State Handloom Agencies with financial assistance from Central Government are undertaking supply of cotton yarn to handloom weavers of Gujarat in addition to private sources of supply. The National Handloom Development Corporation is also supplementing the yarn supply operations of the State Handloom Agencies. There is, however, no problem in the availability of yarn to handloom weavers.

(c) Central assistance to spinning mills in the Weavers' Cooperative Sector is considered on the basis of concrete proposals received from the State Government.

[English]

INCREASE IN LOCKER CHARGES BY BANKS

2795, MAJ. GENL. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some banks have increased the locker charges and have also deducted advance locker rent for five years from the customers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this record ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) Banks revise rentals for lockers from time to time

keeping in view the costs of various factors affecting locker services including the capital cost of locker units and maintenance and servicing costs.

As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, advance payment of locker rent for 3 years can be collected by the banks from the locker holders. Specific complaints of non-observance of the guidelines are looked into for remedial action.

SSI UNITS IN MEGHALAYA

2796. SHRI PETER G. MARBANANG : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small scale industrial units in Meghalaya which have been provided loans by the nationalised banks during the last three years; and

(b) the amount of loan provided to these units during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India have reported that the number of small scale industrial units and the amount of loan provided to these units by scheduled commercial banks in Meghalaya upto June, 1991 (latest available) is as under :—

Year	(Rs. in Lakhs)	
	No. of Accounts	Amount
June, 1989	483	236.05
June, 1990	534	113.19
June, 1991	468	76.64

[Translation]

DEVELOPMENT OF JUTE INDUSTRY

2797. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the scheme formulated by the Government to develop jute industry in the country;

(b) the location and number of training centres to make articles out of jute in the jute growing areas; and

(c) the name of the articles made out of jute which are in demand in foreign countries and the scheme formulated by Government to increase the production of these articles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Hessian, Sacking, carpet backing cloth and yarn are the main items of jute goods that are in demand in foreign countries. Importers of jute goods have also evinced interest in diversified jute products which are mainly manufactured in the decentralised sectors of handlooms and handicrafts. Govt. have taken several measures to develop the jute industry and increase the production of diversified jute products including, inter alia, creation of a Jute Modernisation Fund to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry, creation of a Special Jute Development Fund to rejuvenate the jute economy, enactment of legislation prescribing the mandatory packaging of specified commodities in jute, extension of fiscal, monetary and marketing support, etc.

[English]

OPENING OF BANK BRANCHES IN BIHAR

2798. **SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences issued by the Reserve Bank of India during each of the last three years for opening of bank branches in Bihar;

(b) the progress made in opening of these branches, bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether all the bank branches against the licences issued by the Reserve Bank of India, have been opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the concerned Banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) Under the current (1990—95) Branch Expansion Policy, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not fix any State-wise or year-wise targets for opening bank branches. The opening of bank branches is an on-going process and banks are expected to open branches at the centres allotted to them within the time frame of the licence given for this purpose. Under 1990—95 pol. cy. RBI has so far allotted 5 centres for opening branches in rural areas and 57 centres for opening branches in Urban and Metropolitan centres in Bihar. As regard semi-urban centres, a specified quota of 1285 centres have been allotted to commercial banks on All India basis to enable them to open their branches at semi-urban centres of their choice. No State-wise quota has been allotted in this regard.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

2799. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed its views on the Planning Commission's method of estimating the poverty line which shows a 'significant' decline in the number of the poor and in the incidence of poverty in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) The World Bank in its Poverty Reduction Handbook has stated that India has a well developed statistical system and is a pioneer in poverty measurement. It has also stated that the Planning Commission's method shows a significant decline in the number of poor and incidence of poverty but other methods suggest that while the incidence of poverty has declined, the absolute number of poor is broadly unchanged. The Handbook is intended to guide the World Bank staff. The Government of India is not bound by the views expressed therein.

[Translation]

ALLOTMENT OF VILLAGES UNDER SERVICE AREA APPROACH

2800. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages allotted under the Service Area Approach to public sector banks in Gujarat;

(b) the achievements of these banks during the last three years; and

(c) the schemes formulated/proposed to be formulated by these banks during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) 14036 villages have been allotted under the Scheme of Service Area Approach to 1829 branches of public sector banks in Gujarat.

(b) Targets and achievements of these bank branches under Annual Credit Plan in Gujarat are indicated below :—

(Rs. in Crores)

	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93 (Upto Sept.)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Agriculture	714	586	878	767	925	603
Small Scale Industries	173	290	146	177	200	142
Others	103	86	114	86	128	37
Total	990	962	1138	1030	1253	782

(c) Banks lend borrowers in the villages under their Service Area under various priority sectors i.e. Agriculture, Small Scale Industries etc. and under various schemes formulated by Government of India and State Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) to (c) The requisite informations will be laid-down on the table of the House shortly.

[English]

CONCESSION UNDER SECTION 80 (G)

2801. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for tax concession under Section 80 (G) of the Income Tax Act received, approved and rejected during 1992-93 and the number of applications pending as on 31st March, 1993;

(b) the total number of institutions and organisations enjoying such concession in the country as on April 1st, 1993; and

(c) the names of such institutions/organisations in Bihar as on this date?

EXPORT OF ALCOHOL

2802. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received request from some States for permission to levy export pass fee/tax on the export of Alcohol abroad;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give permission to these States in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) no request has been received in the

recent past by the Government from any state government for permission to levy port duty on alcohol exported from it.

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

REQUIREMENTS OF AIRLINES

2803. SHRI LOKANATH CHAUDHURY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had appointed a committee to examine the present and future requirements of airlines and the capability of airports to meet them;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the findings and recommendations of the committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to each of these recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No such Committee has been constituted by Department of Civil Aviation.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

AMOUNT PROVIDED TO MADHYA PRADESH FOR ELECTRICITY

2804. DR. LAXMINARAIN PANDEYA : Will the Minister for PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested certain amount from Union Government for Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the amount provided by the Planning Commission to the Board for the implementation of various small/medium-hydel power projects during the year 1993-94; and

(c) the percentage of the amount provided as against the amount demanded by Madhya Pradesh in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) In their Annual Plan 93-94 proposals, the Government of Madhya Pradesh proposed an amount of Rs. 590 crores for Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board against which the approved outlay is Rs. 574 crores.

(b) The amounts proposed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and the approved plan outlays for Small/Medium hydel projects for Annual Plan 1993-94 are as follows :—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	Proposed by State	Approved
(1) Mini/Micro Hydel Schemes	340	340
(2) Medium Hydel Project (Rajhat HEP) 3x15 MW M.P. Share 30%	2000	2000

(c) The approved outlay for Small/Medium Hydroelectric projects is 100% as against amount proposed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

HANDICRAFTS INDUSTRY

2805. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of labourers engaged in handicrafts industry State-wise;

(b) the details of steps taken by the Government to raise the standard of living of the persons engaged in handicrafts industry; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to encourage the handicrafts industry in the country State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G VENKAT SWAMY): (a) A *statement-I* is attached.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to raise the standard of living of the persons engaged in handicrafts industry including financial as well as technical assistance in marketing, training, design development, product promotion in domestic and overseas markets through various plan schemes implemented directly as well as through other organisations such as Central/State Handicrafts Development

Corporations, apex co-operative societies and voluntary agencies etc. A detailed *statement-II* of such schemes is attached.

(c) As far as Government of India is concerned, the annual action plans as well as Five year plans are formulated with the aim of promotion and development of handicrafts at the national level. However, the State Governments also have their own plans for development of handicrafts industry. Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) provides grants-in-aid for various projects under the plan schemes as found appropriate.

Statement—I

(a) The estimated number of handicraft artisans engaged in the handicrafts industry, State-wise is as under :—

Sl. No.	State	Number of artisans (In lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.08
3.	Assam	1.01
4.	Bihar	1.53
5.	Goa	0.07
6.	Gujarat	3.32
7.	Haryana	1.42
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.58
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.17
10.	Karnataka	2.88
11.	Kerala	0.10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.02
13.	Maharashtra	3.24
14.	Manipur	2.68
15.	Meghalaya	0.69
16.	Mizoram	0.05
17.	Nagaland	0.86
18.	Orissa	0.76
19.	Punjab	0.61
20.	Rajasthan	3.61
21.	Sikkim	0.10
22.	Tamilnadu	0.87
23.	Tripura	1.75
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9.72
25.	West Bengal	3.91
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.01
27.	Delhi	1.12
28.	Pondicherry	0.01
Total :		48.22

Statement—II

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Objective
1.	Marketing Development Support	A modified scheme to assist in the form of a package of assistance to organisations engaged in marketing/ Development of handicrafts (Central)/State Handicrafts Development Corporations/Apex Societies/ Voluntary Organisations .
2.	Marketing and service Extn. Centres and other Marketing Programmes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide marketing and other services to craftsmen specially in craft concentration areas. 2. To render assistance in marketing, credit, raw-materials and design development.
3.	Craft Development Centres	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A modified combined scheme of the earlier schemes of Common Facility Service Centres and Raw material Depot. 2. To assist Central/State Handicrafts Corporations and other organisation in setting up of CDCs in identified craft pockets. 3. To extend production, market related and social services to the craftsmen.
4.	Design and Technical Development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A modified scheme to assist craftsmen in development of designs both by identifying traditional styles and innovating new one for marketability. 2. To assist Corporations, Apex Societies, Voluntary organisations to engage designers/technical consultant for developing/new range of products.
5.	National Handicrafts and Handloom Museum.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To preserve and document traditional crafts. 2. To disseminate awareness on above crafts. 3. To revive languishing crafts.
6.	North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To harness the vast resources in terms of skill and raw materials to the benefit of craftsmen of the North Eastern Region. 2. To act as a focal point and to provide necessary technical expertise to the artisans and craftsmen.
7.	Survey and Studies.	To under take craft specific and areas specific surveys to have data base in Handicrafts.

S. No.	Name of the scheme	Objective
8.	Exhibition and Publicity	1. To assist organisations engaged in Marketing/development of handicrafts in (Corporations, Co-operatives, Apex Societies) holding exhibitions. 2. To undertake and assist organisations in undertaking market related publicity campaign including advertisements, brochures, catalogues, etc.
9.	Export Promotion	To promote exports of handicrafts.
10.	Training	1. To develop upgradation of skill and impart training both in high demand/export oriented crafts and in languishing crafts. 2. To enhance the employment opportunities.
11.	Social Security and other activities, award and pension scheme.	1. To augment security/confidence of the craftsmen both in terms of recognising his merits and ensuring financial security in old age/infirmity. 2. To give National Awards to the craftsmen for recognising excellence in workmanship.
12.	Equity participation in Central/State Corporations and Apex Societies.	To strengthen the equity base of organisations engaged in marketing of handicrafts.
13.	Construction of Handicrafts Bhavan.	To utilise funds for the construction of Handicrafts Bhavan building at Baba Kharak Singh Marg to accommodate Sales outlet of such States/UTs which do not have any emporia in Delhi.
14.	Special programme for Revival of languishing crafts.	To launch special programmes for identification, survey and revival of languishing crafts through various measures like Design Development, training, exhibition, etc.

[English]

PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN JAMMU REGION

2806. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to prevailing law and order situation in Kashmir valley, the tourist spots in Jammu Region like Kud, Batote and Patni Top are becoming popular amongst the tourist ;

(b) if so, the details of the facilities available for average class of tourists at these places;

(c) the number of tourists who visited these places in 1991, 1992 and 1993 up to June 30;

(d) whether there are any new proposals to develop and exploit further the tourist potential of Patni Top, Kud and Batote;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has any plans to promote adventure tourism especially winter sports in Jammu Region; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the estimated expenditure involved therein ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) & (b) Tourist traffic to Kud, Batote and Patni Top in Jammu region is on increase due to diversion of traffic from Kashmir Valley. There is a tourist Bangalow each at Kud, Batote and Patni Top. There is also a Youth Hostel at Patni Top.

(c) Tourist statistics are not available in respect of Kud, Batote and Patni Top.

(d) No complete proposals for central financial assistance to develop tourist potential of Kud, Batote and Patni Top have been received.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RELEASE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS ON FOREIGN T. V. STATIONS

2807. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the details of the directives issued by the Government to RBI regarding release of foreign exchange for giving advertisements on foreign TV channels.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : The Government had

concurrent with the suggestion of RBI for allowing local agents to collect advertisements for foreign TV network (STAR TV/ ZEE TV etc). subject to the condition that this facility is available only to established exporters for further promotion of their exports. Foreign exchange will, however, not be available for such advertisements by non-exporters or those with negligible export earnings.

[*Translation*]

FINANCE TO GUJARAT BY NABARD

2808. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has provided any refinance assistance to set up rural and cottage industries in Adivasi areas of Chhota-Udaipur of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of refinance provided (outside IRDP) by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to set up rural and cottage industries in Chhota-Udaipur Taluk of Gujarat during each of the last three years are as under :—

(Rs. in creres)		
Year	Activities	Amount
1990-91	Nil	Nil
1991-92	Masonry work, wooden saw mill, flour mill and cycle repairs (No. of Units : 5)	0.940
1992-93	Handicraft, general engineering and construction work (building material) (No. of units : 4)	1.037

Besides the above banks are financing activities under IRDP, with refinance support of NABARD.

[English]

DEVELOPMENT OF SERICULTURE IN UTTAR PRADESH

2809. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any project proposal for the intensive development of sericulture in Eastern region of U. P. (Varanasi and Gazipur) is pending with the Ministry of Textiles;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in giving approval to the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) No, Sir. This project proposal has already been approved by the Government of India in November, 1992.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

NEW PACKAGE PROGRAMME IN GUJARAT

2810. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Development Blocks identified in Gujarat under the New Package Programme ;

(b) the details of activities likely to be undertaken under this Programme ; and

(c) the amount allocated in the State of Gujarat for this Programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) There is no programme known as New Package Programme under implementation in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PENSION SCHEME IN LIC

2811. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India LIC Employees Federation have demanded a pension scheme on the same lines as proposed for bank employees;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS IN GUJARAT

2813. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and marginal farmers in Gujarat who have been provided loans by the cooperative commercial banks and regional rural banks for constructing/boring shallow tubewells in the State during the last two years;

(b) whether any complaints have been received by the Government regarding irregularities in providing the financial assistance during the above period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by the Government to curb such irregularities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their information system does not generate separate data for construction/boring shallow tube-wells as also number of farmers benefited in the State of Gujarat including small and marginal farmers. However, the number of accounts and total amount of loans disbursed towards the minor irrigation schemes to all farmers (including

small and marginal farmers) during the year ended June 1990 and June 1991 by all scheduled commercial banks in the State of Gujarat were as under :—

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	No. of A/cs	Amount disbursed
June 1990	13,860	19.37
June 1991 (Latest available)	17,183	24.56

(b) & (c) Banks are required to follow the guidelines of RBI. If instances of non-observance of RBI guidelines come to the notice of officers of RBI during their branch visit/inspection, the same are taken up with the controlling offices of the concerned banks for initiating corrective action.

Taking into consideration the seriousness of the lapse, if any, on the part of bank staff the management of bank concerned initiates action against them in accordance with the rules, regulation and service conditions.

(c) :

	1991	1992
(i) No. of persons arrested by Enforcement Directorate	336	137
(ii) Foreign currency seized (Rs. in lakhs) by Enforcement Directorate	314.85	192.86

(d) Government have taken various steps such as liberalization of gold and silver imports, full convertibility of the rupee on trade account etc. to reduce the scope for hawala transactions. Action under FERA and COFEPOSA is taken in appropriate cases.

SEBI GUIDELINES REGARDING BONDS

2815. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCS be pleased to state :

(a) whetehr the Government have decided to subject public sector bonds under the regulatory framework of Securities and Exchange Board of India;

SEIZURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCY

2814. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have got success in busting a foreign currency racket;

(b) if so, the details of recoveries made and the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(c) the number of persons arrested and foerign currency seized during the last two years in similar cases; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such activities in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Three premises in Madras were searched on 29-4-1993 resulting in the seizure of foreign currency, Indian currency and certain documents that revealed hawala substantial payments. A person involved in this case has been detained under COF-EPOSA.

(b) if so, whether the Government have asked SEBI to formulate guidelines to regulate the launching of bonds by Public Sector Undertakings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Government have hitherto not finalised the policy for the issue of public sector bonds during 1993-94.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

CENTRAL EXCISE DUTY RULES FOR SSI UNITS

2816. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Central excise duty rules applicable to the SSI Units doing jobbing work;

(b) whether the SSI Units have represented the Government regarding the hardship being caused to them by the existing rules and also regarding their exploitation by the large scale industries in the area of steel fabrication; and

(c) if so, the action taken or being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) There are no separate provisions only for Small scale Units for doing job works. in the Central Excise Rules 1944, but the job work can be carried out in terms of Notification No. 214/86-CX dated 25-3-86 and under Rules 57F(2) and 56B ibid by all manufacturers, including SSI Units.

(b) and (c) No representation has been received recently from SSI Units regarding hardship caused to them because of existing rules or regarding their exploita-

tion by large scale industries in the steel fabrication sector. However, as and when representations are received regarding procedural hardships, these are examined and appropriate action taken.

[Translation]

REFINANCE TO BIHAR BY NABARD

2817. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of refinance proposed to be provided by NABARD to Bihar during the current year for various development programmes; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that an amount of Rs. 10,461 lakhs is proposed to be provided during the current year in respect of Bihar State as refinance under Schematic lending. Purpose-wise break up of this amount is given below :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Purpose	Amount
1.	Minor Irrigation	314
2.	Land Development	89
3.	Farm Mechanisation	1950
4.	Dryland Farming	45
5.	Plantation/Horticulture	83
6.	Dairy Development	255
7.	Inland Fisheries	91
8.	Storage Godowns Market Yards	23
9.	Poultry Farming	102
10.	IRDP	7304
11.	Non Farm Sector	200
12.	Others	5
	Total	10,461

**REPORT ON DEPARTMENTAL
ACCOUNTING**

2818. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA
NAYAK :

SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH :

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Report on departmentalised accounting system has been submitted;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein;

(c) whether the Government have taken action to implement this report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) to (e) The recommendations of the Committee are under examination.

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTMENT
IN INDUSTRIES**

2819. SHRI SIMON MARANDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a continuous decline in the non-Governmental investment in the industries during the last few years;

(b) if so, the total capital invested in 1990, 1991 and 1992, year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for decline in the rate of industrial capital investment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINIS-
TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR.
ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The
Gross Capital Formation in the private

sector at current prices during 1989-90 to 1991-92 is indicated below :

(Rs. Crores)	
	Gross capital formation in the Private sector
1989-90	59.715
1990-91	84.795
1991-92	88.471

The above estimates indicate that private Investment has increased during 1989-90 to 1991-92.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

POLICY FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS

2820. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Minister has written a letter to the President of the World Bank on May 31, 1993 indicating that the Government of India would review continuously the policy frame-work for foreign investors in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have been actively examining the possibility of setting up special development zones on the Chinese pattern for attracting foreign investment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINIS-
TER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR.
ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir,
the Finance Minister wrote to the President of the World Bank on May 31, 1993 while requesting for the External Sector and Investment Liberalisation Programme Loan in which he mentioned that as indicated in the Eighth Plan, Government will continuously review the policy framework for foreign investors to ensure that India can compete effectively with countries that have been successful in attracting foreign investment. The strategy of the

Government is to evolve a coherent programme of foreign investment promotion that would improve the country's image as an attractive destination for investment, generate investment through contact with targetted investors and provide post-approval services. In this framework appropriate institutional arrangements to coordinate this programme will also be considered.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

BOARD OF ARBITRATION AWARD ON CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

2821. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the award announced on the conveyance allowance to all non-gazetted Central Government employees by the Board of Arbitration ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) to (c) The Award given by the Board of Arbitration that non-gazetted central government employees, except those who actually enjoy the benefit of free or subsidised transport facility for travel between their residence and place of duty, or are in receipt of conveyance allowance for this purpose, be given a transport subsidy of Rs. 30/- per employee per month. was considered by the Government.

The implementation of the Award would entail a recurring expenditure of Rs. 176/- crore per annum. In the context of the need for exercising utmost economy in government spending, a recurring expenditure of this size will impose additional burden on the exchequer which would affect the National economy. Therefore, it was decided to reject the Award. A statement to this effect was laid on the Table of the House on 31st August, 1990. The Resolution is yet to be moved in the House.

LOAN TO SCs/STs IN MADHYA PRADESH

2822. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commercial banks have been following the Reserve Bank of India guidelines in providing loans to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pradesh ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore ;

(c) the number of cases of violation of the Reserve Bank of India guidelines by the above banks noticed by the Government during the last two years ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d) The commercial banks are required to follow the instructions of the Reserve Bank of India including these for advancing loans to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. With a view to increase flow of credit to SC/ST beneficiaries it has been enjoined upon banks by Reserve Bank of India that 10% of their total advances should be for weaker sections including that of SCs/STs. Banks have been advised, by the Reserve Bank in this context that special effort should be made to evolve suitable bankable schemes for SC/ST beneficiaries. Accordingly, the commercial banks participating in the programmes sponsored by the Government to enable the identified beneficiaries to pursue viable schemes for their upliftment. In addition to the above, the banks also frame schemes on their own to assist weaker sections of the society by way of providing loans to them for productive ventures. The performance of public sector banks in the matter of extending credit assistance to SC/ST beneficiaries is reviewed by the Government as well as RBI periodically and suitable steps are taken to make up the deficiencies noticed, if any.

The amount of disbursement made by scheduled commercial banks to priority

sector, weaker section and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Madhya Pra-

desh has been increasing as is evident from the following table :

	Priority Sector		Weaker Section		SCs/STs	
	A/cs	Amount	A/cs	Amount	A/cs	Amount
Disbursement during the year 1989-90 (July—June)	3.94	443.98	2.33	113.48	1.18	55.79
1990-91 (July—June)	4.12	537.32	2.39	110.04	1.31	66.78

The applications are received by banks branches for grant of assistance directly from applicants or through State sponsored agencies. Action against officials is taken by banks in accordance with the laid down rules and procedures for wilful neglect, non-following of instructions, any reported malpractices etc. The reporting system from bank does not generate information on the number of employees against whom action has been taken or contemplated for various category of charges.

SHIPPING CREDIT AND INVESTMENT COMPANY OF INDIA

2823. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India was promoted by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to separate SCICI from ICICI completely ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pursuant to the enactment of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986, the SDFC was abolished and all assets, liabilities, rights and privileges and properties of the SDFC

stood transferred to and became vested in the Central Government. Simultaneous with such abolition, the Government advised ICICI Limited to take steps to promote a new institution which would be run on professionally commercial lines and would, inter-alia, also take over the function and management of the portfolio of the erstwhile SDFC. These developments resulted in the incorporation and setting up of SCICI Limited.

(c) and (d) Both SCICI and ICICI are separate legal entities registered under the Companies Act, 1956. Hence the question of separating SCICI and ICICI does not arise.

REVENUE FROM SSI SECTOR

2824. PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are going to mop up an additional revenue from the SSI sector this year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether this is going to create shortage of funds for Small Scale Units ; and

(d) if so, the relief measures being adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) As announced by the Finance Minister in the Lok Sabha on 27-2-93 while presenting the Budget for the year 1993-94, the scheme of higher notional

credit has been withdrawn w.e.f. 1-4-93. Under this scheme, the buyers of goods from small scale manufacturers were getting a higher notional credit under the MODVAT scheme which was 5 percentage points more than the excise duty actually paid by the SSI units.

In the said Budget, the concessional rate of duty in respect of clearances above Rs. 50 lakhs and upto Rs. 75 lakhs made by small scale units was also reduced by 5 percentage points w.e.f. 1-4-93.

Rs. 200 crores of revenue per year is estimated to accrue to the Government due to above changes, the major portion of which is on account of the withdrawal of the scheme of higher notional credit w.e.f. 1-4-93.

(c) The major portion of the additional revenue is on account of withdrawal of higher notional credit scheme which would accrue to the Government from the users of the goods who are mostly in the large scale sector and not from the SSI units. Hence the withdrawal of the scheme may not have a serious effect on the small scale units.

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

[*Translation*]

ACTION AGAINST COMMISSION AGENTS

2825. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by Controller of Capital Issues state-wise against commission agents during the last three years and the number of complaints disposed of ;

(b) whether the Government have taken some steps for early disposal of complaints;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The Office of the

Controller of Capital Issues (CCI) was closed consequent to repeal of CCI Act on 29th May, 1992. Before that date the office of the CCI had not received any complaints on this subject.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES

2826. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought the World Bank assistance for restructuring and rationalisation of some Public Sector Enterprises in the Country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Government have sought the assistance of World Bank for restructuring and rationalisation of some Public Sector Enterprises. Discussions with the World Bank are continuing in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SMALL SAVING SCHEMES

2827. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of various small savings schemes running in the country at present and the details of each such schemes ;

(b) the year-wise and State-wise amount deposited under these savings schemes during the last three years ;

(c) the purpose for which this amount has been utilised ; and

(d) the share of States and the Union Government regarding utilisation of this amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The information is indicated in *Statement-I*.

(b) The information is indicated in *Statement-II*.

(c) and (d) Three-fourth of the net small savings collections made in a state is passed on to that state Government as a long term loan for financing the state plan.

Statement—I

Small Savings Schemes currently in force.

S. No.	Name of Scheme	Rate of interest per annum	
1. @	Post Office Savings Accounts	5.5% simple (Individual Account)	
2. *	Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 years)	13.5% compounded quarterly. (Maturity value is Rs. 856.40 for Rs. 10 denomination).	
3. *	Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (6 Years)	14% payable monthly plus bonus at 10% of deposit at the end of 6 years.	
4. *	Post Office Time Deposit	} Interest compounded quarterly and payable annually.	
	(a) 1 year Deposit		12%
	(b) 2 year Deposit		12%
	(c) 3 year Deposit		13%
	(d) 5 year Deposit		13.5%
5. **	National Savings Certificate, VIII Issue (6-Years)	12% Compounded half yearly. (Maturity value is Rs. 201.50 for Rs. 100 denomination).	
6. **	National Savings Scheme 1992	11%	
7. @	Deposit Scheme for Retiring Govt. Employees.	10% payable half-yearly.	
8. @	Deposit Scheme for Retiring Employees of Public Sector Companies.	10% payable half-yearly.	
9.	Indira Vikas Patra (5 years)	Amount doubles in five years.	
10.	Kisan Vikas Patra (5 years)	Do.	
11. @	Public Provident Fund Scheme (15 Years).	12%.	

*Benefit under Section 80L available.

**Benefit under Section 88 & Sec. 80L available.

@Interest completely tax free.

Statement—II

GROSS AND NET SAVINGS COLLECTIONS IN POST OFFICES

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93 (Provisional)	
		Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
1.	Andhra Pradesh	93193	52424	84291	32763	76748	17213
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	479	134	466	209	510	207
3.	Assam	31759	15410	34557	14524	33152	10143
4.	Bihar	117120	41928	103982	22542	102965	14800
5.	Goa	4886	2513	4360	1529	2241	—1081
6.	Gujarat	168531	96307	152804	59898	141421	38678
7.	Haryana	51641	24760	54426	17981	57491	13758
8.	Himachal Pradesh	21601	10654	27521	12805	24893	2520
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9816	4780	14080	5393	14333	5593
10.	Karnataka	78744	29806	77604	31610	87439	28489
11.	Kerala	41160	21388	44764	17442	46998	13406
12.	Madhya Pradesh	59212	24960	60395	19045	55941	11137
13.	Maharashtra	216370	75922	220820	50914	190088	12137
14.	Manipur	721	385	729	349	739	259
15.	Meghalaya	1687	765	1943	833	1912	483
16.	Mizoram	401	158	640	379	765	396
17.	Nagaland	431	179	514	148	475	109
18.	Orissa	48110	26258	39015	13200	41661	2690
19.	Punjab	65502	36489	69780	23919	73210	23200
20.	Rajasthan	76131	41994	73389	35782	82263	30403
21.	Sikkim	216	155	185	81	201	26
22.	Tamil Nadu	83283	37784	133631	53584	162080	52678
23.	Tripura	4716	2405	5145	2287	5125	766
24.	Uttar Pradesh	301842	154257	269112	82808	275828	73760
25.	West Bengal	209979	93989	192088	58276	199860	57261
Total States		1687531	795804	1666241	558301	1678339	409031

Note : The statement does not include the figures of PPF in Banks and Deposit Scheme for Retiring Employees.

[English]

PAYING GUEST SCHEME

2828. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the paying guest scheme for the promotion of tourism ;

(b) if so, the States where the scheme has been introduced ;

(c) the names of cities in each State where the paying guest scheme has been introduced ;

(d) whether the Government propose to extend the scheme to other cities and towns ; and

(e) if so, the details of the proposal of the Government in this regard for 1993-94 and also during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM

NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The scheme is applicable in all States/Union Territories. Applications are approved by the Committee set up for this purpose. So far it has been approved in the following States/cities :

State	City
Assam	Guwahati
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
Delhi	Delhi
Karnataka	Bangalore
Kerala	Trivandrum
Orissa	Puri
Meghalaya	Shillong
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal & Gwalior
Maharashtra	Bombay, Karla & Lonavala
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Mount Abu, Ajmer, Pushkar, Bikaner & Jaisalmer.
Tamil Nadu	Madras.
West Bengal	Calcutta

[Translation]

2829. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had fixed any target for capital investment in the country during the last three years :

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the total foreign capital investment made during this period, country-wise :

(d) whether the Government have examined the impact of activities of securities and Exchange Board of Indian foreign investment ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government does not have data on foreign capital investment during this period country-wise. However, details of approvals accorded are given in the attached statement.

(d) and (e) Foreign investment comes through four routes, namely Foreign Direct Investment, Euro-Equity Issues through Global Depository Receipts & Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds, Off-shore Funds, and Foreign Institutional Investors (FII). SEBI's regulatory jurisdiction arises only in the registration of FIIs for portfolio investment, and hitherto 55 FIIs have received SEBI registration.

Statement

(Rupees in Millions)

1993 (upto June, 1993)

1992

1991

Sl. No.	Name of Country	1991			1992			1993 (upto June, 1993)		
		SIA	RBI	TOTAL	SIA	RBI	TOTAL	SIA	RBI	TOTAL
1.	U. S. A.	1396.5	462.0	1858.5	9398.1	2916.9	12315.0	20684.0	292.2	20976.2
2.	Thailand	—	—	—	—	19.2	19.2	3664.0	—	3664.0
3.	Switzerland	347.4	7.5	355.0	6301.0	596.6	6897.6	3534.6	475.4	4010.0
4.	Japan	195.5	331.6	527.1	4973.7	1128.6	6102.3	920.0	115.6	1035.6
5.	Germany	401.2	16.8	418.0	476.8	385.9	862.7	982.2	130.0	1112.2
6.	U. K.	243.2	77.8	321.0	693.4	483.3	1176.7	3534.6	262.2	3796.8
7.	China	7.5	—	7.5	—	—	—	75.0	286.8	361.8
8.	Singapore	12.5	1.2	13.7	571.8	30.3	602.1	339.5	33.7	373.2
9.	Italy	174.2	3.9	178.1	881.6	12.3	893.9	359.8	64.5	424.3
10.	Netherlands	233.3	325.9	559.2	877.4	90.5	967.9	442.6	5.5	448.1
11.	Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	1.0
12.	Austria	15.9	—	15.9	56.0	5.4	61.4	85.0	5.5	90.5
13.	Australia	13.4	12.7	26.1	648.2	128.0	776.2	31.7	8.5	40.2
14.	Canada	10.7	37.9	48.6	2.5	5.3	7.8	20.0	1.1	21.1
15.	Belgium	16.1	—	16.1	235.0	2.0	237.0	11.2	—	11.2
16.	Denmark	111.7	—	111.7	86.2	166.1	252.3	8.0	31.7	39.7
17.	France	91.3	102.0	193.3	134.3	162.4	296.4	29.0	32.1	61.1
18.	Finland	25.3	—	25.3	104.2	0.8	105.0	6.3	—	6.3
19.	Hongkong	211.5	—	211.5	522.5	48.3	570.8	3.0	15.9	18.9
20.	Ireland	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.1	15.0	—	15.0
21.	Korea (South)	61.5	—	61.5	362.6	31.4	394.0	58.9	20.4	79.3

Sl. No.	Name of Country	1991			1992			1993 (upto June, 1993)		
		SIA	RBI	TOTAL	SIA	RBI	TOTAL	SIA	RBI	TOTAL
22.	Kuwait	—	—	—	—	0.9	0.9	—	0.5	0.5
23.	Malaysia	1.8	—	1.8	—	744.3	744.3	69.6	14.5	84.1
24.	Mauritius	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.0	3.0
25.	Norway	—	3.8	3.8	—	9.2	9.2	0.2	26.5	26.7
26.	Philippines	—	—	—	50.0	—	50.0	26.0	4.0	30.0
27.	Russia	56.1	30.0	86.1	99.1	16.8	115.9	13.6	0.6	14.2
28.	Saudi Arabia	—	—	—	3.0	0.1	3.1	97.0	2.5	99.5
29.	Slovakia	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	—	0.5
30.	Spain	—	—	—	—	—	—	7.5	—	7.5
31.	Sweden	60.9	8.9	69.8	254.2	229.9	484.1	—	6.2	6.2
32.	Taiwan	4.5	—	4.5	117.7	2.3	180.0	16.0	2.3	18.3
33.	NRI*	197.0	—	197.0	3997.6	393.7	4391.3	2444.7	113.9	2558.6
34.	All Countries Including Above	3918.7	1422.4	5341.1	31104.5	7770.9	38875.4	37535.7	1984.0	39519.7

Note :—*Represents NRI Proposals only

[English]

NORMS FOR PROVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES

2830. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister for PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government/Planning Commission have laid down any criteria or norms for creation of public utility services like schools, primary health centres, post offices, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government have specially consideration for backward, under-developed areas, hilly areas and other such areas where road communications are scarce;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has not laid down any criteria as such for establishing new primary/upper primary schools. It however, concurs with the norms laid down in the Programme of Action on National Policy on Education (1986) and Programme of Action (1992). It is primarily for the State Governments to formulate detailed programmes and schemes for setting up of schools within the accepted policy framework.

According to the Eighth Five Year Plan, 500 new urban post-offices and 3,000 rural post-offices are to be opened.

One Primary Health Centre for every 30,000 population in plains and 20,000 population in tribal and hilly areas will be set up.

(c) to (e) Planning of an area primarily is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Central Government gives special consideration for backward, underdeveloped areas, hill areas, etc. through (a) Special Area Programmes, (b) transfer of resources under modified formula, and (c) devolution of non-Plan resources by the Finance Commission.

INDUSTRIES IN BACKWARD HILL AREAS

2831. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government in their Budget for 1993-94 have given 5-year tax holiday to entrepreneurs setting up industries in industrially backward and hill areas;

(b) if so, the reasons for not including the industrially backward and no industry districts of Uttar Pradesh in the list of areas given tax-holiday ?

(c) whether the elected representative(s) of these districts have also raised this issue; and

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

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

(a) The five-year tax holiday provision under section 80-1A, introduced by the Finance Act, 1993 is available for new

industrial undertakings which start production after 1-4-1993 but before 31-3-1998 in backward States specified in the Fifth Schedule to the Income-tax Act.

(b) These backward States are those in which all the districts have been classified as industrially backward. A Study Group has been constituted to explore methods for providing fiscal support for new industrial undertakings in industrially backward district of State, which are not, as a whole, classified as backward.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Study Group has been set up in order to explore methods for enhancing fiscal supports for new industrial undertakings in backward districts of other States which are not, as a whole, classified as backward.

[*Translation*]

DEVELOPMENT OF UTTARANCHAL

2832. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has allocated funds for the various schemes of development of Uttaranchal recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the details of funds released, scheme-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An outlay of Rs. 408 crores has been fixed for development of Uttaranchal during 1993-94 as per details given below :—

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No	Item	Expenditure	
		Outlay	(Funds released so far)
1.	Agriculture & Allied Services	91.50	28.33
2.	Rural Development	27.70	4.53
3.	Irrigation & Flood Control	19.05	9.29
4.	Energy	57.50	15.35
5.	Industry & Mining	10.31	3.38
6.	Transport and Communication	64.51	20.69
7.	Science & Technology	0.63	0.03
8.	General Economic Services	15.10	4.36
9.	Social Services	121.70	41.55
	Total	408.00	127.51

12.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER
INSAT-2B SATELLITE

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : I am delighted to inform the Honourable Members of the House that the second indigenously built second generation multipurpose geostationary satellite, INSAT-2B has been successfully placed in its orbital position and all the payloads have been switched on. The spacecraft has been declared fully operational.

The 1932 Kg. satellite was successfully launched by the Ariane launch vehicle on July 23, 1993 and was injected in to geostationary transfer orbit. Immediately following the launch several critical manoeuvres were carried out using the systems on board the satellite, by the INSAT Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka. The satellite was first placed in a near geosynchronous orbit, nearly 36,000 KM above the earth, by firing the liquid apogee motor in three stages. Then the Spacecraft was allowed to move slowly towards its final orbital position at 93.5 Degree East longitude and all the deployments were carried out. INSAT-2B achieved its full in-orbit configuration on schedule, due to the excellent performance of all the systems on-board.

INSAT-2B carries 18-band transponders including six in extended C-band, 2 high power S-band transponders, a Very High Resolution Radiometer for meteorological imaging, a Data Relay Transponder and a Search and Rescue payload. A series of extensive checks and characterisation of all the payloads have been carried out and the Spacecraft will be put into regular operational use from August 15, 1993.

INSAT-2B will add capacity to the INSAT system for more long distance telecommunications circuits, business networks, remote area communication, teleconferencing, national and regional TV networks, Satellite TV channels, messaging and data net works. The Search and Rescue Payload which is a new feature added to the INSAT-2

system will instantaneously detect distress alerts over a vast region around India for taking appropriate rescue measures.

INSAT-2B, like INSAT-2A is a complex and state-of-the-art spacecraft, and has been entirely designed and built in India with minimal imported parts and components. I am sure that Members of the House would join me in conveying our deep appreciation and heartiest congratulations to all the Scientists, Engineers, Technicians and other support staff of the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Department of Space for the great success that they have achieved in making available INSAT-2B for national services. The country can be justifiably proud of this magnificent achievement.

12.04 hrs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : We also join the Prime Minister in congratulating our scientists. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Let us do it one by one. I will allow you. But I will first allow Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan because I have promised him yesterday.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

Sir, millions of people are facing threat to their lives in Vidisha district. The Betwa river is the lifeline of Vidisha and Raisen districts. Alongwith Vidisha, Basauda; Purwai and Mandi Bamaura, millions of people of several other cities and villages are dependent on the river Betwa for drinking water. But Mr. Speaker Sir, from Mandideep to Vidisha, several industrial units and factories have been set up along the river Betwa which pollute it. On 9th March, I had asked in this House whether the Betwa was being polluted by industries factories, the reply was in affirmative. The names of industrial units which pollute Betwa were also given and an assurance was given that action against these units would be taken, but nothing has been done. On the Sixth

August, the river Betwa was polluted by discharging effluents by an industrial unit Som Distillery. Its water become poisonous and millions of fish and other animals died due to it. A number of persons and cattle had fallen sick and they are still suffering. The supply of water to entire Vidisha district from Betwa river has been stopped. But no action has been taken against this industrial unit. It is very sad that the Minister of Environment went to Bhopal but he could not go to Betwa which is just 25 kilometers from there to see for himself. The Government and the Pollution Control Board could not identify the industrial unit which pollutes Betwa. I would like to say that stern action should be taken against the industrial unit as also against the officials of the Pollution Control Board responsible therefor. I urge upon the Government to implement the scheme immediately, for making the Betwa pollution free.

12.07 hrs.

**RE : RESERVATION IN PROMOTIONS
FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue. I have already given a notice in this regard. I am happy that Kesariji is present here and he had given an assurance in this regard. I am raising the issue regarding the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions. After the Supreme Court's judgement of 16th November, this issue has been raised for several times in the House. Hon. Members of all the political parties have demanded that the issue of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions should not be affected by the judgement of the Supreme Court. The judgement of the Supreme Court is a matter between the Government and the law department, but it should not affect the provision of reservation for SCs/STs in promotions

The hon. Minister had given the first statement on this issue on December 22 and I have the proceedings of the House of May 10 of the last session with me. This House had discussed the issue for one long hour in which the leaders of all the political parties had participated. In the end hon. Shri Kesari stated that he had issued the orders and this provision of reservation in promotions would not be affected. I have cited an example that Syndicate Bank has advertised 1600 vacancies and reservation for SCs/STs in promotion was abolished by saying that :

[English]

"The Government of India has since examined the matter and clarified that the Syndicate Bank is not required to provide reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion."

[Translation]

They denied the reservation in promotion in the case of these 1600 posts on the basis of this judgement. Earlier it was stated :

[English]

"In consonance with the hon. Supreme Court's judgement, the bank provided reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion, communicated vide such and such date. But the Government of India has since examined the matter and clarified that the Syndicate Bank is not required to provide reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion."

[Translation]

The hon. Minister has stated that Constitution will also be amended, if needed. We have been demanding time and again that if you want to make amendment in the Constitution, you should do it without any discussion and keep the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes intact otherwise the agitation being launched by the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Association in the South

will be intensified. On the 26th of the last month, the day the session had commenced, more than ten thousand officers and employees had staged a demonstration in support of this demand. It is a very serious matter. In his speech Kesariji may say that he has done this or that, but the fact is otherwise. The practice of giving reservation in promotions has practically been stopped. Through you, I would like to know from the Government as to what action has been taken against the officers responsible for doing away with the reservation in promotions? What action is proposed to be taken against such officers after today's announcement? It is a serious matter so it should be taken seriously.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): The issue raised by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has already been discussed several times in this House and both the sides had taken part in the discussion on it. On this issue we all have the same opinion that the judgement on Mandal Commission recommendations should not affect the provision of reservation for SC/ST in promotions. But the Government has done nothing in this regard and promotions to the people have been stopped.

Although, I have risen to raise an other point. In Narnaul....

MR. SPEAKER : Let it be completed first.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESARI) : Sir, hon. Ram Vilas has stated rightly that I had assured this House on December 22, 1992 that the judgement of the Supreme Court will not create any hurdle in the promotions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as my party and the Government are committed to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I had also stated that at present it did not affect the provision of reservation in promotions. If at all this judgement affects, we will solve the problem through evolving consensus among the various political parties (*Interruptions*). Please listen to me. I repeat it again that we will amend

the Constitution, if required. I am still in its favour.

The third point raised by Shri Ram Vilas is that some Banks, including Syndicate Bank, do not provide reservation in promotions as well as in services. I would like to say that orders are there in this regard. He has also asked as to what action has been taken against the officers who have been responsible for creating hurdles in providing reservations in promotions. You also had been a minister and you can level charges. I will give orders in this regard; but the style of functioning of the machinery is known to all of us. (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me. It is the truth. (*Interruptions*)

SRI KALKA DAS (Karolbagh) : He is not going to implement it on the pretext of machinery. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : He is throwing his inefficiency on bureaucrats. Could any minister say that he was willing to do a thing but due to bureaucracy he was unable to do that? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SITARAM KESARI : Hon. Ram Vilas has asked whether the officers found guilty of not providing reservation in promotions, have been punished or not? I would like to assure the House that the action taken against such officials will be informed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKA DAS : This department should not be under such a weak minister. How he will be able to do the welfare of the people when his machinery does not obey him.*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SITARAM KESARI : It is immaterial whether you call me as weak or brave, you know it well. All are equally powerful in the House, none is weak or strong. Leave this aside. I would like to assure the House that if any body creates the hurdle he will be.....

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : They have created the hurdles.

SHRI SITARAM KESARI : If it is so I will give orders to take action against the persons responsible for it. I would like to say that you are familiar with the Government machinery. (Interruptions)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has assured us not only today but earlier too. But today I would like to know the time by which the amendment to the Constitution will be made. It should be made in this session itself. He should make an assurance to remove all the hindrances coming in the way. He should bring the amendment during the current session otherwise we will have no faith in the assurances given by him.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Sir, I would like to know one thing. The question is not that he will issue the orders for punishing the guilty officials. But I would like to know from the Finance Minister who is also present here that the circular has a reference to the Government's order containing the Government's interpretation of the judgement given by the Supreme Court, in this case. What the Syndicate Bank can do? The Government of India and the Ministry has ordered not to implement it. Kesariji can write, but I would like to know from the Finance Minister whether he will order to promote the 1600 officers of Syndicate Bank whose promotions have been withheld. Through you I would like to know from the Finance Minister whether he will rectify the earlier order. (Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now Kesariji has assured

the House but it is not for the first time that he has given the assurance. Earlier too he has assured the House categorically that the total backlog will be wiped out by the 31st March. Sir, you may be remembering that through you, I had asked about the formula or method for completing this work. Despite the intention of and the personal interest taken by Kesariji in this regard, I would like to say that it was an unsuccessful attempt.

The second issue is related to the Supreme Court. Not only the Syndicate Bank but the Cochin located Central Tribunal also has issued orders, circulars and letters saying that it will implement the Supreme Court decision regarding the reservation and promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Punjab, Karnataka and several other Governments have issued circulars and letters in this regard. Assurance given by Kesariji has no meaning in this House unless the Government of India, Department of Personnel issues orders and circulates directions properly to all the appointing authorities, whether it is State Government, Public undertaking or any other authority, otherwise it could not be implemented. I am thankful to all the hon Members, for expressing their views. Despite the decision of the Supreme Court, several Governmental and Semi-Governmental institutions have directed to implement those instructions after five years in violation or in contradiction of the judgement. In these circumstances, what is the use of issuing circular now. They are of the view that it will be implemented after five years, but in practice, its implementation has started today itself. (Interruptions) I would like to cite an example of the demotion case of under-secretaries for which a meeting was convened. In this meeting all the Secretaries, the Minister of the Department of Personnel and the Attorney General were present and a decision was taken rectifying the order of reversion caused due to the Supreme Court judgement. So, if you all deem fit, I would like to request the Government on behalf of all of you that a meeting may be called to discuss the decision of the Supreme Court as well as the circulars,

orders, directives etc. issued by various Agencies following the Supreme Court decision. It would be better if the Department of Personnel possibly the hon. Minister may attend the meeting. Otherwise these assurances will be on papers only.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shri Sitaram Kesri is giving assurances. He is a Minister of empty assurances ! It is a very serious matter. In the House repeatedly the Minister in-charge of a particular matter is making solemn assurances which are not being carried out and there is no explanation why they are not being carried out except to say that the machinery is not to his liking. What is the message that is going to the country ? The Government of India cannot get its policies or decisions implemented because of the machinery which they have set-up. Especially, when our Constitution has guaranteed the reservations the most vulnerable section of our society is being denied their constitutional rights. Should we be sitting here silently while the Minister is coming up and throwing up his arms, saying that he is not able to get the decisions implemented ?

There is another serious matter about the misinterpretation of the Supreme Court judgement. There is supposedly a circular which is creating a difficulty, I am told. I have not seen that circular. If that is so, then, what is the difficulty in the Government withdrawing that circular ? How long will it take ? Therefore, I take the strongest objection to the attitude which is being shown to matters which have been discussed and assurances were given by the Minister on the floor of the House. This is nothing but an insult to Parliament. Then, what is the good of this Parliament if Ministerial assurances are not carried out ? Action must be taken and we want a categorical date. Today it must be stated to everybody's satisfaction by which date this would be done, when the Minister agrees to do it. They have repeatedly assured us. We just cannot allow the matter to be mentioned and

the Minister to get away with it. Well, I am sorry I am not saying anything, but it must be done. I would request the hon. Prime Minister to look into this matter. A Cabinet Minister—apart from the fact that he is controlling the treasury of the Party—is saying that he is helpless and that he is a useless Minister !

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh) : No. He has not said that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is making empty promises. He may say that he is unable to do it and he may request the Prime Minister to provide the machinery to implement. I demand that some steps should be taken immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views in brief. On November 16, 1992 the Supreme Court had given a decision on the Mandal Commission recommendations. The people belonging to SCs/STs had expressed their reaction on that decision. The hon. Members have also expressed their emotions and views a number of times in this House through questions and other means and wanted to know whether it would be applicable to the promotions of SC/ST. In Syndicate bank and other organisations, the promotion of 1600 officials have been withheld. I wanted to know from the hon. Ministers in this House as well as in person about it. In reply to the queries asked by the hon. Members in this regard, the hon. Minister repeatedly assured to amend the Constitution, if required. But now he is saying very innocently to Paswanji, that he knows the style of functioning of bureaucracy. It means that he is accepting the lacuna in administration. Being a Cabinet Minister Kesariji is accepting the shortcomings in administration. He is accepting that intention of the officers of Government of India is not good.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Constitution will be amended and the date by which the orders will be issued in this regard.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Sir, I would like to say something about the reply given by the hon. Minister and the comment made on it by Shri Somnathji.

Mr. Speaker Sir, if the Government is unable to implement the provisions of the Constitution, the decisions of the Court and the assurances given by the Government itself in this House, it is clearly evident that the bureaucracy is not following the orders of the Government. It is the direct contempt of the House and breach of privileges. I request you to treat this matter as breach of privileges and you please direct the hon. Minister to present the list of such officials within 24 hours, so that this House can take action against them in this regard and the problems may be solved permanently.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I differ with the opinion given by Mr. George Fernandes. This reply is a way to mislead the House. When the hon. Minister says that you know the way of functioning of officials I think that the Government should first clear its attitude on this issue. I would like to know the stand of the Government and not the stand of Kesariji or a Welfare Minister. I remember that in November, 1992 when this decision of Supreme Court was given, the reaction of the common people like me was that it is related only to reservation for backward classes and not to the reservation for SC/STs in promotions. But on higher level officer in the Government has told me that it will affect the whole reservation and so we have to issue the orders accordingly. So I do not consider Canara Bank, Syndicate Bank or Finance Ministry guilty for it.

The whole Government is guilty for it and there is no question of any official. This statement is not correct that officials are not obeying the orders given by the Government. I am of the opinion that the Government is unable to take any decision in this regard... (*Interruptions*)

The higher officer told me that unless the Constitution was amended, the Supreme Court Orders would remain effective

on all the reservation in promotions; this is the interpretation of the Government in respect of the decision. Within the last nine or ten months; it is the third or fourth time that Kesariji has assured that the Government is bound to protect the interest of SC/ST and if required, the Government would amend the Constitution. The Committee on Assurances looks into the assurances given in the House. But this issue is related to a big class, and is being discussed publically. It is not the question which relates to Kesariji, it relates to the Prime Minister. So I request you to direct the Prime Minister to implement the assurance given in the House.

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Speaker Sir, when the Minister was complaining against the bureaucracy, I was willing to raise the issue of point of order. If a Cabinet Minister says that bureaucracy is guilty for non-implementation of any policy then what importance remains of the House. I support the statement given by Shri Advaniji as to how a Cabinet Minister can say that bureaucracy is not obeying his orders. Ram Vilasji has already raised the issue regarding the Syndicate Bank but the Finance Minister is silent on the issue and says that he is fighting for the poor but the Syndicate Bank is under the Finance Ministry. Both the Cabinet Ministers are present. I request you to take decision on this issue of Constitutional crisis. In Parliamentary democracy, not bureaucracy but the Minister is accountable to the House. This is a fundamental issue. In Parliamentary Democracy Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narsimha Rao's Cabinet is accountable to Lok Sabha. So I urge upon you to take decision in this regard to maintain the dignity of the House as well as to maintain the accountability of the Cabinet to the House. The Minister will repeat his inability even after one month so I request you to interfere in the matter.

The Government has forgotten all the issues in the name of economic liberalisation. The former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar is present here. He had also complained that the officers had not shown the World Bank report to him when he was Prime Minister.

[English]

The Parliamentary democracy has come to a grinding halt by the statement of the Minister.

[Translation]

So I am waiting anxiously for your decision on this matter for efficient functioning of Parliamentary democracy.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since I find that you have permitted a mini debate to take place on this issue, I would like to say something.

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is an important issue.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We are in Zero Hour. Anyway, it is good that you have permitted a debate to go on. I think I should chip in also.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; we would like to hear you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, from the past experience in Parliament, I think, we can generally conclude that it is not considered proper and it is not considered in accordance with the norms of propriety for the Ministers to take shelter behind this excuse that their officers are either concealing something or have done something wrong. For example, the Finance Minister is here and such a big uproar has been going on for months about a matter with which his Ministry is very much concerned. But I never seen him coming to the House and trying to put the blame on some officers. He has his own way of getting out of it, but he has never blamed the officers in any way. He blames the system. He says, it is a systemic failure, nothing to do with the individuals. But now, if the Ministers are going to take shelter behind this plea, then I want to know what is going to be the effect of it on the officials and the bureaucracy. It is a very dangerous thing.

The hon. Ministers, in the past, even if they felt or even if they knew that there were some trouble being caused or some

hold up is there because of some obstructive tactics of some officers or the bureaucrats, they never said it on the floor of the House. It is their internal matter and they can sort it out with their officials in the Ministry or the Department. But, on such an important basic matter which is agitating the whole country and the whole House and which concerns the future of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe communities in this country, the most oppressed and deprived people, I am surprised that a Minister like the hon. Minister here—who, we know, is at heart a well wisher of these people—comes here and seeks refuge behind this excuse. I do not know whether it is true or not and I do not know whether the officers are to be blamed for that. Even if they are to be blamed, I do not think it is fair for the Minister to come here and put the whole responsibility on them as though the Ministry, the Cabinet and the Government has nothing to do with it. He is setting up a very dangerous precedent which will cause a lot of complications in the internal working of his own Ministry and the Government and I do not think it is the correct way of dealing with this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Please tell the name of the Officer ...

MR. SPEAKER: You should listen. You have raised an important matter. Therefore, you must listen only then you can have some reply.

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: I have said it and I am saying it again that it is all the machinery and you all know what is the speed of it. I have never named any particular officer.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Who is responsible then?

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Please listen to me. Mr. Speaker, Sir, secondly, as Shri Ram Vilas ji has asked as to why these people were not punished. I assure that if they have done so, I will definitely take

action against them. Thirdly this matter is not related only to us but is also related to the Department of Personnel. Fourthly, Shri Somnathji has said that I have insulted the House. In this connection I would like to request with folded hands that I have no intension whatsoever to do such a thing because this House is the supreme forum of this country and if I have committed any mistake, then I am prepared to withdraw it... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said that if it is so then I am sorry for that. He has called me useless. Possibly he may be right in saying so.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There is no personal reflection. I know him, but as a result of your admission, you have become useless minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SITARAM KESRI : I would like to submit that all of you have the right to put blame on me. But I have my own difficulties which I have put before you. Now they say that I have no right to put a blame on any person or any officer. I have not done so and if I have done : I withdraw that.

Sir, I have given assurances not once, but so many times and I still stick to that assurance. Vishwanathji, wanted to know about the time. It was clearly written in the judgement of the Supreme Court that reservation in Promotions for the next five years will not be affected in any way. I have said in this House on 22nd December, 1992 that we will take a decision in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes after consulting all the political parties, after the judgement of Supreme Court comes in the way ; if required, we would amend the Constitution. I repeat that I am prepared to amend the Constitution in consultation with all of you.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I want to know whether the Government has passed orders to give reservation in accordance with the decision ?

MR. SPEAKER : You hear him completely.

[Translation]

SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Now, the question arises whether any department of our ministry has issued some instructions that the decision of the Supreme Court regarding ban on reservation in promotions will be implemented from today, then it is wrong. If it is so, then it is a wrong thing. I will certainly write to that Ministry. I repeat it again that if the decision of the Supreme Court affects the promotions of SC/ST in any way, I am prepared to make suitable amendments in the Constitution if it requires... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roserā) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the submission of Shri Kesriji. He has rightly pointed out that this matter is not related to his ministry alone but this issue relates to the entire Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recollect that on the last day of the last Session when the House was to adjourn sine die we put a direct question to the Prime Minister. I would like to quote it. I have said that—

— "It is a question of reservation in promotions for SC/ST. Mandai Commission has said nothing about this, but in spite of that reservation in Promotions is being abolished. On the basis of the decision of the Supreme Court, the Minister of Welfare had said in this House on 22 December that reservation in Promotions would continue for SC/ST. But despite his assurance, it has been abolished. Therefore, I request you that if you do something for them, this community will remain grateful to you."

This is from the Debate of 14th May, 1993. Replying to it, the Prime Minister had stated that—

"Sir, whatever has been said by the Welfare Minister, is the stand of the Government and nothing can be changed in this regard and we can not withdraw from it. It is clear."

I would like to ask as to why inspite of such an assurance by the Prime Minister of this country in this House, the reservation in promotion for SC/ST is being abolished. What more we can hope from the Government? Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Government as a whole. You should call the Prime Minister and it should be made clear as to what is the intention of the Government and for how long, it wants to avoid it. I know that this is not an issue which relates only to Shri Sita Ram Kesri's Department. He is being used as a shield.

MR. SPEAKER : You should not go on speaking like this, otherwise the whole issue will be lost.

[English]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, today, the thing is very clear. What the Supreme Court has said in the judgement is something about the interpretation of various provisions in the Constitution. What the Government of India has been following till today is the policy of the Government of India. Therefore, let there be a clear line of thinking. Let the country know whether the Government of India will stick to the policy that has been followed so far with regard to the reservation of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people or not. If there is anything which is coming in the way as a result of the Supreme Court decision, is the Government willing to bring forward a legislative measure before this House to see that that does not reflect on the policy that the Government of India has been following with regard to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people? This is the limited question.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM KESRI : Sir, so far as the rights provided to SCs/STs under the constitution are concerned, the Government is committed to it and the Government, will definitely implement the provisions relating to it. As Shri Buta Singh has just referred to the decision of the Supreme Court and its impact on the promotions, I would like to assure the House, that the Government has decided to make

necessary amendments in the Constitution; if there is any violation of the rights of the SCs/STs.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today I want the ruling of the Chair on this matter because we have no right to spoil the time of this House by raising such matters again and again. The hon. Minister has already delayed the matter by 9 months through this evasive answers.

SHRI SITA RAM KESRI : I have categorically stated that there will be no impact of the Supreme Court's decision on the rights of the SCs/STs available to them under the Constitution and if it happens we will amend the Constitution.

SHRI RABI RAY : Shri Ram Vilasji, has just drawn the attention of the House to the assurance given by the Prime Minister in this very House. Shri Sita Ramji has expressed his views on it. The Welfare Minister is a very gentleman, I would like to tell him that the speech of Prime Minister has also been mentioned in this regard. The matter relates to the Department of Personnel. However, the Government is a collective body and the Prime Minister is the incharge of the Department of Personnel. It is a matter of surprise that a lot of time has been wasted despite his assurance and the people like me are unable to understand the situation as to how the things will take place?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I do think that the matters which have to be decided by the Government of India should be decided by the Government. It should not be necessary for the Presiding Officers to have any commentary on it. If the matters have to be decided in the court of law, they should be decided in the court of law. They need not be decided in the Parliament. If the matters have to be decided in the Parliament, they should not be decided in any other forum also. But I do realise that this is a very important matter. All the hon. Members have voiced the same views. They have been correct and they have the just interest in their minds. We cannot but appreciate

what they have said on the floor of this House. From all corners, one voice has emerged and the voice is that if the Constitution provides a certain thing, if the Supreme Court has decided a certain thing now, that should be implemented. That is all. There is nothing else. If I have understood correctly, the hon. Minister has very clearly said that the Supreme Court judgement does not prohibit from promoting the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe officers in five years' time from the date the judgement is given or of any other date. If that is the position and if that is the understanding of the Government of the pronouncement given by the Supreme Court, I do think that the Constitution and the pronouncement given by the Supreme Court in interpreting the provisions of the Constitution shall be implemented. I do understand that the orders given by the Ministry of Social Welfare may not be binding on other Ministries. But then, there is a machinery for this purpose which can be used and the machinery is that either the decision can be taken in the Council of Ministers or the decisions can, go as far as the officers are concerned, to the Ministry of Personnel. If the decisions have to go from the Ministry of Personnel on the interpretation given to the pronouncement made by the Supreme Court which is the view of the Social Welfare Ministry also, I think that should be done. It is the wish of this House that the provisions of the Constitution and the judgement, according to your interpretation, should be implemented. I have no doubt in my mind that the Government have the intention to implement it; Government have the capacity to implement it. And even if there are some minor hurdles, the Government have the capability of overcoming those hurdles. If the Government does it, it will be in consonance with the desire of this House and I am sure that the Government will do it.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur) : With all humility, I want to submit to you about one remark of yours. I most respectfully beg to present a different picture, with all respect that the interpretation of the Government that the

Supreme Court order should be implemented, is precisely the bone of contention. (Interruptions) "

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow me a little indulgence. If I have understood what Shri Kesariji has said, if I have understood him and if I am correct, that is the position. If my understanding is wrong, then the position is, what you say is correct. My understanding is, according to Kesariji, the judgement given by the Supreme Court does not prohibit the Government from promoting the officers for five years to come. Later on...

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I made those remarks only because there is a formal decision of the Government itself prohibiting this promotion. That is why I said it. But as you have said it, we understand it fully. So, those fears are removed. But just to put the record straight, it is a very serious issue. When the Court took up this matter, it was for the Government and there was no reference to Scheduled Caste promotion in the case. Now it is the usual practice that if certain matters are before the court, any remark is *obiter dicta*. Had it been the case of Scheduled Caste promotion, then the aggrieved party would have been called, they would have put their case, argued the case and the considered judgement would have come. But just a passing remark cannot be applied to the whole thing. That is our contention. This is precisely what we told the Government. Now on one side, we have the assurance of the Government or of Kesariji and on the other side is what Ram Vilasji has read—the orders of the Government. These two are contradictory—the assurance of the Government, of the Minister and what the Government orders are. This is precisely what our apprehension is. In spite of the assurance, the orders are contrary to it and continued assurance has come. Here, the hon. Minister has expressed his helplessness in the sense that it relates to Personnel Department. I am not talking of the officers of the Personnel Department. That means, his Department is not competent to pass, perhaps, an overall judgment on the entire Government. It relates to the Personnel Department and

the Personnel Department is related to the Prime Minister. He himself had given the assurance. Now precisely we see that Kesariji gives his assurance and it is not implemented. What is necessary now is that the Prime Minister should come and clarify the position. Apart from that now he says,

[Translation]

"it affects"

[English]

Eight to ten months have passed and still he does not know whether

[Translation]

"it affects or not"

[English]

whether it is affecting or not. The whole country is shouting and the doctor is saying. "I will find out whether there is pain or not." When will you decide this? It is affecting us. You please give a date. It is a question not only of what the Court has said. Now it is the question of policy. What is your mind as the custodian of peoples' aspirations? On the political side if you are clear that the promotions have to be protected, there is no question of court order. We will frame laws. Let the Court interpret it. You come with the political will, we will pass it here and that will prevail on the country. And about the specific date, the Prime Minister should come and give a specific date to remove all hurdles because that is the political will of the people.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : You are right when you say that what the Government has to do it has to do, what the court has to do it has to do. As the House, all that we insist on is that there is a categorical assurance given not merely by the Welfare Minister but also by the Prime Minister. Irrespective of what the interpretation of this judgment is, obviously, there seems to be two interpretations.

One put on by the Minister of Welfare, namely, that for five years, this does not

in any way bar the reservations in promotions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and another, perhaps, by the Law Ministry or at least on the basis of which this order was passed. That is an order. So, if this interpretation is correct and it is accepted by the Prime Minister, let that order be withdrawn; that order must be withdrawn because, the withdrawal of that order would be in fulfilment of an assurance given to this House. And, as part of that assurance, they have also been told that, if necessary, the Government would even go in for a Constitutional Amendment. It is, therefore, all that this House insists upon through you, Sir, is that the assurance given categorically by the Minister of Welfare, several times, and endorsed as being the Government's commitment by the Prime Minister must be fulfilled.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, one of the basic features of our Constitution is the accountability of the Council of Ministers to the House of People. Now, Sir, you have been kind enough to observe on the basis of your understanding of the Minister's interpretation of the Supreme Court's judgment, that certain things ought to be followed. That he has agreed to, namely, the Supreme Court's judgment is no bar.

Sir, what I want to know, through you, is this. Can a Cabinet Minister, on the floor of the House, give his own individual opinion because he has to represent the Government's opinion? Therefore, once he has said that the Supreme Court's Judgment is no bar, then, he obviously is representing the Government's opinion. Then, what is the bar, what is the difficulty in giving a time limit because it is the Government's opinion now? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not prolong this matter. We will clinch this matter in this fashion. The Government thinks that this judgment is no bar. It is not only the view expressed by the Minister but, this the view endorsed by the Prime Minister. Now, if this is the position and if there is any circular which is obstructing the promotion of the officers, I would like Shri

Paswan, Shri V. P. Singh, Shri Advani, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Chandra Shekhar ...

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : I do not know much about this, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, Buta Singh and one or two other senior Members and the Minister, be pleased to come together ; I will invite them for a cup of tea and see if the order is obstructing the promotion. We will find out a method to solve this problem and if it is not done, I will allow you to discuss this matter on the floor of the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You may please include Shrimati Margaret Alva also.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Just to put on record, I wish to say that we do not accept this five years limit. To put on record, I want to mention this.

MR. SPEAKER : That is their stand also. If the Minister is saying something, it is the Government's stand, be it the Minister of State or the Deputy Minister.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, who will call the meeting and when it will be called ? Who will call the meeting ? You may call the meeting, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I will do that with one condition that ...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will you call the meeting, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : Please, do not burden me with these kinds of meetings again and again.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We believe, Sir, that you are calling the meeting.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, please allow me to speak.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Acharia ji, I have received a reply in connection with the notice given by you. I have also read out

the same to you. If you pleased wait for some time I will hear you.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to present a strange fact before the House. Even at present war awardees in our country are being given an award of Rs. 5 per month. The persons who had served the nation 60-70 years ago were given awards. The British Government had awarded them this award for their next two generations. But still they are being paid Rs. 5 per month as award. On my enquiring about it I was told that as it was not a gallantry award, its amount could not be increased.

13.00 hrs.

I feel that this is a matter of shame that awardees are being insulted in this way. At present, what is the value of rupees 5 and the Government says that it is not a gallantry award therefore there is no need to increase this amount. I request the Government that as a very few persons have left and they too will die in next 5-7-10 years period. Therefore, this amount should be increased so that they may live with dignity. The Government should consider this issue and these people should at least be paid Rs. 300-400 per month.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker Sir, firstly I am grateful that you have permitted me to join Gen. Khanduri. With your permission, I would like to just broaden the concern of the House. It is my belief that it is the collective concern of the House. You will recollect that as an expression of that concern a Committee was constituted for uniform pension one-rank-one-pension. After the findings of that Committee, certain anomalies of pension remained in that pensioners of Defence Forces were excluded from that benefit. This is an example of that kind of exclusion. I also will recollect that the Government had said that as soon as another Committee formed to

eliminate these anomalies finishes its work, they will inform the House of what has been done. This kind of anomalies amount to not recognizing service to the nation and amount to discrimination between one pensioner and another. It was indeed the responsibility of that Committee to sort it out.

My request through you to the Government is that as far as that Committee's work is concerned, if this House is informed, then a great deal of these aspects and a great deal of the residual concern of ex-servicemen will be set at rest.

13.03 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to draw your attention towards a big demonstration held over the issues of water and electricity by Sarv Jati Kissan Panchayat at Narnaul in Haryana.

The water dispute between Punjab and Haryana has not been settled till date as a result of that South Haryana is continuously facing drought and other such problems. The farmers were given permission to hold their demonstration at I.T.I. ground in Narnaul. When the demonstration was going on suddenly the Government withdrew the permission. As a result of that the police resorted to lathi charge, tear gas shells and firing. A farmer named Mahendra Singh was killed in it. Even today at least 60 wounded persons are in jail. Raghu Yadav was also wounded and is in the jail.

Through you, I want to submit to the Government that the farmers are facing shortage of water and electricity in South Haryana. You have your own Government in Punjab as well as in Haryana. You could not solve the water issue of Punjab till date and the Government tried to crush the demonstration by farmers of South Haryana who were craving for water. Through you, I want a reply from the Government in this regard.

One farmer has been killed, scores of other have been wounded, the whole area is observing a 'Bandh' and Raghu Yadav has also Sustained bullet injury. The Government must give an explanation regarding the indiscriminate lathi charge on the farmers. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Sir, I also want to express my feeling regarding the issue taken up by Shri Yadav ji. It has led to great resentment among the farmers all over Haryana. In absence of electricity and water their crops are drying and they are not being provide any relief. Therefore, the farmers wanted to express their woes through staging a demonstration. There are at least 40 districts in Uttar Pradesh which are facing severe drought. The State is under President's rule at present. Legislature is not functioning there. Through you, I want to say that Uttar Pradesh Government has written only about seven districts whereas 40 districts are facing severe drought conditions there. Due to this reason sowing of paddy has not been done in 75 per cent area. Even Kharif crop is drying up. There is no relief available from any corner. The farmers have been forced to express their agony. Such situation not only prevails in Haryana but also in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh too. The Government of India is not providing any relief to such affected areas. During the discussion in the House, the hon. Minister had given an assurance to provide relief, but no relief has been provided so far. Therefore, I would like to state on behalf of the farmers of all over the country that the Government should take note of the situation as it is going to be a severe drought. Some parts of the country are reeling in floods. The farmers are badly affected in the whole of country. I want that the Government should come forward with a statement as to how it is going to help the farmers who have been ruined by floods and drought. How the Government is going to help them? The House should be informed about programmes. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is a small request from the Chair. That request is this. There are two things open—one is to pick and choose; and another is call the Members' names according to the list. If you desire that I should call as per the list, I will do so.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : As per the list (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, I will go as per the list. And the hon. Speaker has named Prof. Kapse. So, after Prof. Kapse finishes, I will call the names as per the list. Hon. Members' cooperation is absolutely essential.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane) : Sir, this is a problem which is related to my constituency. (Interruptions)

SHRI G. M. C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram) : Sir, I have given a notice. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Balayogi, the method of pick and choose has been effectively implemented right from 12 noon to 1 p. m. Now everybody is desiring to speak because the Members come here at 9 o'clock and give their names. If their names are listed and if their names are not called, I think, a great injustice is done to them. You all agreed; it is better, I will call the names as per the list before me. The Zero Hour will go up to 1.30 p.m. So, we shall stick to it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : My request is that justice shall have to be done to everybody. Most of you have spoken; everybody has made a very strong suggestion to call the names as per the list. I think, by and large, everybody has agreed for this. So, let me call as per the list.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, this problem which I am

referring, belongs to my district. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will strictly go according to the list. You need not have the least apprehension. We will continue this up to 1.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Frequent interference takes away the precious time. It does not look nice. Now, Mr. Ram Kapse.

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Sir, this is regarding my constituency, Thane in Maharashtra.

The Chief Executive Officer, Thane, Zilla Parishad, has confirmed that about 46 persons have died during the months of July and August, 1993 due to gastroenteritis in the scheduled area of Jawahar and Mokhada Tehsil of Thane District, Maharashtra. This is the better truth in spite of the decision taken by the Central Government to complete the 'Health for All' scheme by 2000 A.D. The cases of gastroenteritis are on the increase due to polluted water.

Even though the malaria eradication scheme is being implemented in these areas, the cases of malaria are also on the increase and assuming an epidemic form. Some of the areas of New Mumbai have also been affected. Recently, a peculiar disease, known as 'Flasy Perum' or brain fever, has also been spreading in the abovementioned areas. The children below six years of age are victims of this disease.

I would, therefore, request to send team to investigate this matter and take effective steps to arrest and control the epidemic. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I call as per the list. The next name at serial No.2 is of Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It goes up to 1.30. The hon. Members are requested to speak for one or two minutes.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, the dispute regarding the mode of allotment of time under the entertainment channel of Doordarshan is under dispute. In the recent past, newspapers were full of stories about how Doordarshan is swinging between one extreme to the other in determining the criteria of time slot allotment. Random selection of applicants was one extreme and first-come-first-served was another extreme.

It is an acknowledged fact that TV has come to occupy a very important role on our life. It is supposed to give us information as well as entertainment. But entertainment, in particular, has to be such as would refine our tastes. That would mean that the selection procedure should be such as would ensure better quality programmes produced by imaginative and socially committed producers. I am afraid, the present method of selection of applicants for allotting important time slots for entertainment does not ensure the selection of the best.

With TV becoming an important medium through which commercial interests could be promoted, there is a great rush and clamour for time slots. Producers are growing like mushrooms.

Producers of programmes need to have certain dedication and social commitment. Only then, the public will be able to get good programme on TV. Privatisation is desirable in certain areas. But it should not degenerate into an arrangement under which the public, especially children of impressionable age, would be exposed to vulgarity and mindless violence. TV has a social purpose. I would urge upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to formulate definite guidelines for allotment of time slots under the Satellite Channel keeping in mind the larger social objectives.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I call the names also for your benefit up to 1.30.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At the stroke of 1.30, it will be closed.

There is a limit for the Chair to exercise his patience. If there is frequent interference, it affects the very discipline and curbs the basic roots of democracy.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will just call the names in the list. They are Shri Ram Nagina Mishra, Shri Dwarka Nath Das, Shri Sudhir Roy, Shri Mrutyunjaya Nayak, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and others. Each Member can take one to one and a half minutes in the absence of which it becomes very difficult. So, do not interfere unnecessarily. I am earnestly requesting you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Those Members whom I have not called should not intervene under any circumstance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a very important subject. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar top the list of the States in the field of sugarcane and sugar production. Recently, the Government of India hiked the price of sugar by Rs. 140 per quintal and molasses was decontrolled. It has given a benefit worth crores of rupees to the factories having a capacity of 1500-1700 to 2500 quintals and the factories situated in South India have had a profit of hundred of crores of rupees. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one quintal of sugar is made with 11 quintal of sugarcane, and the price of one quintal sugar has been raised by Rs. 140. But the farmers have not been given anything from this profit, this is gross injustice. The consumer is being charged higher prices and the mill owner is getting more profit, but the farmers are not getting anything.

Not only this, hundred of crores of rupees of the farmers in Uttar Pradesh and

Bihar are in arrears on account of payment of sugarcane prices to them. When the sugarcane price was Rs. 45 a quintal, there were 3 hundred crores rupees due to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh and now when the price of sugar has been increased by Rs. 140 per quintal, than 1.6 hundred crores rupees of farmers are in arrears. This is gross injustice to the farmers. I demand that the dues of the farmers should be paid immediately and the farmers should also be given a share in the profit of crores of rupees being given to the mill owners. (*Interruptions*)

I would also like to submit that Kanpur Sugar Works of British India Corporation has been working as a Government undertaking and has been declared a sick mill. People doubt whether the mill would run or not. Therefore, the Government should assure the people in this regard. Shri Kumaramangalam is present here. I would like him to give an assurance to this effect on behalf of the Government; it is very essential.

[*English*]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Sir, at present, unemployment problem has taken an unwieldy dimension in Assam. Hundreds and thousands of educated youths are seeking jobs all the year round without any success but only a fortunate few somehow manage to be absorbed. Specially, in rural areas, the situation is alarming because of poverty and frustration. In cases of SC/ST youths, reservation in Government services varies from State to State without following any norm and as a result, their condition is lamentable after 46 years of Independence. As people's representatives, we are to face this grave reality but it is painful that in no way, we could help these unfortunate job-seekers because scopes are extremely limited at State or Central level.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to launch special recruitment drives in Railways, Post and Telegraph Department, Central Excise Department and the like in Central sector so that a sizable portion of

such unemployed youths could be absorbed as early as possible.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : I am raising this matter briefly, only because the State of Uttar Pradesh happens to be under President's rule at the moment. Therefore, I would like to know what the reaction of the Government is to the news which has appeared in papers that in a village of Muzaffarnagar District, two days ago, a young couple by name Satish and Sarita were beheaded. The allegation against them is that they had eloped. They wanted to get married and they eloped without the consent of their parents. They were brought back to the village and there, the Panchayat—I wonder if this is the job of the Panchayat at all—called a meeting at the chaupal, where several hundred villagers gathered. In front of these people, the young couple was produced and they were ordered to be punished. And the punishment was that both of them were beheaded! Their heads were cut off in front of this whole crowd! They both belonged to the Scheduled Caste but that is not the main thing. The whole nature of the so called punishment is so barbarous. I want to know whether there is any kind of reaction to this barbaric act from a government which is at present running the administration in Uttar Pradesh. They should tell us. They have not uttered a word and there is no reaction from them. A high police officer is reported to have gone to that spot to find out what is going on. Some report must have come. So, there should be some reaction.

One may punish a couple because they have eloped. That is according to one's judgement. But this cannot be the punishment that a young couple be beheaded before a whole crowd of people. I think this is a disgraceful thing, hopping back to dark ages or medieval times. I think the Government should make some statement and react to this whole thing.

SHRIMATI GEETHA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I am also on the same

subject. These two persons were majors. They were not minors. They did not commit any crime. The only thing against them was that they were distantly related to each other. For that reason, nobody has any right to punish them in any way, let alone beheading them. The couple has every right to do as they wish. Therefore, I do demand that this Panchayat be immediately dismissed. I also demand that those people who are responsible for this whole thing should also be severely punished. Otherwise, there is no reason why we discuss here for such a long time about the promotion of officers and so on.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, definitely, the incident that is brought to the notice of the House by hon. senior Members Indrajit Gupta and Geeta Mukherjee, is very serious. I totally agree with them that this is not an issue to be taken lightly. I shall bring it to the notice of the Home Minister and a statement will be made in the House and the House will be kept informed as to what are the facts of the matter actually, when these are brought to our notice. And all steps will be taken.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Do you condemn this incident or not ?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : This incident is definitely condemnable. There is no question of 'do we' or 'do we not'. I think the whole House is one on this.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani) : At different points of time, in different fora the leader of Opposition as well as the Prime Minister have voiced their support for allocation of Rs. 1 crore for

each parliamentary constituency. It is important because the Parliamentarians and legislators have been deprived of the opportunity to participate in the planning of rural economy of the country. So, this announcement by the Prime Minister is welcomed by all. But, there has been delay in taking a policy decision on this. The village youth are very keen to know when it is going to be announced on the floor of the House and when it is going to be implemented. Therefore, I urge upon you to give necessary direction to the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement on this.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very serious problem of my constituency. Indore city was once known for its textile mills. However all the textile mills in the city have been closing one after the other during the last several years. Hope Textile Mill was the first to be closed followed by Hukumchand Mill, the working of which has still not been restored. Now Rajkumar Mill is also following the same line and is on the verge of closure. Thousands of workers have been rendered unemployed. The situation has deteriorated to the extent that the labourers are facing starvation death and the overall situation in Indore is very disturbing. Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that it is just due to the lack of a concrete national textile policy that it has been difficult to restore the working of the closed textile mills, while many more are on the verge of closure. The matter should not just end after referring it to BIFR and AIFR. The main thing is that these mills should start working again. This is my submission.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Vikramganj) : Now, Bihar is being ruined due to flood as well as drought. The Members elected from Bihar had requested the hon. Prime Minister to give an amount of Rs. 400 crores but the Government did not take

any decision in this regard. Districts like Ranchi, Narvada, Bhojpur, Gaya, Gadhava in Bihar are facing severe drought. Last year also, there was drought. August is considered to be the best time for sowing. However, the farmers have been unable to sow their crops so far. Water level in the wells has receded and even drinking water is not available there. People in Palamau are dying due to starvation. The hon. Prime Minister had visited the affected areas. We have not been getting our due share of water under the Baan Sagar Yojana and the Rihand Dam Scheme in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, I would like the Government to provide our due share of water and also an amount of Rs. 500 crores from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund at the earliest so that Bihar may overcome these problems.

SHRI RABI RAY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very important issue. It is just Government's going against the promise, as you are already aware of the fact that the Government has incurred crores of rupees to implement the scheme to clean the Ganga Water whereas the Supreme Court has alleged that the Railway department has been violating the norms with regard to the environment protection. Now the apex court has alleged against the Railways that :

[English]

"While allowing discharge of excreta of about half a million commuters, who daily use the toilets on the world's most congested railway platform, into the river, the railway big-wigs had shown total disregard to the Court's repeated directives to conform to the environment laws. At the same time, big and medium industries grossing

turn over of several hundred crores have been ordered closure for contaminating the river by discharging the industrial effluents in the protected river."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the River Plan Board of Bengal has quoted the observation of the Supreme Court as to how the excreta of about 5 lakh people being thrown into the rivers daily pollutes the water. The Government is alleged to have been disobeying the 19 directives issued by the Supreme Court. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that when the apex court condemns Railway which is a part of the Government and also the biggest public undertaking, it may well be imagined as to what would be happening in the country. Once again, I would like to submit that Shri Kuldip Singh and Shri Aggarwal, the two judges of Supreme Court, have already issued orders in this regard. The Government may please give statement in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I thank you very much for the excellent co-operation that you have extended to me. The names of the hon. Members were called as per the list. I think, when I personally spoke to the hon. Members, most of them have made a strong suggestion regarding this. I adhered to their suggestion.

The hon. Members who could not get a chance to speak, we will try to see that they are accommodated next day. It is done to save some time.

The House stands adjourned for Lunch to re-assemble at 14.30 hrs.

13.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Bank of Maharashtra Officers Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations 1993 and Notifications under the Customs Act, 1962 etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM) : On behalf of Shri M. V. Chandrashekhara Murthy, I beg to lay on the Table,

(1) A copy of the Bank of Maharashtra Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. AX-1/ST/OSR/3847/93 in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 1993 under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970.

[Placed in library. See No. LT 4298/93]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 :—

(i) The New Bank of India Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 1992 published in Notification No. 5013 in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 1992 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. DCDC 92/7485 dated the 23rd January, 1993.

(ii) The Corporation Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations, 1992 published in Notification No. HRD/DISC/92 in Gazette of India dated the 13th February, 1993.

[Placed in library. See No. LT 4299/93]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

(i) G.S.R. 382(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/85-Cus., dated the 1st February, 1985 so as to reduce the basic custom duty on natural raw rubber from 70 percent *ad valorem* to 25 per cent *ad valorem*.

(ii) G.S.R. 394(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to certain notifications mentioned in the notification.

(iii) G.S.R. 395(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe basic customs duty of 50 per cent *ad valorem* on certain specified refractory raw materials including Dead Burnt Magnesite.

(iv) G.S.R. 396(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding certain notifications mentioned in the notification.

(v) G.S.R. 397(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments to the Notification No. 19/93-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1993 so as to prescribe a basic customs duty of 60 percent *ad valorem* on V.nyl Pyridine Monomer.

(vi) G.S.R. 398(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe basic customs duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem* on certain life saving drugs.

(vii) G.S.R. 399(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe basic customs duty of 40 per cent *ad*

valorem on Industrial diamonds, whether natural or synthetic, in dust or in powder form.

(viii) G.S.R. 400(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to certain notifications mentioned in the notification.

(ix) G.S.R. 401(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to certain notifications mentioned in the notification.

(x) G.S.R. 402(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe basic customs duty of 50 per cent *ad valorem* on certain specified goods mentioned in the notification which are mainly used in the manufacture of automobile components.

(xi) G.S.R. 403(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe basic customs duty of 60 per cent *ad valorem* on sub-assemblies and modules imported for the manufacture of certain telecommunication equipments.

(xii) G.S.R. 404(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to certain notifications mentioned in the notification.

(xiii) G.S.R. 405(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe a basic customs duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem* on certain life saving equipments.

(xiv) G.S.R. 450(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amend-

ments to certain notifications mentioned in the notification so as to withdraw the exemption from the additional duty of customs.

(xv) G.S.R. 451(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding certain notifications.

(xvi) G.S.R. 462(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 280/76-Cus., and 321/76-Cus., dated the 2nd August, 1976 so as to substitute the name 'Burma' with 'Union of Myanmar'.

(xvii) G.S.R. 489(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 89/89-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1989 so as to delete item 10 of the Table from the scope of the said notification.

(xviii) G.S.R. 502(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 18/93-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1993 so as to extend the concessional Customs duty on 75 per cent to isomers of Allethrin.

(xix) S.O. 573(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice versa* for the purpose of assessment of imports and calculation of Stamp duty.

(xx) S.O. 572(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice versa* for purpose

of assessment of exports and calculation of Stamp duty. [Placed in library. See No. LT 4300/93]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 :—

(i) G.S.R. 383(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe excise duty of 15 percent *ad Valorem* on machinery, plant or laboratory equipment for treatment of material by condensing or cooling (other than refrigerating and air-conditioning machinery and parts thereof).

(ii) G.S.R. 406(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 1/93-CE, dated the 28th February, 1993.

(iii) G.S.R. 407(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe basic excise duty of 15 percent *ad Valorem* on cellulose insole board or sheets.

(iv) G.S.R. 408(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe basic excise duty of 30 percent *ad Valorem* on ceramic sanitary ware of porcelain or china.

(v) G.S.R. 410(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide full exemption from excise duty in respect of parts when used within the factory in which they have been produced, for manufacture of a railway or tramway locomotive and rolling stock.

(vi) G.S.R. 409(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1993 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 52/86-CE, dated the 10th February, 1986 so as to reduce the basic excise duty on glass fibres and articles thereof from 20 percent to 15 percent *ad Valorem*.

[Placed in library see No. LT 4301/93]

(5) A copy of the Post Office Saving Bank Accounting (Amendment) Rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 499(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1993 under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873.

[Placed in library see No. LT 4302/93]

(6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 338(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 1993 notifying that during the year 1993-94, subscriptions made to the Public Provident Fund and balances at the credit of the subscribers shall bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum, issued under section 5 of the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968.

[Placed in library see No. LT 4303/93]

14.39 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

THIRTY-SECOND REPORT

[English]

DR. KRIPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : I beg to present the Thirty-Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report of the Estimates Committee (10th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)—Central Board of Direct Taxes,

14.40 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 16th August, 1993, will consist of :—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Ordinance, 1993 and consideration and passing of the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 1993 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 and consideration and passing of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1993 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
4. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 and consideration and passing of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1993 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
5. Consideration and passing of :—
 - (a) The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Bill, 1991.
 - (b) The Jute Manufacturers Development Council (Amendment) Bill, 1992.
6. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha :

- (a) The Public Records Bill, 1992.
- (b) The Transplantation of Human, Organs Bill, 1992.

7. Discussion on the Background Note on Review of Drug Policy, 1986.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. The locust invasion and destruction of crop in Western Rajasthan requiring Central Government's immediate financial assistance.

2. The delay in construction of Rajasthan Canal in Western Rajasthan requiring the taking over of the project by Central Government and to connect it with Pali District of Rajasthan.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Sir, I request the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Discussion on the status and situation of the religious minorities in the country.
2. Discussion on the international situation.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Financial assistance for completing the project of bringing potable water through closed cement pipes from Khadakwasla Dam to Parvati Water Filtration Plant.

2. Completion of light and sound project on Shanwarwada in Pune city.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda : the matter regarding extraction in three sugar mills of Gauri Bazar, Katkuyian and Padranna and the matter relating to non-payment of crores of rupees to the sugarcane farmers against supply of sugarcane.

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Sir, the following items may

please be included in the next week's agenda :

1. The Central Government should withdraw without delay the notification of the Forest Department (Environment) having no clear definition of forest.
2. The Central Government should direct the Government of Rajasthan to withdraw Public Trusts Act.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Sir, the following items may please be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Violation of the Central directives and spreading pollution by the chemical industries like Sajjan Chemicals, Jayant Vitamins and Troy Star situated in different districts mainly Ratlam, Shajapur, Vidisha etc. of Madhya Pradesh, thus causing risk to the lives of lakhs of citizens and creating a situation for the people to migrate to other places.
2. Keeping in view the textile mills becoming continuously sick and thus creating crisis for the textile industry in the country and rendering lakhs of labourers unemployed, the Government should review the textile policy in the interest of the nation.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :

1. Reviewing the situation regarding the threat created to the public life due to water and air pollution caused by industries in Bhopal, Raisen and Vidisha districts of Madhya Pradesh.
2. The matter regarding the proposal to provide STD facility by the Com-

munication Department in all the district headquarters of Vidisha, Raisen, and Sihore districts of Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, the following item may please be included in the next week's agenda :

- (1) Immediate announcement to issue the licences for setting up sugar mills in 50 places of Uttar Pradesh should be made as per the need of these places.
- (2) The Government should assure to set up an Electronic Exchange having the capacity of ten thousand Lines in Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) which happens to be a major industrial centre.

14.45 hrs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH AMENDMENT BILL—

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do extend up to the 20th August, 1993, the time for presentaion of the report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constituion of India."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the House do extend up to the 20th August, 1993, the time for presentaion of the report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

14.46 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL—

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House do extend up to the 20th August, 1993, the time for presentation of the report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951”.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do extend up to the 20th August, 1993, the time for presentation of the report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951”.

The motion was adopted.

14.47 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE THIRTY-FIRST REPORT

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th August, 1993”.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with the Thirty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 12th August, 1993”.

The motion was adopted.

14.49 hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill. Before I call Shri Mangalal Prem I want to make a request to the whips of the respective parties to kindly send the names of the speakers. Frequent sending of lists may disturb the entire system. I request for their cooperation. The time allotted for this is two hours.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I have a request to make to this House. It is up to the House to consider it. I may request the House that as this is a very important Bill, we would be extremely obliged if the House considers whether it could pass the Bill today as the Government feels that if it could be passed today, may be, the other House also could be approached today itself and we could pass it in this week. Otherwise it will spill over to next week. We will be grateful if this proposal could be considered.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has made a request. It is upto us to cooperate with him.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : What is the reason for it ?

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : It is very difficult to pass this Bill today. The Private Members' Business is to start at 3.30 p.m. Even otherwise also, being Friday, it is not possible to sit late. This Bill should, therefore, be passed on Monday.

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I can explain.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah) : Sir, there is no need. The convention is that we sit upto 6 p.m. on a Friday. Today is Friday and the Private Members' work is to start at 3.30 p. m.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Had the hon. Minister tried since yesterday, this Bill could have been passed today. He is not interested himself. That is why, first 10 minutes were wasted in completing the quorum. Then Private Members' Business is going to start at 3.30 p.m. If the sitting of the House can be extended after 6 p. m. (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, as far as the charge, that we are not interested is concerned, I would like to say that we are very much interested. The major reason is that this is a Bill on which there is no differences of opinion after all, in the House and I was hoping that if we could pass it today, then before the 15th of August we would have passed this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Business Advisory Committee also has felt it absolutely essential. I would read it. It says that the Committee further recommends that in order to provide sufficient time for the completion of urgent items of Government business, the House may sit

late from Friday, the 13th August, 1993, till the remaining period of this Session. This is for your kind information.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : The discussion has just started. All the Members should be allowed to speak ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Shri Mangal Ram Premi.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill meant for backward classes has been brought hereafter 45 years. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on it. The Government has been saying for the last two years that a Commission would be set up for this purpose but the Bill has been brought now after wasting two years. The Hon. Prime Minister had announced from the ramparts of the Red Fort. That a Commission would be set up for the 'Safai Karamcharis'. During the Budget Session, the Hon. President had stated in his speech before the Members of both the Houses that a Commission would be set up and some funds were fixed also, but it continued to increase and decrease. According to the Prime Minister, this amount was of Rs. 560 crores, but according to the hon. Minister it was Rs. 460 crores. Now the amount is being stated to be about Rs. 905 crores. A few days ago, I had raised this matter in the House and asked as to why it is not being declared. I had also said that an amount of Rs. 1200 crores should be earmarked for this purpose. There was a statement by the hon. Minister in the 'Navbharat Times' that about Rs. 60 crores had already been spent out of that amount. The hon. Finance Minister is sitting here. The Government frames policies but its intentions are not good. It has taken two years to bring this Bill and therefore, I do not want to hail the Gov-

ernment. Thanks are given when something new is done. This is our right about which the Government has brought a Bill here and we are fighting for our right. Had the hon. Minister been here, he would have answered as to on what item Rs. 60 crores have been spent. I had asked him about his statement as to where this amount of Rs. 60 crores have been spent. He said that toilets are being constructed. But no alternative employment was thought for those who are going to be rendered jobless. On my raising the issue again in the House, I am being told today that a Commission is being set up. The hon. Finance Minister is also sitting here. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how much of the amount has been left? I am not asking how much has been swindled away.

I have said it in the House earlier also and would like to ask again from the hon. Members and Ministers sitting here whether there is anybody who is not utilising the services of these people. They serve everyone, whether he is a Member of Parliament or an official. They are being deprived of their rights, but these people are sitting still with their eyes closed. This has been happening for the last 45 years. I am not talking about the period of 3 to 4 years. When the Janata Party was in Power. Now these parties come to power for 10 to 11 months only. But the Congress Party, by manipulation or otherwise is carrying on its Government. Its time has also come to an end. These people have been exploited during the Congress Party rule of 45 years. This will continue to happen. What was actually decided was that a Commission would be set up and centres would be opened at each district with the help of allocated funds and the affected persons would be given training about carpet weaving or running a dairy etc. The trained persons would be provided a loan of Rs. 50,000/- by the Government out of which Rs. 25,000/- will be waived off and the rest of the amount will be recovered with an interest of 4 per cent. I visited several districts and tried to find out even a single training centre, but there was none. These are running on paper only. The con-

cerned people are still working as scavengers. I would like to know as to how long the Government will continue to make such futile schemes?

15.00 hrs.

Are they going to face the same situation again? Shri Kanhaiya Lal was a Member of the Malkani Commission that was constituted in 1964. He pleaded for these people. But the rules recommended by the Commission were never implemented. In big cities like Delhi and Bombay, they get uniforms and other essential items, but in small cities they do not even get their salaries for 9 to 10 months. How these poor people are going to maintain themselves. They do not know as to in which bank their Provident Funds have been deposited. What is the account no. and when will they get it? They do not get this money for 9 to 10 years after their retirement from service. The situation in town areas and notified areas is even worse where these workers do not get their salaries for months together. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you can easily imagine how these people maintain their families? They are exploited in the field of education. The society exploits them as they live below the poverty line. They are even deprived of their rights of reservation. If an educated person is working as a safai Karmachari, he is not recruited even to the post of peon and if he has been shunted out of his job, there is no hearing. He is only meant for scavenging.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now there is contract system, in which the contractor takes Rs. 100/- per day, but the worker gets Rs. 20/- only. There is no information about what the middleman is doing. Once, this example was given during the Budget session. In Shimla, one kg of apple costs Re. 1/- but the same apple costs Rs. 10/- per kg in Delhi. This means that the producer is getting only Re. 1/- whereas the middleman is taking Rs. 9/-. Similar is the situation of the worker working under a contractor. He is getting only Rs. 20/- whereas the contractor is taking the remaining Rs. 80/-. Is this not exploitation? Had the hon. Minister been

here, I would have asked him the definition of a Safai Karmachari. How the number of scavenger carrying night soil is only 5 lakhs. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 5 to 7 crore people are engaged in this job. They will also be called Safai Karmacharis whether it is a municipality, a town area a notified area, a district council or a school. All the scavengers will be called Safai Karmacharis.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as carrying of night soil is concerned, in villages, they work in a single house. Several hon. Members of this House belong to villages and they are aware how these safai Karmacharis are made to work for the entire week in exchange of only 5 kgs of cereals and one loaf.

He does not exploit. But the Government has not paid any attention to that aspect. In this connection I would like to make a suggestion. If the Government wants to pay attention towards villages, let it engage these people there itself for cleanliness purposes so that they could get a good Government job and improve their standard. But the Government will not do that. They ruled for 45 years. Even today one employee discharges two duties. The Government has not paid any attention to it. It knows nothing but to exploit them. It does not want to solve the problems of the poor. The services of these people are utilised as Safai Karmachari as well as Chowkidars. They do scavenging work during day time and perform duty of Chowkidars during the night. Even their children do not go to school. They perform cleanliness job during the day. Thereafter, the B.D.O. asks them to fetch grass for his buffalo. If they refuse the B.D.O. threaten to suspend them. This is the condition of these people. This is how these people are exploited.

The Government has employed Safai Karmacharis in schools. They are being paid only Rs. 15. They get Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per day in some junior High Schools. The Government should conduct a survey for this. The Commission should be given a chance to review their condition by

making an on-the-spot study in and outside the country.

Once I got a chance to go abroad. I used to be an M.P. from 1980 to 1984. I stayed in Syria for 6 days. I met Safai Karmacharis there. I talked to them and enquired about their duties. After six days I saw a Safai Karmachari on the road performing his duty. A person from Meerut used to work in the Embassy. He offered me meal at his residence. I accepted his invitation. At one O'clock in the night when he was coming to see me off in his car, I saw a truck standing on the way. Its tank was full of water and there was a pipe connected behind it. There were small holes in the pipe. Two persons with suits and boots and hats on their heads were standing there. They had brooms with long sticks in their hands. The tanker sprayed water on the road and it started flowing there. Butts of Cigarettes and bidis and garbage were washed away into the drain. After doing this, their job was over for the day. They have respect in the society. But in India, they remain busy through the day and in the evening they are abused by the clerks and other officers for not performing this or that work. They are threatened with suspension from service. The Safai Karmacharis are in distress. A girl alongwith an old woman used to come for cleaning to the guest house in which I stayed. She used to wash clothes and change bed-sheets. The entire arrangement was in their hands. When we returned at noon after stroll she used to take meals along with us. What an irony? Where our country has gone. There is no respect for the Safai Karmacharis in our society who serve all people in the society.

Do not send persons in the Commission who may ask the Minister as to what they have to do. Its chairman should be a competent man. He should be from this society. I wish that this Commission should be set up. But the members of the Commission should be honest and men of character... (*Interruptions*)

I have already requested for half-an-hour's time. So, please let me complete my time.

As regards reservation, the Balmiki community is lagging behind. The entire work of cleanliness is performed only by the people belonging to the Balmiki Community. The Balmikis perform cleanliness job in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. In other States also, these people perform this job but their caste names have been changed. We should not feel bad if people belonging to other Scheduled Castes have made progress with their hard work. Rather we should also make efforts to help these people make progress. I would like to request the Government as well as the House that 50 per cent reservation should be made for the people belonging to the Balmiki Community. It has been done in Punjab. As this society is lagging behind, 50 per cent reservation in education and employment should be made for them so that this community could consider itself as a part and parcel of the society. There is no doubt that these people have come to know about their rights in reservation. That is why they are making for 50 per cent reservation in their favour.

More atrocities are being committed on them in the States which are under President's Rule. The excesses of Police and officers on them are beyond tolerance. There are some issues which I would like to place before you. A Balmiki boy aged 17 years belonging to my district was kidnapped by his nephew. After 8 days, they gave his shirt to his family members. Three and a half months have passed. He was kidnapped in April but the Police has not registered any F.I.R. so far. When the matter was brought to my notice in writing, I approached the concerned S.P. I myself visited the Police Station and met the Inspector. With much reluctance they brought the kidnapper boy and his father and asked them about the kidnapped boy but they did divulge anything. He was an old man. The Minister of Home Affairs is leaving the House. He should

also listen to it. Because he is very quick taking action. He should take care of the people of poor Balmiki Community also. When I went there, the old man was brought and kept under Police custody for three days. Then they called for the people of victim's side and asked them to beat the old man as much as they can. The police people said that inspite of their best efforts, They have not been able to extract any information. The victim's side said that it would be an illegal act and they should immediately be put behind the bars for beating an old man with a stick. The accused were released in the evening. Then the kidnapped boy's father objected to releasing him without finding any clue of his son. I am repeating the words that the Station House Officer uttered on his complaint. This 'Bhangi' is not in his senses; lash this mean fellow with 100 shoes; throw him out of the Police station. You might recall that last year the Prime Minister had uttered the word 'Bhangi' from the rampart of the Red Fort. There was a sharp reaction in the House. Then the Prime Minister expressed regrets. Today I would like to say that if the Inspector of that Police Station have uttered this word, the entire Police station should be suspended. So far no search has been made for the boy. Even the F.I.R. has not been registered.

Sir, there is also another case of this type. A person belonging to the Balmiki Community was attacked in his own house. It is a case in Guniyapur of Bijnor district. Three-four goondas entered his house to attack him. When he went to lodge the F.I.R. he was beaten. His daughter was pregnant. She made a request to spare them. But the F.I.R. was not written. The Medical report is available with us. You can see it. No arrest has been made although one month has passed. Then there is also a case of Chandpur also. The last incident occurred on 31st instant. The Police called a person 'Bhangi' and threw him out of the Police Station. On the 1st instant, a Thakur boy took a boy to the same police station.

The boy was put inside a chilly-bag and beaten to death. Because it was a matter relating to Balmiki community. That young boy was killed. (Interruptions)... There are many cases of this type. He lodged a report in writing. But nobody bothered about him. That boy was killed on the 1st instant and the case was not given any further hearing. After a lot of pressure postmortem of the dead body was undertaken and it was consigned to flames near the Ganga barrage. The dead body of the innocent boy was not handed over to his family members. There is also one more case of the same nature. It comes under Kheri Mayatpur of Police Station Giratpur. People tried to forcibly occupy a house belonging to a person of Balmiki community. I would like to ask as to why the Police-men are making the people of Balmiki community their targets. I lay these cases on the Table of the house and request you to go through these cases and get them enquired into.

AN HON. MEMBER : An inquiry should be conducted through a Parliamentary Committee.

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : If not by the Parliamentary Committee then officials should be asked to inquire into the case and they should be sent from Delhi itself otherwise the local officials will hush up the case and nothing will come out. It is right that I have deviated from this issue, but it was also imperative to make a mention of it. Therefore, I request the Government to provide 50 per cent reservation for this particular class of the society. Besides, the proposed three years schedule for this Commission should be extended till the goal of economic development is not achieved for these people. Government declares public holidays every

now and then. But the Government have so far not declared a holiday on account of Valmiki birthday the man who wrote Ramayana long-long ago. If this holiday is not declared, then these people are ready to start an agitation. (Interruptions) We believe in doing service and one who does service becomes immortal. These people can certainly defeat others but cannot concede defeat. If they take a step forward then no force can compel them to withdraw it. They people are determined and of firm conviction. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please excuse me. Mr. Premi, you have taken more than half-an-hour. You have spoken for more than half-an-hour. You have to stick to the time.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : I would like to mention one more point, Sir, as I have already stated that we have a Valmiki temple on Puchkuiyan road and in front of this temple garbage carrying trucks are parked. There is also a NDMC workshop under the temple. I demand that this workshop should be immediately shifted to some other place as this temple is not only a temple but is a centre to which the feelings of the crores of people are attached. Not only this, at the time of the Independence Mahatma Gandhi had gone on a hunger strike in that very temple. ... (Interruptions). A platform in the name of Mahatma ji is still there... Therefore, the Govt. should feel ashamed and remove this workshop from there. The heap of garbage should be removed from there, if it is not done then we are ready to launch an agitation over it.

Sir, I request that our demands should be given a serious thought and the Government should urgently declare appointment of a Commission so that the Commission may start its work for the welfare of these people and the funds meant for them should be distributed among them and details should be provided regarding Rs. 60 crores spent by them ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are one or two hon. Members who wanted to speak and go. At 3.30 p.m., Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya wanted to go and before that, she wanted to speak for five minutes. Shri Chitta Basu also will not be available here on Monday and so he also wanted to speak. I want to accommodate those two hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the Congress party shall have to speak. Shri Buta Singh is not available. Shri Sultanpuri is here. Mr. Sultanpuri, if you oblige, Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya may speak and go. It is depending on you. If you oblige, she may speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This Bill will be taken up on Monday also; there is no need for any worry.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sultanpuri has yielded. Shrimati Malini Bhattacharyaji, would you like to speak now ?

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA (Jadavpur) : Mr. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I thank you and also thank my colleagues for allowing me this opportunity. I will make a very brief submission. I will not go into making any emotional speech on what is indeed a very very emotional subject. It is indeed a matter of shame that

45 years have elapsed since we acquired independence.

The numerous Safai Karamcharis in our country have not yet acquired the basic independence which is connected with the dignity of human beings. This is indeed a matter of shame. But I do not want to dwell on that. I would rather dwell on the Bill itself.

I also think that basically there is a coincidence between the caste question and the class question that majority of the Safai Karamcharis belong to the so-called scheduled castes—the so-called lower castes. However, this is not invariably true as the statement of objects and reasons in this Bill declares. There are many Safai Karamcharis who do not belong to the scheduled castes at all. There are also such Safai Karamcharis which shows how the caste situation in our country has remained an instrument of oppression. At the same time, because of economic breakdown, because of economic situation, people, who do not belong to the scheduled castes, through economic necessity, are forced to take up this job.

15.26 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

There are, I think, two sides of this Bill. We welcome the institution of a commission. We are glad to see that this is a time-bound commission expected to complete its work within four years. We do urge upon the Government that this time-limit should be maintained so that within four years, this whole process of rehabilitation of the Safai Karamcharis is completed. Of course, the two questions are connected—one of the rehabilitation of the Safai Karamcharis and the other of the institution of modern toilets where manual scavenging is not necessary. These two projects have to be taken side by side.

The third point that has to be brought into consideration is the question of providing alternative employment for the Safai Karamcharis. They are very badly paid. I agree with our colleague who has just spoken. Sometimes they are not even paid for their work. Yet when you take them out of their occupation, you have to supply some alternative employment opportunities for them.

I am very glad that the hon. Finance Minister is here today. Now we are finding that not only in the private sector but in the public sector itself there is a cut in jobs. There is a reduction of employment opportunities. Ten per cent of jobs are being guillotined by Government order. Under these circumstances, how is it possible for the Safai Karamcharis to be provided with alternative employment opportunities ? This is a very specific question to which I would like to have an answer from the Minister. I would like to know whether within this time-span-four years-it would be possible to make a survey of the areas under which such Safai Karamcharis are working at the moment. The survey has to be completed.

Then, there are different ranges of economic conditions among the Safai Karamcharis themselves. So, that has to be taken into consideration. After that, suitable opportunities for alternative employment have to be found for them.

The Government is promising that it will do so. Under the present economic situation: under the kind of new economic policies which the Government has adopted, I want to have a very specific answer from the Minister as to how this is going to be achieved.

Finally, Sir, I would make one more point regarding the Bill itself. It has been said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the implementation of this scheme lies with the State Government. It is to be done through the Scheduled Castes Development Corporation set up by the State Governments. At the same time it is said

that since the scope of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is restricted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes etc., it is felt that a separate statutory National Commission needs to be established for monitoring the schemes. Of course, we hope that it is a statutory Commission that has a degree of autonomy; that it has been given a certain degree of monitoring power although it does not have any mandatory power. But, one question is not very clear to me as to what is to the relationship between this National Commission that is going to be instituted and the State Governments. I think that all the recommendations of the National Commission are going to be placed before the State Governments and that is all, but whether there is going to be any continuing coordination; whether there is any mechanism within this Commission for a continuing coordination between the State Governments, which are the implementing agencies of this scheme and the Central Government ? This is a point which is not at all clear from the Bill. So, on this point I would like to be enlightened by the hon. Minister when he is replying to the debate; that is whether any such infrastructural coordination is to be made possible between the State Governments and the National Commission of Safai Karamcharis.

With these words I would only say that a most degrading custom, a most retrograde custom and a most shameful custom, which has substituted in this country for the last so many generations, I do not think it is any less degrading in our country to have the practice of 'sati' or dowry. These practices should be eradicated as soon as possible and the working of the Commission must be expedited for this purpose.

15.32 hrs.

BILLS INTRODUCED**FIXATION OF LIMIT ON BORROWINGS BILL****[English]*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to fix the limit on borrowings by the Government of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to fix the limit on borrowings by the Government of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I introduce** the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL (AMENDMENT OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE)*

[English]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Services) Act, 1954.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : I introduce** the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 13-8-93.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.34 hrs

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT)* BILL

(SUBSTITUTION OF NEW SECTION FOR SECTION 3)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)* BILL (AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 169)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 13-8-93.

15.36 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)* BILL
(AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 123
AND 213)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)* BILL
(AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 324)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

15.37½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)* BILL
(AMENDMENT OF SEVENTH SCHEDULE)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 13-8-93.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

ARMS (AMENDMENT)* BILL
(SUBSTITUTION OF NEW SECTION
FOR SECTION 11, ETC.)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Arms Act, 1959.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Arms Act, 1959."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

POLITICAL PARTIES
(MAINTENANCE AND AUDITING OF
ACCOUNTS)* BILL

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : I beg to move for leave to introduce to provide for preparation, maintenance and auditing of annual accounts of political parties and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for preparation, maintenance and auditing of annual accounts of political parties and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 13-8-93.

15.39½ hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL
(AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 107, ETC.)
CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya on the 30th July, 1993, namely :—

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Syed Masudal Hossain may continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time when I had made a mention of polygamy it displeased some of my colleagues. They complained that I had been trying to malign a particular community, but I did not have such intention. I am very well aware of the reasons behind the polygamy, therefore, I am not pointing out a particular community. But when it is becoming controversial, I am mentioning this portion of the report.

[English]

The Report of the Commission on the Status of Women in India in Page 67 says regarding Polygamy and I quote :

“It is highest among the tribal communities viz. 15.25 per cent, Budhists 7.97 per cent, Jains 6.72 per cent, Hindus 5.8 per cent and Muslims 5.7 per cent.”

“According to the data, the highest incident viz. 5.15 per cent was in the Hindu community. Here, it was found that the marriages were performed between 41 and 50 years”. After that, it declined to 5.06 per cent in 1951 to 1960. The figures declined steadily.

Among the muslims, the highest incident was found between 1931 and 1940 viz. 7.29 per cent. After that, it declined steadily. It came down to 4.31 per cent.”

[Translation]

So, I do not have any intention to blame any particular community. I gave this reference when this question arose. We sing a song that, “Mazhab Nañin Sikhata Aapas Mein Vair Rakhna”, but I feel that it is religion which makes us fight with each other. This song was written by Iqbal who had presented Pakistan's claim in the Round Table Conference, for the first time. Will the hon. Minister tell us while replying that how many people died for the independence of the nation and thereafter how many persons died during Hindu-Muslim riots ? And how many persons die every year in Sunni-Shia riots in Lucknow? Hindus also create tension in the name of religion and those who believe in Ram and those who worship Ram continue to create one or the other problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the period of King Ashok, whose Ashok Chakra we use even now a days, the whole population was converted into Buddhism and what is the present population of Buddhists in India ? What are the reasons behind the decrease in their number ? I can say with confidence that more people have died in the name of religion than the number of people who died in two world wars and in the 100 years war between Christians and Muslims. A war is still going on in Israel. Shia-Sunni war is also going on between Iran and Iraq. I want to ask Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya that to whom should I go for learning the definition of the Dharma ?

Should I learn the definition of the Dharma from those who give Talaq to a 70 year old woman, after living together in a house for forty years ? Should I learn it from those people who burnt my 18 years old daughter, Kunwar in the name of religion ? The late Indira Gandhi, even being a brahmin was not allowed to enter

the Puri Temple, should I learn from those people who prevented her? The funeral of Bal Brahmchari could take place only after 55-56 days that too after the Government intervention. Should I learn from those people who termed it as Government interference in the religion? During heavy rain a constable tried to take shelter in a temple in Bombay, but as he belonged to scheduled castes he was not permitted to enter the temple, instead he was killed. Is it the religion? In South India, even today there are separate cemeteries for the SCs and STs who converted into Christianity and for those who belong to upper castes. In view of all such things what should I learn from them?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to tell Mr. Pandeya that we have not only divided human beings in the name of religion but also flowers and fruits. But till date nobody could divide the fragrance and beauty of the rose. Luxmy Narayanji is like my elder brother. I want to tell him that the rose is worshipped and also offered to the deity. Rose is a foreign flower. If anybody tries to divide it in the name of religion then we do not want to learn the definition of religion from him.

The Bill, which you have introduced only aims at separation of politics from religion. It should be stopped. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer):
It was introduced a long time back also. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :
We have different feelings. It has earlier been discussed and previously also efforts were made to pass it. Therefore, I am not going to support it. Moreover, we are also not with the treasury benches. They have their own definition of religion which is quite different from ours. It is my as well as my party's stand. With this I conclude.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH OHENNITHALA
(Kottayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to

oppose this Bill, which had been introduced by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

Sir, this Bill is ill-conceived and unconvincing. The author in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill contradicts himself. He is against the interference of the State into the religion. The religion matters are sensitive. Of course, in our country there is a lot of furor about the religious activities and the related matters. In one way, he is saying that the State will not indulge into the day-to-day affairs of the religion. The mover of this Bill is happy if the State interferes into the Muslim Personal Law. This is a contradictory one.

From the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill, I am coming to a conclusion that the mover is happy if the State interferes into the affairs of the Muslim Personal Law and he is unhappy if the State interferes into the affairs of the Hindu Law. This approach is not at all correct. We are living in a society where all kinds of religions are practising and all sections of the society are living harmoniously. We respect all the sentiments. We respect the sentiments of each and every religion. And in a society like ours, we cannot tolerate this kind of an attitude. Sir, this is very clear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill. This communal and sectarian approach to a complex issue will not help the harmonious living, and the brotherhood, which is prevailing in the country.

So, my first observation is that Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya's object is to defeat our country, to defeat our society, to create chaos and confusion in our society. If the Bill is passed, definitely the secular fabric of our society will be in danger.

Article 356 of our Constitution says that we can amend our Constitution under that provision. For amending any other law, we want only simple majority, but if we want to amend the Constitution, the process is different. We cannot amend the Constitution with a simple majority. The Parliament has the preliminary power to amend the Constitution by a two-thirds

majority of both the Houses. Parliament, with this preliminary power, has several times amended the Constitution. This is not an ordinary legislative function. The hon. mover of the Bill wants to put a legislation on a religion under special category. He wants to put this legislation by amending our Constitution. That means, he wants that the matters related to religion should be kept in a special category and says that this should be amended only in the manner in which we are amending the Constitution. But, unfortunately, his argument in support of it is not at all convincing. A Bill on religious matters is just like any other Bill. I do not find any peculiarity in that. In the scheme of our Constitution, it is a very special one. Matters related to religion cannot be put into a special category. The Constitution does not provide for any special status to a Bill on religious affairs and the State is well within its powers to enact a law with reasonable restrictions under Fundamental Rights to practise or profess any religion of one's choice. Our Constitution guarantees that. Our Constitution, within its powers, is giving the power to the people to profess any religion which they want to. When the Parliament exercises that power, the Parliament has the power to amend the Constitution. Therefore, there is no need for giving a special status to matters relating to religion. We cannot put it in a special category. This is against the scheme of the Constitution. So, with these two reasons, at the first sight itself, I cannot agree with the mover of the Bill.

Thirdly, if we accept this Bill, what is going to happen in our country? As our hon. friend just mentioned, what is the situation in our country now? Because of the activists of BJP and its allies in our country, our secular fabric is now threatened. Our country has faced a lot of major challenges. Today, the major challenge which the whole population of our country is facing is communalism. All right-thinking people should think about it. Our country is facing this challenge. Every day we are hearing about the communal riots and hatred is coming up like

anything. These communal organisations which are pleading hatred in our country are trying to totally destroy our society. As I said earlier, we are living in a society where we respect all religions. We have a tradition and the tradition is that we accept and respect all the religions. But what is happening in our country today? After the 6th December, in our society, hatred and passion are running high. The recent riots that place in different parts of the country are shameful for us; shameful for any civilized society; shameful for any civilized individual. We have a right to preach and follow any religion. But we have to respect the sentiments of others also.

I submit that it is the bounden duty of the majority community of our country to protect the minorities. It is the duty of the majority community to see that the minorities are harmoniously living in our country. That is the tradition of our country.

But, after 6th December incident, the hatred which has now developed in our country will not help anybody. It will not help any party. What is happening in our country? Election campaigns are going on in the name of religion. During the elections candidates are preaching religion. Candidates are selected on the basis of religion. If a particular community is in majority in a constituency persons belonging to that community are selected by the political parties. This will definitely encourage communal activity and preach communalism in the name of religion. If it happens in this way, what will happen to the country? The communal hatred and communal violence are growing more so at the time of elections.

I want to say that a country like India cannot bear this. We were always considered a model before the world. We were always considered an example before the world. Unfortunately that image which India has gained over the years is now being tarnished. Our image before the world is tarnished after the 6th December incident.

SHRI E. AHMED (Manjeri) : There is no doubt about it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I submit that any sensible person cannot accept this Bill. The people of India will never tolerate such activities. The B.J.P. and their allies were trying to divide our country.

Therefore, I submit that the need of the hour is for all right-thinking people and parties to come together and fight this menace of communal terrorism.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. This Bill is against the spirit of our Constitution and it is against the well-being of our country and it is contradictory to the facts. So, if the Bill is passed, the country will be in great danger and the peace of the society will be disturbed.

Therefore, I oppose this Bill.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think this Bill has been brought by a learned Member of this august House for some particular purpose and I think the hidden purpose is exactly what one of the major parties in this House is trying to do for quite a long time. Now, the purpose of this Bill seems to be to take out religion from the activities of the State. It may even appear that the purpose is to the effect that the political parties also should not meddle with the religion. But I think even though it appears so, the particular intent behind this Bill is to see that some matters in which one of the major parties in this House is involved, are not hindered by any legal or legislative process. Now, it is not allowed by the Constitution or by the legislations passed in this House, to propagate religion for the purpose of elections. But, it is a fact that some of the parties are taking religion as one of the main planks to fight the elections and I do not know why this Bill has been brought at this stage, especially by the hon. Member who belongs to a party which uses religious propaganda at

the time of elections. I think this is the motive of this Bill which has been brought by the hon. Member. So, I have no other option than to oppose the Bill tooth and nail.

Now, it is said at the outset, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that religion is something personal for every individual. I wish this was taken in its face value by the mover of this Bill and the party to which the hon. Member, for whom I have great respect, belongs to, because if religion is left as such for each individual to keep in his mind, there would not have been such types of propaganda where the religion or the religious sentiments are taken as the main plank in elections. I think that is not resorted to by some of the candidates and I think just contrary is being done by the party of the hon. Member who has brought forward this Bill. So, I would think that this Bill should have taken away propagation of religion for the purpose of election. The power of the Parliament to make laws on against wrong motives which are not good should not be misused. The purpose of this Bill is to hinder the powers of the Parliament in the normal course to pass such legislations. Hence, I think this Bill has to be withdrawn or if not, it has to be defeated.

Sir, India is a country where many religions are coexisting and religions which are in India have great traditions especially Hinduism is a religion which has shown great tolerance and is having great principles. It is a religion which has also shown broadmindedness to accept people of all the religions and to coexist. It allows them to practise their own religion.

But it is now misconceived or sought to be misconceived and I think that is going to be a great danger if such misconception or such propagation is allowed any more. I have an example. As you know, Sabari Malai is just next to my constituency. Sabari Malai is a place where millions of pilgrims visit to have darshan of Lord Ayyappa. Lord Ayyappa is being respected irrespective of religions by people in

India as well as many from abroad. Many people come to Sabari Malai irrespective of religious sentiments. There is a place in my constituency, which I would call "Gateway to Greatness". If Sabari Malai is Greatness, I would call Erumeli as Gateway to Greatness.

Erumeli is the place where pilgrims who go to Sabari Malai first go to commemorate the past incident or legend which is in the memories of all of us. It is believed that Lord Ayyappa fought against the evils and there is a story that Waver, a Muslim saint was with him. Both of them strongly fought against the evil spirit and the evil spirit was forced away by the Muslim saint Waver and Lord Ayyappa, by fighting together hand in glove. That was the strength for both of them at that time.

Now to commemorate this, the pilgrims who go to Sabari Malai do go to this place called Erumeli. They first go to the temple and they call Lord Ayyappa, Swami Saranam. Then, from there, after paying respect in the temple, they come just outside and cross the road and go straight to the mosque. The mosque is situated just opposite to the temple. Lakhs and lakhs of people are going every year to the mosque and go to pay respect to Waver, the Muslim saint. They pray there and show all sorts of respects. They walk backward, after paying respect, without turning their back to the mosque. They say, 'Swami Saranam' and from there go to their destination or Sabari Malai.

This is a place which is of great importance in the present day. The Hindu pilgrims who come there in great number are respected and welcomed by the Muslims in the area by holding a function called 'Chandana Kudam'. It is a great show which I think, the whole nation should see. I am inviting, especially the Mover of the Bill who, I know, is a person with very broad mind. He must come with his Party people and also along with others to my constituency to see Makara Vilakku or Mandala Pooja, when a lot of people come to our place, Erumeli, and to see the great act of secularism that is being practised.

I do not know whether there is any other part in India where real secularism is being practised. I think, I had the opportunity to submit this in Parliament once or twice. Of course, some action has come. In many places we are fighting on the basis of religion. This is a place where we are joining in the name of religion itself. I think, that is the spirit we should have now. That is the spirit which should be propagated now. That is the spirit we should have throughout our country. Of course, this was shown in the TV and some kind of national telecast was done. But I am sure, even now the message of the real secularism being practised in this part of the country has not reached the other parts of India.

In our place this year they are holding a great National Integration Convention for about seven days and we hope that many of the members would come there and they would make this a very grand memorable function and feel something which could be propagated throughout India. I was only citing this. But I do not find fault with anybody because things are at such a stage where votes are the main aim. We are all after votes, after power and power is the only goal. Religion is not the goal and what is taught by religion is not our goal. We have gone astray. We are far from religion and the teachings of religion as such. We are only at the point of catching votes and therefore, we are going astray. Religion is being misused now for the purpose of canvassing votes and this type of electioneering or this type of political action will ruin our country, no doubt. This is exactly what we must ponder over in this august Assembly. This is something which we have to discuss. How communal harmony can be brought about.

I have come to this august House about three years back. Seventeen, eighteen or 20 fullfledged discussions have taken place regarding communal problems after I had come to this House. I am sure that apart from zero hour discussions, many full fledged discussions had taken place. The maximum time of this House has been

spent on discussions regarding communal riots. I am sorry communal riots create very high spirits which we cannot stop.

When this Bill has come here in this august House as a Private Member's Bill, we must give very sound thought as to what can be done to have communal harmony in our country because India is a place where many religions are co-existing and we have to keep our tradition. We have to think of it and that is something which we have to discuss.

This Bill will not help that way. It is rather a little ill-motivated and a little out of the way. This Bill has given an opportunity for us to sit together and talk together and find out some solutions as to how all the religions can co-exist in a better way in our country and how we shall not politicise and we shall not misuse religion further. If at all there is a political party which thinks that it can come to power by using religious sentiments, it is high time that the people of India know this and thwart such moves.

This bill is ill-motivated one. After the discussions are over, I hope the mover of the Bill will throw some light as to what positive action could be taken apart from the wording that has been given in the Bill for first separating religion from politics and also how to bring about religious harmony in this great nation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important Bill. The intention behind bringing this amendment Bill is a very pious. Many hon. Members have expressed their view points. Most of the views expressed were regarding religion. The speakers who spoke prior to me have criticised the Hindu religion. They may be right to some extent. But I would like to request to my learned colleagues that we have not defined the religion in the right perspective and the people have confusions and misconceptions about the Hindu

religion particularly. Hindu religion is no religion at all. Time and again appeals are made in the name of Hindu religion. This is totally wrong. The name of religion is Sanatan, which is mistakenly called Hindu religion by my some friends. The domiciles of India are Hindus, though they belong to different religions. or example, during the period of slavery, Malviyaji had set up the Banaras Hindu University. At that time, it was the regime of Britishers. These people opposed it on the plea that the name of the University should not be after Hindu religion. The matter was referred to the Privy Council, London. It was decided that the domiciles of Hind are Hindus. Therefore, the name of the University can be Hindu. If I am wrong, my colleagues can correct me. I mean to say that the Hindu religion purports the Sanatan Dharma. The domiciles of Hindustan are Hindus and they belong to different religions.

Many criticisms have been made against the Sanatan Dharma. The time when the Muslim, Budha and Christian religion had not come into existence, this religion came into existence first of all and therefore it was called the Sanatan Dharma. Different religions have originated from different philosophies of Sanatan Dharma. Islam condemns worshipping of idols. In Hindu religious books too, some of our authors of religious books have condemned the worshipping of idols. Some do not endorse idolatry. In this regard I would like to say that there are so many things which prove that the Sanatan Dharma is based on logic. There is no room for conservatism in it. It gives freedom to act as per one's living. Sanatan Dharma admits the existence of God. But the other Acharya does not admit the existence of God. One Acharya says that God is 'Nirakar' whereas another says that it is 'Sakar'. It follows two schools of thoughts. One endorses its existence but the other reiterates that the logic is the God. One says that everything is God. Now come to the philosophy of 'Sakar'. Some say that it God is there while some give importance to 'Karma' whereas some give importance to

duty'. I am quoting it in a Sanskrit stanza :

"Yam Sahiva Sam Pasate, Shivpati
Brahmeti Vedanti No,
Bodha Bhudhat Ithi Pradhan
Patva Katenta Niyati Ka,
Arhan Nitamam Jain Shastratah
Karmati,
Nimanska so Ayamwith Dhat
Vanchhit Phalam Trilok Natho Haiy."

It purports that someone gives importance to 'Sam' someone to 'Karna'. Someone worships God whereas someone worships Buddha. There are several names of God. You may call him "Alah" or 'God' or 'Bhagwan'. But God is one. His names may be different. This is the theory of our Sanatan Dharma. Our religion does not oppose any religion. Jesus Christ had said: "Ahinsa Parmo-Dharmah". I also recall a story about Mohammad Sahib which I have read. I am narrating that story.

Mohammad Sahib used to pass through a house on his way. A person named Mamool used to throw stones on him which he had collected for the purpose showing heavy disregard for him. But Mohammad Sahib never got angry and continued to pass through that way with a smile. One day Mamool did not come. Mohammad Sahib was very much liberal so he enquired about him. He came to know that Mamool is ill, he went to his house. His behaviour made Mamool his disciple.

I narrated this story because the base of religion is affection. But what is happening now a days? Every right thing about our religion is being defined wrongly. One of my colleagues was uttering about Buddha religion just now. I am submitting that Sanatan Dharam has so many old traditions and it is one of its qualities that it accepted various changes from time to time. It is also correct that they have made some genuine complaints. But the Acharyas have made some changes therein. Not only that, we have considered 'Buddha' a tenth

incarnation. Had Mohammad Sahib been there, we would have considered him incarnation. It is a matter of faith.

Sir, it is a historical fact that attacks were made by Muslims. A number of Muslims have adopted the Sanatan Dharam Culture. A number of small countries were the victims of attacks of Muslims. I would like to ask these people as to why all these small nations which became the victims of Muslims attacks were converted into Islam. But India is the only country that could escape from it because there is a lot of tolerance among the people and there is no feeling of hatred against anybody. Our Sanatan Dharama does not teach us the lesson of hatred against anybody. Some of our brothers mistakenly call this 'Sanatan Dharama' as Hindu religions.

As far as the purpose of bringing this Bill by Dr. Pandeya is concerned, the factual position is that all political parties criticise our party. I am substantiating it by narrating a story. It is a temptation to capture power. It misleads even the learned Ribhis and Munis. There is a story in Mahabharata:

During the period of their exile, Pandavas reached the kingdom of King Virata to pass one year's period of secret exile. The General of king, Keechak was enchanted to see the beauty of Dropadi. Then Dropadi approached Arjuna and requested him to save her from Keechak. Arjuna expressed his inability because Keechak was very strong. If people came to know that he was killed by Arjuna they would have to face exile again. Then she went to Dharamraj Yudhishthir, he also regretted saying that if it was exposed then they would have to face exile again. Nakul and Sahadev too did not help her. In the end, she approached Bhima and explained her pitiable story. Bhima assured her that he would kill Keechak and would not care for his kingdom. So the various parties including the ruling party sitting on treasury benches create

confusion among the people only to save their chair. Ours is the only party that plays the role of Bhima and always says the right thing whether it may come to power or not. That is why I am appreciating them. There is nothing to laugh at it.

I am not alleging anybody. But I would like to ask the people belonging to different religions whether they follow Christianity, Buddhism, Islam or Janism that when these religion were not in existence, there was a culture in India which was called the Sanatan Dharma. God Ram, God Krishna and God Shankara exist in this culture. The people all over the world are descendants of these Gods. They do not belong to a particular religion... (*Interruptions*)... Is it not a fact that the ancestors of all the residents of India whether they are Hindus, or Christians or Muslims are the same Ram and Krishna? The difference is only of caste. Today I am the follower of the Sanatan Dharma. Tomorrow, if I adopt Islam, even then my ancestors will remain unchanged. The names of my forefathers will not be changed. On the other hand, a lot of rumours are being spread regarding construction of Ram Temple.

As you know Mohammad Sahib had laid a foundation of a religion on this earth. But today what his followers are doing. Sir, I have already given a statement that 'Shariat' has been enacted in Islam religion. Perhaps these people act in accordance with the provision of the 'Shariat'. I do not want to repeat all those things which I have already said. Otherwise, Shahabuddin Sahib will object to it. It has been mentioned in the 'Shariat' to sever hands of a thief and stone the culprit to death. If there is something wrong, you may correct me. Even then some people keep silence over such crimes being committed in this society. In the matter of Shahabano case, the Supreme Court of India had delivered its verdict in favour of giving maintenance allowance to her. But at that time it was argued that maintenance allowance was against the provisions of the 'Shariat'. Many members of the other side were endorsing

this move at that time. I was a member of Congress Party, I remember that a number of meetings were held during the regime of Rajiv Gandhi regarding the Shahabano case. To save the chair, the policy of appeasement was adopted. Even an amendment was made in this regard so that our brethren may remain with the Congress.....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not speaking on the Bill. The Bill is something else and you are saying something else.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Till now I was making the background. Now I am coming to the main point. I may be given the time allotted to my party.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 15 minutes. Please come to the point no.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Sir, I was narrating the story of Mahabharat as to what was done to save the throne. In the matter of Shahabano case, the decision of the Supreme Court was amended. Not only that, when these people raised their voice to set up a Minority Commission, the Commission was set up to appease them and the reason was to continue to maintain the Vote Bank for Congress Party; I mean to say that whatever was said by the leaders of a particular community, the Congress Party did everything to maintain its vote Bank. But these people betrayed the Congress Party again. They got all their work done and at the time of voting, they refused to support the Party. That's why it is said that the greedy person always goes wrong. The Congress had to face the consequences for its appeasement policy. What happened about the Ram Janam Bhoomi and the Religion Bill. When Mohammad Gaznavi, Changeez Khan and Sikandara attacked India, they demolished Hindu temples and

converted all those temples into mosques. Whenever the country becomes slave, attack is made on its culture. At that time the temples of Lord Rama, Krishana and Shankar were demolished and converted into mosques. The followers of Islam consider 'Kaba' a sacred place and they believe that by worshipping in Kaba they will get heaven. In the same manner the followers of Sanatan Dharma consider Kashi, Mathura and Ayodhya, as sacred places and ways of getting heaven. During the war of Mahabharata when Lord Krishna had gone to Duryodhan and asked him to give five villages to Pandavas; Duryodhan refused to do so and warned that he was not prepared to give even an inch of land without going to war. In the same way, the leaders of the B.J.P. had requested the ruling party as well as the minority to hand over the same three temples to the Hindus. Our Muslim brethren were also annoyed... (*Interruptions*) Our leaders refuted the allegations levelled against them. Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs will live unitedly in the country. This is the opinion of the B.J.P. too. Besides, there is also a request from our side if we embrace you, you should not try to harm us.

[*Translation*]

At the time of partition of the country, we had left all the temples in Pak'stan under their control. Our rule is felt that if the temple dispute comes to an end then they would not be able to appease the Muslim Voters. When the Hindus were demanding for a particular temple, the Government came out with a Law that all the existing Mosques will remain there but these three temples would be out of bound for Hindus. They wanted that Hindus should never get these temples that is why they left the problem unresolved. Now there would be dispute over this issue for ever. We have to live together in peace and harmony. These temples are as important for Hindus as is Kaba for the Muslims. Therefore, these temples should be handed over to Hindus. But they have no courage to say that these temples should be handed over to Hindus as they are

continuously being misled. We have heard a number of speeches here. Shri Chandra Shekhar says that if 4000 youth become terrorists, then they will teach a lesson to us. One Leader in Uttar Pradesh says that Babar had come to India with ten thousand soldiers and he ruled the whole of India and now you are 14 crores and moreover, we also support your cause. In these circumstances, can we hope for a solution of this problem. They want this dispute to continue. I want to ask my Muslim colleagues as to what they have gained during the last 40—45 years. They were misled in the name of religion and they always remained backward. Can a Pandit become an I.A.S. Officer my merely studying Sanskrit or for that matter a Muslim by studying Arabic. For entering into the main stream he will have to study all those subjects which are essential to become an I.A.S. Officer.

I have got a chance to give vent to my feelings. Shri Pandeya Ji has presented this bill Earlier Places of worship bill was passed by a thin majority. This is very simple thing. It is also provided in the Constitution that everybody should get equal opportunities. You have brought a Bill in order to separate religion from the politics. Are you really going to separate religion from politics? I have come to know 'hat they were making their propaganda in the name of Lord Krishna in Rajasthan. While we worship Ram, Krishna and Shankar Ji. Religions verses in Sanskrit find place in very function and are engraved on the buildings. Religion is not an obstruction in the way of politics. The people do not fear from the law as much as they fear from the Religion. If you take out religion from your life then you will become a prosaic.

"Yesham Na Vidya Na Tapo Na
Danam,

Gyanam Na Sheelam, Na Guno Na
Dharma

Te Mrityuloke, Bhuvibhar Bhute

Manushya Roopen Mrigashcharanti."

The religion is a nectar, whatever be the religion. That is why I say that none of the founders of religions has taught us to make quarrel with each other. Our Sanatan Dharam is so liberal that it has embraced one and all. Gosain Ji has said that "Jaati Paati Puchhe Nakoi, Hari ko Bhaje so Hari Ka Hoi." Just now one of my colleagues was saying that Sita Ji had lived in Valmiki Ashram for quite some time. Lav-Kush were born there in the Ashram. Valmiki taught them. This is our religion. Lord Rama visited Sabri and ate her leftover 'Ber'. One can easily observe the greatness and liberalness of our religion. Bhaloo, Vanar and Reech were his supporters. These are the names of the castes. You will be surprised to hear that no Brahmin, Thakur or Rishi went to support Ram during Ram-Ravan war. Only the people belonging to lower castes joined Ram in the Ram-Rawan war and Ram also embraced these people and paid them due regard and affection.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Brahmins never go to fight a war, they do not go even now so you do not talk about war.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : I just tell you...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have been speaking for the last 25—30 minutes, please conclude now, let the others speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is coming to an end...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a point of order. He said that the Brahmins did not fight for Ram. The people, who fought for Ram were Vanar and Reech. Such were the names of castes in those days and by saying so you are calling them as Lower Classes... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Point of order does not mean full fledged speech. Mishra ji please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Sir, I mean to say that Lord Ram, proved through his gestures that he was a sympathizer of backward classes and these classes lent full cooperation to Ram and thus killed a demon like Rawan. My colleague was saying that the Brahmins do not go to war, this is untrue. When Ram could not kill Rawan, then Agastya Muni went to Ram and told him how the Ravan could be killed. I mean to say that Lord Ram embraced lower castes and worked for their upliftment. Ram belongs to oppressed and exploited ones and to the whole world, "Ramante Yogina Ram." lives in everybody. (Interruptions) Please listen, I am telling you that this Bill is in the interest of the nation. It is provided in our Constitution that there should be no law like this one. I feel that it should be unanimously passed by the whole House. But the restriction put under the Places of Worship (special provision) Bill should be withdrawn. If you want to maintain Hindu-Muslim unity then the Muslims should hand over the temples belonging to Ram, Krishan and Shankar Ji to the Hindus. India does not belong to one ; it belongs to all the Indians. With these words I conclude.

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH (Ropar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit few lines :

"Brahmin Se Vyavhar Kar Sukhi Na Deesat Koi,

Vishwa Harichander Ka Deeyo Raj Sab Khoi,

Deeyo Raj Sab Khoi, Durjan Siun Ban Aai

Harijagat Ki Mai Laj Ki Ni Nahin Rai,

Keh Girdhar Kavirai, Yebi Hai Jag Ke Thamban,

Khushamad Lakh Karo, Badi Chhote Nahin Brahmin,

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not only read the statement of objects and reasons very minutely, I have also listened to the speeches made in favour of the Bill. I really do not know why our distinguished colleague has tried to place so many curtains between his actual motivation and his formulation. The entire purpose of the Bill could have been served by a one-line Bill : to repeal the places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. A simple repeal formulation should have served the Bill.

[Translation]

Why are they concealing their intentions. I fail to understand as to what was the need of it. They should have made a clear submission. They had opposed the Bill strongly. They can do so even today. They are doing so outside the House as well as in the House. Then what was the hitch for him to present a one-line Bill.

[English]

Therefore, Sir, I consider that the formulation of this Bill is an exercise in deception. I feel that the House is being taken for a ride which should not have been permitted. Therefore, I really do not know what we are discussing here? I was listening and the whole House was listening carefully to what our distinguished colleague, Mr. Ram Nagina Mishra was saying. Are we rebating the Ayodhya issue in this House? Is this Bill about Ayodhya? Is it about Shah Banu case or uniform civil code? Is this Bill about the acts of omissions and commissions that in the opinion of the hon. Member all the political parties of this country but the pure party, the BJP, have committed in this country for the last 45 years? We

are not. This Bill has a very limited purpose and a special focus. Therefore, I consider that all that has been said by Mr. Ram Nagina Mishra is thoroughly irrelevant and has got nothing to do with the Bill. (Interruptions) This Bill seek to place a restraint, if I understand, on the face of it, on the plenary legislative powers of the Parliament whenever it seeks to legislate on a religious matter. This is how it looks to me. Now, I know of such limitations another Parliaments also. For example, in the British Parliament, there is a provision that in a matter concerns a particular region like Scotland, it must be approved not just by a majority of the house but by an overwhelming majority or may be two-third of the Members belonging to that region. I do not exactly remember the form. In the old Central Assembly, there used to be a provision and I believe, the subject of an important debate during the Freedom Movement and the Congress Party in a resolution had acceded to that idea that in the National Parliament of free India, if a Bill is considered affecting the rights and interests of a particular religious group, then that Bill must not only be passed by a majority of the House but by an overwhelming majority of the Members belonging to that religion. These are the various formulations. There are variations and one could understand that. I am only recalling that it is possible in a democratic system to place certain limitations and restraints.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Substantiate what you have said. (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I am not proposing it. I am only recalling that these are the provisions that exist in many democracies. (Interruptions) I am only saying that it is possible in a democratic system to have a limitation or a restraint placed on the passage of a Bill by a simple majority and in fact, in our Parliament, that status has been given only to the question of amendment when it comes before the House. I do not recall

any other incident. Even a no confidence motion can be carried by a simple majority. So, I can understand the principle of it, Sir. But when it is sought to be applied here in our situation, in fact, it shall open a Pandora's box. Sir, the Statement of Object and Reasons alleges, if I may say so, like this :

"Interference of State in the "religion" and "religious affairs" of citizens has increased manifold. Many laws have been passed overlooking the provisions of the Constitution of India."

If indeed the honourable distinguished colleague, Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandeya thinks that a number of laws have been passed overlooking the provisions of the Constitution of India, then he cannot constitute himself or this House into the Supreme Court of India. That is for the Supreme Court of India to decide. If a particular piece of legislation exceeds the boundaries and goes outside the framework of the constitution and is therefore unconstitutional, that is a matter to be decided by the Supreme Court. Therefore, he should not have introduced a Bill here. He should have gone a writ petition to the Supreme Court against the Religious Places (Special Provisions) Act. That would have been very simple. So, the legislative path of a simple repeal Bill is open to him and the judicial path of going on a writ petition to the Supreme Court is also open to him. He could have moved the Supreme Court saying that this Bill be declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution. Unfortunately, he has decided to create a 'bhool bhulaiyah' and place us just in the middle of it! From 107 to 111, it really took me some time to find out what exactly, he was trying to say. I, then, discovered his real purpose as to why he speaks of 1st July 1991. All of us in the House must be wondering about the significance of 1st July 1991.

[Translation]

What is the difference and what sort of quiz is this?

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[English]

How does 1st July 1991 in ? 15th August 1947 has a meaning. 26th January 1950 has a meaning. But why this 1st July 1991? Then, I discovered the purpose and I must pay my tribute to Dr. Pandey. In a brief conversation, he told me, "Do not you remember that Religious Places (Special Provisions) Bill was passed and brought into effect immediately after 1st July 1991?"

[Translation]

We are ready to forgive everybody to pass any sort of Bill but if a Bill like this comes after 1st July, we are not going to support it.

[English]

Mr. Chairman, now I shall, therefore, consider that this Bill really serves to mislead and misguide the House. Therefore, we cannot support it.

I will however like to make a few general comments here, since the debate has brought out questions about secularism, state and religion. Mr. Chairman, when I look at human history, I see a dynamic relationship between state and religion. Sometimes state has been interfering in religion and sometimes religion has been interfering in state. I would say, the objective of a civilized society in our times has been to draw a reasonable line of partition between religion and state. Where does religion end and stage begin and where does state end and religion begin? We are neither for interference by state in religion nor for interference by religion in matter of state. But where this partition occurs, depends very much upon the balance of forces in a given society. Perhaps a war goes on all the time. I am sorry to say that at this time the whole country is on one side and the Hinduva forces are on the other.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari) : It is narrow minded Hinduva.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Or, let me put it the other way. Now the war is between secular forces and anti-secular forces and the line will be drawn where the final balance of force lies. Sometimes, I feel Mr. Chairman that this position is not only a sort of floating partition whose precise location will depend upon the balance of forces on the two sides—religion trying to overwhelm the state and capture state power or the state trying to dominate all religion and regulate all religion—between these two forces, the location of this partition will finally be determined. But Mr. Chairman, the nature of our society is such that perhaps this partition will never be a wall.

We speak a Constitutional wall. It will not be a wall of separation. It will be a membrane of partition. We need such a membrane. A membrane does allow for a certain degree of cosmosis, a certain degree of symbiosis between one side and the other. So, considering the very multi-religious character of our society, considering that religiosity is part of our cultural ethos, I sometimes find it difficult to believe that it shall be possible to have an impermeable, an impenetrable wall of separation. And, therefore, we cannot attempt the impossible and we have to be content with what is possible. And, that, as I said, is a membrane which can take pressure from both sides and make slight shift according to the situation, so long as it continue to exist.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time for the Bill will have to be extended if you want to proceed further.

SEVFRAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir, you extend the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, the time for this bill is extended by one hour.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Sometimes in this debate between a State and Religion, we focus on politics and religion; and sometimes we focus on Society and Religion. These are three different concepts. And, sometimes we speak on this matter without trying to resolve this

confusion that there is a relationship between State and Religion; there is a relationship between Politics and Religion and there is a relationship between Society and Religion.

In our setting, we have in my opinion a very limited objective. We are trying to create a secular State in a religious society. It is easy to create a secular State in a secular society. It is easy to create a religious State in a religious society but it is extremely difficult to create a secular State in a religious society and that is why perhaps during the last 45 years we have been floundering and we are finding it difficult even to define the term 'secularism'. Mr. Chairman, if I may say so, the word 'secularism' - and I would like to remind you - even in the Parliamentary domain has not been very specific and clear-cut.

16.57 hrs

(SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG *in the Chair*).

We have passed laws in this Parliament pertaining to a specific religious group. I am not against social reform. We passed the Hindu Code Bill. We have the Parsi Marriage Act. We have a Muslim Divorcee Act. In my view all these, if you take a very strict view of secularism, will not fall within the jurisdiction of a secular State. In our country the Parliament agrees to function as the "Dharma Sansad". The Parliament agrees to function as the established Church perhaps because there is no other alternative available, or perhaps the followers of a particular religion recognise the authority of the State and come to the State for the purpose promoting of social reform; to get a legislative sanction and a seal of legitimacy on the reforms that they wish to introduce in the society. And, therefore, they came to Parliament with what appears to be a religious project, that is the reform of a particular religious society. It pertains to a particular section of society and yet the Hindu wish to involve the entire parliament. Muslims and even Parsi—who are a minuscule element

in our country—come to the Parliament and want to get the seal of legitimacy. Therefore, some may call it a flaw, I call it a necessity of our being a religious society.

Secularism in my view in a multi-religious society can be defined in many ways. One definition has attempt been attempted in the other bill, which is under discuss on in the Select Committee which says that the State shall show equal respect to all religions. I said the other day, that it seems to me that equal respect is shown when on the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat we have recitation from the scriptures of all religious. Is that enough? No, it is not enough. Secularism cannot merely be defined in terms of according equality or equal respect or equal treatment to all religions and religious groups.

17.00 hrs.

We have to take cognizance of a Socio-political fact and the political fact is that, at the interface of different religions, there are bound to arise sometimes, conflicts of interest. How does the State behave in a situation of inter-religious conflicts? That is the real test of secularism. How does it behave in an inter-religious situation not only with regard to a particular religion but when the interests of two religious group conflict or when there is a situation of disharmony, if I may put it that way? If in that situation, the State remains neutral, the State does not patronise one side, the State does not tilt to one side, the State does not support one side, the State remains equi-distant, neutral, non-aligned, then that is a True Secularism. I define, therefore, secularism State secularism, as equi-distance of State towards all religions, as neutrality or non-alignment towards all religions. The State does not identify itself with any religion. The State acts as a policeman. The State acts as a Minister, the State acts as a Magistrate, but the Magistrate or the policeman or the Minister acting as Minister, acting a Magistrate, acting as policeman has no religion. Unfortunately, all the trouble that has arisen in

our country has arisen because in times of stress and strain such conflicts, the Magistrate does adorn the garb of religion. He forgets that he is a Magistrate only and nothing but a Magistrate. He forgets that he is a policeman and nothing but a policeman. Even Ministers forget that they are only Ministers and they do not have any religion as Ministers. Here, in our country, not only every Minister but even every Prime Minister goes about exhibiting his religious zeal, his multi-religious faith. He thinks that a visit to Ajmer Sharif will cancel a visit to Banaras. These are merely political acts. Nobody believes in them. If you are truly *dharmaic* or if you are truly religious your religion is inside yourself, it resides in your conscience. Nobody has prohibited any body going on a private visit to any place. But, here, in public, in broad day light, under the arc of the TV cameras, the heads of our Governments and the Heads of our State prostrate themselves before living Godmen and yet we consider ourselves to be a secular State. Therefore, I do not understand this. On the one hand, you say that you want to banish religion from the affairs of the State and the State has no religious identity and yet every *karmachari* of the State, from the highest to the lowest, is anxious to display his association either with one religion or his equal regard for all religions which people see as an act of hypocrisy. It does not impress anybody. Sometimes, those visits to *dargahs* and shrines are done, as my friend Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya would correctly say, for impressing the Muslim electorate by stating that though he is a Hindu, he is such a great Hindu, such a noble Hindu, such a good Hindu, that he has equal regards for those *dargahs* and shrines. So, let them not treat him just as a Hindu. He may not be able to protect their Masjid but he is here to pay respect to their *dargahs*. That is a political message, that is a political signal and it has nothing to do with religion. That is where, I think we have perhaps lost the real consciousness, the real touch, the real commitment to the religions.

Sir, I would like to conclude by saying this. Somebody had spoken here about *sanatan dharma*. Now I only want to make one comment. *Sanatan Dharma* in a larger sense cannot be limited to the people of India. *Sanatan Dharma* has a universal concept. It must embrace all humanity. It cannot be "Indo-centric" it has to be "universal". That is number one. Secondly, this concept is not limited to Hinduism.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : You may enquire from anywhere you like. Our religion is Sanatan, not Hindu.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I am talking about you only. Why do not you increase its boundaries and scope and take the humanity all over the world within its range. Why do you restrict it upto India only. I also intend to increase its boundaries. I want to make one more point.

[English]

I want to say that this concept is also there in other major religions. For example, in Islam, there is a distinction between *deen* and *mazhab*. Muslims believe that from the time of Prophet Adam to the time of Prophet Mohammad. There has been only one *deen* for all humanity. There is only one *deen*, one path of submission to God, submission to the Almighty. But there are many *mazhabs* and there can be many *mazhabs* even within the *Deen* of Islam. Therefore, in human philosophy, there is a contrast, a larger concept, and a smaller concept, a universal concept and a local concept. Therefore, there is not something unique. But what I object to this is that in the name of *dharma* a particular religious group wishes to assert a place of superiority, a place of dominance, a place of control over the other religious groups in the country. That is not the meaning of *Sanatan Dharma*, or of secularism. The point is that it is not just a question of semantics or words. We have got clear-cut religious groups in our country. Most of the time, they are in harmony; sometimes,

they are in a conflict. But a particular religious group says, we have very special rights over this country and this land, because we are the followers of *Sanatan Dharma* and it belongs to us.

If *dharma* is superior to religion. Your religion is also a Panth, but not the *dharma*.

Now, in our secular State, we cannot accept this concept of superiority of one religious group over the other religious group in any multi-religious setting. Therefore, I have no philosophical trouble with Mr. Ram Nagina Mishra. But if he wishes to translate the philosophical concept into a political action, then, I am sorry, I cannot possibly accept that definition.

[Translation]

There is a couplet written by Iqbal :—
"Juda ho deen se to reh jati hai
changezi,

Jalale Badshahi ho kizamhuri tamasha
ho."

[English]

Democracy is a *tamasha*. We are all participating in a drama, make-believe drama; sometimes to entertain the spectators, sometimes to deceive them. But Iqbal he is talking of the conscience of man the evolved spirit of man, the morality of man, the ethos of man and there you can never separate religion from any human activity, because if you do, then finally you are tyrannical, then you have no regards for human beings. Truly a religious man does not think in exclusive terms, does not think in particularistic terms. He performs his duty that has been assigned to him by the society, the responsibility that has been given to him by the society, in a manner that he does not distinguish between one creation of God and the other, between the followers of one religion and other religion, only then he is true ruler, then he is the true leader. Otherwise, he becomes tyrannical towards one or the other. I am sure, on this Mr. Mishra will agree with me because here we need that concept of *dharma* which is

high philosophy, which makes the ethos of man, which makes our morality, which gives us character, which gives us conscience, which Gandhiji had which Azad had and applied in all affairs of the State. That is secularism. Unfortunately, there are very few Gandhiji's and Azad's living today. It is very difficult to arrive at that developed State where you absorb the spirit of religion and yet you do not act in a situation of conflict as if you are the follower of a particular religion; that is when the test lies.

One more point and I have done. The mover has mentioned about the belief of a person. I am sure, the hon. mover is speaking about the religious belief. A religious belief, is defined with respect to the scripture of a religion. In matters of belief no law can make you believe otherwise so long as you are the follower of that religion.

For example, if I, as a Muslim, believe that God is one and Mohammed was his Prophet, then any amount of coercion cannot make me disbelieve that. That is a part of my faith. That faith is attributable to the scriptures in which I believe. That is precisely what the Supreme Court has said, when it decided religious cases, such as when there were contenders for the post of *Sankaracharyas*; for the post of *Mahants*; differences on the shape of a Tilak mark over the face of an elephant, on the size of a laddu, the prasad. Both sides said : "This is my belief" and the Supreme Court said : "Show us what is written in your *Shashtra* and according to the *Shashtra* we shall decide." That is a question of fact. And nobody can change a fact. That is whether the *Shastras* so ordain. Whatever *Shastras* ordain determine what the follower of that religion believed that faith simply cannot be questioned. Therefore, Sir, I would say that one has to make a distinction between a question of faith and a point which is raised for creating a conflict in society, for erasing certain facts or creating some new facts without any reference to the original scriptures of the religion or the *Shastras* of that religion:

the two cannot be put in the same category as a question of belief or a question of faith.

It has been said many a time on the floor of the House that question of faith cannot be justiciable. Yes. But, how do you define a question of faith? The question of faith must be defined only in relation to the *Shastras*, it cannot be decided on the basis of a Party's manifesto or political propaganda or the claim of a movement or the point of a dispute which is raised at a given time in order to divide the society. I am not making any reference. I am making a general statement because I said in the very beginning that I am not here in a debate or in a discussion like the Shah Bano case or anything like that. But I am stating a general principle. This is not only a common sense view but also this is the view taken by the Supreme Court in a number of cases on questions of faith that have came up before them.

Sir, I will not take any more time of the House. I would like to thank the the honourable mover for bringing this Bill before us which has given us an opportunity to explain many things. But I am sorry that I cannot support this Bill for the reason that I voted in favour of the Religious Places (Special Provisions) Bill 1991. As I read from the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill, I find that the real purpose of this Bill is just to get that Act repealed. I would have preferred that the hon. Member would have come here for the repeal of that particular Bill and then he would have focused on the provisions of that Bill. Not that every word of that Bill is beyond question; not that every word of the Act is perfect. In fact we pointed out many imperfections in that Bill. But we thought that for the sake of social harmony in our country, for the sake of unity of our country, for the sake of national integration for the sake of the peace in our society, we cannot allow history to be reversed; we cannot allow old wounds to be re-opened; we cannot allow the so-called wrongs of the past to be righted and a new account to be

opened. If we go on doing that, the living nation cannot prosper; an advanced nation cannot go forward. And a soldier who goes on scratching the old wounds shall never fight, Mr. Chairman, and he shall never be able to face the enemy.

India today is moving forward and therefore, on 15th August 1947, a day dawned in our history when for the first time the people of India became the masters of their own destiny. Previously there might be some *Rajas*, some *Maharajas*, some *Nawabs*, some *Badshahs*, they did whatever they did. The people of India today cannot be held responsible for whatever they did. We do not absolve them and at the same time we cannot bear the burden. And, therefore, we should not re-open past chapters; we cannot block the path of progress of the society. We have to go forward; we cannot look backward; and that is why, I oppose this Bill in pith and substance.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have eight more Members to speak and the time is limited because we have extended the time by one hour only. So, please keep that in mind when you speak.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose this Bill. Religion is given utmost importance in this country. People of all religions have got freedom to have faith in their respective religions in this country. There is no law to prevent them from doing so. The law and the constitution give freedom to practise their religions. There is no objection to it. People of all religions have got the right to go to their religious places. Hindus go to temples, Muslims go to the mosques and Sikhs to Gurudwaras. However, law prevents us one thing. We do not have the right to interference in others, religions. Muslims, Sikhs and Christians cannot prevent Hindus from going to temples. The Constitution has given this right to them. However, a new situation has arisen due to which our Constitution is in

jeopardy. People have developed rigidity with regard to religious places. It is very dangerous. I have gone through the Bill. It states :

[English]

The law cannot change the belief of a person.

[Translation]

It means that the law cannot change our belief. However, if people violate the law and the Constitution in the name of belief they can be prevented from doing so. Therefore, I oppose the Bill.

Much is being talked about Ram Janam Bhoomi. I do not think that any person in this country disbelieves in one form or the other of God or *usregaras Lord Ram*. The word 'Ram' needs no publicity. But some people in the country have recently been engaged in making wide spread publicity in the name of Lord Ram. It is reasonable that when a doctor opens his clinic, he makes publicity of it. Similarly when a new law is enacted, wide publicity is given to it. But what is the reason of making a propaganda of Lord Ram. People have been worshipping Lord Ram from morning to evening for a very long time. Those who have been making propaganda of it were actually involved in the demolition of the structure and in many other evil deeds. The name of Lord Ram is being disgraced. Lord Ram has been considered as 'Maryada Purushotam', and a super being, having no physical forms. People may have difference of opinion with regard to Ram who was the son of king Dashrath but not with regard to that super being who can walk without feet, see without eyes and hear without ears....

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : It is Ram, the son of king Dashrath who is considered 'Maryada Purushotam'. And the Lord who "Binu Pad Chalai, Sunai Binn Kana, Aanan Rahit Sakal Ras Bhogi, Bin Banni Baktavad Jogi" is the formless Ram, the 'Param Brahma'.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Mish-
 raji, I do understand your thinking. I com-
 pare 'Purushotam Ram' to that super be-
 ing having no physical form while you
 are referring to Ram, the son of king Dash-
 rath. I do not refer to king Ram. I have
 a difference of opinion with regard to the
 worship of Rama, the son of king Dashrath.
 I do not find it justified to worship kings
 in the present context who have lost their
 empire. But I do not have any objection
 in worshipping Lord Ram. I do not find
 it appropriate to make propoganda of the
 name of Lord Ram from legal or any other
 point of view.

Many of the hon. Members pointed out
 that people want this country to be a
 Hindu State. I do not think it is possible.
 There is social equality in Muslim, Sikh
 and Christian religions but not in Hindu
 religion. All Muslims can dine together,
 Sikhs and Christians can also eat together
 but all Hindus cannot do so. In Hindu-
 sm, the people of lower castes are sup-
 posed to take their meals in the early
 hours i.e. at 4 in the morning while the
 people of upper classes have their meals in
 the morning.

In the Hindus society, all Hindus are
 not given equal status. A low caste Hindu
 cannot sit at the same place with an upper
 caste Hindu. But unlike Hindus, there is
 no inequality among the Muslims. If any-
 one wants to follow Hinduism strictly, he
 should provide equal status to all the Hin-
 dus first. (*Interruptions*) You want to
 bring Hindu Raj in the country. But all
 Hindus are not allowed to enter temples.
 It is said that with the entry of a low caste
 Hindu the temple will be desecrated. This
 is what you say and not I. I know that I
 am a Hindu and I have the right to enter
 a temple and I will go. You worship Lord
 Rama, but do not worship Ravidasji. who
 was the Rama of the poor. It is because
 he is an untouchable for you. All the
 Hindus worship Lord Rama. Do they wor-
 ship Ravidasji also? Was Ravidas in any-
 way less than Lord Rama? If I tell you
 the story of Ravidasji, you will understand
 the difference between Ravidasji and Lord
 Rama.

I would like to say that you people have
 made the Hindu religion unholy and only
 God knows how much more unholiness
 will be brought into it. Hinduism gives the
 slogan of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' i.e. the
 entire world is one family. Do the Mus-
 lims not come under this world.

The Hindu religion says—'Siya Ram Mai
 Sab Jag' Jani, Karhun Pranam Jori Joog
 Pani.' When the God lives in everyone,
 does he not live in the Muslims? It is said
 that 'Khadag-Khammb Mein, Ghat Ghat
 Mein Vayapat Ram' when it lives in 'Kha-
 dag Khammb' does he not live in Muslims.
 The supporters of Hindu religion say that
 Muslims are traitors and our enemies. I
 do not think that Muslims are our ene-
 mies. Do not try to degrade their relig-
 ion for long. This country will never
 have the Hindu raj and if it happens, it
 will be ruled by the 'Chhote Hindus'. This
 is what I want to say.

AN HON. MEMBER : Who are the
 'Chhote Hindus'?

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : The
 Chhote Hindus are the descendants of
 Saint Ravidas.

AN HON. MEMBER : To which caste
 do you belong ?

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Leave
 aside to which caste do I belong. If you
 have the courage, repeat what I say. (*Inte-
 rruptions*) I would like to say that Brah-
 minism is above Hinduism, but Brahman-
 ism is such a religion which only exploited
 the Hindus. (*Interruption*) According to
 Hinduism, if a person gives large dona-
 tions, his father and forefathers will go to
 heaven. As per Brahminism, which has
 a deep root in the country, it is being
 said that if a person donate, your ancestors
 will go to heaven and this donation will
 go to them only. If he has donated a
 cow, his ancestors will easily cross the
 'Vaitarni'. I would like to ask you whe-
 ther the ancestors of any person has writ-
 ten to him that he has given donations and
 if he donates more, he will also go to

heaven after death. So, I oppose Brahmanism. This country cannot make development until Brahmanism is there. If this country has to make development, Brahmanism should be removed from here. It continues to create hurdles at every step. It even refuses to go by the Constitution. Articles 16, 332 and 340 of the Constitution, clearly provide that the backwards and Scheduled Castes/Tribes will get equal opportunities of employment on the basis of educational qualifications.

But the brahmins have created hurdle in it by raising the issue of creamy layer. Even after 45 years of independence we are still in the same condition and the concerned Articles of the Constitution were not implemented properly. Some progress made, but again a hinderance has been created and I think this issue will again become pending. A discussion on Mandal Commission was being held in the morning today, but no clear solution was found. I, therefore, would like to submit that this Bill is not acceptable. You can follow your faith, but do not create such a situation that place of worship of some other religion is converted into your temple. If such things happen, no one can save the country from getting disintegrated. There are the High Courts and the Supreme Court in the country to solve any dispute or legal complexity regarding land. If we cannot resolve a problem, we should accept the verdict of the court. We should have faith in the law. The Babri Masjid dispute was sub-judice and a district Judge was appointed as Receiver by the Supreme Court, but the law was not followed and the mosque was demolished on the pretext that this was once constructed by demolishing a temple and so we are avenging it. Do we think of avenging the wrong done to Eklavya by the Guru who asked his thumb for 'Guru Dakshina' or the wrongs done to our ancestors by the kings who took forced labour from them? What we have accepted you are not ready to accept that. After 45 years of independence, now you say that you will take revenge from a particular section of citizens of this country. I would like to sub-

mit that this country can remain united only by obeying the law. One has to live in this country according to the law and the Constitution of this country. If one does not want to keep the country united, accepting or rejecting these things hardly make difference. With these words I oppose this bill and conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member was discussing this Bill and at the same time he was working to disintegrate the society and raking up old wounds. If religion is to be understood in its true sense—

Baha Do Prem Ki Ganga,
Dilon Mein Prem Ka Sagar,
Hame Aapas Mein Miljul Kar.
Prabhu Rahna Sikha Dena.

A true religion always preaches unity. We should be aware of the pseudo secularists, who are making the people irreligious and immoral by highlighting the evil practices which came in our religion during the medieval period.

Sir, Russia also followed the principle of a religionless society. Karl Marx had said that religion is like opium. So, the Russians lost faith in religion and moral values and their attitude towards their ideals changed. As a result, Russia was disintegrated into smaller States. Materialism can never give true happiness. The Russians have to stand in long queues for a loaf of bread today. As they stopped being God fearing and lost their faith in religion, they also stopped to perform their duties and do hard work.

We are also aware of the present social set up of capitalist America which only believe in materialism. The social life of that country has become totally disturbed. As soon as the children become young, they start dating and building their separate homes. There is no one to look after the aged. They have to live in the Houses for old. The entire society is

disintegrating and there is a decline in the moral values. Only a true religion can save in this situation.

This Bill seeks to add a provision in Article 107 that a Bill which effect any religion, place of worship, religious trusts or religious institutions should be passed with majority of the House. Secondly, it has been stated that all the laws passed by the Government after July, 1991, regarding religion, should be declared null and void, because this is an interference in religion. The English tried to play with the religion of this country. They used to put cow and pig fat over the cartridges and the soldiers had to open those greased cartridges with their mouth. The fact compelled the soldiers to revolt. So, this was also a reason behind the first war of independence in 1857. The rulers like Aurangzeb, Taimoor Shah, Chengiz Khan and Ahmedshah Abdali interfused with the religion of this country while in power and the society had to face the consequences. Our country has always been a religious country. Religion does not mean sect. This word has been derived from Western culture. The word 'secular' does not belong to our language. According to Cambridge and Oxford dictionaries, it means non-religions. But this meaning does not apply to us. We want to be religious. A true religion always preaches humanity. I want to quote an Urdu couplet :—

Mana Ki Khuda Tu Dhoondhane
Walon Ko Aalam Mein Milta Hai,
Magar Itna Bataa Tu
Kaun Se Mausam Mein Milta Hai.
Tera Pataa Poonche Kisi Brahmin Se
Yaa Kisi Momin Se,
Na Tu Ganga Mein Milta Hai,
Na Jamjam Mein Milta Hai.

A true religious person replied to this:—

Hai Hawa Aakash Mein,
Par Woh Nazar Aati Nahin,
Hai Laali Mehendi Ke Paatte Mein
Par Woh Nazar Aati Nahin,

Har Rang Mein Mauzood Hai
Par Woh Nazar Aata Nahin,
Yog-Sadhan Ke Bina
Usee Koi Paa Sakta Nahin.

Regarding religion, it has been stated in the Vedas—"Vedo pratipaditah dharma", that is the religion has been enunciated by the Vedas. Such good qualities which elevates us in this world as well as in the other world, should be adopted in the daily life and it is true religion. 'Dharyat' its dharma Dharnaat dharmo'. 'Dharma' is the one, which is adopted in one's life. In Gita, Lord Krishna has said :—

'Yatodharmastatojayah' that means wherever there is dharma, there is victory. We work in accordance with religion, so that we can lead a better life. Our religion teaches us how to eat, sit, worship the God and become righteous persons. The vedic dharma is known as the sanathan dharma.

There are several religions in the world, which are propagated by religious books and persons, but the vedic religion is the biggest religion of this country. Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, who was the Champion of renaissance movement had said that if thousand cruel persons are on one side and a weak but pious person is on the other side, weightage should be given to the pious man. Jesus Christ was crucified because the rulers were very tyrannous and they did not want to accept the true sayings of the religion. As a result, Jesus Christ was sacrificed. Iqbal had said :

Mazhab nahin sikhata
aapas mein bair rakhna
Hindi Hain hum vatan hai
Hindustan hamara.

But today the situation is not so harmonious. Under the garb of politics and by adopting an appeasement policy towards minorities and in the name of Mandal Commission, the Congress Party is trying to create differences between different castes and is trying to divide the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Janamashtami was celebrated on the day before yesterday. The Congress Party is going to bring 80th Constitution (Amendment) Bill to amend the Representation of People's Act. But it assembled all its big leaders at Alwar and Bahrod in Rajasthan and celebrated the festival. It was actually to start their election campaign. It has been reported on the front pages of all the national dailies today. I, therefore, support the Bill moved here by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya and would like to submit whether it is Chakravarty Ram. Maryada Purushottam Ram, omnipresent Ram or the Ram of Dashratha, Shabri, Tulsi or Valmiki, he is a symbol of our culture and ideals and is an integral part of our life.

A number of laws have been enacted by the Government. That shows their sense of secularism, no matter whether they were enacted in the case of Shahbano or anybody else. The Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution contemplate a uniform code of conduct for all. But no heed was paid to that and the Constitution was amended. The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Bill was introduced in 1991 which maintained that barring Ayodhya all other places of worship were to have the status quo of the 15th August, 1947. These things cause disintegration in the society. One may call the majority community living in the country as Indians or by some other name but there is no religious fundamentalism in it. It is a symbol of our secularism. Our tradition has been that :

"Ayam nij paroveti,
ganana laghu chetsaam,
Udaar Charitam tu,
Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam."

It means that only narrow minded people claim that 'this is mine and that is yours' whereas for large-hearted people, the whole earth is like a family. It is said 'aikam bahudha, bahudha dhwanti', it is believed that the same power manifests itself in various ways. And the whole world becomes one.

"Arun yeh madhumay desh hamara,
jahan pahunch anjan kshitiij ko
milata ek sahara:"

That's why, our country has been the most favourite country since the ancient days. We say,

"Sare jahan se achcha Hindustan
hamara,

Hum bulbulein hain iske
yeh gulsitan hamara:"

Because our theism, our spirituality is not a synonym for religion. Our religion talks of duties. The great Manu has talked of 10 characteristics of our religion.

"Dhriti kshama damo asteyam,
shauchmindriynigrih,
dhirvidhyasatyamkrodho, dashakam
dharm lakshanam."

The main characteristics are patience forgiveness, suppression of vices, non-commitment of theft, truthfulness, wisdom, knowledge, keeping cool etc. But the intoxication of power cannot be ruled out. Hence, what was said in Geeta centuries ago holds good now. The question of communalism would never have arisen had the ruling party understood the meaning of the so called religion or secular tradition in the country and accepted the Indian culture and the truth of the religion in the right perspective. The need of the hour is to understand it. Sir, I would like to say, through you, that a true religion binds us together. It is said that,

"Shruti Smriti, Sadachar,
Swasy chapriyatmatmenah,
Aitad aahu dharmasy,
Chaturvidh lakshnam."

'Shruti', 'Smriti', 'Subudhi' and 'Sadachar' are dear to us. What is dear to us is also dear to others. Don't behave with others in a manner that you don't want for yourself. When it comes to 'sadachar', it is said that 'achar' is 'param dharm'. 'Charitra' is 'param dharm', 'ahinsa' is 'param dharm', 'Sewa' is 'param dharm'.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our countrymen pray that,

"na twahem kamache rajyam,
na swarag na cha punarbhavam,

kamye dukhataptanam,
praninamaitirnashanam."

i.e. Oh God! we do not want any kingdom, we have no ambitions, not even to go to heaven. We wish to have a capability to remove the sufferings of the people, instead. There has always been freedom of expression be it in temples, mosques, churches or gurudwaras and whether the God has any shape or is He shapeless. Here, even an atheist like Charvak has also been called a saint.

Sir, I request the Government, through you, that the spirit of the Bill introduced by Dr. Pandeya be understood. Instead, efforts are being made to check it and the Communists and Janata Dal Members are demanding that language, place, union and caste be deleted from the 80th Amendment. They want only religion to be included in it. Then, what is communalism? There is already a law for it. Religion is the lifeline of the country. Religion is life itself. If it is deleted from life then politics will remain sans religion and it will result in ubiquitous corruption. Many incidents are taking place involving bungling of crores and millions of rupees and such incidents are likely to become the order of the day in the days to come.

Sir, we pray to God from our heart in the morning that

"Hey Ishwar dayanidhe bhavad kri-
paya anen japapanadi, Karmana dhar-
marth kammokshnam sadhyasidhir-
bhat."

Sir, we pray to God every morning from the core of our heart for 'Chaturphal' 'Kam', 'Moksha' and 'Dharm' do not mean that we should use these as excuses to disintegrate the society. Our religion teaches us to be committed to the cause of destroying evil forces, doing away with evil practices prevalent in society, removing

practice of untouchability and maintaining brotherhood. Rama brought salvation to Kewat and ate even 'bers' tasted by Shabari... (Interruptions)

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Are you talking about social religion or Hindu religion... (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I am talking of religion. We should talk of doing away with evil practices of religion and not of creating ill-will among people on the basis of religion. We should have strength to do so. If we do not remove these social evils from our society, our society will continue to be played with these evil practices and fall victim to them and you will continue to exploit us politically. We can work for the welfare and development of our country and the society only on the basis of 'Sanatan Dharm', 'Vedic' religion, 'Manav' religion. Sir, as has been mentioned in Mahabharata,

"Yato dharmastato jaiya, dharmaiv-
hatohanai dharmorakshtirakshita."

That society, family and nation can be protected only if religion is protected and if religion is destroyed, then the individual, family, society and nation will be destroyed. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask my socialist friends, through you, as to why there is chaos all around in our society, in our country and abroad. It is because of the fact that those people are being respected who are not worthy of any respect... (Interruptions)... we should understand it.

SHRI SYED MASOODAL HUSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Since you have asked the Communists a question, I want to ask you something. You have mentioned nationalism. I don't know about nationalism but I definitely want to say that I agree with what you have said that Ram's name is 'Satya' but if you go to somebody's house in the evening and say 'Ram nam Satya hai' then it can mean something else. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : You haven't understood me. Why does a man come to this earth? We should have

'Seva dharma'. This 'seva dharma' has been categorically defined. A true religion teaches us to serve humanity and love each other in this world,

"Soch zara insaan tu duniya mein kyon aya hai, kitna jeewankaal mein, sewa dharm kamaya hai."

"Asti narayantu pujoyan'e" means that we should respect only those who are worthy of respect. But, it is not so now a days. These days, those persons are respected who are not worthy of it and a person who is worthy of it is insulted, ignored and neglected and is looked down upon.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just a minute please. Now, the extended time is over and we still have a number of speakers. Do we extend the time by another one hour? Is it the consensus of the House?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, we can take it up in the next week.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do we extend the time by another one hour?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, we can discuss this on the next Friday.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I may require one hour for myself.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do we extend the time by another one hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is extended by another one hour.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I am on a point of order or rather I would say on a point of information. There is an arrangement here for simultaneous translation. But, the hon. Members, whenever they quote versus or quotations or anything else, we are not getting any translation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is very unfortunate.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I just wanted to bring this to your kind notice. You

may request those hon. Members that whenever they quote something, they should also provide the translation for the same.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, the point is that Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat is speaking at a very high speed and nobody can translate it. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

"Apoojya yatr poojyante, poojyanantu vyatikrama treeni tatra vidyante, durbhikha maranam mayam."

i.e. a person who is not worthy of any respect is actually respected but the person who is worthy of respect is in actuality insulted, and neglected. We have starvation, acute famine and acute drought. We have reports of death all around. This is due to the absence of religion.

Our hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development said here yesterday at a function that moral and character norms are gradually losing their place in the society. Have you considered that? The only reason for that is absence of religion!

There are certain fundamental rights in our Constitution regarding religion. There is freedom of religion in our Constitution, the freedom of adopting a religion as per one's conscience; the freedom of conduct and promotion of one's religion; the freedom to manage religious affairs; the freedom of setting up and financing of institution for the accomplishment of religious and other objectives, to manage religion related work; the acquisition and ownership of property; the freedom to manage such property as per laws etc., the exemption from payment of taxes for the promotion of a special religion, the freedom to be present during a religious sermon or religious gathering in some educational institutions, the freedom regarding protection of interests of minorities and freedoms regarding culture and education. If you go on enacting legislations and introducing new Bills in

the House which tend to provoke religious sentiments and go against our freedoms as enshrined in our Constitution and the amendment that is proposed to be introduced is likely to be against our culture which create chaos in the country. The politicians only think of tomorrow whereas the intellectuals and the philosophers are concerned about our future. So, it becomes our duty to think about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government should be directed to declare all those laws null and void which have been enacted after 1991. No ruling party should have a right to interfere in religious matters. Bharatiya Janata Party is of course, of the view that it should not be misused. The true religion should be adopted and understood. The life of a person, who believes in true religion, is great. As has been said in 'Mahabharata'.

Yato dharmastato jaya.

There is a light burning above your dais in the House. I pray for a light,

'Asato Ma Sadgamay".

Oh God, take us from falsehood to truth,

"Tamaso ma jyotirgamay".

Oh God, direct us from darkness to light.

"Mrutyorma Amritam gamay".

Take us from mortality to immortality,

"dharmchakra pravartney",

To have the rule of religion, nobody should suffer in the country.

"Sarve bhavantu Sukhinah,

Sarve Santu niramayah,

Sarve bhadrani pashyant,

maa kashchid dukhbhagbhavet."

Oh God, have mercy on everybody. Our religion also talks of such things. Our religion teaches us to feed the hungry. We serve snakes and ants. We serve all the living beings. This is true service to God.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rawat, the time of the House is up. You may continue next time, when we take it up again.

Now, the House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Monday, the 16th August 1993 at 11 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 16, 1993/Sravana 25, 1915 (Saka).

PLS. 40. XIII. 8. 93

670 1PP4 (DSK-III)

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**PUBLISHED UNDER RULES 379 AND 382 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN LOK SABHA (SEVENTH EDITION) AND
PRINTED BY THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS,
FARIDABAD**
