

Eighth Series, Vol. XLIII, No. 7

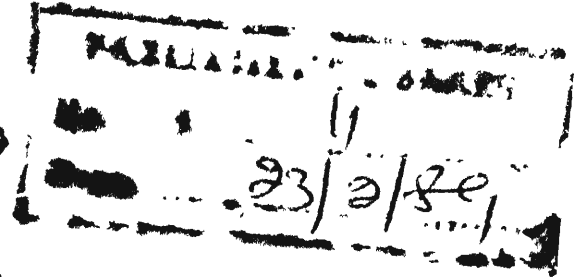
Friday, November 18, 1988  
Kartika 27, 1910 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Twelfth Session  
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते



*(Vol XLIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
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## LOK SABHA

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### LOK SABHA

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Friday, November 18, 1988/Kartika  
27, 1910 (Saka)

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*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is my sad duty to inform the House of the demise of Shri K. Kaiho who was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1978-79 representing Outer Manipur Constituency of Manipur.

A teacher by profession, he was an active social and political worker. He worked zealously for the uplift and welfare of the tribals in his State.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

Shri Kaiho passed away at Nazareth hospital in Shillong on 13th October, 1988 at the age of 55.

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

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

*The Members then stood in silences for a short while*

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#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### Liberalisation of Gold Policy

122. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL† :  
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to liberalise the gold policy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent of liberalisation proposed:

(c) whether it is fact that most of the black-money is invested in this yellow metal; and

(d) the estimated quantity of gold and silver smuggled into the country annually and the value of gold seized during 1987 and 1988, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) to (d). A statement given below:

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Following the assurance given by the Finance Minister in the Rajya Sabha on 6.5.1986 that the Government

was going to have a "second Look" at the Gold (Control) Act, two Working Groups, namely, Working Group on Gold Policy under the chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Dy. Governor, Reserve Bank of India (Rangarajan Committee) and a Working Group on Gold Control Machinery under the chairmanship of Shri J. Datta, former chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs (Datta Committee) were constituted in May 1986. While the Rangarajan Committee examined the gold policy in all its aspects, the Datta Committee examined the procedural aspects under the Gold (control) Act, 1968. The Rangarajan committee has, *Inter alia* suggested modifications in the Gold (Control) Act, review of the present ceiling on the aggregate value of gold jewellery that could be brought into India free of duty under the Transfer of Residence Rules etc. The recommendations of the Datta Committee *inter-alia* include increase in limits of primary gold to be possessed by goldsmiths; modification in records and returns; review of the system of licensing of gold dealers and relaxations under the Gold (Control) Act to facilitate export. The recommendations of both the Committees are under examination.

(c) The study report titled "Aspects of the Black Economy in India" published in March 1965 by the National Institute of Public finance and Policy reported that black wealth found its way amongst other things, in ornaments of gold, However, no estimate of the extent of black money invested exclusively in gold or gold jewellery has been made in the aforesaid report.

(d) Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantum of gold and silver being smuggled into the country at a given time. The value of Gold seized during the year 1987 and 1988 are given in table below:

Year	Value of gold seized (Rs. crores)
1987	65.78
(up to 7.11.1988)	136.80 (provisional)

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the maximum holding of gold permitted per individual or a Hindu Undivided Family at present and whether it is a fact that the existing Gold Control Act has miserably failed to check the hoarding of gold and enforcing the ceiling.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: So, far as the first question is concerned, for families, it is required that they have to make a declaration of their holding of gold, if the quantity exceeds 4 KG.. (*Interruptions*)

So, far as the Act is concerned, it has not failed. They can hold, under the Act, any amount but if it is more than 4 KG, they will have to file a declaration (*Interruptions*)

So, far as the existing laws are concerned, it is not that the laws have miserably failed. (*Interruptions*)

But various lacunae came to our notice. We found there are various lacunae and therefore two Committees were formed to go into this and they have made certain suggestions. We are taking corrective measures.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: My second supplementary is ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want more or less?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : My second supplementary is whether Government is ware that the bulk of the black money is at present invested in gold hoardings and if so, may I know what steps do the Government propose to take to de-hoard gold? Is it not that this gold is daily taking lives of innocent wives after they are pestered for more gold jewellery by their in-laws?

SHRI A.K.PANJA: So, far as first part is concerned, there was a report made where it was found that some amount of this black wealth found its way in making gold orna-

ments. But in regard the estimate of black money invested exclusively in gold and gold jewellery, nobody has yet been able to give us any report.

So, far as de-hoarding of gold is concerned, various actions under the law are being taken. The search and seizure operation takes place, the accounts declarations are to be filed and those are checked. And the information so far as intelligence is concerned, that has been strengthened to find out the hoarding of gold.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banwari Lal Purohit.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I saw that no one was raising his hand. I did not see you.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Who will dare raise his hands when it concerns with four kilos of gold?

MR. SPEAKER : Moreover a Bairagi will hardly dare raise his hand.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Even one kilo is enough for a Bairagi.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Even up to my four coming generations, no one will be ever in a position to raise hands in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Thus you will be free from worry, you will be happy.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : His C.R. will have not dark spot. I am saying this because he was asking me.

MR. SPEAKER : Did you testify it?

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: In order to meet the legitimate domestic demand and to

curb smuggling more effectively, it has become necessary to review the gold policy and the Government has taken right measures in appointing these two Working Groups to review gold control machinery and gold policy. And it appears from the reply that recommendations have been made in this respect by the Datta Committee. Now from the figures given in reply to Clause 'D' shows that even though the smuggling is a clandestine activity, there are indications that the smuggling of gold has increased from Rs 65.78 crores in 1987 to Rs 136.80 crores in 1988. Therefore, I would like to know that this being the urgent problem how long will you take to consider these recommendations of this Working Group and when will you come to the conclusion as far as these policies are concerned?

SHRI A.K.PANJA : So, far as Rangarajan Committee is concerned, the report was submitted in May 1988. So far as Datta Committee is concerned, it was submitted in May 1987. So far as Datta Committee is concerned; portions of it have already been implemented. I can enumerate main items of it. Manufactured component of gold jewellery should not be treated as primary gold. This is one of the recommendations. This was implemented on 2nd August, 1988. Hypothecation of gold should be allowed so as to raise credit from banks by jewellery exporters. This was implemented on 25th of August, 1988. And the relaxation limit of primary gold to be possessed by jewellers in hundred per cent export oriented jewellery complex and free trade zone was implemented on 7th July, 1986. And the most important one is the inter-dealer transaction of primary gold permitted in hundred per cent export-oriented jewellery complex and free trade zone was implemented on the 4th July, 1986.

There are two other recommendations and those are also being implemented.

So far as the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee and other recommendations made by Dutta Committee are concerned, they are under close examina-



tion and they will be given effect to gradually.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gold cannot be recovered from the persons having it in excess of the limit simply on the basis of instructions issued by the hon. Minister I would like to know as to how many searches have been made of the people who possess gold in excess of the limit of 4 kilograms. It is a known fact that all the erstwhile rulers, landlords and capitalists in the country possess gold more than the limit of four kilograms. I would like to know whether any searches have been made and whether any persons have been apprehended and if so, how many such cases have come to light till now?

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA : We welcome his return to the House after recovery from sickness.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : The total figure given for November only is, on 11th November itself we made searches and seized gold to the tune of 87-45 kgs. evaluated at 2.82 crores in Bombay. On 9th November the value of the seized gold is Rs 30.40 crores. These are the main items. In Mathura on 11th October gold worth 37.3 lakhs was recovered. The seizure at Mangalore Coasts on 31st May is worth Rs 8 crs. The other one is Bombay Coast again wherein 14 jackets of gold were seized on the 12th September is valued at 6.5 crore rupees.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker Sir, there is no reply to my question as to how many searches have been made in the premises of capitalists?

[*English*]

DR. DATTA SAMANT: The seizures in Bombay and Mangalore amount to Rs 8 crores or Rs 10 crores. The recent seizures

of gold in Bombay and Mangalore show that the smuggling of gold has gone up in the last few months.. (*Interruptions*)

It is my correct information that from Dubai for the gold smuggled there is insurance and there is a regular smuggling of gold worth Rs. 10 crores from Dubai. The insurance is 7% against smuggling. When it is caught in India, your papers are wrapped up and sent there. They are getting full money back. It is a serious matter. That is why smuggling has gone up. The smuggled gold in Dubai is insured for Indian supply. That is why they are not bothered. They are smuggling gold instead of doing other export - import business. the whole economy is getting spoiled.

I would like to know whether the Government is going to make any enquiry of such bigger economic dealing and whether the Government is going to stop it by informing other countries about it or by taking serious measures.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Whenever we get any such information from cogent and reliable sources, we do make enquiries. So far as the insurance against gold smuggling is concerned, the facts are not with me. As the Hon. Member is saying, gold smuggling is being insured in foreign countries and therefore there is no risk involved. I shall have to look into it. This has to be enquired into. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.M.SAYEED : Very recently, you might have read in the papers, there was a smuggling vessel which was caught in Lakshadweep. That was a record catch. (*Interruptions*)

The people thought that the people from Lakshadweep have been involved. None of our islanders has ever been involved in this and they are incapable of doing it.

AN HON. MEMBER : Including you.

SHRI P.M.SAYEED : Including you also.

Let me tell you Sir, there have been some suggestions from the gold experts. The inflow of gold in the form of smuggling was due to the international market. Our market is higher than the international market. There was a suggestion that Government should review this policy and see that at necessary points Government can sell gold for ornaments purposes. If the Government is prepared to do that, the experts say the inflow of gold in the form of smuggling would get curbed automatically. Will the Government review this policy.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Dr. I. G. Patel committee first went into this question and they suggested amongst other things that we in India shall have to change our gold habit. That is the first thing because the demand is insatiable and the supply is small. Secondly, as the hon. Member said as to how to keep the balance between international price and our Indian gold price, that has been recommended by Rangarajan committee and we are going into it.

#### Housing Scheme of Unit Trust of India

\*123. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT†:  
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently approved a newly formulated housing scheme of the Unit Trust of India (UTI) known as Housing and Construction Unit Scheme;

(b) if so, the salient features of the schemes;

(c) the extent to which it will help housing and construction sectors and the common public;

(d) whether the investors in the UTI will get housing facility from UTI; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

#### STATEMENT

(a) to (e). Government have recently conveyed approval to the Unit Trust of India (UTI) for the launching of the Mousing and Construction Development Fund. The salient features of the Fund are given below:

i) The Fund propose to initially raise Rs 50 crores. If the response is encouraging the size of the Fund might be increased to Rs 100 crores.

ii) Individuals, registered cooperative societies and non-resident Indians will be eligible to participate in the Fund. The minimum subscription to the Fund will be Rs 1000/-.

iii) The investment objective of the Fund will be to provide returns to the Unit holders through capital appreciation and dividend by investing in land and construction activities.

iv) The Fund will be managed by the UTI with the Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd acting as Advisors.

The Fund will help housing and construction sectors by deploying additional financial resources in these sectors. The public, who invest in the scheme, are expected to benefit by way of income and appreciation related to investment in housing and construction activities under the scheme. There is no proposal at present for giving housing facility to investors, from UTI.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I congratulate the hon. Minister for launching a housing fund as housing comes under priority sector and there is an acute shortage of houses in the country. Investable fund will increase from Rs. 9.5 crores to Rs 10.000 crores. Till now investment was banned for housing from general fund by the U.T.I. and I would like to know the fields in which U.T.I. proposes to invest from the general fund? Secondly, a new Housing and Construction Development Fund has been launched. You have stated that investors will be provided benefit through capital appreciation. It is proposed to extend help for housing purpose through cooperative societies, I, therefore, want to know what benefits the investor will get from the funds. How will the investors get benefit of price appreciation, when they are investing money in this Bond ?

[*English*]

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :** This is one scheme which is going to benefit the small investor particularly because for the first time there is scope for the small investor is I have mentioned in the written reply the unit can be even of the value of Rs 1,000.00 per individual. So the small investor will be benefited. For the first time as far as investment in housing in concerned he will be benefited by getting the dividend on the investment as any other investment of this type.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** Sir, my question is specific. The Minister has said in the reply "who invest in the scheme are expected to benefit by way of income and appreciation related to investment." So I want a specific answer.

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :** The hon. Member knows that the value of real estate is going up all the time. So, appreciation is there and, as such, dividend will be there. I would like to add for the benefit of the hon. Member that at this point of time the Ministry

of Finance has just given permission in principle to this scheme. Details of this scheme are to be worked out. As I have mentioned in the reply itself the scheme has not been launched and when the scheme is launched all these details will be announced and formulated.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply is not specific, because the hon. Minister does not know what he is going to do. It has been clearly written. As he is replying on the floor of the House, I would like to know as to how the people investing in this Bond are going to be benefited from it? He is saying that they will be benefited by way of appreciation. When the Government will directly invest in it, how they can be benefited? When loans are to be given to others, how could Government provide benefit of appreciation ? I would like this point to be elucidated.

[*English*]

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO :** Sir, this money will be advanced for building of houses, will be advanced for builders to build houses. Now the value of the houses will naturally appreciate when the houses are rented and houses are sold. Then, the money will go to the investor. It is very clear like any other investment.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Sir, I want specific reply. I don't want this hanky panky reply as this question is concerned with the common man. When we are not getting the real facts how the general public will know the real thing? Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may kindly impress upon the hon Minister to withdraw his reply if it is wrong.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It is for both of you to understand. For a farmer like me, it is beyond my comprehension.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** How

the investor will get benefit from the appreciation. If the property belongs to him, then he can get benefit. How the investors will be benefited from the loan advanced by it to the societies? This is my straight question.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B.CHAVAN) : The objectives of the scheme which has been formulated have been stated clearly. But the details have to be worked out in consultation with the Ministries concerned. The Ministry of Urban Development and other Ministries will have to be consulted before the scheme is launched. As soon as the scheme is launched, then all the details will be available. At this stage, this is only in principle that we have accepted this scheme.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : After adoption of the National Housing Policy, it is very clear and it has been envisaged in the National Housing Policy that there is a dearth of residential houses in the rural areas.

I would like to know whether this scheme will benefit the cooperative housing societies which are registered with the State Governments. The State Governments have also raised funds for this sector. Whether those funds of the UTI will be channelised or will be provided to those housing societies in the various States so that the housing problem in the rural areas is solved?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : As has been mentioned here and as mentioned by the hon Minister, this scheme has been worked out only in principle. The features of this approval gives in principle are mentioned in the written reply.

As far as the suggestion of the hon. Member is concerned, it will surely be taken into account before the scheme is finally launched.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, it is commendable that the Finance Minister as well as the Government have realised the shortage of

houses in the country. But if they want a real success out of this scheme, there must be an amendment to the Urban Land Ceiling Act without which this won't succeed.

I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he will take into consideration this Act, consult with the Ministry of Urban Development and bring an amendment immediately before he launches this programme.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, we shall consult with the Ministry of Urban Development. If any amendments are necessary, they will be brought before the House.

#### **Seizure of Heroin on Indo-Pak Border In Punjab**

\*124. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI†:  
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the Indian Express dated 16 October, 1988 wherein it is stated that heroin worth Rs 100 crore has been seized on the Indo-Pak border in Punjab.

(b) if so, whether any arrests have been made in this connection;

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) the steps proposed to effectively check this evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

#### **STATEMENT**

(a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Re-

gional Unit, Amritsar in collaboration with the Border Security Force, seized 100 packets of brownish powder (suspected to be heroin) on 14.10.1988 near the Indo-Pak. border in Amritsar district. (No precise value of the seized drugs can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like purity places of origin and sale, local demand and supply, etc.).

Two persons, namely, Wirsra Singh and Budha Singh, both residents of Kakkar village (Amritsar district), have been arrested in this connection for offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Customs Act, 1962. The cases are *sub judice*

Government have taken a number of strong counter-measures including provision of deterrent punishments against drug-related crimes, strengthening of the preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the aegis of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum period of 2 years for drug related crimes.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The statement indicates that certain action has been taken against two persons. It also says that the material, which was seized in about 100 packets of brownish colour, is suspected to be heroin and yet an action has been taken.

I would like to know what is the mind of the Government. Do you think whether it is heroin or not? If it is suspected, on that basis you have taken action against those persons? I would like to know whether the Government has investigated any nexus between these two persons and the Punjab terrorists.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : When any particular material is seized, a prima face evidence is

taken. There are temporary kits to find out which particular type of drug it is, whether it is heroin or opium or hashish or any other thing.

Therefore, though we suspect that it is heroin, yet to determine the purity and the country of origin requires some time; the chemists have to examine that. In this case, after it was seized on the 14th October, all the samples were sent to the Chief Chemist of Control Laboratory in Delhi and the time taken by them is between 15 days and three months. According to the quality of material seized, various types of chemical examinations have to take place to prove in the court of law to the hilt that the accused is really guilty.

So far as the nexus with terrorists in these two cases is concerned, it is under examination and not yet established.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Recently, this House passed an amendment to the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and now there is a provision for the detention of persons without trial. The Government has got those powers instead of going to the court and getting all this evidence. Has any action been taken under the provisions of the Act and anybody detained under the preventive detention?

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Yes, Sir. Action has been taken. In view of the urgency, an Ordinance had to be Promuted and it became law when passed by Parliament on 4th July, 1988. As on 17th October, 246 detention orders had been issued and 178 persons already detained.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I think Shri Bairagi can throw more light on this matter.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir. since an attempt, is usually made in the country to link my constituency with it, therefore I would like to know from the

hon. Minister through you whether any aid or help is being given to Indian Narcotics and Prevention Department from any international body and if so, how it is being used? May I know the details of 14 point programme of the hon. Prime Minister which appeared in the newspapers as this matter is concerned with the farmers who cultivate opium through the country.

[English]

SHRI A.K.PANJA: So, far as the first portion is concerned, there was a visit of Mr. Janerio, Assistant General Secretary of the United Nations in October, 1986. After being satisfied with the activities taken up by the Government of India for tackling the narcotics problem, the United Nations aid of twenty million US dollars, equivalent to Rs 29 crores has been agreed to. They want to finance this on very specific aspects of anti-drug enforcement and these are strengthening of the control over transit traffic, modernisation and strengthening of forensic laboratory, strengthening and control over illicit opium production, drug dependence and prevention and treatment and rehabilitation, prevention of drug abuse etc. They have detailed them.

So far as the second portion of the question is concerned, the Prime Minister gave 14-point directions after holding three meetings. The first was constitution of a Sub-Committee. Home Minister himself is its Chairman. Then, vigorous enforcement of law— that is being implemented. Destruction of drugs— that is also of being done. Setting up of special courts we have already taken up with the States to set up special courts. Further, strengthening of laboratory facilities—this is being done. Mobile kits to be distributed that is also being done. Training of police and other officers in various drug incidents of drug abuse; narcotics cells to be set up. partly it has been done. Strengthening of intelligence setups. It has been done and is still being done. Then, certain aspects of welfare and health. Then, coordinate and spreading of awareness about drugs, so that the youngmen are not affected.

Then Sir, we have Counselling of de-addiction programme and there are other also. The last and the most important programme in which the Hon. Member is interested as it is concerned with his constituency and a lot of activity is going on there, is the destruction of illicit cultivation of Poppy and Ganja. I must tell this House that with the active cooperation of the Hon. Member we have been able to meet success.

SHRIDINESHGOSWAMI: Sir, the drug abuse among the youth, has been one of the most major concerns today in this country and when we are talking of the Act to which Mr. Madhav Reddy referred, the Hon. Minister replied that he is taking up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and Nepal because these are the two areas which are called 'golden triangle' and the 'golden crescent' from which primarily drugs come to our country. In view of the heavy seizures which have been reported in the recent times, may I know whether he has taken up the matter with the Government, if so, action thereon? What do you do with these seized drugs so that it may not pass on to the people of this country?

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Sir, it is a very difficult problem. As the Hon Member knows our Indo-Pak border stretches up to 3310 KM and mostly the drugs which come in from this area are Heroine and Hashish. The Nepal border is 1568 Km long and from there mostly Ganja and Hashish come to our country. Under the umbrella of SAARC we have an agreement with the Nepal and Pakistan. We have appointed committees to enforce it. We are exchanging information and intelligence between the two countries. People from these countries came over here and we discussed with them. It is going on well. The problem is that the border is very long and we do not have any metal detector or other devices like the one which can detect arms or gold. We are having good cooperation with the SAARC countries and also with the United Nations in this matter.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : What do you do with the drugs so that they may not

pass on to the consumers here?

SHRI A.K.PANJA : So, far as Opium is concerned a substantial portion is used for the medicinal purposes and the rest is destroyed. They are taken under the safe custody. A new Act would be coming soon by which we will be able to keep the samples and the rest will be destroyed.

### **Construction of Mahanadi Barrage Project**

\*125. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and spent so far on the Mahanadi Barrage Project in Orissa;

(b) whether the project will be completed in time; and

(c) how many hectares of land will be irrigated by this barrage both in Kharif and Rabi?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): An expenditure of about Rs. 102 crores has been incurred upto March, 1988. The outlay in the Seventh Plan for this project was Rs 60.73 crores.

(b) Completion expected by March, 1989.

(c) The Project envisages irrigation of 2,02,000 hectares in Kharif and 92,000 in Rabi.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister in which year this construction project was started and at the outset what amount was meant to be spent on the project. It was to be completed in which year and at the time of completion what amount is expected to be spent?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, the construction of project was started as long back as 1981. I shall say it is nearing completion and it is expected to be completed by March, 1989.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : What was the estimated cost in the beginning and when was it expected to be completed?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the original cost was Rs 42.09 crores as cleared by the Planning Commission in April, 1978 but then the project was revised and the estimate today is about Rs. 119.68 crores.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Before this project was renovated—this project was practically renovated—what acreage of land was it irrigating for rabi and kharif; and after renovation is completed, what will be the percentage of increase in rabi and kharif, as far as irrigation is concerned, and in which districts?

SHRI B., SHANKARANAND : The Mahanadi-Birupa barrage was an old barrage, and the present project is a new one, which is in its place. Since the new project is going to cover a large area—I have given it under this scheme—the project was taken up and such a large amount is being invested.

MR. SPEAKER: You can give the comparative figures later on.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : We are glad that this project has come, and it is almost under completion, and that the work is speedily going on. I just want to know whether the allocation has been made for channelizing, which needs to be improved, along with the completion of the barrage—Yes; I mean the canal system. If it is not included in the project, can additional funds be provided, as the State Government is not in a position to bear the cost of the improvement of the canal?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** As I said earlier, the project is going to be completed within hardly 4 to 5 months. So far, we have not received any request from the State Government. If there is any request from the State Government, we shall certainly consider it.

#### Conference of Chief Justices

\*126. **SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA†:**  
**SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Chief Justice Conference has rejected the proposal of the Law Commission for an All India Judicial Service for district judiciary;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto?

(c) whether Government would find a way out for providing career opportunity for the district judiciary and promoting its impartiality through an All India Service;

(d) whether enhancement of retirement age of the members of the subordinate judicial service has also been recommended by the Conference; and

(e) what action has been taken by government on the aforesaid recommendations?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was not acceptable to the Conference mainly on the ground that it would adversely affect the power of Superintendent of the High Courts over the subordinate judiciary, thereby affecting the independence of the Judiciary.

(c) Government will take a view after examining all aspects including the recommendations of the Chief Justice Conference.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The proceedings of the Chief Justices' Conference are still awaited.

**SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :** In part (b) of the answer, it has been stated that the Conference has objected to or rejected the proposal of the Law Commission on the ground that it will reduce the power of superintendence of the High Court over the subordinate judiciary.

Earlier, when recruitment was made to ICS, a certain percentage of the recruits was allotted to the judicial service. And then, it is a fact, although no complaint was made by the High Court that their power of superintendence had been reduced. Why is it that they are now objecting to this, on this ground? Have they given any detailed explanation for this, i.e. have they given any reasons as to how their power of superintendence would be reduced, thereby affecting the independence of the judiciary if there is an All India Judicial Service?

**SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ:** So far as the earlier issue of ICS coming into the All India Judicial Service and all that is concerned, it was there under the 1935 Act, Now the Constitution has come in, and the provisions for the subordinate judiciary are governed under the scheme of the Constitution. One of the major difficulties is that in our own Constitution, Article 50 says that the Executive will separate the Judiciary, and will uphold independence of judiciary.

If you kindly look at Article 236 onwards, you will find that the power of superintendence over the subordinate judiciary is vested in the High Court; and if the Power of superintendence and other disciplinary matters is given to the High Courts any erosion will hit the independence of the judiciary. Well, we do not subscribe to this that there is an All India Judicial Service, it will



erode the independence of the Judiciary. But that is the view that the Conference of Chief Justices has been taking, and that is why delays have occurred. Normally, we feel that if there is an All India Judicial Service, it will be for the betterment of the subordinate judiciary.

MR. SPEAKER : It will also help the country. The country will be benefited. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Is it not a fact that if you constitute an All India Judicial Service, it will attract more talented people; and thereby your worry or difficulty in finding talented people for filling up vacancies in the High Courts and supreme Court will be lessened?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: I quite appreciate the suggestions of the hon. senior member. But the difficulty again there is that there has to be a continuous dialogue with the High Court of all the States. I am aware that some of the High Courts had earlier agreed that there should be an All India Judicial Service, but the recent Conference of the Chief Justices has almost negated it. But we have not lost heart on it. Our pursuit will continue and we will obtain some better deal for even subordinate judiciary, because this House has given a lot of things to the judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Courts; but our subordinate judiciary has not yet got better treatment because they are under the State and same is the case with High Courts. So, our efforts in the Central Government will continue that an All India Judicial Service is constituted at one time or the other.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The Conference of the 18 Chief Justices of the High Courts presided over by the Chief Justice of Supreme court has rejected the Law Commission's recommendations for having an All India Judicial service. The country is worried about it because there have already been arrears of case reaching frightful figure of 19,11,276 cases

pending in the various High Courts and the Supreme Court. What steps the Minister proposes to take so that these cases are disposed of speedily?

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: Although it does not relate to an All India Judicial Service, I would like to inform the hon. member like this.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: This question relates to my question No. 133. The earlier answer and this answer both relate to my question No. 133. So, I suggest that both should be taken up simultaneously.

MR. SPEAKER: He will give the same answer.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: The hon. member has said that the mounting of arrears is the major tension in the judicial system. We had taken note of it and we constituted a committee of three senior Chief Justices who went into it and submitted a report. We have formulated about 20 points by which the arrears can be brought down and arrears have been brought down to the tune of 18 lakhs of cases by an alternative mechanism in the local adalat. Regarding categorisation of cases, a bunch of cases on the same point involving the same question of law are taken and they are dealt with separately. Now the judiciary in the country are taking all and similar matters into one bunch of cases and getting them decided by one judgement. Recently, the Supreme Court disposed of about 236 matters by one judgement in the tax matter. So, this classification of cases, re-adjustment of the registry and giving, them more judges and more facilities to the judges, I hope, by this method, gradually these arrears will come down and there is a tendency to see that the arrears are now coming down. I would like to inform the House that the disposal of cases by judges continues to be almost the same. So, we have recently taken some steps and I am hopeful that these arrears will gradually come down.

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :** The system prevalent at the Centre and in various States is uniform, For example, there is a criminal and civil judiciary. The selection for a post in the criminal court is made from bottom, Second Class Magistrate or the Judicial Magistrate. Then there is a selection for the Munsiff Court. But these two selections are made at the district level. In certain parts, I know that there is a criminal judiciary separated from the civil judiciary. Is it prevalent throughout the country. Secondly, for filling up vacancies arising in the various courts, the suggestion made by the hon. member is that we should introduce the Indian Judicial Service. By introducing this service first, will it not be beneficial to fill up the vacancies which are now available in the various High Courts? As my friend Shri Ramoowalia has said, this tendency is prevalent through out the country. For this purpose, if a judicial service is introduced and the vacancies are filled up by this service, then this malady can be rectified. Will the Government think seriously in this line and bring forth a legislation in consultation with the concerned persons?

**SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ:** For the benefit of the hon. Member, I will point out that Article 236 interprets what is the subordinate judiciary. That includes civil courts as well as criminal courts in the judiciary hierarchy in the subordinate court, right from the Munsiff court, which is perhaps the lowest court. Thereafter, we have District Judges Courts. Other than this, there are High Courts and Supreme Court. This three-tier system is prevalent in the country. But you will appreciate that the mechanism of appointment of subordinate judiciary is two-fold. Magistrates and Munsiff Magistrates are appointed by the State Government in consultation with the High Courts. So, we have no interference in those appointments. Whenever there are vacancies, we do watch and we request the State Government to expedite them.

Similarly, the appointment of higher judiciary, namely the District Judge, is made by the full court. After the Judgement of the

Supreme Court, it is the High Court, which appoints them in consultation with the State Governments. There also, the High Courts do not part with their power of appointing higher judicial service.

So far as the High Courts and Supreme Courts are concerned, the Ministry of Justice does appoint judges. We have got a well planned scheme to appoint them and to expedite the appointment of judges as soon as possible.

**SHRI VJAY N. PATIL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the appointment of judges at the junior level varies from State to State. In many cases, we found that Police Prosecutors and District Government Pleaders have become Judges at the Junior level and at the District level. Their earlier appointment as Police Prosecutor or District Government Pleader many times is influenced by political affiliation. After working as Police Prosecutor for three years, they become Judges. For example, in a State like Bengal, if a police Prosecutor is a communist minded and is appointed as a Judge subsequently, then will it not affect his mind when he delivers his judgement? So, from this angle will it not be proper to have an All India Judicial Service? Although Judges are not appointed in their home districts, they are appointed in the same State. Of course, the cease of their relatives are not conducted before them. They may have relatives in other Districts also. So, they can influence them. If they are appointed on an All India Service basis, they can be posted out of their own home State, which will be more judicious and will be in the fitness of things. Why don't you consider it?

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is what I have said.

**SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ:** Sir, I would again draw the attention of the hon. Member to Article 235. I quote:

" The control over District Courts and Courts subordinate thereto including the posting and promotion of, and the grant of leave to, persons belonging to

the judicial service of a State and holding any post inferior to the post of District Judge shall be vested in the High Court,..."

So, the appointment right from the District Level to the Magistrate level is monitored by the High Courts and the State Governments. We have absolutely no interference. I do not think that the High Courts will allow political interference in appointment of judges because the High Courts do appoint judges in lower courts. If there are particular instances, I request the hon. Member to give me those places and I would draw the attention of the High Courts. But we have no jurisdiction to interfere. That is why, I said earlier that we always favour for the creation of an All India Judicial Service in consultation with the Chief Justice and the Chief Minister of the State concerned.

#### **Clearance of Projects in Krishna Basin**

\*127. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the agency to enforce the terms and conditions of Bachawat Award on the concerned States;

(b) whether Government of India are obliged to consider proposals received from concerned State Governments for clearing projects within the frame-work of the Bachawat Award or can go beyond the Award limits; and

(c) if Government of India can go beyond the Award limits in regard to giving clearance to State Government projects, what is the legal effect of such clearance by Union Government on the rights of the States concerned?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :  
(a) The decision of the Tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute and

should be given effect to by them.

(b) The aspect of water availability in any proposed project is examined within the framework of the award of the tribunal.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Before I would put the supplementary, I seek your protection.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : We also seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the law should protect all.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Two months ago I had sought from the Irrigation Minister certain information but unfortunately, I could not get a reply of that so far. So I was forced to put this question for seeking this information. This is very unfortunate. I have put the question and sought a specific information, but the Minister's reply is altogether different. It is nothing to do with the question that I asked. Parliament is the only forum where we can elicit information. When we write to the Minister, he does not reply. When we send the question and fortunately it becomes a starred one and even within this one hour if the information is not forthcoming, I do not know what is the remedy left for the hon. Member. The first question that I asked is: What is the agency to enforce the terms and conditions of Bachawat Award? I have asked about the agency. And the reply is that the decision of the Tribunal is final. I never asked whether the decision of the Tribunal is final or not and it is binding on the parties to the dispute and should be given effect to by them. I know all that. What I wanted to know is what is the agency. I must tell the hon. Minister that according to section 6(a) of Inter State Water Deputes Act, after the Tribunal gives the award, the Central Government has to establish an Authority to implement the decision of the Tribunal. I know that. But the Minister is not prepared to say that. Another question I have put is whether the Government of India is in a

position to clear in the project outside the award; if such a clearance is given, what is the legal effect of that? the reply is that the aspect of water availability in any proposed project is examined within the framework of the award. I never asked whether he is going to examine or not. But what I wanted to know is, what is the legal effect of that is. I want you to give your ruling and guide me how I should put the supplementary when the answer itself is not proper.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Next time let Mr. Shankaranand ask the question from Mr. Veerendra Patil and he should reply.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Regarding the first part of the hon. Member's supplementary —of course, it has nothing to do with the main question...

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I have not put any supplementary. I have yet to put the supplementary.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: May I say for the benefit of the House that when an hon. Member writes to me to seek information individually for himself and at the same time, he puts a question, I thought perhaps, it is better to explain to the House rather than to the Member. What is wrong in it?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Why should the Minister take two months to reply?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I asked this information about two months back and the question I have sent to Parliament only about a week back.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: You cannot put a question within a week. Perhaps the hon. Member claims to know everything about it and still he has put the question. What is the purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: He needs authentication from you whether what he knows is right or wrong.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I have

quoted the section.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: For the benefit of the Hon. Member I will quote the section also.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : The Administration has misled you. For two months you have not replied.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have very high regard for the very senior Member of Parliament. But I refute the charge that the administration has misled me. (*Interruptions*)

Don't go to this conclusion without understanding the question and the answer. Don't do that.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : I have understood the question. There is two months' delay.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us come to the question.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The hon. Member referred to Sections 6 and 6(a) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act. First, let me read Section 6. This is a very substantive section. I hope the hon. Member knows this also. I quote:

"6. The Central Government shall publish the decision of the Tribunal in the Official Gazette and the decision shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute..." Further is important: "and shall be given effect to by them."

I hope the hon. Member understands the meaning of these words.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, there are only four minutes left for the Question Hour to be over. I have not put the supplementary. Only four minutes are left... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I hope he understands the meaning of these words

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, let me put the supplementary. I do not want any explanation at all, I want to put the supplementary. I do not want any clarification.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Let me reply to your question.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I have not asked the supplementary...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : You have made certain allegations..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : No, I have not put the supplementary. There is no question of your replying ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the hon. member claims to know everything about this but still he has put the question. Perhaps he wants to know whether I know the subject...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: This is very bad, Sir. I want to put the supplementary. Only three minutes are left. I want to put the supplementary. You please allow me to put the supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him put the supplementary.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Let me quote section 6(a) , Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him put the supplementary now.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: No, Sir, he has referred to certain sections. He has referred to section 6(a) ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, I want to put the supplementary now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Section 6(a) says—this section shall come into operation when the State finds it difficult to

implement the decision; in case of difficulty, section 6(a) will come into operation; Sir, perhaps the hon. Member has not .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, I am satisfied with his explanation. Let him not explain. Let me put the first supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let him put the supplementary.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, my first supplementary is...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me handle it. Why are you interrupting?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please let me handle it now. Please sit down. Let him put the supplementary.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, My first supplementary is whether the Government of India has examined the Telugu-Ganga project which has been submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Government in the light of the Award. If so, whether the Government has come to the conclusion that the Project is not conceived within the framework of the Bachawat Award?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the hon. Member has put a question about a particular project that whether the project Telugu-Ganga is conceived within the framework of Bachawat Award or not. Now, three States are concerned with this ... *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: What is your stand?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Just listen. The Karnataka Government and the Maharashtra Government say: No, it is not within the Award. So, a dispute has arisen. When we will find that the project is available within the framework of the Bachawat Award, the project will be cleared.

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:** Sir, it is unfortunate that the project was submitted about four-five years back and till this day, they are simply examining it. They have not come to any conclusion whether it is within the Award or outside the Award. He is not in a position to say that. My second supplementary is whether the allocation of water under the Bachawat Award is permanent or it is an unutilised allocation of water to a particular State up to 2000 A.D. Will it remain permanent or it will go to the surplus?

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** Now, this a question for which the entire award will be reviewed. The decision of the Award will be reviewed by the year 2000 A.D. The hon. Member wants to say that the surplus water is not available to the people of that area. I do not think I will be able to say anything about that.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Amendments in FERA

\*128. **SHRI H.N.NANJE GOWDA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to tighten the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the FERA violators will get suitable reward or punishment?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :** (a) to (c). Government of India have received suggestions for amending the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and these are being examined.

### Voting Age

\*129. **SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK:**  
**SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-**  
**NAIK:**

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering actively to reduce the voting age from 21 to 18;

(b) if so, when the law would be amended to give effect to it; and

(c) the number of additional voters on account of this reduction in voting age?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES: (SHRI B.SHANKARANAND) :** (a) and (b). The proposal to reduce the voting age is now being debated extensively. Government have taken note of this; but no decision has been taken so far.

(c) The number of additional voters as a result of the reduction in voting age has been estimated by the Election Commission to be about 47 million.

### Corporate Plan

\*130. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any corporate/comprehensive plan for the construction of new railway lines/conversion from narrow gauge/metre gauge to broad gauge upto the year 2000 A.D has been finalised by Government keeping in view the urgency to complete the ongoing projects, in each zone;

(b) if so, a brief outline of the corporate plan and its break-up for Eighth and Ninth

Plans; and

(c) if not, whether such a plan would be drawn up at an early date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

### **Circulation of Black Money**

131. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:  
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER  
JAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of circulation of black money in the country;

(b) if so, the latest estimate thereof and if not, the reasons for not doing so;

(c) the estimated black money transactions through real estate dealings; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to unearth black-money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) and (b). There is no official estimate of the amount of black money in circulation in the country. However, at the instance of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the National Institute of Public Finance & Policy conducted a study into certain aspects of the black economy in India. In their report titled 'Aspects of the Black Economy in India', published in March, 1985, the quantum of black income for 1983-84 was estimated between Rs 31,584 to Rs 36,786 crores. The authors have, however, admit-

ted that their estimate is based on numerous assumptions and approximations, each of which can be challenged.

(c) The aforesaid report has identified real estate transactions as one of the main sectors in which black money is generated. However, the report does not give any estimate of the black money generated through real estates dealings.

(d) Necessary legislative and administrative measures as deemed appropriate are taken from time to time to curb generation, growth and use of black money. Some of the measures which have recently been taken are:-

- i) Systematic survey operations
- ii) Search and Seizure operations in appropriate cases.
- iii) Verification of information by Central Information Branches in a planned manner.
- iv) in-depth investigation in a manageable number of selected cases.
- v) The enactment of the new provision, Chapter XXC of the Income Tax Act giving the Central Government a pre-emptive right to purchase any property which is proposed to be transferred at a price exceeding Rs 10 lakhs in the cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Ahmedabad and Bangalore.

[Translation]

### **Issue of Bonds in Foreign Countries**

\*132. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL:  
SHRI PRATAPRAO B  
BHOSALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued bonds in foreign countries keeping in view the need of foreign exchange in the country;

(b) if so, the value of bonds, in foreign exchange issued in the current financial year so far and the names of the countries where these bonds have been issued;

(c) the value of foreign exchange earned so far through these bonds; and

(b) the purposes for which foreign exchange so earned has been utilised by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Government have not issued any bonds in foreign countries. However, some Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Financial Institutions (FIs) have issued bonds in order to meet their foreign exchange requirements. Such bonds issued by PSUs and FIs in the current financial year are as follow:-

1. ONGC : Swiss Francs 150 million Bond Issue in Switzerland.
2. ONGC : Yen 20 billion Samurai Bond Issue in Japan.
3. ONGC : US \$ 125 million Bond Issue in U.K.
4. IDBI : DM 250 million Bond Issue in West Germany.
5. ICICI : Swiss Francs 80 million Bond Issue in Switzerland.

The money raised in the bond markets by the PSUs is utilized for meeting their foreign

exchange requirements and by FIs for the foreign exchange requirements of the industrial undertakings to whom they on-lend.

[English]

### Vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

\*133. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts as on 1 November, 1988;

(b) the reasons for delay in filling up these vacancies; and

(c) the time-frame to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 1-11-1988, there were 10 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and 65 vacancies of Judges/Additional Judges in the High Courts.

(b) and (c). Selection of Judges involves deliberations in consultation with the concerned Constitutional authorities and is a continuous process. As such, it is not possible to indicate any time-frame.

### Exports from Eastern Region

\*134. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:  
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:



(a) whether the strategy for promoting exports from the eastern region is being finalised;

(b) whether he convened a special meeting of all the eastern States in Calcutta in this regard;

(c) if so, the States which attended the meeting; and

(d) to what extent this will boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have been considering the question of evolving plans to increase exports from some of the States in the Eastern Region like West Bengal, Tripura and some others in the North Eastern Region like Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. At a meeting in New Delhi on 12th October, 1988, chaired by Minister of State for Commerce, the Action Plans prepared by Trade Development Authority for West Bengal and Tripura were discussed. The meeting was attended, among others, by the representatives of the State Governments of West Bengal and Tripura.

(d) At this stage it is too early to give any indication of the export potential as the Plans have not yet been finalised.

#### **Memorandum on Narmada Valley Project**

\*135. DR. DATTA SAMANT:  
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government

has submitted a memorandum to Union Government asking for fresh review of the gigantic Narmada Valley Project;

(b) if so, the details of new proposals suggested; and

(c) the steps Government have taken recently to solve the dispute regarding this project?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

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

#### **Promotion of Trade by Indo-Pak Joint Commission**

\*136. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:  
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission has played a useful role in the expansion of bilateral trade;

(b) the commodities presently covered under Indo-Pak trade; and

(c) the other possible commodities which can be considered for trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The Sub-Commission on Trade under Joint Commission has provided a forum for detailed discussions on ways and means of boosting bilateral trade.

(b) India's major exports have been tea, iron ore, crude vegetable materials, spices

and betel leaves. Pakistan's exports to India chiefly comprise raw cotton, dry fruits and nuts, pig iron and crude fertilizers.

(c) Some possible commodities which can be exported by India to Pakistan include industrial sewing machines, sewing needles, fire extinguishers, clinical thermometers, taxi metres.

#### **Survey for Ramnagar-Chaukhutia Railway Line**

\*137. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to conduct survey for Ramnagar—Marchula—Bhikiasen—Chaukhutia railway line; and

(b) if so, when the survey is likely to start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1989-90.

[English]

#### **Foreign Debt**

\*138. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding foreign debts of India at the end of March of 1986, 1987 and 1988 and on June 30, 1988;

(b) the debt service charges in 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88 and up to June 30, 1988;

(c) the total loans received during the above period; and

(d) the value of exports of goods and

invisible earnings in the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The total outstanding foreign debt of India at the end of March 86, March 87 and March 88 is estimated to be Rs. 39701 crores, Rs. 48895 crores and Rs. 54817 crores respectively. Information as at the end of June 1988 is not available as the accounts for the period are not yet finalised.

(b) The total debt service charges i.e. payment of interest, paid during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 1620 crores, Rs. 1992 crores and Rs. 2290 crores respectively. Information as at the end of June 1988 is not available as the accounts for that period are not yet finalised.

(c) The total loans received during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 2495 crores, Rs. 3176 crores and Rs. 4575 crores respectively. Besides approvals given to raise External Commercial Borrowings during these years amounted to Rs. 1700 crores, Rs. 1396 crores and Rs. 2654 crores respectively. Information upto June 88 is not available as the accounts for that period are not yet finalised.

(d) The value of exports of goods and invisible earnings during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 is estimated to be Rs. 19133 crores, Rs. 21415 crores and Rs. 25199 crores respectively.

#### **Issue of New Series of Coins**

\*139. DR. G.S. RAJHANS:  
SHRIMATI MADHUREE  
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to issue new series of 50 paise, 25 paise and 10 paise coins for circulation through Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details of the metal to be used in minting the new coins; and

(c) to what extent the new coins will meet the growing demand for small coins in the country?

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

(b) The coins will have both iron and Chromium.

(c) Against the current demand of 1850 million pieces of coins in the denomination of 50 paise, 25 paise and 10 paise, the annual capacity will be of 2175 million pieces.

### **National Water Policy**

\*141. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are opposed to the National Water Policy;

(b) if so, the names of those States with reasons for their opposition; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

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

### **Freight Traffic Performance**

1108. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have lagged behind the target in the movement of originating revenue-earning traffic in the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the shortfall;

(c) the steps being taken to attain the target for freight set for the current year; and

(d) the effect of floods on freight movement during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir, Marginally.

(b) The main reason is the shortfall in the offer of traffic, particularly in foodgrains which was affected due to drought in the earlier year and also less offer in certain other sectors. The loading was also affected by heavy rains, floods, Bandhs and strikes etc.

(c) All efforts are being made to pick up all the traffic that is offered.

(d) To some extent, the floods have affected loading during this year.

### **Rehabilitation of Scindia Steam Navigation Co.**

1109. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated to rehabilitate the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. with the aid of Government

loans;

(b) if so, its broad features and the capital outlay involved;

(c) the loss incurred by the company during the year ended 30th June, 1988; and

(d) the number of liner vessels owned by the Scindia which are fit to be chartered and the number of those earmarked for scrapping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Various option in respect of Scindia Steam Navigation Co., which had suspended operation of its vessels, were considered and a decision has been taken to run the company through its Board of Directors. To meet the immediate requirements of the company, such as payments on account of wages, salaries, supplies, dry-docking, repairs, etc., short-term loans have been provided to the company by Government. The company is now in the process of reactivating its viable vessels for restarting operations.

(c) According to the available information, the accounts of the company for the year ended 30th June 1988 have not yet been finalised and therefore the losses incurred during the period are not readily ascertainable.

(d) Of the total fleet to 22 vessels, 9 have been earmarked for scrapping. Of the remaining 13 vessels, which are being put into operation, 6 have so far being given on time-charter.

#### **Flood Control Schemes in Andhra Pradesh**

1110. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES

be pleased to state:

(a) whether any centrally sponsored flood control schemes are under execution in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes; and

(c) the amount allocated for these schemes during 1986-87 and 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

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

#### **Dibrugarh and Bombay**

1111. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a long distance direct train between Dibrugarh and Bombay via Katihar, Barauni, Ranchi, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Nagpur;

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

(c) the time by which the train is expected to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

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

#### **Thefts between Kharagpur and Midnapur on S.E. Railway**

1112. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of thefts from

the Electric Motive Unit (E.M.U.) coaches are increasing between Kharagpur and Midnapur on S.E. Railway;

(b) if so, how many criminals have been apprehended on this section; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken as a special measure to curb them in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such alleged increases have been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All E.M.U. Trains are already being escorted by R.P.F. between Kharagpur and Midnapur. Besides, patrolling of tracks and picketing of Black Spots in this sector are being organised as far as possible.

#### **NRIs' Deposits In Banks**

1113. SHRIMOCHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited by Non-Resident Indians in the branches of nationalised banks and non-nationalised banks of the country during the years 1987 and 1988;

(b) whether the deposits have shown any decline;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the interest on N.R.Is. deposits is more than the interest on deposits of Indian nationals; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other facilities being given to N.R.Is. to deposit their money in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The total outstanding balance held in the Non-Resident (External) Rupee (NRE) & Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) Accounts maintained by Non-Resident Indians with Banks in India were as follows:-

<i>As at the End of</i>	<i>(Rupees in Crores)</i>
December 1986	7470.62
December 1987	9401.66
August 1988 (Provisional)	11314.85

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Statement is attached.

(e) Besides Deposits in Bank Accounts, Non-Resident Indians can invest in Equity Shares, Debentures, Deposits of Indian Companies, National Savings Certificates, Units of UTI and the NRI Bonds being floated by State Bank of India.

#### **Passenger Amenities on S.C. Railway**

1114. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have a waiting hall for metre gauge passengers and store room for goods and parcels for broad gauge line passengers at Manmad and if so, when these will be provided;

(b) whether it has also come to Government's notice that the bed rolls being

provided to passengers on South Central Railway are not clean; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). No such specific complaint has come to notice. However, instructions have been given to the Railway to ensure that bed rolls are clean.

#### **Investment of Gold In Government Securities**

1115. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Bullion Association has put forward the proposal for mobilising gold and investing it in Government Securities; and

(b) if so, the views of Government regarding practical applicability of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The Bombay Bullion Association have in a representation suggested "creation of a gold bank to look into problem of mobilisation of resources of gold and reducing its physical demand by issuing gold certificate." However no specific proposal or details have been given in this regard.

(b) In view of (a) above, (b) does not arise.

#### **Income Tax Exemption on the Interest Earned on National Savings Certificates**

1116. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department is treating the interest earned on the National Savings Certificates (VI issue) as invested for granting the benefit under Section 80 C of the Income Tax Act; and

(b) if so, the reason for differential treatment to interest credited to the Provident Fund account of an employee?

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

(b) The interest accrued to the provident fund account of an employee does not bear the character of his income in the absence of any enabling provision similar to rule 19 of the National Savings Certificates (VI Issue) Rules 1981. By virtue of this rule, the interest on N.S.C. (VI Issue) is deemed to accrue to the holder or holders of the certificate at the end of each year and the interest so accruing at the end of each year upto the end of 5th year is deemed to have been re-invested on behalf of the holder or holders. This makes such interest on National Saving Certificates (VI Issue) eligible for benefit under section 80C of the Income-Tax Act. There being no such provision in respect of provident fund account of an employee, the interest credited to such account is in fact not the income of the employee but accrues to the Fund and therefore cannot be treated as his income. As such, it cannot be given the same tax treatment as is given to the interest accrued on the National Savings Certificates (VI Issue) and deemed to be re-invested therein.

#### **Reservation for SCs/STs in Judiciary Appointments**

1117. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are actively considering to make rule of reservation applicable to the judiciary also in view of the inadequate representation of Judges in High Courts and Supreme Court for backward classes and SCs and STs; and

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be adopted to provide adequate representation for these classes of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). Appointments of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are made in terms of Articles 124 and 217 c. of the Constitution respectively. These provisions do not permit reservation in favour of any caste or class of persons. However, the Government have addressed the Chief Ministers and Governors of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts in December, 1987, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities women and the economically backward who are suitable for appointment as Judges of High Courts.

#### **Representation of Voluntary Social Service Societies Against Heavy Taxation**

1118. SHRI H.G. RAMULU:  
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of voluntary social service societies/organisation have represented to Government against the heavy taxation imposed under the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988 and

asked for relief in the taxation imposed therein;

(b) if so, the names of such voluntary organisations; and

(c) what are their suggestions/demands and the ground on which they have sought relief from the tax levied in the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). The Government has received a number of representations from charitable and religious trusts and institutions including some from the voluntary social service societies/organisations in connection with the various provisions relating to taxation of charitable trusts and institutions as contained in the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987. The issues raised in the various representation have been examined by the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the decisions thereon will be reflected in the proposed Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1989, to be introduced in the current session of the Parliament.

#### **Ceiling of Bonus**

1119. SHRITHAMPANTHOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is a proposal to increase the limit of ceiling of monthly wages of Rs. 1600/- for payment of bonus to Railway employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The condition that in the case of staff drawing wages in excess of Rs. 1600/- p.m. Productivity Linked Bonus will be calculated as if the wages have not exceeded Rs. 1600/- p.m., is uniformly applicable for all PLB Schemes as well as for ad hoc bonus Schemes in Central Government.

### Seizure Operation by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

1120. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seizure operation is being undertaken by the Central Directorate of Revenue Intelligence;

(b) if so, the number of operation undertaken by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in different cities during this year so far;

(c) the total amount/weight of gold seized following those raids;

(d) the amount seized during the last year; and

(e) the action taken against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is regularly organising operations for detection/prevention of smuggling. As a result, contraband goods worth Rs. 86 crores (approximately) have been seized in 434 raids/cases during the current calendar year (upto 31st October, 1988).

(c) and (d). The value of gold seized by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in the calendar year 1987 and in 1988 (upto 31st

October, 1988) are given below:-

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1987	15.75
1988 (upto 31.10.1988)	32.00 (provisional)

(e) Persons found involved in smuggling activities are penalised in Departmental adjudications as well as prosecuted in Courts of law in appropriate cases and also arrested/detained, if considered necessary.

### Banks Loans for House Building

1121. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether under a Reserve Bank of India direction the banks have stopped advancing loans for house building or expansion of an existing house for living purposes but are still giving loans for buildings which are for commercial purposes;

(b) whether the big buildings are also being given financial assistance for building residential and commercial flats;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a disparity;

(d) whether the banks will be permitted to introduce at least a scheme for house buildings/expansion of the houses on the lines of the scheme that LIC has at present; and

(e) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not is-



sued any instruction to the banks advising them to stop advancing loans for house building purposes or for expansion of existing houses. In fact in order to encourage the flow of credit for housing purposes RBI has recently made some changes in the housing finance policy liberalising some of the existing provisions. The main features of the liberalised housing finance policy are as under:

- i) the maximum period of repayment of housing loans from commercial banks which was 10 years has been extended upto 15 years.
- ii) Till recently the margin was 20% for housing loans upto Rs. 5,000/- and 50% for all other loans. These margins have been relaxed under a graded scale and the maximum margin is reduced to 35%.
- iii) Banks also have the discretion to fix the instalments in such a way that housing loan becomes more affordable by the lower income groups.
- iv) In the case of individuals who might have raised funds from other sources, banks will be permitted to provide supplementary finance.
- v) Banks may extend credit for additions, repairs and alterations.

(b) and (c). RBI has also reported that financial assistance is permissible to builders for construction activities at commercial rates of interest whereas the concessional rate of interest are charged from individuals. The revised rates of interest for housing finance for the individual borrowers effective

from October 10, 1988 are as under:

<i>Amount of loan</i>	<i>Rate of interest ( % p.a.)</i>
Upto Rs. 20,000	12.5
Above Rs. 20,000 and upto Rs. 50,000	13.5
Above Rs. 50,000 and upto Rs. 1 lakh	14.0
Above Rs. 1 lakh	14.5- 16.0

The rate of interest for housing loan to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000/- remains unchanged at 4% p.a.

(d) and (e). RBI has further reported that the banks are already financing against the mortgage of houses. However, where mortgage of property and Government Guarantee is not feasible, banks are permitted to accept other forms of security.

#### **Licences for Export of Jewellery**

1122. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies which have been issued licences for export of jewellery;

(b) the export made by each of the company in the year 1987-88 and during the period April-September this year;

(c) whether the export of jewellery is increasing and there is a big scope to boost this trade; and

(d) if so, the incentives being given to the jewellery exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) As per extant instructions Export Licence is not required for export of jewellery items. However, in case of export of gold jewellery, exporter should possess Gold Dealer's Licence issued by the Gold Control Authorities.

(b) Such statistics in respect of export of all jewellery items by individual units are not being maintained.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In recent past a number of policy initiatives have been taken to promote exports of jewellery which, inter-alia, includes simplification, streamlining and relaxation of procedures under Gold Control Act, Provision of facility for stocking and supplying of gold by Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) under 100% Export Oriented Schemes, relaxation in bank credit facilities etc.

#### Modifications in Duty Drawback Scheme

1123. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have recently introduced a simplified Draw back rate Schedule for duty Drawback on exports; and

(b) if so, the facilities provided to exporters of engineering goods, electronics, chemicals, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). A simplified procedure for Brand Rate fixation under Duty Drawback Scheme (and not simplified Drawback Rate Schedule) has been recently announced by the Government for the benefit of established manufacturer-exporters.

Under the simplified brand rate fixation scheme, the brand rates, subject to certain safeguards, will be essentially based upon data as submitted by the manufacturer exporters duly authenticated by independent Chartered Engineers/Coast Accountants/Chartered Accountants and exporters authorised to claim Drawback considered admissible, from the concerned Custom House(s) without insisting on pre-verification by the Deptt. The facility will be extended for the present to manufacturer-exporters of engineering goods, chemicals and electronic items.

#### Rise in Wholesale Price Index

1124. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wholesale Price Index for all commodities has increased recently;

(b) if so, from which date and the extent to which it has rise; and

(c) the steps taken to check the uptrend in prices of all commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The movement of WPI in recent weeks has been as under:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Index</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
1.10.88	436.7	+ 0.3

<i>Date</i>	<i>Index</i>	<i>Percent Change</i>
8.10.88	439.1	+ 0.5
15.10.88	441.6	+ 0.4
22.10.88	441.0	- 0.3
29.10.88	438.4	- 0.7
5.11.88	436.4	- 0.5

(c) The Government has been keeping a close watch on the price situation and has taken measures to keep them under reasonable check. These include strengthening of Public Distribution System, import of essential commodities as needed, strict economy in Government expenditure, mopping up excess liquidity in the economy and by measures to encourage higher production.

#### **Jadavpur Flyover (Calcutta)**

1125. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project of Jadavpur Flyover at Calcutta is pending for clearance; and

(b) if so, when the clearance of the project is liable to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). A road-over-bridge at Jadavpur is presently under construction, jointly by the State Government and the Railway. The bridge proper across the tracks has already been completed by the Railway. The completion of the entire work now mainly depends on the completion of the approaches by the State Government. (present progress 84%).

#### **Fruits Trolleys at New Delhi Railway Station**

1126. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made arrangements for sale of fresh fruits through vending trollies at New Delhi railway station;

(b) if so, the number of such trollies provided at the station; and

(c) the criteria adopted for allotment of platforms for these trollies at New Delhi station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three.

(c) No specific procedure has been laid down. However, as per practice, these three trollies ply on platforms 1 to 5 by rotation.

#### **Funds Sanctioned to Orissa**

1127. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds sanctioned to Orissa under short term credit are showing downward trend over the past five years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decrease in the allocation;

(c) whether Government of Orissa has requested his Ministry to increase the allocation to Orissa as Orissa is a backward State; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been sanctioning short term credit limits to cooperative banks in Orissa State for financing seasonal agricultural operations. The limit sanctioned during the last three years have been set out below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1985-86	6675
1986-87	7455
1987-88	7805

It may be observed from the above position that the limits have been increasing every year.

(c) and (d). There have been requests for increasing deployment of credit at various forums. The policy of Reserve Bank of India is aimed at removing regional imbalances in banking infrastructure and flow of credit. The implementation of Annual Action Plan (AAPS) is expected to increase the flow of credit to all deserving areas particularly in rural centres. The matter is also monitored by Regional Consultative Committee and

State Level Banker's Committee.

### **Conversion of Guntur-Dronachalam Route**

1128. SHRI SRI HARI RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to convert the metre gauge line into broad gauge between Guntur-Dronachalam in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the survey and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Survey for conversion from MG to BG between Guntur and Dronachalam is in progress.

(b) Survey for gauge conversion from Guntur to Dronachalam, a distance of 348 km has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 34.51 lacs, which amount also includes survey for a parallel broad gauge line between Kurnool and Guntakal. No action can be taken till the survey is completed and report examined.

[Translation]

### **Clearance of Irrigation Project by Central Water Commission**

1129. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given on 6 May, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 10000 regarding clearance to irrigation project by Central Water Commission and state:

(a) the time by which clearance would be given to the 66 projects of Maharashtra mentioned in Schedule II;

(b) the reasons for delay in clearing the

said project;

(c) whether due to delay the construction cost of the projects would go up considerably; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The Project reports prepared by the State Governments are often not in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Centre. This leads to a large number of comments/ observations from the Central appraising agencies and protracted correspondence with the State Governments to furnish the requisite information/clarification. The time required for clearance of 66 projects of Maharashtra will, therefore, depend upon the response of the State Government in furnishing the compliance of comments/observations.

(c) and (d). The State Governments start too many projects without adequate financial resources. This causes delay in completion and results in escalation of project costs. Even for on-going projects the State Government has not been able to make the necessary plan provision. The cost escalation of the projects cannot, therefore, be attributed to the time taken in clearance.

[English]

#### **Currency Chest Facilities to Private Banks**

1130. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Reserve Bank of India is not providing

the private banks with currency chest facilities, resulting in a considerable loss to them, as reported in the Hindu dated 11 July, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that its present policy is to permit establishment of currency chests only with branches of public sector banks. The private sector banks have not yet been found to be sufficiently equipped to take up the heavy responsibility involved in maintenance of currency chests. The private sector banks are, however, being provided necessary currency chest facilities at the office of Reserve Bank of India and the branches of State Bank of India and its seven Associate Banks having currency chests.

#### **Fall in Remittances from Abroad**

1131. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp fall in the remittances from abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to arrest this trend?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

**Halt at Ranlehak on Haldia-Panskura Section**

1132. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the opening of a passenger half station at Ranlehak in between Haldia and Silpaprabesh stations of the Haldia-Panskura section of the South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It was not found to be financially justified.

**Cancellation of 8-SSD and 9-SSD Trains between Delhi-Saharanpur**

1133. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Train Nos. 8-SSD and 9-SSD which ply between Delhi-Saharanpur via Baghpat and Badot have been cancelled since 27 September, 1988.

(b) whether it is a fact that these trains have been cancelled thrice during the last one year;

(c) if so, the reasons for cancellation of these trains each time; and

(d) when these trains will start again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Operational exigencies arising from time to time.

(d) The services have since been restored.

**Customs Clearance Development at Delhi Cargo Airport**

1134. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the usual time taken by the Customs Authority at Delhi Cargo Airport to clear a consignment;

(b) whether Government are aware that consignments clearance of international flights are held up at Delhi Cargo Airport and undue demurrage is being borne by the importers; and

(c) whether Government propose to open an office of public relation officer in customs clearance department at Delhi Cargo Airport, if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The average time taken for clearance of air consignments at Air Cargo Unit, Delhi is about 3-4 days provided all the documents required for the purpose are in order.

(b) clearance of consignments sometimes get delayed for detailed scrutiny and investigation and failure on the part of importers/exporters to file the complete documents. Clearance of such consignments takes longer time and consequently demur-

rage is incurred. Presently the clearance of consignments is adversely affected on account of strike by loaders who are under the control of International Airport Authority of India.

(c) An officer is posted at the Air Cargo Unit as the Public Relations Officer for Customs purposes.

### **Credit Deposit Ratio**

1135. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the statewise, credit deposit ratio of the banking system (nationalised sector) as on 1 April, 1988 and the national ratio;

(b) the district-wise ratio for those districts whose ratio is less than that of the State as a whole;

(c) the reasons for the disparity; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) State-wise credit: deposit ratio of the Public Sector Banks as on the last Friday of March 1988 are given in Statement I below.

(b) Data reporting system does not provide district-wise information for Public Sector Banks. However, the district-wise credit: deposit ratio of scheduled commercial banks for those districts whose ratio is less than that of the State as on the last Friday of March, 1988 are given in Statement II below.

(c) and (d). The inter district disparities in the credit: deposit ratio are on account of different level of economic development, supporting infrastructure for various activities, entrepreneurship and the extent of incentives offered, which in turn influence the credit absorption capacity of the area.

Banks have been advised to ensure that wide disparities among various Regions, in deployment of credit are avoided and to take effective steps to increase the flow of credit to all productive and viable proposals in deficient areas.

### **STATEMENT I**

*State-wise Credit: Deposit Ratio of the Public Sector Banks  
(As on the Last Friday of March 1988)*

<i>State/U. Ts.</i>	<i>Credit: Deposit Ratio</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Northern Region</i>	<i>49.07</i>
Haryana	64.31
Himachal Pradesh	37.64
Jammu & Kashmir	31.07

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1	2
Punjab	42.67
Rajasthan	62.28
Chandigarh	84.23
Delhi	45.55
<i>North-Eastern Region</i>	<i>47.97</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	21.50
Assam	55.03
Manipur	66.18
Mizoram	21.79
Nagaland	41.78
Sikkim	28.70
Meghalaya	23.41
Tripura	48.79
<i>Eastern Region</i>	<i>47.63</i>
Bihar	35.94
Orissa	83.51
West Bengal	49.07
Andaman & Nicobar	35.37
<i>Central Region</i>	<i>49.67</i>
Madhya Pradesh	64.07
Uttar Pradesh	44.15
<i>Western Region</i>	<i>68.72</i>
Goa	30.72



1	2
Gujarat	57.23
Maharashtra	75.33
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	65.09
Daman & Diu	22.48
<i>Southern Region</i>	<i>87.30</i>
Andhra Pradesh	82.78
Karnataka	94.19
Kerala	63.99
Tamil Nadu	100.46
Lakshdweep	21.38
Pondicherry	54.58
<i>All India</i>	<i>61.31</i>

Note: Data are provisional.

### STATEMENT II

*District-Wise Credit: Deposit Ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks for Those Districts whose Ratio is less than that of the State as on the last Friday of March 1988*

Sl.No.	State/Districts	C.D. Ratio
1	2	3
1.	<b>HARYANA</b>	65.2
	Ambala	47.1
	Bhiwani	62.2
	Gurgaon	47.8
	Mahendragarh	60.8

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1	2	3
	Rohtak	46.2
	Sonepat	59.2
2.	<i>HIMACHAL PRADESH</i>	37.5
	Bilaspur	31.9
	Chamba	26.2
	Hamirpur	16.7
	Kangra	21.7
	Lahul & Spiti	20.9
	Mandi	37.3
	Una	31.0
3.	<i>JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR</i>	45.2
	Anantnag	33.7
	Badgam	42.4
	Baramulla	33.5
	Doda	25.1
	Jammu	30.1
	Kargil	7.5
	Kathua	38.4
	Kupwara	43.8
	Ladakh	8.4
	Poonch	13.2
	Pulwama	36.6

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<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	Rajouri	13.3
	Udhampur	24.2
<b>4. PUNJAB</b>		<b>42.8</b>
	Amritsar	40.0
	Gurdaspur	36.7
	Hoshiarpur	18.4
	Jullundur	25.0
	Kapurthala	23.7
<b>5. RAJASTHAN</b>		<b>62.7</b>
	Ajmer	52.8
	Banswara	52.1
	Barmer	53.1
	Bikaner	57.8
	Chittorgarh	49.7
	Churu	40.7
	Dungarpur	32.2
	Jaipur	59.2
	Jaisalmer	32.3
	Jhunjhunu	37.4
	Jodhpur	47.8
	Nagaur	55.9
	Sawai Madhopur	51.8

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<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	Sikar	35.0
	Sirohi	45.6
	Udaipur	51.4
6.	<b>CHANDIGARH</b>	<b>83.6</b>
7.	<b>DELHI</b>	<b>48.3</b>
8.	<b>ASSAM</b>	<b>55.8</b>
	Cachar	46.4
	Dhubri	42.8
	Jorhat	49.4
	Kokrojhar	41.1
	Karimganj	49.2
	North Cachar Hills	19.6
	Sibsagar	43.9
	Sonitpur	37.6
9.	<b>MANIPUR</b>	<b>67.5</b>
	Imphal	48.9
10.	<b>MEGHALAYA</b>	<b>24.2</b>
	East Khasi Hills	22.0
11.	<b>NAGALAND</b>	<b>40.4</b>
	Mokokchung	38.2
	Tuen Sangh	15.6
	Zunheboto	35.1

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<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
	Mon	27.8
12.	<i>SIKKIM</i>	28.7
	East Sikkim	26.3
13.	<i>TRIPURA</i>	60.1
	West Tripura	51.3
14.	<i>ARUNACHAL PRADESH</i>	21.7
	East Kameng	14.0
	East Siang	21.1
	Lower Subansiri	14.5
	Tawang	6.2
	Upper Subansiri	21.3
	West Kameng	11.6
15.	<i>MIZORAM</i>	29.6
	Aizawal	24.8
16.	<i>BIHAR</i>	38.6
	Aurangabad	32.9
	Bhagalpur	34.8
	Bhojpur	26.7
	Deogarh	32.2
	Dhanbad	25.6
	Dumka	30.0
	Gaya	30.2
	Giridih	30.8

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1	2	3
	Godda	36.7
	Gopalganj	34.4
	Gumla	34.4
	Hazaribagh	34.0
	Jehanabad	34.0
	Monghyr	33.6
	Muzaffarpur	35.9
	Rohtas	37.4
	Sahebganj	28.6
	Saran	30.5
	Singhbhum	27.7
	Siwan	35.1
17.	<i>ORISSA</i>	89.4
	Cuttuck	85.2
	Dhenkanal	68.7
	Ganjam	58.4
	Sambalpur	71.7
	Sundergarh	50.6
18.	<i>WEST BENGAL</i>	52.6
	Bankura	30.2
	Birbhum	38.0
	Burdwan	28.7
	Darjeeling	40.7

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1	2	3
	Hooghly	25.7
	Howrah	24.0
	Jalpaiguri	36.8
	Midnapore	32.5
	Murshidabad	36.4
	Nadia	37.3
	North 24 Parganas	21.9
	Purulia	30.3
	24 Parganas	31.8
	West Dinajpur	52.4
19.	<i>A. &amp; N. ISLANDS</i>	35.4
	Nicobar	33.9
20.	<i>MADHYA PRADESH</i>	65.3
	Balaghat	62.8
	Bastar	59.6
	Betul	38.8
	Bhind	38.8
	Bilaspur	46.2
	Chhatarpur	50.2
	Chhindwara	36.6
	Damoh	51.6
	Datia	49.3
	Durg	47.4

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1	2	3
	Guna	64.8
	Gwalior	58.7
	Hoshangabad	61.6
	Mandla	58.2
	Mandsaur	59.5
	Narsinghpur	63.0
	Panna	49.2
	Raigarh	53.5
	Rewa	43.3
	Sagar	51.5
	Satna	63.6
	Seoni	46.4
	Shahdol	26.4
	Shivpuri	67.8
	Sidhi	22.4
	Surguja	29.9
	Tikamgarh	52.4
21.	<i>UTTAR PRADESH</i>	45.5
	Allahabad	33.9
	Almora	24.3
	Azamgarh	34.6
	Ballia	27.6
	Banda	42.6

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<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
	Bareilly	36.5
	Basti	41.7
	Bulandshahr	38.4
	Chamoli	16.7
	Dehra Dun	21.7
	Deoria	39.8
	Etawah	38.1
	Faizabad	36.7
	Garhwal	19.3
	Ghazipur	35.8
	Gorakhpur	36.7
	Hamirpur	35.3
	Jalaun	43.5
	Jaunpur	27.6
	Jhansi	31.9
	Lucknow	42.4
	Pithoragarh	28.4
	Pratapgarh	28.9
	Saharanpur	40.1
	Sultanpur	37.5
	Tehri-Garhwal	22.2
	Unnao	32.7
	Uttar Kashi	34.6

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1	2	3
	Varanasi	40.4
22.	GOA	31.2
23.	GUJARAT	57.4
	Banaskantha	54.7
	Bhavnagar	42.4
	Dangs	46.8
	Jamnagar	35.4
	Junagarh	37.0
	Kheda	34.3
	Kutch	14.3
	Mehsana	56.5
	Rajkot	47.4
	Surat	45.6
	Surendranagar	54.7
	Valsad	41.8
24.	MAHARASHTRA	76.4
	Amravati	54.5
	Bhandara	65.0
	Beed (Bhir)	61.5
	Chandrapur	43.4
	Gadchiroli	56.9
	Jalgaon	70.9
	Nagpur	53.3

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1	2	3
	Nanded	70.2
	Nasik	69.7
	Osmanabad	72.2
	Pune	62.2
	Raigad	51.4
	Ratnagiri	29.4
	Sangli	65.9
	Satara	63.5
	Sindhudurg	31.7
	Thane	34.7
	Wardhe	66.2
	Yavatmal	69.6
25.	<i>D. &amp; NAGAR HAVELI</i>	65.2
26.	<i>DAMAN &amp; DIU</i>	22.4
	Diu	8.0
27.	<i>ANDHRA PRADESH</i>	83.1
	Adilabad	50.0
	Anantapur	71.2
	Chittoor	73.5
	Cuddapah	77.7
	East Godavari	70.6
	Karimnagar	61.6
	Khammam	69.8

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1	2	3
	Krishna	73.0
	Prakasam	82.8
	Srikakulam	69.1
	Visakhapatnam	43.3
	Vizianagaram	72.1
28.	<b>KARNATAKA</b>	93.2
	Belgaum	67.8
	Bidar	87.8
	Bijapur	78.9
	Dakshina Kannada	69.7
	Dharwar	81.4
	Gulbarga	88.2
	Hassan	84.7
	Kodagu	69.4
	Kolar	87.6
	Mandya	87.2
	Mysore	83.1
	Tumkur	83.8
	Uttar Kannada	55.0
29.	<b>KERALA</b>	65.6
	Alleppy	54.4
	Cannanore	57.0

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1	2	3
	Kotayam	60.9
	Palghat	57.9
	Palghat	57.9
	Pathanamthitta	17.0
	Trichur	43.8
	Trivandrum	60.1
30.	<i>TAMIL NADU</i>	99.4
	Chidambaranar	75.4
	Chingleput	81.4
	Kanya Kumari	61.7
	Nilgiris	80.3
	North Arcot	98.3
	Pasumpon Muthuramalingam	60.4
	Periyar	79.7
	Pudukottai	90.5
	Salem	79.6
	South Arcot	87.3
	Thanjavur	60.6
	Tiruchirapalli	76.2
	Tirunelveli Kattab	61.6
31.	<i>PONDICHERRY</i>	53.0
	Karaikal	44.7

1	2	3
	Mehe	27.0
	Yanam	46.9
32.	<i>LAKSHADWEEP</i>	21.4

Note: Data are provisional.

### **New Schemes under National Savings Scheme**

1136. SHRIMATI MANEMMA ANJIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new schemes have been launched this year under the National Savings Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A new scheme, namely Kisan Vikas Patra has been launched from 1.4.1988. Under this scheme, the Patras are issued in denominations of Rs. 1000, Rs. 5000 and Rs. 10,000. Amount invested in the patra doubles in 5 years and 6 months. Premature encashment is allowed any time after 2 years and 6 months with benefit of progressively higher rates of interest for longer durations. The patras can be purchased from departmental post offices by individuals and specified institutions directly or through small savings agents. There is no ceiling on investment in these Patras. No income tax concession is available for investment in Kisan Vikas Patra.

### **Railway Stations between Jaunpur and Aurihar**

1137. SHRI RAMSAMUJHAWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway stations between Jaunpur and Aurihar, have been converted into flag stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to convert Karakat and some other railway stations on this route into full fledged stations alongwith additional lines in view of the need of the traffic; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Four Block stations were converted into Flag stations in 1971.

(b) These were not operationally required. Hence, conversion was effected to achieve economy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no operational justification for conversion of these stations into Block stations.

### **Bank Loans for Construction of Houses in Rural Areas**

1138. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to streamline the rules for granting bank loans for the construction of houses in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has recently issued revised guidelines in October, 1988 on housing finance by scheduled commercial banks liberalising terms and conditions which are applicable both to rural and urban areas. Main features of the housing finance policy are as under:

- (i) The repayment period has been extended from 10 years to 15 years.
- (ii) The maximum margin on the loan has been reduced from 50% to 35%.
- (iii) As regards security for loan, if mortgage of property or Government guarantee is not feasible, the banks can now accept other securities.
- (iv) Banks can now grant loans to owners for undertaking repairs/alterations in respect of tenant occupied houses besides owner occupied houses.
- (v) Banks can now extend finance to public agencies for acquisition and development of land provided it is a part of the complete project including development of infrastructure such as water systems, drainage, roads, provision of electricity etc.

#### **Decanalisation of more items**

1139. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further decanalise the import items;

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

(c) whether it will further privatise the foreign trade and if so, the impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). The Import Policy is kept under constant review and necessary amendments are made from time to time in public interest.

#### **Offer from Uluberia Municipality**

1140. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Uluberia Municipality for using railway lands for the development work and for the benefit of railway passengers also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following proposals were received from the Uluberia Municipality:

- (i) Construction of Rickshaw stand on railway land near Uluberia, Fuleswar and Chengail Railway Stations by S.E. Railway.
- (ii) Construction of a footpath at Chengail Railway Station connecting east and west level crossings on the north side of the Station.
- (iii) Transfer of land of abandoned railway siding from Bauria Rail-

way Station to Lawrence Jute Mill area, to the Municipality.

- (iv) Construction of a connecting road over Gauriganga Khal at Chengail.
- (v) Revival of the drainage system maintained by S.E. Railways over Railway land from Uluberia Railway Station to Bauria Railway Station.

(c) At Uluberia, land for Rickshaw stand has been developed and a shed has also been constructed.

(ii) to (v): These proposals have not been approved.

#### **Foot Path over Peruman Bridge**

1141. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of a foot path over the Peruman railway bridge in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction is likely to be completed during November, 1988.

#### **Collection of Advance Income-tax from Arrack Licences**

1142. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMARAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have drawn attention to the adverse effects of collection of advance Income Tax from arrack licences on revenues of State Government from Excise Duties;

(b) whether in some of the States,

because of this new arrangement there was total paucity of bidders in Excise Auctions; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. When the provisions of sections 44 AC and 206 C of the Income-tax Act were proposed in the Finance Bill, 1988, apprehension was expressed by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh that the collection of income-tax laid down in the section 206 C is likely to seriously affect the smooth working of State Excise Department which collects a major source of revenue for the State Government. However, after the percentage rates of presumptive profit and the amount to be collected as income tax at source were reduced and the provisions were enacted, no further communication has been received from the State Government to the effect that the new provisions have adversely affected the revenue collection of the State Government.

(b) No specific information has been received after the enactment of the provisions to the effect that in view of the provisions of new sections 44 AC and 206 C of the Income-tax Act there has been total paucity of bidders in excise auctions.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Smuggling in Heroin**

1143. SHRI KAMAL NATH:  
DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:  
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item appearing in 'The Hindu' dated 7 October, 1988 wherein it has been stated that Army and para-military force vehicles are being used by smugglers to transport narcotics and



other psychotropic substances from Burma border through North-East to Calcutta;

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

(c) the action taken against those involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Certain cases in which ganja was seized from the vehicles of Border Road Task Force/Central Reserve Police Force in the North-East Region have come to the notice of the Government.

Necessary action to proceed against the persons/officials involved has been initiated including institution of departmental enquiry in one case.

#### **Smuggling Activities in Sunabeda Areas in Orissa**

1144. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling activity is on the increase in Sunabeda in the tribal district Koraput in Orissa;

(b) whether the tribals are being involved and exploited by the smugglers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop smuggling activities in this area and to save the tribals from exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Reports made available to Government do not indicate that Sunabeda in district Koraput in Orissa is vulnerable to smuggling which is confirmed by the fact that no seizures have been effected in this area during the last three years.

#### **Water Supply by Melting Himalayan Glaciers**

1145. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:  
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed concern over the Central Water Commission's reported plan to augment water supply by melting the Himalayan glaciers by coal dusting;

(b) if so, whether environmentalists had presented a Memorandum; and

(c) if so, what are the main points raised in the Memorandum to the Prime Minister and what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). On the Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, no action is called for since the Central Water Commission has no plans to melt the Himalayan glaciers. However, a small experiment for melting the seasonal snow at lower elevation which in any case melts by June-July is thought of.

[*Translation*]

#### **Import of Printing Machinery**

1146. SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether books earn more foreign exchange for the country than periodicals;

(b) if so, whether the duty imposed on importing machines for printing books is much more than that imposed on importing machines for printing periodicals and newspapers;

(c) if so, the extent of difference and whether Government propose to take any

steps to remove this discrepancy; and

(d) if so, when and if not the reason therefor?

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

(b) to (d). The import duty on machinery used in printing industry in general is 90% ad-valorem. On five specified items of printing machinery the duty is only 35% ad-valorem and this applies to machinery imported for printing books as also periodicals and newspapers. For newspaper establishments registered with the Registrar of Newspapers, a concessional rate of import duty of 40% ad-valorem is available in respect of book binding machinery and a concessional duty of 60% ad-valorem in respect of four-colour sheet-fed offset printing machine. As such, the rate of import duty on machinery is not significantly different when imported for printing books than when they are imported for printing newspapers and periodicals.

[English]

#### Increase in Import Duty on Newsprint

1147. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:  
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase import duty on newsprint to forty per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the increase of import duty on newsprint would be disastrous for the press and result in decline in the growth of circulation of newspapers in the country;

(d) whether Government would consider withdrawal of the proposed duty to save the newspapers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

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

#### Joint Ventures with Mauritius

1148. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up more joint ventures in Mauritius in view of the fact that Mauritius enjoys duty and quota free export to the European Economic Community and has preferential tariff arrangements with many African countries;

(b) if so, the areas identified for joint ventures; and

(c) the details of investments proposed to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) There is no Government proposal to set up joint ventures in Mauritius.

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

[Translation]

#### Production of Lac in Bilaspur

1149. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether lac is produced in abundance in Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the places where lac is produced and the arrangement made by Government to purchase it;

(c) whether in past forest department was producing lac itself; and

(d) whether the tribals producing lac are not getting remunerative price and if so, the steps being taken to ensure remunerative price to them?

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

(b) and (c). Lac is cultivated mainly on 'Palus', 'Ber' & 'Kusum' trees. These trees are found in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, West Bengal and also in some parts of Assam, Meghalaya, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The bulk of the produce is procured by private trade. Some state organisations also procure lac.

(d) The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India under the Ministry of Welfare along with State Tribal Development Corporations/Forest Development Corporations are making efforts to ensure that tribals producing lac get remunerative prices.

[*English*]

#### **Bank Money locked up in closed Industries**

1150. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the FINANCE Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the amount due to banks locked up in the industries closed down during 1984-85 to 1987-88, year-wise, and

(b) the steps suggested by the Reserve Bank of India to revive the closed industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) As per the data reporting system, Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks outstandings locked up

in closed units/units in liquidation as at the end of June, 1987 were Rs. 128.28 crores against 72 non-SSI sick units and Rs. 15.08 crores against 19 non-SSI weak units.

(b) RBI has reported that guidelines have been issued to the banks envisaging, inter alia, drawing up of rehabilitation packages in respect of potentially viable sick units, providing need based credit facilities to support genuine production activity, phased repayment of overdues, etc. The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, also takes preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures in respect of sick companies as per provisions of the Act.

#### **Staff Strength for Eradi Commission**

1151. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of 'Eradi Commission' has come to a standstill for want of staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time since when this bottleneck is felt; and

(c) the time by which the requisite staff will be provided to the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The work of Eradi Tribunal (the Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal) has not come to a standstill, nor is there any shortage of staff.

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

#### **Smuggling of Synthetic Textile Goods**

1152. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile industry in the country is gravely affected by the smuggling of

synthetic textile goods worth about Rs. 5000 crores per year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken or contemplated to check this smuggling; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). No Sir. However, synthetic textiles continue to be sensitive to smuggling into the country. Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantum of synthetic textile goods that are being smuggled into the country. The quantum of synthetic fabrics seized during the last few years, as shown, in the table below indicate a downward trend:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value in respect of synthetic fabrics seized (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1984	1839
1985	1648
1986	1461
1987	875
1988 (upto 30th October)	896*

\* Figure is provisional.

The anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling into the country.

The Government has also now permit-

ted setting up new factories and the expansion of existing capacities for the manufacture of polyster fibre and polyster yarn to enable the manufacturers to achieve economies of scale. This would reduce the cost of the indigenous synthetic textiles and thereby reduce the incentive to their smuggling.

As a further measure to reduce the incentive to smuggling of synthetic textiles, fiscal levies on man-made fibre and yarn have been reduced with effect from 1st March, 1988.

### National Housing Bank

1153. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up the National Housing Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the National Housing Bank will be of use to the housing schemes launched in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A National Housing Bank with its Head Office at Delhi has been established with effect from 9th July, 1988.

(c) National Housing Bank Act enables National Housing Bank to extend refinance facilities and other financial assistance to Housing Finance Institutions (HFIs) and scheduled banks in respect of their lending for housing. National Housing Bank can subscribe to shares, bonds and debentures of HFIs and can also guarantee financial obligations of HFIs. National Housing Bank will also formulate schemes for mobilisation of resources and extension of credit for housing including that for economically weaker sections.

**Discussions with Neighbouring Countries to tackle Flood Menace**

1154. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold discussions with neighbouring countries to tackle the menace of flood;

(b) if so, the efforts made in this regard;

(c) the countries who have taken interest to discuss the issue; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). Discussions have been held with Nepal and Bhutan to tackle the menace of flood. HMG Nepal has agreed to supply data on real time basis for flood forecasting. Data in a similar way is being received from Bhutan.

**Appointment of Coffee Board Chairman**

1155. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of the Chairman of Coffee Board is lying vacant; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in appointing Chairman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) After the retirement of the earlier Chairman Mr. S.K. Warrior on 30th September, 1987, the regular Chairman's post could not be filled. However, as such the office was not vacant, since Mr. K. Sundararajan took over as Chairman.

(b) A regular Chairman has now been appointed.

[*Translation*]

**Vacant post of Judges In Bihar High Court**

1156. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD: SHRI S.D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending and the number of posts of judges lying vacant in the Bihar High Court; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registry of the Bihar High Court, 54496 cases are pending in the High Court as on 1.1.1988. There were 6 vacancies of Judges in the Bihar High Court as on 1.11.1988.

(b) Recommendations for reducing arrears, on the basis of a Report by a Committee of three Chief Justices, have been sent to the High Courts including the Patna High Court. The strength of 27 Judges in 1977 was raised to 35 Judges in 1981. 4 more posts of permanent Judges have been agreed to be created. Steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies of Judges in the Bihar High Court expeditiously.

[*English*]

**Frauds in Branches of State Bank of Indore in Tamil Nadu**

1157. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of fraud/misappropriation in the branches of the State Bank of Indore in Tamil Nadu during January 1986 to till date;

(b) the details thereof including the amount involved; and

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that State Bank of Indore has advised it that no case of fraud/misappropriation in its branches in Tamil Nadu has come to light from January 1986 till date.

#### **Income Tax exemption to Political Parties**

1158. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the conditions required to be fulfilled by political parties to avail exemption for incomes under Section 13 A of the Income-Tax Act;

(b) the names of political parties recognised by the Election Commission on national level and State levels; and

(c) the names of the political parties which have fulfilled the conditions and have been granted exemption under the said section of the Income-tax Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The conditions required to be fulfilled by political parties to avail of exemption for income under section 13 A of the Income-tax Act are as under:-

(i) The political party has to keep and maintain such books of accounts and other documents as would enable the assessing officer to properly deduce its income;

(ii) It has to keep and maintain a record of each such voluntary contribution as is in excess of Rs. 10,000/- alongwith the names and addresses of the persons making the contributions.

(iii) It has to get its accounts audited by chartered accountants or persons authorised in this behalf.

(b) The list of recognised political parties recognized by the Election Commission as National Parties and State Parties is given in the Statement below.

(c) The information is being collected from the field formations.

#### **STATEMENT**

##### **LIST-I**

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#### *Recognised National Parties*

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1. Bharatiya Janata Party
  2. Communist Party of India
  3. Communist Party of India (Marxist)
  4. Indian National Congress
  5. Indian Congress (Socialist—Sarat Chandra Sinha)
  6. Janata Party
  7. Lok Dal
-

## LIST-II

<i>Recognised State Parties</i>		<i>States</i>
<i>1</i>		<i>2</i>
1. All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam		Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry
2. All India Forward Bloc		West Bengal
3. All India Muslim League		Kerala
4. Asom Gana Parishad		Assam
5. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam		Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry
6. Goa Congress		Goa
7. Hill People Union		Meghalaya
8. Hill State People's Democratic Party		Meghalaya
9. Indian Congress (J)—Bhalla Group		Haryana
10. Jammu and Kashmir National Conference		Jammu & Kashmir
11. Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference		Jammu & Kashmir
12. Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party		Jammu & Kashmir
13. Kerala Congress		Kerala
14. Kerala Congress (J)		Kerala
15. Kuki National Assembly		Manipur
16. Maharashtrawadi Gomantak		Goa
17. Manipur Peoples' Party		Manipur
18. Mizo National Front		Mizoram
19. Muslim League		Kerala
20. Naga National Democratic Party		Nagaland
21. Nagaland People Party		Nagaland

1	2
22. Peasants' and Workers' Party of India	Maharashtra
23. People's Conference	Mizoram
24. People's Party of Arunachal	Arunachal Pradesh
25. Plains Tribals Council of Assam	Assam
26. Public Demands Implementation Convention	Meghalaya
27. Revolutionary Socialist Party	Tripura, West Bengal
28. Shiromani Akali Dal	Punjab
29. Sikkim Congress (R)	Sikkim
30. Sikkim Prajatantra Congress	Sikkim
31. Sikkim Sangram Parishad	Sikkim
32. Telugu Desam	Andhra Pradesh
33. Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti	Tripura
34. United Minorities Front Assam	Assam
35. Pondicherry Manila Makkal Munnani	Pondicherry

**Representation for Assistance to  
Lobster Fishing**

1159. SHRI D.P. JADEJA:  
SHRI T. BALA GOUD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation made by Fishing Trawlers and Allied Industries Owners Association of Visakhapatnam regarding assistance for lobster fishing;

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

(c) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for the schemes suggested in the representation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). The Marine Products Export Development Authority, Cochin, have received a representation from the Fishing Trawlers and Allied Industries Owners Association of Visakhapatnam regarding assistance for lobster fishing. It is being examined by them.



**Loan from Danish Industrialisation Fund**

1160. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Danish Industrialisation Fund for Developing countries had agreed to provide equity fund and loan for new Danish-Indo joint ventures in India in selected fields;

(b) if so, what are the selected fields; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up such a joint venture in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A Danish IFU (Industrialisation Fund for Developing Countries) Team visited India in September, 1988. In their meeting with the representatives of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Danish delegation evinced interest for cooperation between Danish and Indian partners in the areas of food-processing, pollution control, seed improvement, tissue technology for plants, natural gas, wind energy, solar energy for refrigeration, diesel engines for power plants, consultancy services etc. Any specific proposals will be considered by the Government under its general policy regarding foreign collaborations.

(c) No Sir, we have not yet received any such proposal.

**Ban on the Novel 'The Satanic Verses'**

1161. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY:  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-  
CHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have banned the import of the novel 'The Satanic Verses' under Section 11 of the Customs Act;

(b) if so, the reasons for the ban; and

(c) the details of the books banned by Government in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962 empowers prohibition of import and circulation of any publication *inter alia* for the purpose of maintenance of public order, standard of decency, morality, maintenance of security of India and for any other purpose conducive to the interest of general public, prevention of contravention of any law for the time being in force and friendly relations with foreign countries etc. These prohibitions imposed under Customs Act are uniformly applicable to all publications irrespective of the country of their origin. As the contents of the book titled "Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie were likely to be detrimental to the maintenance of public order, Government issued instructions banning the import of this book under Notification No. 77-Customs, dated 22nd September, 1986.

(c) The details of these books will not be a matter of public importance. Also such disclosure will not be in the public interest. If the Hon. Member desires information about any specific book or publication such information will be furnished to the member.

[*Translation*]

**Wages of Workers of Regional Rural Banks**

1162. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum wages of workers employed in regional rural banks;

(b) the particulars of banks and their branches which are implementing them;

(c) whether some regional rural banks do not pay minimum wages to workers;

(d) if so, the number of bank officers against whom action has been taken for not giving minimum wages to workers; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed by Government so that workers in regional rural banks get minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). The employees of Regional Rural Banks including sub-staff are paid wages and allowances payable to employees of comparable rank in the concerned State Government. Part-time messengers and part-time sweepers, are paid wages at the rate of 50% of the normal wages. National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development has reported that there is no Regional Rural Bank where the stipulated norms are not being observed. Complaints in this regard whenever received are looked into for such remedial action as may be considered necessary.

[English]

#### Over bridges in Sonapat and Panipat

1163. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals for construction of road-over bridges near Railway stations on Delhi-Amritsar route, particularly at Sonapat and Panipat in view of difficulties being faced by the public; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of the following road-over-bridges, jointly with the State Government on cost sharing basis, has already been sanctioned in the Railways' Budget:—

1. Road-over-bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 53-B at Panipat.
2. Road-over-bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 51-A at the Delhi end of Panipat Yard.
3. Road-over-bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 26-B at Sonapat.

#### Library facility in A.P. Express

1164. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the facility of library in Andhra Pradesh Express was first introduced for the benefit of commuters;

(b) which are the other trains on which this facility has been provided;

(c) the reasons for the withdrawal of this facility on Andhra Pradesh Express; and

(d) whether Government will reconsider this matter and reintroduce the same for the benefit of the commuters on A.P. Express?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The mobile library was introduced on 23.6.1985 in the first rake and on 11.1.1985 in the second rake of Andhra Pradesh Express.

(b) The mobile library was also provided on Minar and Konark Express trains by South Central Railway.

(c) The policy for provision of mobile library-cum-bookstalls on trains was reviewed on 14.5.1986. Introduction, continuation or withdrawal of this service is being decided in accordance with this policy.

(d) It is not proposed to re-introduce mobile library facility on A.P. Express.

**Transfer of Officials In State Bank of Indore**

1165. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of transfer orders of the officials issued by the State Bank of Indore cancelled by the Bank during the last three years;

(b) whether the transfer policy is being strictly followed by the Bank; and

(c) if so, the number of officers of Delhi branches of the Bank who are over-staying in Delhi and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) According to information made available by the State Bank of Indore 1281 officers were transferred during the year 1985, 1986 and 1987 while 164 transfer orders were cancelled/modified during the period under reference.

(b) and (c). State Bank of Indore has reported that it has been implementing the transfer policy framed on the basis of instructions of the Government and the guidelines issued by the State Bank of India. Bank has further informed that one lady officer has been retained in Delhi on humanitarian considerations. Action is being taken to post her out of Delhi.

**Railway Line between Kamasamudram and Marikuppam**

1166. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for laying a railway line between Kamasamudram and Marikuppam via Oorgaum in Southern Railway in view of difficulties being faced by public; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Kamasamudram and Marikuppam are already connected by a BG railway line via Oorgaum and Bangarapet.

**Financial Reforms to Mobilise Resources for Eighth Plan**

1167. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:  
SHRI HARIHAR SOREN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to introduce some major financial reforms with a view to facilitating the efforts of the private and public sectors to mobilise the huge resources required for the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Financial reforms are an on-going process. Many measures have been taken recently. The need for further reform is constantly kept under review and takes into account the resource requirement of both the private and public sectors. Details of financial requirements for the public and the private sectors for the 8th Five Year Plan are currently being worked out.

**Acts of Parliament**

1168. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry publishes Acts passed by Parliament; year-wise;

(b) if so, whether the acts passed by Parliament in 1984, 1985 have not been made available so far; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to bring them out and the time by which these will be made available to public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The annual Acts of Parliament for the years 1984 and 1985 are available and the requisite number of copies had been supplied to the Parliament Secretariat for distribution to Members of Parliament. Sufficient number of copies of these volumes are also available for sale to the public.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Ticketless Travelling on Railways in Punjab**

1169. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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(i) Number of checks conducted	15,948
(ii) Number of persons detected travelling without ticket or with improper tickets.	2.56 lakhs
(iii) Amount of Railway dues realised	Rs. 73,60,598
(iv) Judicial fine realised	Rs. 1,26,062

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(c) and (d). There is a slight increase in the ticketless travel in Punjab area.

2,56,334 persons were detected travelling without or with improper tickets during the period from 1st January, 1987 to September, 1988 as against 2,10,952 persons during the corresponding period of the previous year.

In addition to intensive drives against ticketless travel which include magisterial checks, the following steps have been taken to minimise ticketless travel (i) the hazards and consequences of ticketless travelling

(a) the number of raids conducted on Railways in Punjab to detect ticketless travel during January, 1987 to September, 1988;

(b) the number of persons caught travelling without ticket and the fine realised from them during the said period;

(c) whether there has been increase in ticketless travelling; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The number of checks conducted, number of persons detected travelling without ticket or with improper tickets, amount of Railway dues realised and judicial fine realised in Punjab during the period 1st January, 1987 to 30th September, 1988 are given below:—

are highlighted through information published in the Railway time-tables and advertisements in Newspapers and on radio (ii) display of short films in cinema halls and television (iii) delivering lectures in educational institutions, and (iv) frequent announcements on the public address system against ticketless travel at important stations.

#### **Annual Percentage Growth of Exports**

1170. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average annual percentage growth of India's export was for less than that of small country like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Singapore and Hong Kong during 1983-86;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made to increase the export growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Average Annual Percentage growth of exports of India, in dollar terms, was 1.47 percent during the period 1983-86 as compared to Bangladesh (10.31 per cent), Pakistan (9.75 percent), Singapore (2.17 percent) and Hong Kong (14.41 percent) during the same period. Among the reasons for this were the need to meet the large domestic requirements, inadequate surplus of goods internationally contemporary in technology and competitive in prices for export market, relatively higher profitability and lower quality demands in the domestic market, etc.

(c) A series of initiatives have been taken to promote exports. These are designed to generate surpluses for export, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make exports profitable. As a result of various measures taken by the Government, India's exports have registered an increase of 15.4% and 25.3% in rupee terms and 10.5% and 23.4% in dollar terms, during 1986-87 and 1987-88, respectively.

#### **Payment of Bonus of Central Government Employees**

1171. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand from Central Government employees to pay them bonus at the rate of 8.33 per cent of their annual salary instead of 27 days of salary; and

(b) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Ad-hoc bonus equivalent to 27 days emoluments to Central Government employees not covered by any Productivity-Linked Bonus schemes was announced for the accounting year 1987-88, after taking into account various considerations including the demand for grant of ad hoc bonus at the rate of 8.33 per cent of wages.

#### **Conversion of Loans into Equity Shares of Companies**

1172. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the FINANCE Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans from financial institutions like Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Unit Trust of India, General Insurance Corporation of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India carry convertibility clause so that the loans given by them to various companies are converted into equity shares at face value;

(b) whether non-convertible debentures of various companies have been allowed to be converted into equity shares at a premium; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) In accordance with the existing guidelines, the institutions stipulate "convertibility clause" in each case where the financial assistance sanction exceeds Rs. 5 crores. However, no conversion option is stipulated by the financial institutions where the aggregate rupee assistance for project finance does not exceed Rs. 5 crores and the combined sharehold-

ings of institutions exceeds 26% in the case of non-MRTP companies and 40% in the case of MRTP companies. For purposes of stipulating "convertibility clause" only rupee assistance is taken into account and the foreign currency loans are kept out from the purview of the guidelines.

(b) and (c). The Government took a decision in June, 1986 that conversion of non convertible debentures and the non convertible portion of partially convertible debentures into equity shares shall not be permitted. Since then no such approvals for conversion have been given.

#### **Commonwealth Finance Minister's Conference**

1173. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in recent Commonwealth Finance Minister's Conference any new strategy has been developed to reduce the trade imbalance, debt burden on the developing countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any proposal was discussed for unconditional remission updates of developing countries by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) At the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference in September 1988, the Ministers stressed the need for continuing efforts to resolve the problem of severe indebtedness of many developing countries. They welcomed the recent initiatives by official creditors in reducing the debt burden of these countries and welcomed moves to provide debt relief to the poorest and most heavily indebted countries. They urged that internationally agreed programmes towards alleviating the debt burden of developing countries be implemented speedily and in a manner that

would have the greatest impact on resource transfers.

(b) No, Sir.

#### **Accounting Unit for Loan and Disbursement Transactions**

1174. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the suggestion for setting up a separate independent accounting unit for loan and disbursement transactions; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Opening of another Collectorate at Ranchi, Bihar**

1175. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 600 crore are being recovered from Bihar as Central Excise Duty;

(b) whether there are separate Collectorates at the places from where Excise Duty of Rs. 150 crore or Rs. 200 crore is being recovered; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not opening another Collectorate at Ranchi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The central excise revenue

from the State of Bihar during 1987-88 was a little over Rs. 600 crores.

(b) There are some central excise Collectorates in which the annual revenue collection is around Rs. 200 crores or less.

(c) The quantum of revenue realised is not the only criterion for setting up new Collectorates. At present, there is no proposal for opening a separate central excise Collectorate at Ranchi.

[*English*]

### **Private Stock Exchanges**

1176. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to curb the private stock exchanges in the country to achieve the socialistic goal; and

(b) if not, whether it is proposed to entrust the Unit Trust of India to sell and purchase the shares, debentures on behalf of the companies in the country?

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

### **Tax Arrears Pending Realisation**

1177. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recoverable tax arrears identified as due by 1 October, 1988; and

(b) the steps taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) As per latest information available as on 31.3.88, Rs. 1617 crores were

recoverable out of gross arrear demand of Rs. 3993.56 crores. This includes amount tied up in litigation and in respect of which petitions for stay of recovery are yet to be decided.

(b) The steps taken to realise the tax arrears include levy of penalty, issue of garnishee orders to direct the third parties to pay up amount due from them to the defaulter and issue of recovery certificates which enable the Tax Recovery Officers to effect recovery by attachment/sale of assets. In suitable cases, defaulters are arrested and put in civil prison. Administratively action plan targets have been fixed for reduction of arrears and the progress is being monitored at various levels. Recently a 'time window' scheme was observed from 1.7.88 to 30.9.88 to attract payment of tax arrears. This scheme was applicable to demands certificated upto 31.3.86. Whoever made the payment during the above period got a remission of 50% of interest leviable on late payment of tax.

### **Amount spent on Export Incentives**

1178. SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the various schemes of "Export Incentives" in the country from Government exchequer from 1 April, 1988 to 30 September, 1988;

(b) the criteria of release of funds therefor; and

(c) whether the gains accruing therefrom are commensurate with the amount spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) For export promotion, estimated Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) given under different heads during the period 1st April, 1988 to 30th September, 1988 was as under:—

*(Rs. in crores)*

1. Product Promotion and Commodity Development	553.53@@
2. Grants-in-aid to Export Promotion & Market Development Organisations	6.58
3. Export Credit Development	50.07
Total	610.18

@@Includes payments forwards International Price Reimbursement scheme (IPRS).

The above expenditure covers payments under various export promotion schemes and development projects mentioned in reply to part (b) of the question below.

(b) The MDA is utilised for meeting the expenditure on cash compensatory support for certain exportable commodities and grants-in-aid for schemes and projects for the development of markets abroad and covers the following:—

- (a) Market research, commodity research, area survey and research programmes.
- (b) export publicity and dissemination of information.
- (c) participation in trade fairs and exhibitions.
- (d) establishment of offices and branches in countries abroad.
- (e) trade delegations and study teams. (includes assistance towards administrative expenses and reimbursements to export/training houses).
- (f) grants-in-aid to export promotion councils and other approved organisations for the development of exports and the promotion of foreign trade, and

- (g) any other scheme which is calculated generally to promote the development of markets for Indian products and commodities abroad.

The assistance under MDA is also utilised for the payment of Interest Subsidy towards pre-shipment and post-shipment credit to exporters given by the Commercial Banks.

(c) The Export target of Rs. 18795 crores has been fixed for 1988-89 as against provisional exports of Rs. 15719.36 crores during 1987-88. Exports during April-August 1988 amounted to Rs. 7312.99 crores as compared to Rs. 6074.67 crores during April-August 1987 showing an increase of about 20 per cent.

[Translation]

#### **Electrification of Railway Lines**

1179. SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rail lines electrified so far in the country and the criteria on which the rest of the rail lines will be electrified;

(b) whether narrow gauge and meter gauge rail lines are also proposed to be electrified; and



(c) if so, the time by which the electrification will be started and the criteria on which the priorities will be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) So far, 8242 route kilometres of total 61975 route kilometres of rail lines representing 13.3 per cent are electrified.

Electrification is being taken up on the basis of financial return on the investments in comparison with alternative option of diesel traction.

(b) and (c). Electrification being capital intensive, is justified only on lines having high traffic density. During the VIIth Five Year Plan as also the projections for the VIIIth Five Plan, density of traffic justify electrification of the Broad Gauge routes only.

[~~English~~]

#### **Exemption to Cine Artists under Wealth Tax Act, 1957**

1180. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to issuing instructions to Central Board of Direct Taxes to notify that cine artists are professionals to be eligible for exemption under section 5 (1) (xa) of the Wealth Tax Act 1957; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Chitauni-Bagha Rail-cum-Road Bridge**

1181. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted for examining the proposed Chitauni-Bagha rail-cum-road bridge has submitted its report;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The Committee appointed by the Planning Commission has since submitted their report to the Commission in July 1988. Decision of the Commission is awaited.

#### **Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Schemes Pending Approval**

1182. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of irrigation schemes of Madhya Pradesh including Guna and Shivpuri districts sent to Union Government for approval by the State Government;

(b) the details of cost involved, area of land likely to be submerged and irrigation potential;

(c) the schemes which have been sent back to the State Government with reasons therefor;

(d) the details of schemes which are still pending for approval by Government; and

(e) the reasons therefor and the time by which these will be approved?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e). 18 major and 4 medium schemes

received from Government of Madhya Pradesh were returned because of non-compliance of the comments of the Central Water Commission.

Of the other 10 major and 5 medium schemes received, technical appraisal of 4 major and 4 medium schemes has been completed while comments on the remaining schemes have been sent to State Government for compliance.

[English]

#### **Payment of No Claim Bonus by Insurance Companies**

1183. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a customer who gets his vehicle comprehensively insured from one company is debarred for 'no claim bonus' if he renews his policy from another company;

(b) if not, the reasons for not passing on the 'no claim bonus' voluntarily;

(c) the steps taken to direct the insurance companies in this regard and to refund the 'no claim bonus' so denied to the people; and

(d) the details of the complaints received, if any, in this regard by his Ministry and the insurance companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). No, Sir. In case of renewal of the Policy with another company, "No Claim Bonus" is allowed on the strength of renewal notice or a letter from the office which had issued the policy earlier certifying percentage of "No Claim Bonus" to which insured is entitled.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A very few complaints in this regard

were received and after investigation, appropriate action was taken in all such cases.

#### **Puri Superfast Express and Neelachal Express**

1184. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to change the timings of arrival/departure of some express/mail trains from their destinations from 1 November, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for changing the timings;

(c) whether the timings of 915/916 Puri Superfast Express and 175/176 Neelachal Express are amongst those trains;

(d) if so, whether Members of Parliament of Orissa and the commuters have opposed these changes; and

(e) if so, whether Government will reconsider it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Looking to the operational and users needs, some changes have been made and printed in the Time Table which came in force from 1.11.1988.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representation to this effect were received.

(e) The changes have been effected after due consideration.

#### **Trade Agreement with Hungary**

1185. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been

signed with Hungary to double the bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the items affected;

(c) whether some credit has been offered by Hungary; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with its terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Both the Governments of India and Hungary have agreed to make efforts to double the bilateral trade turnover over the next two years. It is proposed to achieve this target through enlargement and diversification of the structure of bilateral trade and by encouraging new forms of economic cooperation like joint ventures, production cooperation, cooperation in services sector, etc.

(c) and (d). Government of Hungary have offered a mixed line of credit of US \$ 200 million comprising of US \$ 150 million as Government to Government Credit and US \$ 50 million as Suppliers' Credit for financing supply of machinery and equipment from Hungary to India including equipment for thermal power stations. The matter is still under consideration and during the recent meeting of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission in New Delhi in October, 1988, both the Governments have agreed to continue further discussions in the matter in order to reach a final decision on this issue.

#### **Schemes of Life Insurance Corporation for Common People**

1186. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the two schemes viz. 'Bima Sandesh' and 'Jeevan Dhara' launched by the Life Insurance Corporation;

(b) whether the Life Insurance Corpora-

tion proposes to launch some more schemes for the benefit of common people; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) "Bima Sandesh" is a Comprehensive Without-profit Term Assurance Plan providing for payment of sum assured on death during the specified term and refund of all premiums paid in the event of survival till the end of the term. Accident benefit can be covered on payment of additional premium under this Plan subject to an overall limit of Rs. 5 lakhs in the aggregate under all existing policies of the insured.

"Jeevan Dhara" is a Deferred Annuity Plan under which regular annuity payments are made to the annuitant from a selected age till his death and a lumpsum payment to his heirs on death. Premiums under this Plan are payable during the deferment period till the commencement of the annuity.

(b) and (c). The Life Insurance Corporation of India does not propose to introduce any new plan immediately. Suitable new Plans are devised and introduced by the LIC from time to time to meet the needs of the insuring public.

#### **Proposals for E.M.U. trains on Vadodara-Ahmedabad of Surat Section**

1187. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing rail traffic on Vadodara-Ahmedabad-Surat section of Western Railway for the last several years because of which commuters are facing tremendous difficulty owing to heavy rush;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any proposal for running of Electric

Multiple Unit (EMU) trains on the above section; and

(c) if so, action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for introduction of E.M.U. type services on Virar-Surat-Vadodara-Ahmedabad Section has been ordered.

#### World Bank Aid for West Bengal Projects

1188. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects of West Bengal getting aid from the World Bank; and

(b) the progress made in completing each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). There are currently four IDA assisted projects of West Bengal under implementation. Details of these projects are indicated in the Statement given below.

#### STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Amount of Credit (\$ Million)</i>	<i>Date of agreement</i>	<i>Closing date</i>	<i>Amount of Credit utilised upto 30th September 1988 (\$ Million)</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	West Bengal Social Forestry Project	29.0	24.2.82	31.12.88	17.977
2.	Third Calcutta Urban Development Project	147.0	8.6.83	31.3.89	62.201
3.	Fourth Population Project	51.0	24.9.85	31.8.91	6.30
4.	West Bengal Minor Irrigation Project	99.0	27.9.85	31.3.91	2.086

**Traffic Disruption on Haldia-Panskura Route**

1189. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that running of passenger and goods trains between Haldia and Panskura on South Eastern Railway has been disrupted;

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

(c) the passenger amenities provided on this line in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The train services were disrupted at Barda station on Haldia-Panskura section on 1.11.1988 as a result of public agitation demanding double line between Panskura-Haldia, provision of lighting and foot-over-bridges at all stations, repairs to approach roads and punctual running of trains including change in the schedule of some trains.

(c) During the last two years the following amenities have been provided:—

1. A Passenger Halt named Shahid Matangini Halt located between Rajgoda and Tamluk was opened on 6.3.1987.
2. New approach roads have been provided at three stations viz. Rajgoda, Mahishadal and Keshabpur.
3. Hand tubewells for drinking water have been installed at Basulya Sutahata station besides installation of additional tubewell at Mahishadal.
4. Platforms at Mahishadal and Barda have been resurfaced by concrete.

**Welfare Programme by Tea Board for Tea Garden Workers' Children**

1190. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the welfare programme and scheme undertaken by the Tea Board for education of the children of tea garden workers in North Bengal in last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Tea Board run, or intend to establish and run, any school or college in North Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of tea garden workers in North Bengal both temporary and permanent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Tea Board provides stipends generally for secondary/higher secondary education, general technical course including post-graduate courses and vocational education. However, in the case of the physically handicapped and mentally retarded students stipend is granted right from primary stage. Under the stipend scheme tuition fees and hostel charges are paid on the basis of actual expenditure subject to the prescribed ceiling. However, with the introduction of free education upto Higher Secondary level, the payment of stipend has been restricted to only hostel charges and book grant. The expenditure incurred on this account for the last three years in respect of North Bengal are as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
1985-86	Rs. 34,248.00
1986-87	Rs. 36,764.00
1987-88	Rs. 66,040.00

(b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Total number of Tea garden workers in North Bengal both temporary and permanent is as follows:

<i>Resident</i>	<i>Outside</i>	<i>Total</i>
182809	27547	210356

### **Additional Railway Lines on Kharagpur-Panskura Santragachi Routs**

1191. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for a third railway line between Kharagpur and Panskura and a fourth line between Panskura and Santragachi has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Survey for third line between Kharagpur and Panskura is likely to be completed by November, 1988 and for fourth line between Panskura and Santragachi by end of January, 1989. The delay has been due to the need for compilation of exhaustive data and also on account of certain other important surveys having had to be undertaken during the period.

### **Model Railway Stations on S.E. Railway**

1192. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expenditure on each railway station proposed to be developed as model railway station on S.E. Railway ;

(b) whether public representatives of the areas have also been consulted on this matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) On S.E. Railway, 9 stations have been selected to be developed as model stations. The amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on each model station is as indicated below:

1.	Ranchi	124.76 lakhs
2.	Bilaspur	207.00 lakhs
3.	Raipur	55.90 lakhs
4.	Durg	55.58 lakhs
5.	Tatanagar	105.00 lakhs
6.	Kharagpur	161.45 lakhs
7.	Bhubaneswar	163.00 lakhs
8.	Gondia	159.55 lakhs
9.	Visakhapatnam	105.50 lakhs

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Normally, one station on each division on the Indian Railways has been selected to be developed as a model station. The model stations will be provided with all amenities so that they can be trend setters for all other stations in terms of aesthetic design and passenger amenities. The Railways have selected model stations at suitable locations like Zonal headquarters, Divi-

sional headquarters, State Capitals, District Headquarters, important junction stations, and other places of specific importance.

#### **Import of Train Sets from a British Firm**

1193. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways have awarded to British Rail Engineers Limited (BREL) the contract for supplying two train sets which would be capable of running at speeds upto 160 Kilometres an hour on the electrified Delhi-Kanpur route on an experimental basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when the supply will be started;

(d) the cost involved; and

(e) whether Government propose to manufacture this type of trains in the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 42 nos. of these coaches have been ordered. The coach body including furnishings is being supplied by M/s. BREL, U.K. and the bogies for the same by M/s. FIAT, Italy.

(c) The supply of coaches will commence in 24 months from the effective date of order.

(d) The FOB cost of bodies with transfer

of technology is £ 20,194,414 and of bogies with transfer of technology DM 11,253,600. Spares to the extent of about 5% of the hardware cost are also being obtained.

(e) Yes, Sir. The coaches are proposed to be manufactured in Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala in the first instance.

#### **Smuggling of Silver**

1194. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of silver is smuggled out of the country every year;

(b) if so, the quantity of silver seized by the customs while being smuggled out of the country to the neighbouring countries via air land and sea, during the last one year; and

(c) the steps being taken to check and stop the smuggling of silver from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) and (b). Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantity of silver being smuggled either into or out of the country at any given time. Recent seizures made indicate that silver is now being smuggled into the country and not out of the country as earlier because the price of silver in the domestic market (Rs. 6200 per Kg. approximately) is now higher than the price of silver in the international market (Rs. 3100 per Kg. approximately). However, the quantity and value of silver seized by the Customs authorities during the last few years are given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity(in Kgs.)</i>	<i>Value (Rs in crores)</i>
1986	10949	4.57
1987	16994	6.06
1988 (upto October)	13001*	8.19*

\* *Figures are provisional.*

These figures which show an upward trend need not necessarily indicate any spurt in smuggling and could be due to more effective anti-smuggling measures.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in the vulnerable areas of the land borders and the sea-coast and the international airports and seaports has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. Sophisticated equipment like X-Ray baggage machines, metal detectors and night vision binoculars are being increasingly used.

#### Calcutta Metro

1195. DR. B.L.SHAILESH:  
SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when is the first phase of the Calcutta Metro Railway project likely to be completed;

(b) when is the work on present phase between Esplanade, Belgachia and Shyambazar is likely to be completed;

(c) the original estimate and the revised cost of the project; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the construction of the project to avoid any further escalation of the cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Part Section of the Calcutta Metro Railway from Dum Dum to Belgachia and Esplanade to Tollyganj have already been completed and opened for commercial service, in stages, by April 1986.

(b) By 1991 subject to immediate handing over by West Bengal Govt. of the remain-

ing plots of land, essentially needed for construction of the Project.

(c) Original sanctioned estimate — Rs. 140. crores

Revised sanctioned estimate — Rs. 864 crores

(d) West Bengal Government is being pursued vigorously for the immediate handing over the remaining plots of land required for the Project. Also, the Project is being given priority in the allotment of funds, as required.

#### Ranking of Old and New Shares

1196. DR. B.L.SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been formulated on pari passu ranking of old and new shares and the modalities for their implementation laid down by the Stock Exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any norms have also been formulated for deciding between good and bad delivery cases, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The Stock Exchanges have been directed to take necessary action to ensure that there is only one quotation for new shares arising out of further issues alongwith the existing shares and that the new shares are permitted to be delivered paripassu against these quotations subject to deduction of dividend amount, if any, of the previous year. Stock Exchanges have taken action to implement the above directive.

(c) Government had circulated in July 1983 guidelines on Good or Bad Delivery of Documents in Stock Exchanges. These



guidelines prescribe situations when delivery of documents can be treated as good or bad in the Stock Exchange. These guidelines cover transfer deeds, share certificates and miscellaneous items.

### **Import of Locomotives**

1198. DR. B.L.SHAILESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trial of the recently imported electric locomotives from various countries has been held; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) 18 numbers of 6000 horse power thyristor electric locomotives imported from Japan and Sweden are undergoing the performance tests and service trials, planned for one year which are due to be completed by later part of 1989.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

### **Diesellisation of Mail/Express Trains**

1199. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Mail/Express trains have been dieselised since June, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise, alongwith the number of trains which still remain to be dieselised in each zone as on 31 March, 1988;

(c) whether there is any proposal for dieselisation of additional trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d). Dieseli-

sation/de-dieselisation of passenger trains is an on going process depending upon the need and availability of diesel locos; changing from time to time. Normally they are used for haulage of long distance Mail/Express trains and freight trains. No such statistics are maintained.

### **Poor Amenities in 33 Up-34 DN Jammu Mail**

1200. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration are aware of the poor passenger amenities in First-cum-Second Class coaches, attached to various Mail/Express trains;

(b) if so, whether the through First-cum-Second Class Coach for Hoshiarpur attached to 33 UP/34 DN Jammu Mail is one such coach in which a complaint to this effect was lodged with the guard in July, 1988; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the complaint and the steps proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir, Full complement of passenger amenities are provided as per the accepted schedule, recommended by the Amenities Committee.

(b) and (c). It has not been possible to lay hands on any such of complaint. However, further enquiry is being made to find it out for taking remedial action.

### **New Railway Lines as Deposit Works**

1201. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any preliminary surveys have been conducted for the construction of new railway lines in various States, as

deposit works during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of each State sponsored survey and the decision taken by Government on their sanction and construction; and

(c) in cases not yet decided the likely date by which a decision would be taken for their sanction and construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Demand for Restoration of Shimla Mail and Ranchi Express**

1202. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and U.T. Chandigarh have been demanding the restoration of Shimla Mail (Plying between Kalka and Amritsar) as also the Ranchi Express; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which a decision for their restoration would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). With effect from Nov. 1988 Time Table, reorganisation have been done to provide Kalka-Amritsar and Kalka-Ranchi (Hatia) service by 801/802 linking 803/804.

#### **Modern Pump Sets**

1203. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether modern pump sets/tubewells have been introduced which are more efficient and less costly to operate than the

present ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they are under ISI certification;

(d) what are the comparative cost and their capacity; and

(e) whether adequate publicity is being given to farmers for its utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (e). In respect of Agricultural pumpsets/Tubewells, there is no classification like modern pumpsets/tubewells. Bureau of Indian Standards has formulated a number of Indian Standards on pumpsets. Most of the industrial units in the organised sector are manufacturing pumpsets in accordance with these specifications. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is providing refinance to credit institutions only for Agricultural pumpsets having ISI Certification. Average unit cost for purposes of scheme appraisal as prescribed by NABARD varies from State to State according to horse power and type of Pump/motor/engine used in the pumpset.

#### **Survey on the Course of Ganga due to Earth-Quake**

1204. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to survey the course of Ganga in Bihar to find out whether any change has occurred or is likely to occur due to earthquake; and

(b) if so, the detailed findings of the study?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No change in the course of the Ganga

has been reported due to recent earthquake.

(b) Does not arise.

### Trade With Pakistan

1205. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of trade between India and Pakistan, during 1986-87, 1987-88 and the current year;

(b) whether the trade between the two countries is likely to decline during the current year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) The bilateral trade between India and Pakistan in 86-87 & 87-88 and for the period April-June 1988 is given below:

(Rs. In crores)

	Export	Import
1986-87	14.95	27.50
1987-88	20.12	30.59
April-June' 88	6.90	11.40

(b) No, Sir. The data of bilateral trade for April-June 1988 as compared to April-June

1988 is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	Exports	Imports
April-June 88	6.90	11.40
April-June 87	3.83	4.79

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A number of measures have been taken to increase trade between Indian and Pakistan. These measures *inter-alia* include exchange of trade delegations, discussions at Commerce Minister's level to determine ways and means to increase bilateral trade, a decision in principle to establish a Joint Business Council, encouragement to Indian exporters and export organisations to establish contacts with their counter parts in Paki-

stan following the Government of Pakistan's notification of the list of 249 items permitted for import by private parties in Pakistan from India etc.'

### Smuggling of Goods from Gulf Countries and Pakistan

1206. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons engaged in foreign exchange racket/smuggling of goods from Gulf countries and Pakistan have been arrested; and

(b) if so, the number of such persons as well as the details of goods seized during the last six months in different cities of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of persons arrested by the Customs authorities for indulging in smuggling activities/foreign exchange racketeering and the total value of contraband seized under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 during the last six months of May to October, 1988 are given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)</i>	<i>No of persons arrested</i>
1988 (May to October)	Rs 214 .38 *	1655*

*\*Figures are provisional.*

Separate figures in respect of persons engaged in smuggling of goods from Gulf countries and Pakistan alone are not maintained.

#### Indo-UK Economic Relations

1207. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the business community in the United Kingdom (UK) has shown great interest in expansion of Indo-U.K economic relations;

(b) the details of the proposals from UK business community in this regard; and

(c) the details of the joint ventures proposed to be set up them in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c). A number of British Enterprises have taken active interest in collaboration with Indian partners through joint ventures or licensing arrangements. Recent collaborations with British Organisations cover areas such as process control system, hydraulic drilling equipment, ready-made garments, testing machines, diesel generating sets, electronic digital measuring

systems for machine tools, conveyor belting, electronic security system, yarn heating and stabilizing devices, consultancy in metallurgical/foundry technology, etc.

#### More Passenger Trains on Londa-Vasco-De-Gama Route

1208. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of passenger trains running between Londa and Vasco-de-Gama;

(b) the number of daily passengers commuting on this route;

(c) whether there is a demand to run more trains on this route; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) 3 pairs of trains viz. 205/206 Vasco-Miraj Gomantak

Passenger/Express, 297/298 Vasco-Miraj Mandovi Passenger/Express and 201/202 Vasco-Bangalore Passenger/Mail are running between Vasco and Londa.

(b) Such statistics are not maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Amendments in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**

1209. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

((a) whether Government propose to further amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the essential features of the proposed amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Cabinet Sub-Committee, constituted under the Chairmanship of Home Minister had, *inter alia*, recommended that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 may be suitably amended to provide for the following, to further strengthen it:

- (i) making drug offences non-bailable;
- (ii) forfeiture of property of drug traffickers;
- (iii) procedure for pre-trial disposal of seized drugs; and
- (iv) Not applying any privilege or remission to the punishments awarded under the Act.

A comprehensive draft legislation, *inter*

*alia*, incorporating the above amendments is at an advanced stage of finalisation.

#### **Family Courts**

1210. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Family Courts to deal with all kinds of matrimonial cases exclusively working at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up such Family Courts in Andhra Pradesh during 1988-89; 1989-90; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) At present, six family courts are working in the following States:

Rajasthan	1
Karnataka	1
Tamil Nadu	1
Uttar Pradesh	3

(b) and (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh have been considering the proposal to set up family courts since the passing of the Family Courts Act, 1984.

#### **Drip Irrigation Scheme in Andhra Pradesh**

1211. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce the drip irrigation scheme in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for encouraging irrigation through the use of Sprinklers, drip systems, hydrams, water turbines, man or animal operated pumps has been in operation for all States/Union Territories since 1982-83. Under the scheme, subsidy to be shared equally between States and Centre, is available to the small and marginal farmers for installation of these devices which includes Drip System. No separate proposal for Drip Irrigation Scheme has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

### Smuggling of Silver

1212. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an alarming rise in the smuggling of silver into the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of silver ingots seized recently and their approximate value;

(c) whether there are some lacunae in the Indian Customs Act due to which silver smuggling into the country goes on unchecked;

(d) if so, the steps being taken or contemplated to plug these lacunae by bringing forward suitable amendments; and

(e) whether there is no control over the quantity of silver held by a person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) and (b). Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the extent of silver being smuggled into the country. The quantity and value of silver seized during the last few years is given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (in Kgs)</i>	<i>Value (Rs in crores)</i>
1986	10949	4.57
1987	16994	9.06
1988 (upto October)	13001*	8.19*

*\*Figures are provisional.*

Recent seizures made, however, indicate that silver is now being smuggled into the country and not out of the country as earlier because the price of silver in the domestic market (Rs. 6200 per Kg. approx.) is now higher than the price of silver in the international market (Rs. 3100 per Kg. approx.). The increase in the quantum of silver seized as shown above need not necessarily indicate any spurt in smuggling and could be due to more effective anti-smuggling measures.

(c) and (d). The provisions of Customs law as enshrined in the Customs Act, 1962 and the COFEPOSA Act, 1974 are considered to be adequate for combating smuggling of silver.

(e) There is no control over the quantity of silver that can be held by a person.

However, silver has been specified as an item under Sec. 111 of the Customs Act, 1962, for the purposes of chapter IV B of the said Act.

**Cuttack Railway Station**

1213 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to make further improvements in Cuttack railway station;

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

(c) the funds provided for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work for improvement of the station building at Cuttack is proposed to be included in 1989-90 Works Programme subject to availability of funds.

(c) Does not arise.

**Railways Projects in Karnataka**

1214. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Government of Karnataka for conversion of Hospet-Hubli, construction of new railway lines between Kottur and Harihar; Chamrajnagar-Sathyamangala-Mettupalayam and West - Coast railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Hospet-Hubli conversion from MG to BG:-  
Length 143 Km. — Cost Rs 86 crores.

(ii) Kottur-Harihar new MG line:-

Length 68 Km. - cost Rs 40 crores.

(iii) Chamrajanagar - Satyamangalam - Mettupalayam BG/Mg rail line-

Length 180 Km. - Cost Rs 169 crores.

(iv) West Coast new BG rail line:-

Length 837 Km. Cost Rs 862 crores.

(c) Hospet-Hubli Gauge Conversion project and the new line project, Kottur-Harihar and Chamrajnagar- Satyamangalam-Mettupalayam were found to be financially unremunerative and, due to acute constraint of resources, could be not taken up for construction. The Survey for the West Coast line was recently updated. No further action can be taken till the report is examined.

**Engagement of Foreign Liaison Offices in Trading Activities**

1215. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to engage foreign liaison offices in trading activities;

(b) whether his Ministry has directed the Reserve Bank of India to take necessary steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the role played by the Reserve Bank of India in involving foreign liaison offices in expending country's trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) It has been decided to permit liaison offices of foreign companies to participate in the promotion of

Indian exports. The main features of this arrangement are:

- (i) These offices will not engage themselves in domestic trading.
- (ii) They can place export orders with Indian companies on behalf of importers and also undertake related activities like selection of goods, approve quality and design, procure export samples, arrange timely shipment of goods etc.
- (iii) The actual export of goods would be done by the Indian companies.
- (iv) As hithertofore, all the expenses of these liaison offices would be met out of remittances from abroad.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Approvals for opening of liaison offices are given by the Reserve Bank of India who would now be permitting the establishment of such offices in terms of the above arrangement.

[*Translation*]

#### **Job Awards by Central Bank of India**

1216. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Central bank of India awards audit and other jobs to some selected firms for the annual audit of its accounts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action initiated by Government in this regard; and

(d) if no action has been initiated, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). The Central Bank of India has reported that in so far as the Central Statutory audit of the Central Office and the Branch Audit is concerned, the audit work is entrusted to the firms of Chartered Accountants which are nominated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As regards the Revenue Audit/Concurrent Audit of the branches is concerned, the audit is allotted to the firms of the Chartered Accountants which are on the panel of the bank

The bank has further reported that the allotment of Audit work by the bank to the firms of Chartered Accountants has been done in accordance with the prescribed procedure and that it has not shown any partiality to any firm of Chartered Accountants in entrusting the audit work.

[*English*]

#### **Sales Tax and Other Concessions in Tamil Nadu**

1217. SHRI MANIK REDDY:  
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:  
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:  
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of sales tax and other concessions have been announced in Tamil Nadu State on 7 October, 1988;

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

(c) its effect on the revenue receipts?

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

(b) A Statement is given below. The main aim in announcing these measures is to improve the competitiveness of the exist-



ing industrial units, to accelerate industrial development in the State of Tamil Nadu, to increase production as well as employment opportunities and also to increase substantially the sales turnover.

(c) The shortfall in revenue if any cannot be quantified immediately as the impact of the concessions announced will be felt in due course. However, it is expected to result in increased industrial activity leading to increased sales turnover eventually augmenting the revenue to the State exchequer, offsetting any possible shortfall.

### STATEMENT

The following concessions has been announced by the Government of Tamil Nadu on 17.10.1988:-

#### I. POWER

1. Processing of applications for new connections in the small scale sector in a time bound manner.
2. Change in the base period of three months for calculating the power quota for H.T. industries from 1. 4.83 and 30.11.84 to 1.12.83 and 30.6.88. In the case of sick industries, the base period could be chosen over a longer span of 10 years from 1.10.78 to 30.6.88
3. Grant of subsidy equivalent to sales tax on Generator Sets to H.T. consumers who have to invest in Generator Sets.

#### II INCENTIVES

1. Grant of higher capital subsidy to the new units.
2. Interest free sales tax/deferral of sales tax limits in respect of new units at higher level of Rs. 2 crores a 6 years period with an

annual ceiling of Rs 50 lakhs as against the present level of Rs. 1 crores and Rs. 20 lakhs respectively.

(Resource based and conventional industries like sugar, cement, textiles, flour mills, rice mills and edible oils and solvent extraction units, hotels and power intensive units will not be eligible for the pioneer unit status.)

3. Modification of the interest free sales tax loan scheme and increasing the annual ceiling for loan from Rs 20 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs.
4. Setting up of Technology Development Centre for Electronics to provide technical counselling on the availability and appropriateness of technology to entrepreneurs and operation of a scheme of r & D grant to technically qualified persons to develop project ideas that could lead to commercial exploitation.
5. Increase in the capital subsidy for leather products manufacturing units to 20% with a ceiling of Rs 28 lakhs as against the present rates of 15% and Rs. 15 lakhs respectively.

#### III SPECIAL MEASURES FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

1. Introduction of special measures for small scale industries such as revamping of Single Window Agency Committees in the Districts, on the spot clearances from the point of view of building plan approval, pollution control regulations and power sanction at the premises of the District Industries Centres itself, dispensing with the requirement of

- obtaining prior clearance from the various regulatory agencies, identification of special thrust areas e.g. automobile ancillaries, food processing industries and drugs and pharmaceuticals for future growth of small scale industries and grant of higher capital subsidy and higher quantum of sales tax deferral.
2. Provision of financial assistance at a concessional rate of interest by Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation to encourage adoption of new technology of R&D based activities.
  3. Reduction of 1% in the rate of interest on prompt payment of dues.
  4. Holding of regular buyer-seller meets by Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd. and taking part in industrial exhibitions along with a consortium of the Small Scale industrial units.
  5. Posting of Liaison Officer in Delhi for better dissemination of information on D.G.S. & D purchases and to effectively improve the State's share in such purchases.
  6. Making available of its show rooms by Tamil Nadu Industries Corporation to willing small scale industrial units for marketing their products on negotiated terms and conditions.

#### IV AREA DEVELOPMENT

1. Review of infrastructural facilities available at the existing industrial complexes set up by the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu and to take coordinated action to provide all facilities to the industrial

units.

2. Special emphasis to be given to the development of adequate social infra-structure like housing, education and medical care.
3. Establishment of new electronics industrial complex at Hosur and a leather industry complex at a suitable location.
4. Establishment of technology transfer centre which will act as a clearing house of information on technological developments and also provide guidance to the small scale industrial units in all matters connected with R & D and technological upgradation.

#### V. ASSISTANCE TO SERICULTURE INDUSTRY

1. To encourage development of sericulture industry, nylon nets and one charka to be supplied at 50% cost to each sericulturist and reeler respectively.
2. Working capital requirement of the private reelers to be arranged by the Director of Sericulture through banks and financial institutions.

#### VI SALES TAX CONCESSIONS

1. The following concessions are proposed to be notified under the Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act.:-
  - (i) Reduction in the rate of tax on commercial vehicles, bodies built on chasis, trailers automobile parts and accessories, tractors, wet-grain grinders and certain other domestic appliances, utensils made of aluminium steel almirahs, all kinds of furniture and office

equipments HDP woven sacks, cotton hosiery goods, cotton hank yarn plain reel, raw materials, components processing materials and specified textile machinery spares.

- (ii) Exception on sale of Kun-gumam powder power tillers and predominantly labour - oriented works contracts like tailoring, book binding etc.
- (iii) Increase in the exemption limit for appalam, vadam, etc.
- (iv) Conversion of the system of levy of tax at dual points/multi-point to single point on certain items.
- (v) Amendment of Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax Act, 1959.

#### **Subsidy on Air-Freight for Cardamom**

1218. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to give air-freight subsidy for cardamom exported to the Middle-East markets;

(b) if so, the estimates benefit likely to accrue to cardamom exporters during the current financial year;

(c) whether Government propose to give air-freight subsidy on other spices also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Air freight subsidy scheme has already been announced and is in operation w.e.f. 1.9.88

(b) Under the scheme the cardamom

exporters would be given subsidy @ Rs 7 per Kg. on export of cardamom by air to the Middle East Markets during the period 1.9.88 to 31.12.88. The subsidy would be available on export of 1st 1500 MTs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Clearance to Lower Damodar Reclamation and Drainage Scheme**

1219. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the lower Damodar Reclamation and Drainage scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c). Implementation of the scheme now depends upon the clearance of the project from environment and forest angles on the compliance of the relevant requirements by the State Government.

#### **Control of Exploitation of Water**

1220. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:  
SHRI H.N.NANJE GOWDA:  
SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged

State Government's to formulate a water legislation on the basis of the model Bill circulated to them to ensure equitable distribution and exploitation of water including ground-water;

(b) if so, the States which have submitted their plans or formulated such legislation in keeping with the model Bill; and

(c) the other steps being taken by Government to ensure equitable distribution and exploitation of surface as well as ground by all the States?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :**

(a) The Government of India has circulated a Model Bill to the States for the regulation and control of the development of ground water.

(b) Government of Gujarat has enacted legislation while the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have prepared draft legislations on ground water.

(c) The National water Policy has stressed that water resources should be planned, developed and conserved on an integrated and environmentally sound basis keeping in view the needs of the States concerned and that water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective after taking into account the requirement of the areas/basins. Further exploitation of ground water resources should be so regulated as also to ensure social equity and special efforts should be made to investigate and formulate projects for the specially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes and Tribes and other weaker sections of Society.

#### **Import of Edible Oils**

**1221. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:  
SHRI S.B.SIDNAL:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided not to enter into counter trade arrangements for imported edible oils;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent this decision has benefited India?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) :** (a) to (c). The State Trading Corporation of India, through whom import of edible oil is canalised, as a general policy, decides about obtaining counter-trade obligation or otherwise taking into account all relevant factors, including the needs for import at most economical prices.

#### **Streamlining the Purchase Procedure of DGS&D**

**1222. DR. G. VJAYARAMA RAO :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have pleaded for streamlining the purchase procedures of the Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D) in order to ensure equitable purchases from all over the country;

(b) whether the matter was also raised at the meetings of the Regional Purchase Advisory Council (Southern Zone) of the DGS&D); and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) :** (a) The Government of Southern States have been expressing concern over the low percentage of purchases made by the DGS&D from the SSI Units located in the Southern Zone and wanted an increase in their share.

(b) Yes, Sir. This issue has been raised at the meetings of the Regional Purchase Advisory Council (Southern Zone) of the DGS&D from time to time.

(c) The Government have constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Commissioner of Industries and Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh with the representatives of Industries Departments of Southern States and Director (S&D), Madras as Member Secretary to examine the reasons for low share of the SSI Units in the Southern States in the volume of purchases made by the DGS & D and the recommend measures for increasing their share.

#### **World Bank Aid to India for Anti-Poverty Programme**

1223. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aid has been given by the World Bank to India for funding anti-poverty projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the aid given so far by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No World Bank assistance has so far been committed for funding of specific and targetted anti-poverty or rural employment programmes.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **NABARD Assistance for Schemes in Gujarat**

1224. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has earmarked crores of rupees for schematic refinance for various farm and non-farm schemes being implemented in Gujarat for the year 1988-89;

(b) if so, the total amount likely to be provided and the schemes that will be implemented, after getting this aid;

(c) the total number of schemes sanctioned by NABARD for Gujarat during 1987-88 and 1988-89 (till date); and

(d) the number of schemes out of them which have been implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has set a target of Rs 71.95 crores for schematic refinance in the State of Gujarat during the year 1988-89. The amount allocated for farm sector is Rs 69.28 crores and for non-firm sector Rs 2.67 crores. The sector-wise break up of the allocation is indicated below:

<i>Type of activity</i>	<i>Amount of refinance allocated (Rs. in crores)</i>
1	2
1. Minor Irrigation	17.78
2. State Electricity Board/ Rural Electrification Corporation	4.94

1	2
3. Land Development	0.09
4. Farm Mechanisation	14.89
5. Dry Land Farming	0.11
6. Plantation/Horticulture	0.37
7. Dairy Development	3.23
8. Fishery-Marine Fishery	3.58
Fishery-Inland Fishery	0.21
9. Storage and Market Yards	2.24
10. Forestry	2.03
11. Bio-Gas	0.53
12. Poultry Farming	1.09
13. Sheep/Goat/Piggery	0.13
14. I.R.D.P.	17.73
15. Others	0.33
16. Non-Farm Sector	2.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71.95</b>

(c) and (d). NABARD had sanctioned 580 schemes under Farm and Non-Farm Sector for the State of Gujarat during 1987-88. During 1988-89, six schemes involving NABARD refinance assistance of Rs 0.10 crores have so far been sanctioned. Further as at the end of August, 1988, there were 887 on-going schemes in Gujarat including those sanctioned prior to 1987-88.

#### **Indo-USSR Cooperation in Irrigation Sector**

1225. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL :Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of the USSR have agreed to cooperate with India in irrigation;

(b) if so, whether a high level team of delegation visited the Soviet Union, during September, 1988;

(c) the main points discussed and whether any final agreement has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RE-**

SOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :  
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Protocol signed at the end of the discussions includes the possibility of further extending the cooperation between India and the USSR in new areas in the irrigation sector.

#### **Production, Consumption and price of Natural Rubber**

1226. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the price of natural rubber in the international market;

(b) its price in the internal market;

(c) its total production and consumption in the country; and

(d) how the deficit is to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b). The International Market prices of RSS-3 grade of natural rubber which is equivalent of RMA-IV have been varying between US\$ 1433 to US\$ 1029 PMT FOB during June -October 1988. The internal market price at Kottayam during the first week of November, 1988 was Rs. 18, 100 PMT.

(c) and (d). The deficit in supply and demand is met by resorting to imports. The estimated production during 1987-88 was 2.35,197 tonnes and the consumption during 1987-88 is provisionally placed at 2.87, 480 tonnes.

#### **Bima Niwas Yojna**

1227. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation's new Bima Niwas Yojna has

been operating in several part of the country; and

(b) if so, the number of beneficiaries of this scheme so far.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The LIC's new Bima Niwas Yojana has been launched with effect from 1.9.1988, operative in the four metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. So far 140 loans amounting to Rs 1.34. crores have been sanctioned up to 31st October, 1988.

#### **Expansion of Commercial Banks Branches in North-Eastern States**

1228. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged commercial banks to complete all the jobs of expansion in the North-Eastern States of India within time bound programme;

(b) the details of the commercial which are eager to expand their branches in the North-Eastern States;

(c) the details of the new schemes likely to be introduced by these commercial banks; and

(d) the extent to which the poor people in the country will get benefit as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that on the basis of lists of identified centres received from the State Governments, allotment of eligible centres in the North-Eastern Region has been made except in 4 districts in Arunachal Pradesh and 3 districts in Nagaland. RBI has allotted upto 31.10.1988, 190

centres to commercial banks and 206 centres to Regional Rural Banks in rural and semi-urban areas in North-Eastern region. Most of the Public Sector Banks having good representation in these states and Regional Rural Banks have been granted licences to

open branches at various centres. In addition, RBI has allotted 13 centres to banks in urban areas in North-Eastern region upto 31.10.1988. The details of these rural/semi-urban and urban centres are indicated below:-

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>Rural/Semi urban Centres</i>		<i>Urban Centres</i>
	<i>Commercial Banks</i>	<i>RRBs</i>	
Assam	116	117	8
Manipur	7	13	—
Meghalaya	13	13	3
Nagaland	7	11	—
Tripura	20	15	2
Arunachal Pradesh	14	15	—
Mizoram	13	22	—
Total :	190	206	13

Initially, RBI had advised the banks to open the branches at the allotted centres in a phased manner during the remaining period of current Branches Licensing Policy i.e. upto 31.3.1990. However, in the context of service Area Approach to rural lending, RBI had advised the banks to open branches at the allotted centres as early as possible preferably before 31.12.1988 to facilitate allocation of villages to those rural and semi-urban branches and implementation of other guidelines under the Scheme.

(c) and (d). There are several ongoing poverty alleviation programmes and schemes meant for weaker sections like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP), Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEU) and Differential Rate of Interest Scheme etc. As

and when considered necessary, banks introduce new schemes specially suited to a particular area.

#### **Delimitation of Constituencies**

1229. SHRI . C. MADHAV REDDI:  
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:  
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be done?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b). As per of the proposals for electoral reforms, the Election Commission has recommended that the Constitution may be amended in such a manner that while the total number of seats allotted to various States in the House of the People and the various State Legislative Assemblies may remain unaltered, delimitation of parliamentary and assembly constituencies in each State/Union territory may be taken after every decennial census. The Election Commission has also proposed that a statutory provision be made that no constituency remained reserved for more than a decade. No final decision has been taken yet on these proposals.

#### **Cauvery Water Dispute**

1230. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:  
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY.  
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest efforts made by Government of India to settle the long standing dispute over Cauvery water between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the time by which the dispute is likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). An inter-State meeting at Chief Secretary's level convened by the Centre in May, 1988 did not materialise. In these matters, the policy of the Central Government is to secure an amicable settlement among the co-basin States, as early as

possible.

#### **Vacant Seats of Lok Sabha and Assemblies**

1231. SHRI MADHAV REDDI:  
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats are lying vacant in the country at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when these are lying vacant;

(d) whether Government propose to hold bye-elections to these seats; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c). 12 Lok Sabha seats and 39 seats in the Legislative Assemblies of various States and Union territories were vacant on the 11th November, 1988, the details of the which are included in the Statement given below:

(d) The conduct of elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State is vested in the Election Commission under the provisions of the Constitution. The Commission is in contact with the Chief Electoral Officers of the States concerned for fixing a suitable programme to hold bye-elections to fill the seats in respect of which electoral rolls have since been revised and no election petition is pending

(e) Does not arise.

## STATEMENT

Seats vacant in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies as on 11.11.1988.

SEATS THAT ARE LYING VACANT					
Name of State/ Union Territory	Lok Sabha	Date of Vacancy	Legislative Assembly	Date of vacancy	
1	2	3	4	5	
1. Andhra Pradesh	20-Tirupathi (SC)	2.3.88	44-Prathipadu 38-Yellavaram (ST)	29.3.88 6.9.88	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	5- Seppa	21.8.88	
3. Assam	—	—	14-Barkhola @ 22-Salmara South @	19.9.88 15.12.87	
4. Bihar	12 -Sheohar 30-Bhagalpur *38- Sasaram (SC)	24.2.88 18.4.88 5.7.86	40-Jalalpur 70-Sonbarsa 80- Jhanjharpur 217-Shahpur 295 -Chaibasa (ST) 324-Hussainabad	16-7.88 17.2.88 16.4.88 11.4.88 9.12.87 13.2.88	
5. Hayana	—	—	58-Nuh	10.3.88	
6. Gujarat	—	—	116-Devgadh Baria 117-Rajgadh	20.6.88 @ 29.6.88	

1	2	3	4	5
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			139-Bhadran 20-Gondal	9.4.88 15.8.88
7. Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	52-Reasi	28.7.88
8. Kerala	4-Calicut	22.10.87	—	—
9. Karnataka	—	—	67-Bagepalli 214-Badami	28.5.88 27.6.88
10. Madhya Pradesh	—	—	162-Durg 264-Badnagar *274-Indore-V	15-4-88 9.8.88 25-2-86
11. Maharashtra	19-Akola	16-4-88	68-Devlali (SC) 263—Jaoli 193-Aurangabad West	4-8-88 15-9-88 2-11-88
12. Manipur	—	—	14-Yaiskul	22-9-88
13. Meghalaya	—	—	20-Mawkhar (ST) 33-Pariang (ST) 37-Baghmara (ST)	23.8.88 12.9.88 24-6-88

1	2	3	4	5
14. Nagaland	Nagaland	2-12-87	Assembly dissolved	
15. Orissa	5-Kendrapara	25-3-88	—	—
16. Rajasthan	—	—	151-Mandal @	4.8.88
17. Tripura	—	—	1-Simna (ST)	29.3.88
19. Tamil Nadu	24-Madurai 26- Karur	7.2.88 9.4.88	Assembly dissolved.	
19. Uttar Pradesh	*81-Baghpat	29.5.87	201-Gouri Bazar @ 291-Govindnagar @ 339-Shikohabad @	26.6.88 £. 5.4.88 7.4.88
20. West Bengal	—	—	72-Kaiganj @	12.10.88
21. Delhi (MC)	2-South Delhi	26.6.88	11-Malaviya Ngr. 19-shakur Basti	30.7.87 23.12.87

The extended term of Metro politan Council is to end on

1	2	3	4	5
22. Pondicherry	—	—	25-Narvay-Grand Aldee	9.11.87 16.3.89 and Commission has decided not to fill the 2 vacancies for the remaining short period.

\* Election Petition Pending.  
 @ Rolls yet to be revised.  
 £ Appeal pending in the Supreme Court.

**Raids conducted by Income Tax Department**

1232. SHRI SOMNATH RATH:  
PROF. CHANDRA BHANU  
DEVI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted during the current financial year, upto 1 November, 1988 by the Income Tax Department; and

(b) the amount detected for tax evasion and the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The Income-tax Department conducted 3992 searches under Section 132 of the Income-tax Act upto 1st November, 1988 during the current financial year. These searches have resulted in the seizure of, *prima-facie*, unaccounted assets worth approximately Rs. 81.70 crores. In their statements during the course of the searches, the persons searched admitted concealment of income of Rs. 131.29 crores in the aggregate. Appropriate action under the direct tax enactments is taken in all such cases.

**Raids conducted by Customs Department**

1233. SHRISOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Customs Department during the current financial year so far;

(b) the details of goods seized and the value thereof; and

(c) whether any narcotic drugs have also been seized; if so, the quantity and estimated amount in the foreign market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Number of raids/cases conducted by the Customs Department and the value of goods seized during the current financial year are given in the table below:—

Number of raids/cases	Value of goods seized (Rs. in crores)
41234	Rs. 259.88*

\*Figures are provisional .

(c) The quantity of various narcotic drugs seized during the current financial year are given below:—

*Opium	2044 Kgs.
*Heroin	1883 Kgs.
*Ganja	22591 Kgs.
*Hashish	3242 Kgs.
*Methaqualone	992 Kgs.

No precise estimate can be made of the value of the aforesaid seized drugs in the foreign market since it varies from place to place.

**SBI Bonds for N.R.I.s.**

1234. SHRI SATYENDRA NAR-  
AYAN SINHA:  
SHRI VAKKOM PU-  
RUSHOTHAMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has started seven year cumulative bonds for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in US dollars;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the interest rates carried by these bonds are near about the prevailing interest rates in the US market?

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

(b) and (c). A Statement is given below.

### STATEMENT

*Salient features of the NRI Bonds Scheme are as under:—*

- (i) The Bonds will be issued in U.S. \$ in denominations of 500, 1000, 5000 and 10,000 per bond;
- (ii) The principal amount invested as well as interest accrued thereon will not be allowed to be repatriated outside India and will be paid in Indian rupees on redemption;
- (iii) The maturity period of the Bonds will be for 7 years and the maturity proceeds along with interest will be converted into Indian rupees at SBI TT buying rate for US \$ prevailing on the date of maturity;
- (iv) The Bonds will carry interest at the rate of 11.5% per annum. The interest will be compounded on a half-yearly basis and will be payable along with the principal on maturity;
- (v) The Bonds will be free from Income-tax, Wealth-tax, Gift-tax and Stamp Duty;
- (vi) The Bonds will continue to be denominated in U.S. \$ even if a Bond holder becomes resident in India or bonds are gifted to a close relative resident in India;

(vii) Only individual NRIs are eligible to apply for NRI Bonds;

(viii) The Bonds will not be permitted to be encashed or gifted before the lock-in-period of three years; and

(ix) Authorised Dealers in India will be allowed to grant rupee loans to the Bond-holders against the collateral of the NRI Bonds after the expiry of the lock-in period of three years.

2. The issue has opened on 14th November, 1988 and closes on 15th December, 1988.

### Central Clearance to Inter-State River Projects

1235. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the legal implications of the projects of Inter-State rivers, cleared by Government of India technically and administratively; and

(b) whether the central clearance to Inter-State Rivers Projects is meant only to enable the State Government to secure financial assistance from the Centre and the International Financial Institutions or it would create any rights in the States where the projects are located?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Clearance of inter-State river projects involve examination of not only the techno-economic viability but also the inter-State issues. Such clearance also helps the States to secure the financial assistance.

### Clearance to Telugu Ganga Project within the framework of Bachawat Award

1236. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telugu Ganga Irrigation Project has been prepared and submitted to Union Government within the frame-work of the Bachwat Award; and

(b) if so, whether Government are obliged to clear this project even if it is not prepared in conformity with the terms and conditions of the Award?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have objected that the Telugu Ganga Project as formulated by Andhra Pradesh is not in conformity with the award of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal. The clearance of the project also depends on establishing the water availability in terms of the Tribunal's order.

#### **Direct Fast Train between Sholapur and Bangalore**

1237. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for starting a direct fast train service between Sholapur and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to start the services and the time required to approve this project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently this is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

#### **Change in Time of Mahalakshmi Express**

1238. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to

state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation against changing the time of Mahalakshmi Express running between Miraj and Bombay; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The timings of 203/204 Metre Gauge Mahalaxmi Express have been suitably adjusted to connect 311/312 Broad Gauge Express at Miraj; arriving Bombay at 8 20 A.M. and leaving Bombay at 8.25 P.M.

#### **Private Agents for Railway Reservations**

1239. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed private agents to do reservation of berths and seats in the trains; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Rail Travellers' Service Agents have been appointed in terms of Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985 framed in compliance with a directive of the Supreme Court. These agents function at important Cities for purchasing/cancelling tickets, obtaining refunds and securing reservations on behalf of intending rail travellers, from the Railways Reservation Offices.

#### **Measures to Boost Engineering Exports**

1240. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:



(a) the steps Government propose to take to boost exports of engineering goods;

(b) whether targets are expected to be achieved with proposed steps; and

(c) whether the approved engineering goods exporting community would be provided necessary thrust for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). Govt. is having continuous interaction with the exporting community to assist them in their export effort, and to resolve any problems which they may face in the implementation of the export promotion measures. The export measures inter alia include timely access to raw materials and consumables at international competitive prices, clearance of proposals relating to technology import, cash compensatory support, I.P.R.S., duty drawback, grant of replenishment licences, and reduced interest rates for post and pre-shipment credit.

These measures are expected to help the exporting community to achieve the tar-

gets.

#### Collection of Premium by L.I.C. from Assam

1241. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total premium collected from Assam by the Life Insurance Corporation of India in 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87, year-wise;

(b) the total amount invested by the L.I.C. in Assam during the above period; and

(c) the number of L.I.C. branch offices functioning in Assam at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The total premium collected from Assam and the total amount invested in Assam by the Life Insurance Corporation of India during the years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 are given below:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Premium amount collected</i>	<i>Amount invested</i>
	<i>(In Crores of Rupees)</i>	
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1984-85	23.15	14.23
1985-86	25.16	17.22
1986-87	31.17	9.03

(c) At present 31 Branch Offices of LIC are functioning in 26 centres in Assam. There are 6 Branch Offices in Guwahati.

#### Evaporation loss from reservoirs of Irrigation Projects

1242. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES

be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware that on account of scorching heat many irrigation projects in the country suffer bulk evaporation losses in summer; and

(b) if so, whether effective steps are taken or proposed to be taken to save these

enormous evaporation losses of stored water?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Government of India have suggested an action plan to the States for water conservation measures which includes steps to minimise evaporation losses from stored water. Some States have reported successful use of chemical retardants to reduce evaporation losses from reservoirs. Central Board of Irrigation and Power has also formed a National Advisory Committee on Evaporation Control to coordinate the research and development work and suggest future course of action.

[*Translation*]

#### **Encashment of Gift Cheques**

1243. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nationalised banks providing gift-cheque facilities in the country;

(b) whether gift-cheques are encashed immediately;

(c) if not, the instructions proposed to be issued by Government for immediate encashment of gift-cheques;

(d) whether the banks encash only those cheques which are issued by their own branches; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) According to information readily available, thirteen of the 20 nationalised banks are providing gift-cheques facility.

(b) to (d). Gift-cheques issued by banks own branches are encashed immediately.

(e) Gift-cheques, being payable at the branches of the issuing bank, other banks would normally accept these for collection and credit, unless they have some reciprocal agency arrangement with the issuing bank.

[*English*]

#### **Restructuring and Reconstitution of High Courts**

1244. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka High Court has suggested the restructuring and reconstitution of High Courts by a constitutional amendment in order to reduce the number of cases which go to the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have considered the suggestion; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, sir.

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

#### **Official level Trade talks between India and US**

1245. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether official level discussions for expansion of trade between India and the US were held on October 10, 1988;

(b) if so, the main points of discussions;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, the extent to which this would help in improving the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) So far as Ministry of Commerce is concerned, no official level discussions on trade were held between India and US on the 10th of October. It is however, understood from Deptt. of Electronics that a Memorandum of Agreement for a Strategic Planning Study for an Indo-American Software Trade Net-work between commonwealth of Massachusetts, office of International Trade and Investment (OITI) and Deptt. of Electronics was signed in July, 1988. Subsequent to that agreement a delegation consisting of representatives of the electronic and other high technology industries from the State of Massachusetts visited India on the 9th and 10th October, 1988 and held discussions with the officials and representatives of the Indian electronic industry.

(b) and (c). While there were discussions on the software development and export and technology transfer and setting up of joint venture in a general manner, no formal agreement has been reached specifically.

(d) These discussions and exchange of delegations is expected to improve trade between the two countries.

#### **World Bank suggestion on Devaluation of Rupee**

1246. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank and the

International Monetary Fund (IMF) have recently suggested to Indian Government to devalue the rupee; and

(b) if so, when these suggestions were made and decision taken by Government in the matter?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Internal and External Debts**

1247. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of internal and external debts of Union Government in March, 1987 and March, 1988;

(b) the reasons for steep rise in debt; and

(c) the various recommendations made by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to reduce the debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The total internal debt and external debt of the Government outstanding at the end of March 1987 and 1988 is given below:—

*(Rs. Crores)*

	<i>Outstanding at the end of</i>	
	<i>March 1987</i>	<i>March 1988</i>
(i) Internal debt	86312	99520 (RE)
(ii) External debt (at the current rate of exchange)	32312	36670

(b) The outstanding debt, as above, as a percentage to GDP has not shown any steep increase.

	<i>At the end of</i>	
	<i>March 1987</i>	<i>March 1988</i>
Outstanding debt as a percentage to GDP:		
(i) Internal debt	29.5%	30.6%
(ii) External debt	11.0%	11.3%

(c) The reference is presumably to the Comptroller and Auditor General's report on Public Debt. In the report C & AG did not outline any "alternative workable policies". Nevertheless, the following observations inter alia were made:

- (i) The scope for reigorously pruning wasteful expenditure, both developmental and non-developmental especially the latter should be explored.
- (ii) Steps should be taken to make the investments in public enterprises more productive.
- (iii) The two main components of non plan expenditure, namely, subsidies and Defence have almost become committed expenditure and the scope for reducing them needs to be seriously examined.
- (iv) Need for improving the tax collection by better administration should be considered.

**[Translation]**

**Gap In Fare for Mail and Express Trains**

1248. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a transport steering committee has been constituted;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has made a recommendation to reduce the gap in fare between Express and Mail trains;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to implement the same; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

**Fire Incident in Rail Bhavan**

1249. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire had broken out in Rail Bhavan in the month of September, 1988; and

(b) if so, the causes of the fire and the details of loss suffered on account of it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A fire broke out on 30.9.88 in Room No. 201 of Rail Bhavan, due to short circuit in the Switch Board of the Air Conditioner. There was no casualty or injury due to the above fire. There was also no loss of property or destruction of railway records except some damage to the Switch Board.

#### **Opening of SBI branches at Chillyanola and Paisia in Almora District**

1250. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to open branches of the State Bank of India at Chillyanola and Paisia in Almora district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the dates on which the licences to the bank have been granted in this connection;

(c) whether the Bank has opened these branches; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which these branches are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has issued licences to State Bank of India (SBI) for opening branches at Paisia and Chillyanola in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh on 16.1.1987 and 19.1.1988 respectively. SBI has reported that a branch at Paisia was opened on 21st September, 1988 and the branch at Chillyanola is likely to be opened shortly.

#### **Rail-cum-Road Reservation at Bageshwar, Lohaghat and Dharchoola (U.P.)**

1251. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways have a proposal to provide rail-cum-road

reservation facility for Bageshwar in district Almora and Lohaghat and Dharchoola in district Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Provision of Rail-cum-Road reservation facilities at Bageshwar, Lohaghat and Dharchoola can be made if the Kumaon Motor Owners' Union Ltd./Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation agree to take up the agency contracts as per standard terms and conditions.

[English]

#### **Hut Insurance Scheme**

1252. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hut Insurance Scheme introduced in May, 1988 provides relief to poor people of rural areas only;

(b) whether the cases of damage due to floods and earthquakes are also not covered by this scheme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the poor victims of fire in remote areas are required to send their claim applications to the single claims Enquiry-cum-Settlement Officer of that State and get the claim from the Divisional Office of the designated insurance company;

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to mitigate hardship to rural people; and

(f) the number of claims received in this regard, state-wise, and how many of them have been paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Hut Insurance Scheme provides relief to poor families in rural areas when their huts and belongings are destroyed only by fire and by no other means. Flood and Earthquake risks are not covered under the Scheme.

(c) The Scheme provides that initially it would be operative for a period of two years and would be reviewed thereafter. Any modification to the Scheme can be considered, in the light of the said review after two years.

(d) and (e). The Claims Enquiry-cum-Settlement Officers (CESO) are appointed by the State Governments for each district. Thus there are many CESOs and not one, in each State. The claims settlement proce-

dure under the Scheme has also been simplified. The beneficiary has to submit the Claim Intimation Form to the CESO who will make enquiries about the cause of destruction of the huts, obtain report from police and satisfy himself that the claim falls within the category of persons covered under the Scheme. After he is satisfied about the cause of claim, he will forward the papers to the designated insurance company. On the recommendations of the CESO, the designated insurance company will make the payment to the claimant by money order or by cheque.

(f) The information relating to the number of claims intimated and paid under the Scheme upto September, 1988, since its introduction on 1.5.1988, is as under:—

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>No. of Claims intimated</i>	<i>No. of Claims paid</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Andhra Pradesh	2105	1632
Maharashtra	825	539
Tamil Nadu	1120	1113
Uttar Pradesh	532	532
Delhi	44	44
Total:	4626	3860

#### Conversion of Kanpur-Lucknow Line

1253. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether conversion of Kanpur-Lucknow line into broad gauge would result in disconnecting Farrukhabad from Lucknow; and

(b) if so, the alternative proposed to be provided in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). After conversion of Kanpur-Lucknow MG line into BG, which is aimed at providing BG double line on the section, the MG trains from Farrukhabad side will be terminated at Kanpur Anwarganj. Passengers travelling to/from Lucknow can change over to connecting BG/MG trains at Kanpur Anwarganj.

**Executive Director of Union Bank of India**

1254. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has investigated certain allegations against the Executive Director of the Union Bank of India and has found a prima-facie case of corruption;

(b) whether permission was sought from his Ministry for initiating action against him;

(c) whether the RBI has conducted an independent enquiry in the matter, if so, the findings and the action recommended; and

(d) the follow-up action so far taken and proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The matter is under examination.

**Newsitem Captioned "Novel Ways Of Drug Smuggling Unearthed"**

1255. DR. G.S. RAJHANS:  
SHRIMATI MADHUREE  
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Novel ways of drug smuggling unearthed" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 13 October, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the enforcement agencies have unearthed suspicious equipments and found heroin, etc.; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take to unearth drug smugglers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. In the recent seizures of drugs at Bombay, novel methods of concealing the heroin and smuggling through a sealed tin of pine-apple slices, car fuel filters, an artificial leg, inside a T.V. picture tube, etc. by drug traffickers have come to the notice of the enforcement authorities.

Government have launched various aggressive counter-measures which, *inter alia*, include provision of deterrent punishments against drug-related crimes, strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders and vulnerable areas), adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers. The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum of 2 years for drug-related crimes. A number of operations are also conducted against drug traffickers in the country by targetting intelligence on them by the enforcement agencies. All these are intended to immobilise drug traffickers effectively. The matter is also kept under constant watch for appropriate follow-up action.

**Sick Industries In Orissa**

1257. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the FINANCE MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India has shown that 53 percent of the 26,000 industries in Orissa are sick because of entrepreneurial inexperience;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that public sector bank's investments made in such industries are made productive; and

(c) the break-up of loans and credits provided to such industries in Orissa, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that no such survey has been conducted by them in the

State of Orissa.

(c) Industry-wise position in respect of Orissa for non-SSI sick units as at the end of June, 1987 as reported by RBI is given below:

(Amount in crores of Rs.)

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Non-SSI Sick Units*</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Amount Outstanding</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
Textiles	3	7.35
Engineering	2	0.74
Chemicals	3	5.66
Paper	—	—
Jute	—	—
Iron & Steel	1	9.46
Miscellaneous	1	0.63
	10	23.84

\*Non SSI sick units (as defined in Sick Industrial companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985.

Bank-wise outstanding against Sick SSI units in Orissa as at the end of June, 1987 is given in the Statement below.

#### STATEMENT

(Amount in Crores)

<i>Bank</i>	<i>Amount Outstanding</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Allahabad Bank	0.15
Andhra Bank	0.25
Bank of Baroda	0.38
Bank of India	0.75
Canara Bank	0.92



1	2
Central Bank of India	1.31
Dena Bank	0.09
Indian Bank	0.30
Indian Overseas Bank	0.14
New Bank of India	0.06
Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.04
Punjab National Bank	0.33
Syndicate Bank	0.15
Union Bank of India	1.17
United Bank of India	6.15
UCO Bank	1.08
State Bank of India	19.23
Federal Bank	Negligible
	32.50

### **Progress of Narmada Project**

1258. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA:  
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on Narmada Project in Gujarat has been slowed down causing further delay in its completion;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to complete this project within the time limit;

(d) the progress so far made in regard to the construction of Narmada Canal; and

(e) the names of the districts of Gujarat State through which this canal passes?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):  
(a) to (c). The Government of Gujarat has set up Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited for timely execution of Sardar Sarovar Project.

(d) Work between 0 to 82 km. is at present under progress.

(e) The Canal will pass through Bharuch, Vadodara, Panchmahals, Kheda, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Mehsana and Banaskantha districts.

**Supply of rakes for Paradeep Port**

1259. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are not supplying adequate number of rakes to Paradeep Port for the movement of imported coking coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the demand of rakes made by Paradeep Port in 1988 (month-wise);

(d) the number of rakes supplied to Paradeep Port during those months; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) There is a marginal shortfall.

(b) The marginal shortfall is on account of less materialisation of iron ore export traffic through Paradeep Port resulting in inadequate generation of empty wagons for back loading.

(c) to (e). The demand of rakes made by Paradeep Port for movement of imported coking coal and the rakes supplied against it during 1988 (month-wise) are indicated below:—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Demand</i>	<i>Supply</i>
1	2	3
January	57	57
February	58	57
March	45	39
April	50	50
May	49	46
June	46	46
July	51	51
August	51	51
September	34	34
October	69	58

**Casual Labour in Kerala**

1260. SHRITHAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons working as casual labour in the Railways in Kerala; and

(b) the reasons for which their services have not been regularised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Casual Labour statistics on Railways are not maintained Statewise but Railwaywise and Divisionwise. There are at present 2764 casual

labourers in Palghat & Trivandrum Divisions which mostly cover Kerala State.

(b) Virtually all vacancies in Group 'D', barring certain exceptions, are at present being filled by screening and absorption of casual labour/substitutes. Absorption is, however, subject to factors like availability of vacancies and eligibility and suitability of individual casual labourer for regular employment. During the period from 1.1.1988 to 1.10.1988, 391 casual labour have been absorbed in regular employment in these two Divisions.

#### **Introducing of a New Train from Cochin, Mangalore and Trivandrum**

1261. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any new proposal for introducing any new long distance trains from Cochin, Mangalore and Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Pay Scales of Railway Caterers**

1262. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways employ persons in the catering service of Railways as bearers, cooks etc;

(b) whether they are given the same pay scales for similar types of work;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the new pay scales applicable to regular employees are given to

other category of workers also in the light of the Supreme Court directions; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Those in regular employment are given Pay Scales prescribed as per their category. Those bearers and Vendors who are engaged on commission basis are not given any pay scale.

(d) and (e). Commission Bearers and Commission Vendors are eligible to get Pay Scales and allowances applicable to Railway employees only from the date of their absorption in railway service. This has been upheld by the Supreme Court in its judgement in Writ Petition No. 191 of 1986.

#### **Cash Crop Cultivation In Southern Region**

1263. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme to further develop cardamom, tea, pepper, coffee and other cash crops cultivation in the southern region; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals chalked out for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Ministry of Commerce is dealing with Cardamom, Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Tobacco. In respect of these crops, the following are the main development programmes:

#### *Cardamom*

The Spices Board is implementing Extension Advisory Scheme, Replanting Scheme, Scheme for making high yielding planting material, Irrigation, Plant Protection

Schemes, and is also undertaking Research.

### *Tea*

The Tea Board is implementing a New Tea Unit Financing Scheme under which subsidy is given for extension of tea cultivation in the non-traditional areas which include Idduki district of Kerala, Kodagu district of Karnataka.

### *Coffee*

The Coffee Board is implementing programme to provide credit for bringing more area under coffee, training projects to train personnel in coffee culture, opening of demonstration farms and strengthening of research/extension.

### *Rubber*

The Rubber Board is implementing amongst others Rubber Plantation Development Scheme to provide subsidy to small growers, subsidy for poly bag plants, research farms, nucleus rubber estate and training centre, Rubber Research-cum-Development Station, Extension Training and Advisory service Scheme etc. These are available to growers in the Southern Region also.

### *Tobacco*

The Tobacco Board has a Scheme to improve the quality and yield of fluecured Virginia Tobacco, to identify new areas for growing quality tobacco, to control pest and disease, to supply materials for curing barns and other inputs used in tobacco cultivation on subsidy, and to increase in production of burley in areas where high quality burley can be grown.

### **Technical Services by Bank Branches to Young Entrepreneurs**

1264. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted commercial banks to set up specialised branches in various cities to provide comprehensive and total technical services to young entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the names of the States/cities where such branches are likely to be opened and the time by which these will start functioning; and

(c) the type of technical services proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not yet received any request from banks for opening of specialised branches to provide comprehensive and total technical services to young entrepreneurs only. The needs of borrowers including entrepreneurs of small scale units are being met by the existing branches of the banks.

### **Railway Link to Agartala**

1265. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Agartala with railway line during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Proposals for construction of new lines in the Eighth Plan have not yet been finalised. A Final Location Survey for a rail link to Agartala, along with a study for a bi-modal option, i.e., partly by rail and balance by road is in progress.

### **Opening of Branches of Foreign Trade Bank of Soviet Union in India**

1266. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USSR has proposed to open the branches of its Foreign Trade Bank in India in order to facilitate quick and smooth transactions between the two countries;

(b) if so, the names of the cities where these branches are to be opened;

(c) the reaction of Union Government thereto;

(d) the names of the other foreign countries which have their banks in India;

(e) the policy of Union Government to allow any foreign country to open their banks

in India; and

(f) whether the branches of Indian banks are also likely to be opened in the USSR, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has received a proposal from the Bank of Economic Affairs of USSR to open branches at Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi and the same is under examination.

(d) As on 31.10.1988, the banks incorporated in the following countries have operating branches/representative offices in India:

<i>Name of the Country</i>	<i>No. of banks having branches</i>	<i>No. of banks with Representative Offices</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
United States of America	3	5
United Kingdom (U.K.)	2	2
France	3	3
Japan	2	2
United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)	2	—
Australia	1	—
Netherlands	1	1
Hongkong	1	—
Bangladesh	1	—
West Germany	1	—
Cayman Islands	1	—
Canada	1	—
Oman	1	—
Bahrain	1	—

1	2	3
Italy	—	1
Belgium	—	1
U.S.S.R.	—	1
	21	16

(e) Permission is generally granted to a foreign bank to open a branch keeping in view various aspects such as financial solvency of the applicant bank, its international standing, trade and economic linkages, reciprocity in banking relations etc.

(f) State Bank of India only is presently having a Representative Office in USSR.

[*Translation*]

#### Arrest of Smugglers in Border Districts of Rajasthan

1267. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of smugglers arrested in the border districts of Rajasthan during the last three years, the names of the districts and the places therein wherefrom the said smugglers were arrested and the details of goods recovered from them with quantity thereof;

(b) the extent of success achieved in the prosecutions launched; and

(c) the details of the achievements of

State Police, B.S.F. and Central Customs Department in apprehending smugglers, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ( SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) 92 persons have been arrested for indulging in smuggling activities in the border districts of Sri Ganganagar, Jaisalmer, Barmer and Bikaner of Rajasthan during the last three years, in connection with the seizure of 1422 Kgs. of heroin, 4313 Kgs. of Charas and 34 Kgs. of opium, 194 Kgs. of silver and miscellaneous goods worth Rs. 53,862.

(b) 21 prosecutions have been launched by the Customs Collectorate of Rajasthan during the last three years. However, only one person out of them has been convicted so far and the remaining cases are pending.

(c) The value of contraband seized in the Rajasthan sector and the number of persons arrested for indulging in smuggling activities, in the border districts of Rajasthan by the various Enforcement agencies during the last three years are given below:—

#### *Value of Contraband seized by (Rs. in lakhs)*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Customs</i>	<i>B.S.F.</i>	<i>Police (Rajasthan)</i>
1	2	3	4
1986	53.96	325.22	731.41
1987	19.22	153.21	453.84

1	2	3	4
1988 (upto September)	36.43	107.86	5.80
Number of arrests made during the last three years	24	2	66

[English]

### Production and Export of Tea

1268. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-  
CHANDRAN:  
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA  
NARASIMHARAJA  
WADIYAR:  
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be  
pleased to state:

(a) the rate of increase in production of  
tea and the corresponding increase in export  
of tea during the last three years;

(b) whether there is scope for big rise in  
tea export with the increase in the tea output  
in the northern and southern regions;

(c) if so, the measures taken by Gov-  
ernment to increase tea export;

(d) the target fixed for export in 1988-89  
and the achievement made so far; and

(e) the target fixed for 1988-90 and the  
steps proposed to be taken to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.  
DASMUNSI): (a) Figures of production and  
exports of tea during the last three years are  
as follows:—

(Qty. in million kgs.)

Year	Production	Export
1	2	3
1985	656	214
1986	*621	*203 (*Provisional)
1987	+673	+209 (+ Estimated)

(b) to (e). With the over-all increase in  
the production of tea in the country, there is  
scope for increase in export of tea. Efforts  
are being made to maximise exports of tea  
during 1988-89 and 1989-90. Government  
have taken various measures to boost ex-  
ports of tea from India which include:—

- (1) Reduction in import duty on tea  
begging machinery and placing  
packaging machines under  
Open General Licence.
- (2) Abolition of import duty on filter  
papers for manufacture of tea

bags.

- (3) Enhancement of cash compensatory support for tea bags, packet tea, tea caddies and tea chest-lets. CCS has also been reintroduced for instant tea w.e.f. 1.7.1986.
- (4) Rebate of excise duty on exports.
- (5) Scheme for providing interest free loan for purchase of tea packaging machinery produced indigenously has been introduced.
- (6) Introduction of interest-free loan in foreign exchange for carrying out brand publicity programmes on a long-term and sustained manner.
- (7) A special incentive scheme to promote exports of South Indian Tea has been introduced for 1988-89.

#### Raids In Kerala

1269. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMA-

**CHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted during the first half of 1988-89 in Kerala by the investigating wing of the Income Tax Department;

(b) the result of these raids; and

(c) the top five defaulters exposed during these raids and the amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The Income-tax Department in Kerala conducted 43 searches under section 132 of the Income-tax Act during the first half of the financial year 1988-89. During the course of these searches, *prima-facie*, unaccounted assets worth approximately Rs. 32 lakhs were seized. In their statements during the course of the searches, the persons searched admitted concealment of income of Rs. 74.00 lakhs in the aggregate.

(c) The top five cases, in terms of seizures of valuables, in the aforesaid searches are as below:

S. No.	Name of Assessee	Valuables seized (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Sh. N.R. Ramakrishnan	11.57
2.	Sh. N.A. Padmanabhan	5.76
3.	M/s A.V.J. Emporium	3.50
4.	M/s P.C. Damodaran and sons.	3.10
5.	Sh. A. Kunju Moosa	2.90



**Gem Park in Orissa**

1270. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to establish a Gem park in Western Orissa;
- (b) if so, when a proposal is going to be implemented; and
- (c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) There is no such proposal with the Government at present.

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

**Export of Autoparts to Japan**

1271. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian autoparts have good demand in Japan;
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to export autoparts to that country;
- (c) whether the Trade Development Authority has drawn up any long term strategy in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Indian autoparts are being exported to Japan which offers good potential.

(c) and (d). The strategy drawn up by TDA includes identification of selected items of autoparts for exports, testing of these items by established test houses there, short-listing of some of the reputed firms in India who can supply quality products, monitoring of delivery schedules, participa-

tion in trade fairs on autoparts in Japan, and organising visits of sales teams to and from Japan.

**Smuggling of Gold, Heroin etc. in Orissa**

1272. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of smuggling of gold, heroins etc. in the Chandaneswar areas, 38 kilometers away from Jaleswar in Balasore district, Orissa;
- (b) whether the smuggling activities are being operated through sea in Orissa and West Bengal border; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No seizure of gold or heroin has been reported in Chandaneswar areas, 38 Kilometres away from Jaleswar in Balasore district, Orissa, during the last three years. However, since smuggling is a clandestine activity, the possibility of smuggling in this area cannot be ruled out.

(b) There are two ports viz., Paradeep and Gopalpur in Orissa. The value of seizures of smuggled goods from the sea ports in Orissa are given below:—

1985	—	Rs.	26,700
1986	—	Rs.	67,400
1987	—	Rs.	76,150
1988	—	Rs.	4265, 350
(upto Sept.)			

No narcotics or gold is involved in the above seizures.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified throughout the country and strict vigil is being kept in Orissa also. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

#### **Joint Ventures with Hungary**

1273. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up Joint Ventures with Hungary;

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

(c) the programmes drawn up for 1988-89 and 1989-90 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). During the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi in October, 1988 both the Governments of India and Hungary have agreed to encourage setting up of joint ventures between the two countries. However, Government have not received any proposal so far from any Government agency for setting up a joint venture with Hungary.

[*Translation*]

#### **Direct rail link between Delhi/New Delhi to State Capitals**

1274. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to connect Delhi/New Delhi with State Capitals directly in such a way that the timings of the trains suit the office-goers;

(b) if so, the details of State capitals not connected directly with Delhi/New Delhi; and

(c) the time by which these trains are expected to be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) This is an ongoing process.

(b) Shimla, Srinagar, Goa & Capitals of N.E. States (excluding Assam).

(c) As and when the infrastructure permits.

[*English*]

#### **World Bank Loan to Electronics Sector**

1275. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has linked the loan to the electronics sector to further liberalisation in the India's import policy;

(b) if so, to what extent it has sought liberalisation in the import policy of India; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). There have only been some preliminary discussions on the possibility of the World Bank assisting a project in the electronics sector. The quantum of the loan and loan conditions have not yet been discussed.

#### **National Court of Direct Taxes**

1276. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:  
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up the National Court of Direct Taxes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent it will help the tax collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). The Government has not yet set up the National Court of Direct Taxes.

**Operation to Detain Financers and Organisers of Smuggling etc.**

1277. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special operation was organised from October 1 to 17 to detain financers and organisers of smugglers, foreign exchange racketeers and drug traffickers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Special Operation Code Named 'Hard Rock' was organised during the period from 1st October to 17th October, 1988 to detain the Financers and Organisers of smuggling, foreign exchange racketeering and drug trafficking. During this Operation, 274 detention orders were issued and 152 persons have been actually detained under the conservation of foreign Exchange and prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 and 25 detention orders were issued and 22 persons have been actually detained so far under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.

**Mechanisation of Tea Industry**

1278. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea industry is proposed to be mechanised;

(b) if so, the details of the same;

(c) the estimated expenditure involved therein;

(d) the target to be achieved in the Seventh Plan period; and

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

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

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

**Electrification In Railways**

1279. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of the Railways to increasingly depend on renewable sources of energy like electricity for locomotion with a view to reduce the pressure on foreign exchange involved in the use of diesel;

(b) if so, comparable expenditure on such energy consumption as a percentage of total; and

(c) the target set for electrification for the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During 1987-88 the expenditure on electricity used for train haulage is about 25% of the total fuel expenditure of the Indian Railways.

(c) Tentatively, electrification of 3400 Route Kilometres is envisaged during the eighth Five Year Plan.

### **Bonus to Railway Protection Force Personnel**

1280. PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) have been treated differently from other employees of the Railways for payment of annual bonus; and

(b) if so, reasons for such differential treatment and the payment of lower rate of bonus to the RPF employees creating avoidable discontent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Employees of the Railway Protection Force are paid ad hoc bonus on par with Members of other Central Police Organisations and other Central Government employees who are not governed by schemes for Productivity Linked Bonus.

### **Use of disposable containers**

1281. PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of disposable containers used for serving beverages and meals on the Railway is very high; and

(b) if so, whether continued use of such disposable containers will be reviewed in view of involvement of foreign exchange?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### **National Equity Fund**

1282. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the response from young entrepreneurs to National Equity Fund Scheme has not been encouraging;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The National Equity Fund Scheme (NEFS) is being operated by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) since August 1987. IDBI has reported that the Scheme made slow progress. For the successful implementation of the NEFS and with a view to making it more useful to the entrepreneurs, following modifications, have been made by the IDBI, which came into force with effect from July 14, 1988.

(i) The NEFS will be operated through SBI also in addition to the nationalised banks.

(ii) State Financial Corporations/ twin function Industrial Development Corporations will also be the operating agencies in addition to banks in the North Eastern Region and hilly States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

(iii) The population limit has now been increased from 5 lakhs to 15 lakhs in so far as rehabilitation/revival of Sick SSI/tiny units are concerned so that larger number of sick units could benefit from the assistance out of NEFS. There will, however, be no change in the population limit with regard to setting up of new units.

(iv) As an incentive to banks to bring in larger number of cases under the purview of NEFS, the extent

of refinance for term loans, to be sanctioned by banks simultaneously with assistance out of NEFS has been increased from the present level of 75% to 100%.

### **Diversification of Trade with Hong Kong**

1283. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals to diversify the range and level of commercial exchanges with Hongkong; and

(b) if so, the views of Government to make Hongkong as a base for channelising India's exports, and further allowing Hongkong to make India as a production base for certain categories for domestic and export to third countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Presently there are no specific proposals under consideration of this Ministry to diversify the range and level of commercial exchanges with Hong Kong. However, Government is already aware of the considerable potential that

Hong Kong holds out for entrepat international trade particularly for boosting Indian exports to countries like China and Japan because of its free port status and a portion of our exports to China is reportedly being routed through Hong Kong. Parties from Hong Kong can take advantage of various investment opportunities available in India as per regulations applicable from time to time.

### **Port-wise Export of Iron Ore**

1284. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made port-wise projection for export of iron ore for the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the export of iron ore in the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Port-wise projections for export of iron ore, concentrates and pellets during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are as under:

*(Quantity in million tonnes)*

Port	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
1	2	3	4
Vizag	5.70	5.70	6.00
Madras	5.20	5.20	5.50
Paradip	1.50	1.50	2.00
Mormugao	14.00	14.00	14.00
New Mangalore	4.70	5.00	6.00
Others	1.82	1.82	1.00
<b>Total :</b>	<b>32.92</b>	<b>33.22</b>	<b>34.50</b>

(b) Market diversification, formulation of plans for expansion of port capacity to accommodate large sized vessels at Madras, Vizag and Paradip, tying up of export sales through long term agreements with major buyers of iron ore, extension of benefits of 100% EDU Scheme to mining and integrated projects involving mining etc. are some of the steps taken to improve iron ore exports position in the international market.

#### **Re-organisation of Down Stream Units of Mahanadi River**

1285. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to re-organise the field units of some rivers particularly the down stream section of Mahanadi river;

(b) if so, the details of the re-organisation proposed to be made with regard to river Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani and Subranarekha;

(c) whether the down stream units of Mahanadi Division proposed to be separated from Burla, would be kept with Brahmani; Baitarani and Subarnarekha Division under Central Water Commission, Bhubaneswar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

#### **Orders Secured by TFAI at Nairobi Fair**

1286. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI) secured orders worth several crores of rupees at the International Trade Fair held from 27th September to 1st October in Nairobi, Kenya;

(b) if so, the details of the stalls put there by TFAI and other Indian entrepreneurs;

(c) the items which were in great demand/registered maximum sale and the details of the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(d) the profit earned by TFAI from the fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) As reported by participants, business to the tune of about Rs. 3.95 crores was booked at the Nairobi International Show, Nairobi, Kenya held during September 27 to October 1, 1988.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) The items which attracted attention were Tea Processing Machines, surface grinders, lathe machine, grinding wheels, agricultural equipments, pumps and diesel engines, machine tools etc. Machines worth Rs. 1.16 crores were reported to have been sold on the spot.

(d) The Principal objective of TFAI's participation in fairs abroad is to assist Indian exporters in projecting their capabilities with a view to boosting exports. TFAI's participation in fairs is not based on profit motive.

#### **STATEMENT**

*List of participants in the Nairobi International Show, Nairobi (Kenya), September 27 to October 1, 1988.*

1. Batliboi & Co. Ltd., Bombay.
2. Crompton Greaves Limited, Bombay

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>3. Fernhill Laboratories &amp; Industrial Est., Bombay</p> <p>4. HMT (I) Ltd., Bangalore.</p> <p>5. Maschinesfabrik Polygraph (I) Ltd., Bombay.</p> <p>6. National Small India Corpn., New Delhi.</p> <p>7. Pathak Machine Tools (P) Ltd., Calcutta</p> <p>8. Sigil (I) Services (P) Ltd., Baroda.</p> <p>9. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi.</p> <p>10. M/s. Tea Spares (I), Calcutta</p> <p>11. M/s. Vikram Forgings &amp; Allied Industries Pvt., Ltd., Calcutta</p> <p>12. M/s. Gujarat State Export Corporation Ltd., Ahmedabad with following constitutions:</p> <p>13. M/s. Amrit Engg. Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad.</p> <p>14. M/s. Charotar Iron Factory, Anand.</p> <p>15. M/s. Devco Industries, Wadhwan City.</p> <p>16. M/s. Gujarat Industrial Products, Ahmedabad.</p> <p>17. M/s. Krishi Vikas Sadhan Kendra, Valsad.</p> <p>18. M/s. Kunal Organics Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad.</p> <p>19. M/s. Laxmi Plastic Engg. Works Ahmedabad.</p> <p>20. M/s. Navjivan Exporters,</p> | <p>Ahmedabad.</p> <p>21. M/s. Rajkot Machine Tools Pvt. Ltd., Rajkot.</p> <p>22. M/s. Runwel Auto Engg. Works, Ahmedabad.</p> <p>23. M/s. Shailesh Machine Tools, Rajkot.</p> <p>24. M/s. Shivangi Industries, Bharuch.</p> <p>25. M/s. Sinter Plast Containers, Kalul (N.G.)</p> <p>26. M/s. Solsons, Ahmedabad.</p> <p>27. M/s. Sterling Abrasives Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad.</p> <p>28. M/s. The New Indian Engg. Works, Rajkot.</p> <p>29. M/s. Vishal Steel Industries, Broach.</p> <p>30. M/s. Visnagar Taluka Audyogic Shakari Mandali Ltd., Ahmedabad.</p> |
|--|---|

#### **Unearthing of Black Money**

1287. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of unaccounted money unearthed the value of goods recovered, during searches conducted in 1985, 1986, 1987 and upto October, 1988 the number of persons against whom action was taken and the number of the case still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): The number of searches conducted by the Income-tax Department and the value of assets seized, are indicated in the table below:

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>No. of searches</i>	<i>Value of assets seized (Rs. in crores)</i>
1	2	3
1985-86	6431	50.32
1986-87	7054	100.70
1987-88	8464	145.20
1988-89 (1.4.88 to 31.10.88)	3992	81.70

The statistics relating to search and seizure assessments in respect of the preceding three financial years are given below:

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>No. of assessments involved in the search cases</i>	<i>No. of assessments disposed during the year</i>	<i>Pendency of assessments at the end of year</i>
1	2	3	4
1985-86	21,330	13,659	7,671
1986-87	19,358	10,816	8,542
1987-88	21,148	10,546	10,602

The assessments disposed of in a particular financial year, as referred to above, do not necessarily relate to searches made during that year.

[English]

#### **Excise Duty Evasion by Cigarette Companies**

1288. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMAMURTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the demand notices served in 1987 on four major cigarette companies for Rs. 1300 crores for excise duty evasion;

(b) the steps taken to unearth unaccounted wealth; and

(c) the results achieved during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The 22-show cause notices issued during the year 1987 to four major cigarette manufacturers and their contract manufacturers demanding excise duty of approximately Rs. 1200 crores are pending adjudication before respective adjudication authorities.

(b) and (c). Income-tax authorities have carried out necessary investigations in the cases of cigarette companies suspected to be evading excise-duty for bringing unaccounted income/wealth to tax. Investigations are an ongoing process and are carried out in each case of reported evasion of Income-tax.



### Indian Investment In Joint Ventures Abroad

1289. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total Indian investment in joint venture projects in foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) whether the Indian investment abroad has remained stagnant during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Total approved Indian investment in joint venture projects in foreign countries during each of the last three years is as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value in Rs. lakhs</i>
1985	312.70
1986	404.35
1987	515.67

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

### Deposits of Banks in Raipur

1290. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Raipur Ke Benkon men Kararon rupaye jam hone ki janch" appearing in Jansatta of October 9, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the matters has been enquired into; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). According to the Reserve Bank of India all the currency chests in Raipur receive heavy cash including soiled Notes from various banks. Reserve Bank of India have conducted an enquiry and made arrangements for the removal of soiled Notes and to divert the reissuable Notes to other deficit currency chests.

[*English*]

### Deposits in State Bank of Indore

1291. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a substantial deposit growth in the State Bank of Indore during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the banks are giving promoters commission for mobilising the bank deposits;

(d) if so, the main particulars of the said incentive scheme; and

(e) the amount paid by the State Bank of Indore as promoters commission during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The pattern of growth of aggregate deposits in State Bank of Indore during the last three years, has been as under:-

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

	<i>Dec.</i> <i>1985</i>	<i>Dec.</i> <i>1986</i>	<i>Dec.</i> <i>1987</i>
Aggregate deposits	41492	51498	67954
Deposit growth over the previous year	7936	10006	16456

(c) to (e). State Bank of Indore has reported in their 'Janta Deposit Scheme' they pay commission to the deposit collectors on the deposits collected by them. The amount of commission paid by the bank in 1985, 1986 and 1987 was Rs. 4.80 lakhs, Rs. 4.71 lakhs and Rs. 5.15 lakhs respectively.

#### **Diesel Trains Between Kolar Gold Field and Bangalore**

1292. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of diesel trains at present running every day between Kolar Gold Fields and Bangalore; and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce one more diesel train between Kolar Gold Fields and Bangalore to meet the demand of the commuters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) One pair of train between Yelahanka and Bangarapet, one between Yelahanka and Chintamani on N.G. Section and two pairs of passenger trains on Marikuppam-Bangarapet B.G. section are running with diesel traction.

(b) No, Sir.

#### **Conversion of Railway Line between Bangarapet to Yelahanka**

1293. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to

state:

(a) the length of narrow gauge railway line between Bangarapet to Yelahanka; and

(b) whether there is a proposal to convert this line into broad-gauge and to connect it to Kattangulattur on Southern Railway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) 149 Km.

(b) No, Sir.

#### **Stainless Steel Coins**

1294. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced 10 paise and 25 paise denominations stainless steel coins;

(b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of Government that these coins are difficult to handle due to smooth edges; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to rectify the defect?

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

(b) and (c). Keeping in view the value of the coins and the physical characteristics of stainless steel, milling of the edges with serrations along periphery was considered

not necessary.

### **Rise in Non-Development Expenditure**

1295. SHRI BALWANT SINGH  
RAMOOWALIA:  
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an analysis conducted recently by the Reserve Bank of India it has been stated that non-developmental expenditure is likely to increase further during the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether Government have collected facts in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the increase in non-developmental expenditure will affect many development projects; and

(e) the effective steps taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). According to a study published in June 1988 issue of Reserve Bank of India Bulletin on the finances of the Government of India, the non-developmental expenditure is budgeted to rise by 15.9% and developmental expenditure by 7.1% over 1987-88 and as a result the share of developmental expenditure in aggregate disbursements would decline from 55.1% in 1987-88 to 53.2% in 1988-89. The rise in non-developmental expenditure has been attributed as largely due to increases under interest payments, defence, administrative services, etc.

(d) and (e). It is always the endeavour of the Government to keep the low priority non-developmental expenditure to the minimum necessary level and assign high priority to developmental expenditure. As a part of

measures to control expenditure, Ministries/ Departments have been advised to undertake a thorough review of their ongoing programmes and rank them in the order of priority to facilitate reduction or elimination of expenditure which are of low priority and application of large funds to items of higher priority.

### **Release of Smugglers on Failure to File Complaints in the Court**

1296. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of accused arrested in connection with gold smuggling had to be released consequent on the failure to file the complaint in the court within the statutory period of 6 months by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence;

(b) if so, the action taken against the officials responsible for such dereliction of duty; and

(c) the other corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir. There has been no instance where any person arrested in connection with gold smuggling by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had to be released consequent to the failure to file a complaint in the Court of Law. However, in certain cases, arrested persons are released on bail by the Court pending prosecution.

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

### **Applicability of Ban Orders on Recruitment**

1297. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "5000 teacher's posts lying vacant" in Delhi appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 13 October 1988;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry propose to advise Government departments suitably on the applicability of ban orders and circumstances in which the same is to apply and lay the details on the table of this House;

(c) whether a large number of representations have been received by his Ministry that some Government departments are applying ban orders on upgraded posts also; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) As per Delhi Administration 2050 posts of teachers are vacant out of which 1135 posts are lying vacant due to court cases. For filling up such vacancies, as are not *subjudice*, the recruitment process such as sending requisitions to the Employment Exchange and calling for Annual Confidential Reports, etc. has already been started by Delhi Administration.

(b) to (d). According to the guidelines regarding filling up of vacancies, modified in 1986, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions, the vacancies in Government departments — both plan and non-plan — arising due to promotion, retirement, death, resignation, dismissal, removal or deputation etc. can now be filled up. Copies of these instructions issued on 20.5.1986, 15.7.1986 have already been placed in the Parliament Library. Various Government departments are competent to process their respective cases, including representations, if any, in the light of these instructions.

### **Bank Frauds**

1298. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned '16 RBI employees suspended' appearing in the Indian Express dated 25 October, 1988;

(b) if so, the details regarding multi-crore inter-state currency note exchange detected at Bhubaneswar as also of the frauds that have taken place elsewhere in one form/shape or the other in Reserve Bank of India during the last 12 months and how do they compare with the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for not taking adequate measures to check such frauds especially when such frauds had come to light earlier and steps taken to check the recurrence of such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India has reported that in February, 1988, their Bhubaneswar Office had come across mutilated notes of Rs. 100/- denomination passed for payment at that office. The mutilations were of suspicious nature. In July, 1988 also the above office had come across several notes of Rs. 100/- denomination with punch marks already on them having presented over the counter and payment obtained fraudulently. The preliminary investigations made by the Reserve Bank of India reveal that the amount involved in the fraud is Rs.12,30,300/- comprising 12,303 pieces of Rs. 100/- denomination notes. In this connection, fifteen employees of Reserve Bank of India have been suspended.

During the last 3 years there was only one other case in 1985 in which 76 defective pieces of Rs. 100/- denomination notes passed for payment at Reserve Bank of India, Bombay had been received at Reserve Bank of India, Jaipur, in a Currency Chest remittance from State Bank of India, Sangneri Gate, Jaipur.

(c) The existing procedures are reasonably sound. The above incident has

occurred apparently due to complicity of certain persons in circumventing the rules and negligence of few others in supervising the operations. The Reserve Bank of India has impressed on all its offices to follow the existing checks and precautions meticulously. The Reserve Bank of India has also constituted a special team to go around its offices for surprise checks so that the prescribed procedures are strictly followed.

### **Cases Pending in Delhi High Court**

1299. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are still pending in the High Court of Delhi for admission and in spite of passage of over one year they are yet at admission stage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to bring down this period to the minimum possible;

(d) whether it is a usual feature of taking adjournment by the advocates;

(e) if so, the steps taken to ensure that adjournments are not given by courts a matter of routine and to fix the number of adjournments in a case; and

(f) the details of the cases pending in Delhi High Court giving year-wise details together with steps taken to liquidate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registry of Delhi High Court, there are 2204 cases pending in the Delhi High Court for admission over one year, which are yet to be admitted.

(b) Out of 2204 cases pending, 19 cases have been adjourned sine-die. In most of the cases Show-Cause notice for admission has already been issued in which Reply-affidavits and Rejoinder-affidavits are

to be filed by the parties.

(c) In view of reply to part (b) above, it is not possible to fix the minimum period for the purpose as filing of Reply-affidavits and Rejoinder-affidavits take time. However, the Courts allow the time for filing the Reply-affidavits and Rejoinder-affidavits as is absolutely necessary.

(d) Adjournments are usually asked for by the advocates to comply with the orders of the Court.

(e) Adjournments are not given as a matter of routine but are given in the deserving cases where the Court considers it necessary.

(f) As on 30th June, 1988, there were 82712 cases pending in the Delhi High Court. The year-wise details of the cases is as follows:-

Less than one year	17039
1 to 2 years	16397
2 to 3 years	10478
3 to 4 years	8263
4 to 5 years	6848
5 to 6 years	5115
6 to 7 years	4221
7 to 8 years	3898
8 to 9 years	2697
9 to 10 years	2397
over 10 years	5369
<b>82712</b>	

Recommendations for reducing arrears, on the basis of a Report by a Committee of three Chief Justices, have been sent to the High Courts including Delhi High Court.

The strength of 21 Judges in 1977 was raised to 27 Judges in 1981. It has been decided to create 6 more posts of additional Judges in Delhi High Court.

### Special Railway Claims Tribunal

1300 SHRI P.M. SAYEED:  
SHRIMATI GEETA  
MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved setting up of a special railway claims tribunal and if so, when;

(b) whether members to serve on the tribunal have been appointed;

(c) if not, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether the scheme has been chalked out and if so, the main features thereof; and

(e) the number of claims pending and the period for which these have remained unsettled?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987 (54 of 1987) to establish a Tribunal received the assent of the President on 23rd December, 1987.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Selection of Judicial and Technical Members for 17 Benches (19 courts) is still under process.

(d) Yes, Sir. The scheme envisages setting up of a Tribunal with principal Bench at Delhi and Benches at Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Bombay, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Ernakulam, Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Jaipur, Lucknow, Madras, Nagpur, Patna and Secunderabad.

The constitution and jurisdiction of the Tribunal are contained in the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987 (54 of 1987).

(e) Number of claims for loss of and damage to booked consignments pending on Zonal Railways at the end of August, 1988, and the period for which these remained unsettled are as under:

<i>Up to one month old</i>	: 18281
<i>More than one month but less than three months old</i>	: 16349
<i>More than three months old</i>	: 3348
<b>Total</b>	<b>: 37978</b>

### Inspection of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited by RBI

1301. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 29 July 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 376 regarding scrutiny and audit of activities of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company and state:

(a) whether the Inspection Report of the Reserve Bank of India which had conducted a special inspection of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. under section 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in order to streamline the functioning of the company in the interest of the investing public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that its report, on

the inspection of M/s. Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited conducted under Section 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 with reference to Company's position as on 31.12.1987, has not yet been finalised. The action to be taken would depend upon the findings of the Inspection Report.

### Seizure of Narcotics in Delhi and Punjab

1302. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of seizures of narcotics in Delhi and Punjab during the last nine months

ending 30th September, 1988;

(b) the details of action taken against the culprits in this regard;

(c) whether there has been increase or decrease in cases of illegal trade of narcotics as compared to preceding nine months; and

(d) the steps taken to curb effectively the illegal trade of narcotics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The seizures of various drugs effected in Delhi and Punjab from January to September, 1988 are as follows:

S. No.	Name of drug	Delhi		Punjab	
		No. of cases	Quantity (kgs)	No. of cases	Quantity (kgs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Opium	22	36.676	25	223.840
2.	Morphine	8	0.288	—	—
3.	Heroin	69	155.775	22	1,067.335
4.	Ganja	5	441.160	—	—
5.	Hashish (Charas)	31	1,650.427	5	594.520
6.	Cocaine	1	13.073	—	—
7.	Methaqualone	1	40.000	—	—

(b) The drug offenders involved are proceeded against and prosecuted under the appropriate laws.

(c) It is not possible to assess the magnitude of smuggling or estimate in any precise manner either the quantum of increase or decrease in illicit trafficking of drugs. The seizures of different drugs made in Punjab and Delhi upto 30th September,

1988 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year indicate that there has been a decrease in the quantum of opium and methaqualone seized in Delhi and of hashish seized in Punjab during 1988 as compared to 1987. However, there is an increase in the quantum of heroin and hashish seized in Delhi and of opium and heroin seized in Punjab in 1988 as compared to 1987.

(d) Government have launched various aggressive counter-measures which, *inter alia*, include provision of deterrent punishments against drug-related crimes; strengthening of preventive and intelligence machinery (especially around borders and vulnerable areas); adoption of a liberalised reward scheme for officers and informers and strengthening of bilateral co-operation between neighbouring countries (including regional co-operation under the aegis of SAARC). The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 provides for preventive detention upto a maximum period of 2 years for drug-related crimes.

#### **Impact of Monopoly Procurement in Kerala on Cashew Exports**

1303. SHRI VAKKOM PUROSHOTTHAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cashewnuts exported during the last three years and during the current year;

(b) whether the export this year was substantially less;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the cashew industry suffered a set back in Kerala this year on account of the new policy monopoly procurement introduced by the State Government; and

(e) if so, the extent of loss caused to the Government on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The estimated quantity of cashewnut Kernel exports during the last three years is given in the Statement below.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for the decline are low price of cashew kernels in the international

market, stiff competition from Brazil and dislocation caused in cashew trade due to re-introduction of monopoly procurement scheme in Kerala.

(d) and (e). There was a dislocation in trade owing to the introduction of the new scheme in Kerala, but it is not possible to estimate whether there has been any loss only on account of this scheme.

#### **STATEMENT**

##### *Export of Cashewnut Kernels*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (M.T.)</i>
1985-86	37,097
1986-87	41,759
1987-88	36,949
1988-89 (April-Sept.)	18,910
1987-88 (April-Sept.)	25,368

#### **Introduction of More High Speed Trains between Major Cities**

1304. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to introduce more high-speed long distance trains between major cities in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) presently, No, Sir.

(b) Based on the experience gained from the currently operating Shatabdi Express, decisions will be taken at the appropriate time.



### Voting Rights of Third World Countries In Commonwealth

1305. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal was discussed and finalised in Commonwealth Finance Minister's Conference to raise the voting rights of the third world countries in the organisation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the said organisation and the donor countries to the proposal.

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

(b) Does not arise.

### Trade with China

1306. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) total value of trade between India and China during preceding three years, with details of items of trade; and

(b) the efforts made to improve the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The total value of trade between India and China during the preceding three years is given below:

(Value Rs. Lakhs)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Export</i>	<i>Import</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1985-86	2920	14196
1986-87	1433	17334
1987-88	3373	15931

(i) Figures are provisional

(ii) Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta.

The main items of Indian exports to China are Metalliferous ores and metal scrap, Leather, leather manufactures, textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles and related products, Non-metallic mineral manufactures, iron and steel, cork and wood manufactures, etc. While silk and silk yarn organic and inorganic chemicals, iron and steel, pharmaceutical products, dyeing tanning and colouring materials, pulses, etc. are the major items of India's imports from China.

(b) The efforts made to improve trade between the two countries include diversifi-

cation of the basket of export items in trade protocol to include non-traditional and value-added products; exchange of delegations; participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions; holding meetings at the business level between FICCI and its counterpart etc.

[*Translation*]

### Allocation to Madhya Pradesh

1307. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of revenue received from Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the percentage of the amount given by Union Government to Madhya Pradesh to the total amount received by Union Govern-

ment from Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The total amount of revenue received from Madhya Pradesh during 1985-86 to 1987-88 are as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
685.55	769.90	925.49

(b) Share of Union Excise duties, Income-tax and Estate Duty assigned to Madhya Pradesh and Central assistance

released to Government of Madhya Pradesh by way of loans and grants during 1985-86 to 1987-88 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1021.85	1058.93	1209.65

#### **Stoppage of Bombay-Howrah Express at Jetha and Baradwar Railway Stations**

1308. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand for the stoppage of Bombay-Howrah Express at Baradwar and Jetha Railway stations;

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard;

(c) the time by which the stoppages are likely to be introduced; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to widen the existing railway bridge at Baradwar railway station for the benefit of the public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Proposal has been

received for stoppage at Baraduar.

(b) and (c). Examined but not found commercially justified.

(d) There is no proposal to widen the foot-over-bridge at Baraduar Railway Station at present. The existing foot-over-bridge is adequate for the present level of traffic dealt with at the station.

[English]

#### **Rampur-Kathgodam Railway Line**

1309. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of the construction of Rampur-Kathgodam broad-gauge line has already been started;

(b) if so, the time by which the project is expected to be completed and direct rail traffic on this line between Delhi-Kathgodam and Lucknow-Kathgodam will be started;

and

(c) the names of the towns, which will be connected by the proposed route?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. However, the construction of Rampur-New Haldwani new BG line is an approved project and the work on it is in progress.

(b) The completion of this project will depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

(c) The stations on the proposed route will be Chamraua, Kemri, Bilaspur, Kaunsaganj, Rudrapur, Pant Nagar (Halt), Halidi and Lalkua. .

#### **Filling Up of Posts of Judges of Andhra Pradesh High Court**

1310. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent a panel of names to Union Government for filling the posts of Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court; and

(b) if so, when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Certain proposals for filling some vacant posts of Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court have been received.

(b) It is not possible to indicate when a decision thereon would be taken.

#### **Indo-Egypt Joint Commission Meet**

1311. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Indo-Egypt Joint Commission was held recently in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of subjects discussed at the meeting particularly the items to be exported/imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Second Session of the Indo-Egyptian Joint Commission was held at Cairo in October, 1988. Subjects discussed included *inter alia* review of bilateral trade and the possibilities for its expansion, cooperation in the areas of projects, industry, energy, culture and science and technology. The export-import basket includes items like tea, spices, tobacco, chemicals and related products, machinery and transport equipment, petroleum products, rock phosphate, etc.

#### **British Aid**

1312. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the largest recipient of U.K. aid;

(b) the details of financial aid provided by UK to India during 1986 and 1987 separately;

(c) whether the entire amount of assistance for Andhra Pradesh has since been given, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the entire assistance will be provided?

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

(b) UK had provided financial assistance to India to the extent of 117.3 million during 1986-87 and £ 91.7 million during 1987-88.

(c) and (d) UK aid is available to Government of India on reimbursement basis. Under the current policy of Government of India, State Governments are eligible for Additional Central Assistance equivalent to 70% of the amount so reimbursed by the donor in respect of the externally aided projects in the State; UK Government have reimbursed £ 15.787 million to Government of India in respect of the projects being financed in Andhra Pradesh under UK

assistance. Government of India have so far released Rs. 15.51 crores as Additional Central Assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh as per the details given in the Statement below. The release of Additional Central Assistance to Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board is under consideration. The balance amount will be released to the State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh on reimbursement of further claims by the Govt. of United Kingdom.

## STATEMENT

Details of the projects currently being financed in Andhra Pradesh under UK assistance

Project	Amount of U.K. aid Allocated	Date of Allocation	Drawal upto 15.11.88		Additionality released to State	Likely dates of Completion
			£ (Million)	Rs. (Million)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1. Hyderabad Slum Improvement Phase II	5.010	4.1.84	5.010	98.756	69.129	Completed
2. Hyderabad Slum Improvement Phase II.A. (Cost over-run)	3.000	19.1.88	2.313	55.501	38.851	March, '89
3. Primary School Building Project (Pilot)	1.000	29.4.83	0.962	19.970	13.979	Completed
4. Primary School Building project (Bridging Programme)	0.632	26.4.88	0.271	6.893	4.825	March, '89

1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Visakhapatnam	9.000	18.3.88	1.688	28.343	March, '91
6. Nagarjunasagar	12.930	16.9.87	5.543	Under consideration.	March, '90

**Funds for Developmental Works at  
Phulbani In Orissa**

1313. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the funds provided by Central Government to the State Government of Orissa to carry out various developmental works in Phulbani, a tribal district in Orissa have remained unutilised for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Introduction of a new Train between  
Delhi and Puri**

1314. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce a new train between Delhi and Puri;

(b) whether the new train would be introduced during 1988-89;

(c) if so, the proposed route for the new train; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (d). New Delhi-Puri is adequately served by 3 pairs of trains. There is no proposal at present for a new train.

**Superfast Train between Bhubaneswar  
and Bangalore**

1315. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce a superfast train between Bhubaneswar and Bangalore;

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

(c) when this train is expected to be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

**Introduction of a Fast Passenger Train  
between Rayagada and Rourkela**

1316. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:  
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce a fast passenger train between Rayagada and Rourkela in Orissa;

(b) whether the proposal would be implemented during the year 1988-89; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

**Private Financial Institutions**

1317. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he called upon the State

Governments and nationalised and scheduled banks to curb private financial institutions in the country as reported in the "Indian Express" of 24 October, 1988;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any proposal to stop all kinds of money lending systems by private individuals and private companies and private financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The deposit acceptance activities of unincorporated bodies like individuals, firms etc. are regulated under the provisions of Chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. These provisions prohibit acceptance of deposits in excess of the specified number of depositors. The Act also provides for penal action, including fine and imprisonment, against violations of the provisions of the Act. These powers vest concurrently with Reserve Bank of India and State Governments. The Trivandrum Office of the Reserve Bank of India along with the officials of the Government of Kerala have launched action against several unincorporated bodies in Kerala for violations of the provisions of Reserve Bank of India Act.

The Union Finance Minister while inaugurating the Cochin Office of Unit Trust of India on 23rd October, 1988 had inter-alia, requested the State Governments and

Reserve Bank of India to continue their action against such unincorporated companies.

The constitutional validity of Chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 has been challenged and the matter is pending in the Supreme Court and is, therefore, sub-judice.

(c) and (d). "Money Lending" is a State subject and are regulated under the respective State Legislations.

#### Rate of Inflation

1318. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly rate of inflation at the beginning of each month during the current financial year;

(b) the annual rate of inflation at the beginning of each month during the current financial year as compared to last year; and

(c) the sub-groups in which the annual rate of inflation is higher than the average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

(c) The sub-groups in which the annual rate of inflation is higher than the average are given below:—

	<i>Annual Rate of inflation</i>
All Commodities	5.8
Food Articles	10.7
Textiles	8.7
Leather & Leather Products	12.2



	<i>Annual Rate of inflation</i>
Basic Metals, Alloys & Metal Products	18.3
Machinery & Transport Equipment	9.5
Miscellaneous Products	7.2

**STATEMENT**

*Rate of Inflation*

<i>1988</i>	<i>WPI as on first week of Month</i>	<i>Percentage change over previous month</i>	<i>Annual Rate of Inflation</i>	
			<i>1988-89</i>	<i>1987-88</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
April	418.2	0.4	10.3	4.9
May	423.9	1.4	9.3	6.2
June	423.3	-0.1	7.8	5.6
July	423.5	2.4	8.9	5.4
August	438.3	1.1	8.4	6.3
September	435.0	-0.8	5.8	8.0
October	436.7	0.4	7.0	6.2
November (Latest available)	436.4	-0.1	5.8	7.8

**Small Industries Development Bank**

1319. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main duties and responsibilities of the Small Industries Development Bank;

(b) whether there is overlap in the functions of the Bank and of the technical Consultancy Organisations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI  
EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Govern-  
ment is considering to set up a Small Indus-  
tries Development Bank of India to cater to  
the financial needs of Small scale and they  
sector industries, as a subsidiary of the In-  
dustrial Development Bank of India. Details  
regarding the bank are being worked out.

**Overdrafts by Kerala**

1320. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the overdrafts borrowing of Kerala

from the Reserve Bank of India during the last six months;

(b) whether overdrafts borrowing has exceeded the limit allowed during this period; and

(c) whether Government propose to give more overdrafts facility and to extend the repayment period of overdrafts to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.

GADHVI): (a) A Statement is given below.

(b) Overdrafts are unauthorised and hence, the question of allowing any limit therefor does not arise. Under the Overdraft Regulation Scheme currently in force, a State Government is not allowed to have overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India for more than seven consecutive working days. The overdraft of the Government of Kerala as and when it emerged during the last six months was cleared within this stipulated time limit.

(c) No, Sir.

### STATEMENT

*Particulars of Overdrafts borrowing of Government of Kerala during the last six months*

<i>Month</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in crores)</i>	<i>No. of days on which the State was in overdraft</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
May, 1983	NIL	NIL	—
June, 1988	NIL	NIL	—
July, 1988	20.7.88	16.38	1
	21.7.88	5.85	2
	22.7.88	6.19	3
	23.7.88	5.04	4
August, 1988	19.8.88	0.64	1
	20.8.88	5.56	2
	22.8.88	27.38	3
	23.8.88	55.50	3
	24.8.88	66.76	3
	25.8.88	66.63	3
	26.8.88	65.30	3
	27.8.88	83.54	3

1	2	3	4
	29.8.88	16.52	4
	30.8.88	15.82	5
	31.8.88	12.89	6
September, 1988	NIL	NIL	—
October, 1988	NIL	NIL	—

### Gold Loans

1321. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a request from the Kerala Government that nationalised and scheduled banks in Kerala should be given direction to give gold loans on a larger scale; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India have reported that no request from the Government of Kerala for giving directions to scheduled commercial banks in including public sector banks in the State for giving gold loans on a larger scale has been received by them. The Reserve Bank of India have reported that it has not imposed any restrictions prohibiting banks from granting loans against gold ornaments and articles excepting against gold bullion. However, there is a ceiling of Rs. 10,000/- for consumption loans against security of gold.

### Allocation of Water to States Under Bachawat Award

1322. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have utilised the quantum of water allocated to them under the Bachawat Award;

(b) whether any attempt has been made by the State of Andhra Pradesh to make use of the un-allocated water; and

(c) the quantum of water which has gone waste into the sea during 85-88?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

### Modernisation of Samastipur Railway Station

1323. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Samastipur railway junction on North Eastern Railway has been modernized, and if so, the improvements made as a result thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : Samastipur station has been selected to be developed as a model station on North Eastern Railway.

The following improvements have been carried out at Samastipur railway station:-

1. Improvement to M.G. circulating area.
2. Improvement to B.G. circulating area.
3. Replacement of existing furniture and benches; and
4. Repair to latrines, bathrooms and provision of water coolers.

The total expenditure incurred on the above improvements is Rs 24.5 lakhs approximately.

[English]

#### Loss due to Floods

1324. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss caused to the Railways by washing away of the tracks, bridges, rolling stock and other property-as a result of the devastating floods this year, zone-wise;

(b) the estimated loss of revenue as a result of suspension of the train services on various sections affected by floods;

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred to restore the railway services on the sections where breaches took place; and

(d) the preventive measures being taken to meet such situation in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) the Zone-wise loss is as follows:-

	(Rs. in lakhs)
Central Railway	8.00
Eastern Railway	45.89
Northern Railway	1223.00
North Eastern Railway	0.64
Northeast Frontier Railway	36.00
Southern Railway	0.55
South Central Railway	88.62
South Eastern Railway	—
Western	27.65

(b) Rs. 17 crores (Approximately).

(c) Rs. 10 crores (Approximately.)

(d) In order to guard against the damage by floods, Railway embankments are pitched at the locations which are prone to breaches and additional openings are provided, wherever, found necessary, after detailed site investigations. Railways also stockpile sufficient quantities of track materials, emergency girders, coal ash, ballast, boulders and necessary plant and equipment at suitable sites so that the same can be rushed to the site of flood damage for undertaking the restoration work with the least possible delay. In addition, vulnerable reaches are patrolled during monsoon.

#### Royalty to States for Exploitation of Natural Resources

1325. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether royalty to States for the exploitation of their natural resources is revised after every four years;

(b) if so, in how many cases this has not been done although four years have passed; and

(c) whether any proposal for fixing the royalty to States on yearly basis is under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI) : (a) to (c). The periodicity of revision of royalty rates for mineral resources is based on the statutory provisions governing their exploitation. In the case of mineral oil (comprising petroleum and natural gas), the rate of royalty cannot be enhanced in less than three years, and revision is optional at the discretion of Central Government. The last revision was made with effect from 1st April, 1984. However, the revision of royalty of crude oil is under consideration. In the case of minerals other than minor minerals, no enhancement of the rate of royalty can be made more than once during any period of three years. The rates of royalty on minerals other than coal and sand for stowing have been revised last on 5.5.1987. In the case of coal, rates of royalty were last revised in February, 1981.

There is no proposal under consideration for fixing the royalty to States on yearly basis.

[*Translation*]

### **Export of Gems and Jewels**

1326. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the export of gems and jewels in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the export of gems and jewels made in 1986, 1987 and 1988 separately;

(c) the foreign exchange earned during each of these years;

(d) the steps taken by Government during the current financial year to further boost the trade; and

(e) the countries to which export has been made or proposed to be made?

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

(b) The figures of export performance are maintained on the basis of financial year and are indicated below:-

Year	Exports( Rs./crores)
1985-86	1502.65
1986-87 (p)	2059.28
1987-88 (p)	2613.50
1988-89 (p) (April - October)	2449.00

Source: 1985-86-1987-88 DGCI & S, Calcutta April-October 1988: G&JEPC, Bombay

**P.** Provisional.

(c) As above.

(d) Policy initiatives taken to further promote exports of gems and jewellery includes simplification, streamlining and relaxation of procedures under Gold Control Act, liberalised lending norms by banks, setting up of 100% Export Oriented units etc.

(e) Gems and jewellery items are exported to over 60 countries, including USA, Japan, Belgium, Hong Kong, Switzerland, West Germany, Kuwait, France, Australia, Singapore, UAE etc.

[*English*]

### **Joint Ventures with Ghana**

1327. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a good scope for

Indo-Ghana joint ventures;

(b) if so, the areas identified; and

(c) the steps taken to establish Indo-Ghanian joint ventures?

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

(b) Broad areas where prospects exist for joint ventures in Ghana include agro-based industries, leather industries, ancillaries for transport equipment, bicycles, diesel engine, pumps and hand pumps, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, and mining for diamonds.

(c) Information about opportunities for setting up joint ventures is regularly disseminated amongst India business community. Indian capabilities in setting up joint ventures are also highlighted through participation in trade exhibitions and exchange of delegations.

[*Translation*]

#### **Coordination Between State Finance Corporations and State Industrial Corporations**

1328. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have been instructing state financial corporations and state industrial corporations to work in coordination and it has improved their working also;

(b) if so, the details of the instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India in this respect since January, 1988 and the names of the States which are following them;

(c) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested that banks and state financial corporations should work like Development

Corporations in order to check the increasing deficiencies of small and medium industrial units;

(d) the other suggestions made by FICCI in this regard;

(e) whether these suggestions are under consideration of Government; and

(f) if so, the time by which these suggestions are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (f). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines to banks from time to time on coordination between State Level Financial Institution and Commercial banks. The banks have also been advised to formulate effective monitoring system for ensuring timely and adequate working capital finance for projects approved by State Level Financial Institutions and to include such cases where units have not been able to get working capital finance from commercial banks in the agenda for consideration by State Level Inter-Institutions Committees which are required to meet once in 3 months.

IDBI has also been endeavouring to ensure proper coordination between State Financial Corporations (SFCs) and State Industrial Development Corporations (SIDCs) IDBI has reported that common loans application/common loaned documents for the use of SFCs and SIDCs have been evolved. IDBI has also reported that most of the SFCs & SIDCs have also set up entrepreneurial guidance cells.

IDBI has reported that Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had organised a meeting with council of State Industrial Development Corporations/SFCs and banks in New Delhi in October, 1988. The main suggestions made at the meeting include joint appraisal, standardisation of loan application forms simplification of loan documentation, setting up of

guidance cells in banks and financial institutions and cutting down of procedural delays in sanction and disbursement of assistance.

[English]

**Demand for Super Fast Train Between Delhi and Moradabad**

1329. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no super fast train connecting Delhi with Moradabad; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to introduce such a train?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Though there is no super fast service, there are 5 pairs of Express trains including 509/510 Avadh Assam Express which does not stop anywhere between Delhi and Moradabad. These are adequate for the present level of traffic.

**Implementation of Recommendation of Fourth Pay Commission**

1330. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 18.3.88 to Unstarred Question No. 3882 regarding issue of orders on recommendations of Fourth Pay Commission and state:

(a) whether the process of consideration of the remaining recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission has since been completed; and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the inordinate delay; and the time by which these will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.

GADHVI) : (a) and (b). The remaining recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission are actively under consideration of the Ministry of Finance and various other Ministries/Departments of the Government. Since the various Ministries/Departments have to consult the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel & Training) as well as the Ministry of Finance before arriving at a final decision by them, it may not be possible to indicate a precise time limit by which these will be finalised.

**Observance of World Thrift Day**

1331. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Thrift Day was observed on 30 October, 1988;

(b) if so, how this day was celebrated in different States and Union Territories of the country;

(c) whether Government had proposed to observe this day in a unique manner; and

(d) if so, in what way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). Every year 30th October, is observed as World Thrift Day. To spread the message of Savings, State Governments and Union Territories were advised to arrange on this day special functions at District and State Level. It was also suggested to organise elocution/essay writing contest on Thrift, among School and college Students.

To encourage Small Savings Agents, a scheme of prizes for them has introduced. These prizes were given at State level and also at National level.

A National level function was held at Panaji (Goa) to mark the occasion.

**Rail Travel Agents**

1332. SHRI PRATAPRAO B .BHOSALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rail Travel Service Agents have been appointed in Delhi;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted in this regard and the number of such Agents;

(c) the charges collected from these agents for their services;

(d) whether such agencies are appointed for a particular duration;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the services to be provided to passengers by these agents; and

(g) the charges the passengers have to pay to these agents for their services?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The appointments were made in accordance with the rules published in the Gazette Notification dated 5.12.85. 89 agents have been appointed in Delhi area so far.

(c) (i) Rs. 1200/- as licence fee for issue or renewal of each licence;

(ii) Rs 5000/- as Security Deposit in Cash and Rs. 15000/- as Bank Guarantee for the issue of licence.

(d) and (e). Licence to Rail travel Service Agents is issued for a period of three years.

(f) purchasing of tickets and securing of reservations on behalf of the passengers.

(g) Rs 15/- as service charges per pas-

senger for securing reservation in classes other than 2nd class and Rs 8/- per passenger in second class but in case reservation for more than one passenger is secured on the same requisition slip, service charges shall be Rs 8/- per passenger in excess of the first in the case of classes other than 2nd Class and Rs 5/- per passenger in excess of the first passenger in second class.

**Conversion of Ahmedabad-Delhi Route**

1333. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted a survey for conversion of Ahmedabad-Delhi metre gauge line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the net expenses made on conducting the survey, and the amount incurred so far on the project against the estimated cost; and

(c) when this project will be started and completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(c) There is no proposal to take up work on this project.

**Elevation of Judges of Calcutta High Court to Supreme Court**

1334. DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the number of judges from Calcutta High Court who have been elevated to the Supreme Court and to the post of chief Justice of any High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI



H.R. BHARDWAJ): Since January, 1983, till date, 3 Judges of the Calcutta High Court have been elevated to the Supreme Court, and another 5 Judges of the Calcutta High Court have been appointed/transferred as Chief Justices of different High courts.

#### **Setting up of Regional Rural Banks**

1335. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has not allowed setting up of any new regional rural bank since April this year;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether in 1987 a number of rural banks were set up in the country ; and

(d) whether any concrete plan has been prepared to set up rural banks during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). As per provisions contained in section 3 (1) of the Regional Rural Banks Act 1976 a Regional Rural Bank (RRB) is set up by Government of India.

During the year 1987 two regional rural banks, namely, Hindon Gramin Bank to cover Ghaziabad and Bulandshahar districts in Uttar Pradesh and Godavari Grammeena Bank to cover East and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh were set up. The emphasis at present is on strengthening the existing Regional Rural Banks rather than on setting up new ones.

#### **Transfer of Bank Loans by Indian Express Group**

1336. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds lent to Indian Express Group of papers by commercial

banks were transferred to other associated or related companies during the year 1985, 1986 and 1987;

(b) if so, the details of such intercorporate transfer of funds; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). In accordance with the statutes governing banks and practices and usages customary amongst bankers, banks cannot divulge information relating to their individual constituents.

#### **Tax Evasion Cases of Film Stars**

1337. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:  
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD  
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action on the tax evasion cases of film stars whose cases were pending for the last 6 years; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in taking action; and

(c) whether the delay in taking action against these tax evaders has encouraged all other film stars to evade taxes and how many cases are still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) and (b). In case of tax evasion including those of film stars, efforts are made to complete the assessments promptly for bringing the undisclosed income to tax and in no case these assessments can be kept pending beyond the time limits specified by law. The time limits laid down by law are such that no assessments

can be kept pending for six years.

(c) In view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

#### **Import of Iron Ore Fines by Japan**

1338. DR. B.L.SHAILESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese steel mills which have been importing Indian Iron Ore lumps over the years are not interested in import of iron ore fines, a byproduct of ore lumps;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the MMTC has found any other remunerative Market for the export of iron ore fines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated quantity of iron ore fines which is available for export and how it is proposed to meet the situation in the context of the Japanese monopolising purchase of Indian iron ore lumps?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). In addition to Japan, south Korea, and Romania are also regular buyers of iron ore fines from India. MMTC has also

entered into a 7 year long term contract with Pakistan for export of iron ore fines. Spot sales have also been to other countries like DPRK and Gulf countries.

(e) The estimated of iron ore fines available for export from India is reported to be as under:-

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)	
Calender Year	(Exportable Qty)
1985	182.14
1986	227.54
1987	203.41

The above figures include concentrates from KIOCL mines in Karnataka. Japan continues to buy iron ore fines from India and has not restricted its purchases to lumps. However, MMTC continues to make efforts to export fines to other countries as well.

#### **Amount Spent on Flood Relief**

1339. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state; the total amount spent of flood relief measures during each of the plan since the First five Year Plan, Plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI) : (a) A statement is given below.

#### **STATEMENT**

#### **CENTRAL ASSISTANCE RELEASED TO THE STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR FLOOD RELIEF**

<i>Plan Period</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in crores)</i>
First Plan ( 1952-56 ) *	7.52
Second Plan ( 1956-61)*	7.21
Third Plan ( 1961-66) *	11.22

<i>Plan Period</i>	<i>Amount (Rs. in crores)</i>
Annual Plan ( 1966-67)	3.65
Annual Plan ( 1967-68)	4.11
Annual Plan (1968-69)	40.84
Fourth Plan ( 1969-74)	298.28
Fifth Plan (1974-79)	413.93
Annual Plan (1979-80)	88.73
Sixth Plan (1980-85)	838.33
Seventh Plan (1985-90) (upto 1987-88)	828.07

\* Includes Central assistance for Cyclone, etc. i.e other than drought.

N.B. For 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1978-79 includes also Central Assistance for drought for some of the States.

#### **Sickness in Small Scale Sector**

1340. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE  
PATIL :  
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has recently suggested to Government the necessity of a Central Legislation to combat the problem of growing sickness in the small scale sector;

(b) whether a time bound target for actions/initiatives by all concerned agencies, for success of the revival package of sick units has also been suggested; and

(c) if so, Government's response to the suggestions made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO) :(a) The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has sent a letter suggesting, inter-alia, the need for a model Act, concerning sickness in small sector.

(b) and (c). RBI has advised the banks that in respect of SSI units classified as sick as on 30th June, 1988 viability studies should be completed before 31st October, 1988 and in the case of potentially viable units, nursing programme formulated and implemented by 31st December 1988.

#### **Import Licence to Aerated Waters Company**

1341. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aerated waters company has been given Import Licence for importing any raw materials; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the items being imported by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12.00 hrs

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: (Jadavpur) : Sir, freedom of the press is our commitment. But what happens in West Bengal, Sir? The journalists and non-journalists of one Bengali daily 'Uttar Benga Samvad' are being harassed by the CPM people for the last one month. Their houses are being burnt and they are assaulted by the CPM workers.

MR. SPEAKER : Let your Members take it up in the Assembly there.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The State Government is not doing anything. The State Government is not giving protection to the journalists.

MR. SPEAKER : The Opposition there has to safeguard their position.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, this is the letter written by the editor of the daily requesting for protection. (*nterruptions*) The Government of India should give protection to the journalists and non-journalists there.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Sir, in Jammu and Kashmir State, we are experiencing extreme shortage of electricity. The condition is much worse in Kashmir Valley where there is a complete shut-down

of electricity for three yeas in a week and for the rest of the four days, the supply is just at intervals. The point is that we want the Central Government to santion gas turbine generators. We have no transition lines.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You give it in writing : I will do it.

[*English*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I want your intervention. Mr. Sathe should visit Srinagar immediately. We are living in darkness. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Sir, in this House we have not yet discussed the air crashes that took place recently. I am raising a very serious issue of purchase of Westland helicopters . All the Expert Committee objected to it. I have a moving letter from one of the relatives of the victim, widow, Mrs. Sanga Mitra Gupta. She has written this letter.

MR. SPEAKER : We can discuss this. But the problem is.....

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : When are you going to allow a discussion?

MR. SPEAKER : No problem with me. The Business Advisory Committee has to allot time.

[*Translation*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir. your words can turn the prevailing darkness in the State into light.

MR. SPEAKER : You give it in writing.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I will give it in writing but you also issue directions to hon. Shri Vasant Sathe that he should pay a visit

there.

MR. SPEAKER : You give it in writing .  
I will send it to him.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Your works  
will turn the existing darkness into light.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :  
Sir, India's image abroad is being affected by  
the fact that Amnesty International of Lon-  
don—you know that, Sir, have published  
and circulated throughout the world a report  
about the violation of human rights in Bihar  
and we should not give them this opportunity  
because we are doing nothing about the  
massacre and atrocities on Harijans and  
others. That is why they are able to collect  
this material and circulate it throughout the  
world.

MR. SPEAKER : We have discussed it  
already.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: They should  
tell us something. Are they going to do  
something about it or leave it like that? The  
Bihar Government is incapable of doing  
anything.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY:  
(Mahbubnagar) : Sir, I gave notice for dis-  
cussion on 'Pepsi-cola' tie-ups. You have  
agreed in principle, Sir, Some time should be  
fixed.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : I will do it when the  
time comes.

[*English*]

There is no problem with me.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The Minister  
is agreeable.

MR . SPEAKER : It is not a question of  
his agreeing. It is the question of our agree-  
ing. He has to.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH :(  
Mathura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dandavate had  
raised the matter concerning the statement  
of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs in the  
House yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : It has been done.

[*English*]

SHRI R. L. BHATIA (Amritsar) : Sir, the  
other day I raised the question about the  
statement of Mr. Jethmalani regarding  
'Khalistan'. You promised that a discussion  
will take place.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Let your notice come  
to the Business Advisory Committee and  
when it allots time, I shall allow.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) :  
Mr Speaker, Sir, a lot has been written in  
today's newspapers , on Indo Nepal rela-  
tions. Government should make its latest  
stand clear in this regard because legal  
hurdles are being increasingly created for  
the Indians living in Nepal and steps are  
being taken to do away with the facilities  
which they have been getting hitherto.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

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[English]

12.03 hrs

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

**Notification re: Exemption from payment of foreign travel tax to delegation from Angola**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 1031 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption from payment of foreign travel tax to the delegation from Angola who visited India in October, 1988. [Placed in Library See No. LT-6722/88]

**Notification under Coinage Act, 1906 and under General Insurance Business (Notification) Act, 1972**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906:-

(i) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of the Ferritic Stainless Steel Coins) of Fifty Paise, Twenty-five Paise and Ten Paise (containing Iron 82 per cent and Chromium 18 per cent) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 811 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 1988.

(ii) The Coinage (Standard

Weight and Remedy of the Commemorative Coins) of One Rupee (containing Copper 75 per cent and Nickel 25 per cent) coined on the theme "Rainfed Farming" (on the occasion of celebration of the Eighth World Food Day on the 17th October, 1988) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 914 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1988. [Placed in library. See No. LT 6723/88]

2. A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17-A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:-

(i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scale and other conditions of service of Supervisory/Clerical Subordinate Staff) Second Amendment Scheme, 1988, published in Notification No. S. O. 780 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 1988.

(ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Development Staff) Amendment Scheme, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 781 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 1988.

(iii) The General Insurance (rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other conditions of Service of Officers) Second Amendment Scheme, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 782 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 1988. [Placed in Library See No. LT 6724/88]

**Notification under High Court Judges (Condition of Service) Act, Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958, Reports of Law Commission and Report of General Elections to Legislative Assemblies of certain States**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954:-

(i) The High Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 635 in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 1988.

(ii) The High Court Judges Travelling Allowance (Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 914 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 1988. [Placed in Library See No. LT 6725/88]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 41 of the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958:-

(i) The Supreme Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 636 in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 1988.

(ii) The Supreme Court Judges

(Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 915(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1988. [Placed in Library See No. LT 6726/88]

(3) A copy each of the following Reports of the Law Commission (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) One Hundred Twenty-Seventh Report on Resource Allocation for Infra-Structural Services in Judicial Administration. [Placed in Library See No. LT 6727/88]

(ii) One Hundred Twenty-Eighth Report on cost of Litigation. [Placed in Library See No. LT 6728/88]

(4) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Daman and Diu and Pondicherry, 1984-85—Volumes I to III (Statistical). [Placed in Library See No. LT 6729/88]

**Notification under Rubber Act, 1947; Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and Coffee Act, 1942**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Rubber (Amendment) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 716(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th

- June, 1988 under sub-section (3) of section 25 of the Rubber Act, 1947. [Placed in Library See No. LT 6730/88]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947:-
- (i) S.O. 853(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1988 making certain amendments in the Open General Licence No. 23/88 dated the 30th March, 1988.
- (ii) S.O. 926(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 1988 making certain amendments in the Open General Licence No. 16/88 dated the 30th March, 1988.
- (iii) S.O. 978(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th October, 1988 making certain amendments in the Open General Licence Number 2/88, dated the 3th March, 1988. [Placed in Library See No. LT 6731/88]
- (3) A copy of the Coffee (Amendment) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 663(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 1988, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942. [Placed in Library See No. LT 6732/88]

versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

- (i) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I, II and III and final replies in respect of Chapter V of Thirty-First Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Reservations for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited.
- (ii) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I, II and III and final replies in respect of Chapter V of Thirty-second Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Reservations for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in UCO Bank and credit facilities provided by the Bank to Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes.
- (iii) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I, II and III and final replies in respect of Chapter V of Thirty-third Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Reservations for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Western Railway.

12.05 1/4 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF  
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED  
TRIBES

[English]

**Statements Showing Action taken by  
Government on Recommendation**

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English

12.06 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government



[Smt. Sheila Dikshit]

Business in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 21st November, 1988, will consist of:-

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Consideration and passing of:
  - a) The Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill, 1988.
  - b) The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
- (3) Discussion on the Resolution regarding National Housing Policy.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:-

Keeping in view our performance in the last "Seoul Olympic" it is high time to formulate a National Sports policy and create an upsurge in the country to make sports a way of life.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): The following item may be included in the next week's agenda:-

There is widespread resentment amongst the Punjabi writers, journalists and scholars that Punjabi language is being eliminated in the neighbouring States of Punjab such as Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, J & K and Himachal Pradesh. In Delhi the Government has issued directive to the students to opt the third language only from Bengali, Malayalam and Telugu. I deprives thousands of Punjabi speaking students of their right to read Punjabi.

The Punjabi writers have decided to go on strike on November 30 against the policy of Radio, Doordarshan, Punjab University, Chandigarh and other Central Departments

in this regard. All these complaints should be taken in the light of Rajiv-Longowal accord, which pledges the promotion of Punjab language in the neighbouring States.

12.08 hrs.

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

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is not a single statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the capital. When it was decided in a meeting of the Central Cabinet in the year 1966 that the statue of King George V would be replaced by the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, the decision was welcomed all over the country. But it is a matter of great regret that although the statue of King George V was removed in 1968, the statue of Mahatma Gandhi has not been installed so far. It was decided in 1976 that the statue of Gandhiji in a sitting posture would be installed at India Gate and by doing so it will not be necessary to break the umbrella and the statue will also give a proper look. In 1980, after a competition of sculptors was held at the national level, Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had decided that a bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi would be sculpted, but eight years have since passed and nothing has been done.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government that the statue of Mahatma Gandhi be installed at the earliest at India Gate which will fulfill the aspirations of the people of this country.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following matter may be included in the next week's list of business.

The district of Morena which is situated in the Chambal division of Madhya Pradesh is a very backward area. The reason behind it is that a big river flows through it. Due to the flow of this river, there has been considerable soil erosion. As result, the farmers are left with negligible land in their possession

today. Consequently, the farmers and the farm labourers are facing a difficult situation although there are large reserves of raw material available there for the manufacture of cement. Apart from that, the raw material for making catechu is also available there. But the industrialists are not keen to set up industries in this area. This is because Government subsidy is only 10 per cent. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to declare this district as a backward district so that the industrialists could come forward to set up industries there and the poor people could get employment.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:

Education is in the Concurrent List. The Union Government has also to look into implementation of National Education policy in States. Certain States lag behind in implementation of this policy. In Orissa, so far, not even one college has been recommended by Government or Universities to be raised to status of autonomous college. Many private colleges running for years are deprived of U.G.C. grants since the State Government is only giving temporary or provisional concurrence and basing upon it, the Universities are also giving temporary affiliation. U.G.C. grants are given to such colleges having permanent affiliation under a university.

I urge upon the Ministry of Human Resource Development to intervene and do justice in the interest of growth of institutions.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following matter may kindly be included in the list of business for the next week:-

The HBJ gas pipeline passes through

my constituency covering about 100 kms. of area. Several large industries are being set up on this line. Many more industries are likely to be set up on this pipe line in the near future so that the gas could be fully utilised.

A gas based fertiliser plant was to be set up at Sawai-Madhopur in Rajasthan but the project was cancelled by the Ministry of Environment and forests on account of environmental considerations and in consideration of the Ranthambhor sanctuary.

The specialists have now selected a place called Gadepan in Kota district. I want to request the Central Government that before setting up this plant, special arrangements should be made for the treatment of industrial effluence because it will pose a health hazard to the birds, animals and human beings of the surrounding area.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following matter may be included in the list of business for the next week:-

The Adivasi dominated district of Bastar is considered the most backward district even today due to its backwardness and ignorance. The social and economic situation of Bastar is reflected in the standard of living of the tribals. The fruits of progress and development have brought rapid change in their economic, educational and general standard of living. Superstition and blind faith is an inherited trait for them. However, the progress in the field of medicine has made some impact on their outlook and they are becoming progressive in their attitudes. As the area of this district is more than that of Kerala State, the primary health centres at the development block level are located at a distance of 50 to 100 kms. The Adivasi patients have to cover the whole distance on foot. Besides, due to non-availability of complete medical facilities in these health centres, the patients are advised to go to the district hospital which is about 150 to 200 kms away. Under these circumstances, the Adivasis are not able to avail of the modern medical facilities in the district hospital.

[Sh. Mankuram Sodi]

Therefore, I want to submit to the Central Government that the view of the vastness of the Bastar district, directions should be issued for the setting up of district level hospitals at every project headquarter so that the Adivasis can get the benefit of modern medical facilities and be saved from the illusions of age old superstitions and beliefs.

[English]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Rajasthan State, girls' enrolment is very poor and for desert and tribal districts, it is a cause of great concern. Non-formal education centres can help improving girls' enrolment. As per the existing policy of the Government of India, the number of girls' Non-formal education centres is restricted to 30% of the total centres. In view of the peculiar problem and low literacy among girls, the percentage of girls centres needs to be enhanced to more than 50%.

It is also suggested that in all desert and tribal districts, the Government of India should introduce a scheme of attendance scholarships for girls, since the drop-out rate among girls is very high due to economic reasons.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want the following subjects to be included in the next week's list of business:-

1. The employees of Telephone Department have been agitation for a long time in support of their demand of better wages. Even the Department considers their demands justified. The technicians of this department are getting lower wages as compared to other departments. Their demands for better wages have not been finally accepted and various hinderances are being created in this regard. It is in the interest of the department to start high tech-

nology and train its workers and give them better wages but unrest caused by the delay in accepting this unanimous demand has affected the efficiency of the department. Therefore, discussion on this subject in the House is essential.

2. The employees in Government press are getting a bonus for lesser number of days as compared to other Government employees. While the employees of this very department have been given bonus of 27 days, the technical employees in Government press have been given bonus of 21 days only. There is unrest amongst in the employees due to this anomaly. Therefore it is essential to hold discussion in the House on this subject also.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, we take note of the submissions made by the hon. Members and we will try to absorb as many as we can next week.

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12.18 hrs.

[English]

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

#### Demands of Farmers and Agriculture Labour—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up the next item i.e. Further discussion on the demands of farmers and agricultural labour raised by Shri C. Janga Reddy on the 3rd November, 1988.

Shri Harish Rawat to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was an industrial lobby in our country which constantly demanded concessions for the industries. The demands of the farmers have also been a subject of discussion within as well as out-

side of the House. I support the provision of the remunerative price to the farmers for their produce. But a balance will have to be maintained between the price of farmer's produce and the situations prevailing in the country. It will not do if every section in the country gets used to working like a trade union. Our party sympathises with the farmers as much as those who call themselves the leaders of the farmers. We stand much better if you compare the work done by the Congress and the Congress Governments for the welfare of the farmers to the work done by the Opposition Governments in this regard. Today many people are indulging in inciting the farmers and taking them to the boat club. I feel that all this goes against the interest of the farmers. There is no denying the fact that the farmers should be paid fair price for their sugarcane produce. I would like to give the example of Haryana in the context of the demand being made for paying Rs. 35 per quintal for sugarcane, and the way political parties are supporting it. The hon. Minister of Agriculture hails from Haryana and he must be well aware that the present Government of Haryana has purchased only a limited quantity of sugarcane at a price of Rs. 35 per quintal and the rest of the sugarcane is being sold by the farmers at the same price in the other states. They have purchased some quantity of sugarcane at a price of Rs. 35 for publicity, the Haryana Government feels that it will be able to achieve something by inciting the farmers of other states and pressurising their Governments. I feel that this is not right. The hon. Minister of Agriculture should adopt a clear policy on this subject according to which there should be a parity in the price of sugarcane and other products of the farmers in different states. If with an eye over the elections, State Governments start increasing the prices on their own, then it will give rise to a situation which will be in favour of neither the farmers nor the State Governments and the industry. We all talk of the benefit of farmers, but we have to see as to what percentage of farmers are benefited if we give them the best price. What was the percentage of the farmers represented by Shri Mahendra Singh Tikait at the Boat Club? It

would be maximum 10 per cent and only 10 per cent of the farmers in India are such who own 15 acres or more of land. Rest of the farmers are such who grow foodgrains as per their need. Therefore he is not going to be benefited, no matter what price you fix for it. A very few percentage of farmers in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh is going to be benefited by the increase in the price of foodgrains. Separate policies will have to be formed for the real farmer, who is a marginal farmer and who is dependent on agriculture. The marginal farmer is unable to get the expected benefit of the programmes of development agencies. The farmer is not even able to get the benefit of policy formulated for fixing the prices of agricultural produce. This needs to be looked into. The programmes formulated by the Government for the welfare of the farmers and the villagers were very good but there is a machinery in between the programmes and the farmers which is not implementing those programmes properly. The programmes like N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P., I.R.D.P. etc. are meant for the development of small and marginal farmers. The Government is spending crores of rupees and every year there is an increase in the amount to be incurred on these programmes. However, those programmes are not being evaluated. Those who are directly associated and are called their representatives do not have contact with the people whom they represent. I do not agree with what Shri Gauri Shankar was saying the other day that nothing is being done in this regard. Some thing is definitely being done, it may not be upto the desired extent. You should look into it. Not only the West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh Government utilised the money provided under N.R.E.P. for political purposes but some other state Governments also have not made proper use of these funds. The I.R.D.P. programme had created a ray of hope in the hearts of lakhs of poor farmers that they will be benefited, but the poor farmers have not been trained properly in this programme. They have been given loans but no scheme has been formulated. The Government machinery has no feeling of dedication. Several farmers and labourers

[Sh. Harish Rawat]  
who had taken loans under I.R.D.P. are being imprisoned and money is being recovered from them. The Government will have to reconsider as to whether the I.R.D.P. loans should be waived completely or partially for those whom we have to raise above the poverty line but have been unable to do so. Crores of rupees remains unrecovered from the capitalists and they are pocketing it. Something should be done for the farmers of India by virtue of whom we have arrived in this House. This needs due consideration. I support all the suggestions given for the welfare of the farmers and I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that concrete steps should be taken for the welfare of the farmers and the poor. The Government will also have to make arrangement too see that the benefits of the schemes formulated for the welfare of the farmers reach them. All needs of the farmers should be fulfilled in time. If you make such arrangements, the farmer will surely be greatly benefited.

[English]

SHRI M.R. SAIKIA (Nowgong): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in our country nearly 80% of people depends on agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of our national economy. Unless we develop this sector of economy, it is difficult to have the economic development in the country.

We have been discussing many things about the problem of cultivators, farmers and landless agricultural labourers; but nothing has been done to uplift this particular section of society. They have been facing many problems-problems of regular supply of water to their fields, problems of having better quality of seeds, problems of having regular supply of electricity and the like.

In my State of Assam, there are frequent floods damaging the standing crops. We find in our country that most of the areas suffer either from floods or drought.

Nearly 70% of the cultivable land depends upon rainfall. If monsoon comes regu-

larly there will be good agricultural harvest; if it fails then there will be drought. Therefore some areas suffer from excessive supply of water and some other areas suffer from paucity of water. Steps should be taken to control floods and also to supply water regularly.

For that purpose what I want to suggest is that dams should be constructed on all the rivers so that at the time of need, water can be taken to the agricultural fields through canals.

We find that the electricity charges are not uniform all over the country. In some areas the rates are high and in some other areas the rates are low. In situations like drought and flood the poor agriculturists are not able to pay their electricity charges. Therefore instead of suspending the payment of electricity charges there should be a provision of waiving the charges.

There is also the problem of heavy burden of agricultural loan. The Government of India always states that it is difficult to waive the agricultural loan. But we find in some States, including the Congress ruled States like Maharashtra, that the Government has waived the agricultural loans. What is the reason which prevents the Central Government to take such steps to give relief to the poor cultivators?

We also find that the Government has introduced a provision to supply fertilizers at subsidised rate. But the question is whether that benefit goes to the common people or to the big industrialists; whether there are some steps taken by the Government of India to prevent such malpractices to see that the benefits really go to the common people. Most of the fertilisers are taken away by the big industrialists. Tea planters take away 80 per cent of the fertilizers for their own benefit. Ultimately what we find is that the benefits proposed to be given to the common people are enjoyed not by the common people but by the big industrialists. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to examine the system of providing fertilisers to

the poor people so that the real benefit goes to the common people.

Then again we find in our country there are millions of landless agricultural labourers who are not properly organised. Therefore, their position is very very weak. On account of this weakness on their part they cannot bargain with the employers and thus we find they are paid even at rates lower than the ones provided under the Minimum wages Act. I would like to know what steps have been taken against violation of this Act. I would also like to know how many cases have been framed against the violators of the Minimum Wages Act? What is the sense of having such an Act unless the Act is effectively enforced. There is no sense of having such an Act confined to paper alone. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to see that such Acts which remain on paper alone are duly enforced and there is no violation of these Acts. Again these people are not employed for the whole year. They are casual labour. Provision should be made for their employment during the lean period. I suggest that steps should be taken for extension and development of village khadi industries and small scale industries where those people can be employed.

Sir, Government has been very vocal about the Land Reforms Act but is it being applied in practice? If we go to Bihar what do we find? The full-fledged system of zamindari is going on there. Nobody is challenging that. I would like to know whether Land Ceiling Act is being properly applied or not. Similarly in some parts of U.P. also full-fledged system of zamindari is prevailing though not in form but in practice.

Therefore, in conclusion I would say that Land Reforms Act should be properly amended so that there is no violation on this Act and that it is effectively enforced for the interest of the poor cultivators. With these few words. I conclude.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is complete unanimity in the House as far as I can see in

regard to many of the demands of our farmers. We want crop insurance and cattle insurance. We want also famine insurance, flood insurance and anti-erosion measures have to be taken. We want water rates and power rates to be removed or reduced considerably. We also want remunerative prices and not only support prices. In regard to all these things there is unanimity but where from money is going to come? It is just there the Government policy has got to be settled.

I am very glad to find fortunately in view of the coming elections that the Opposition party people also have begun to talk about the parity between urban areas and rural areas, urban people and rural people, between agriculturists and non-agriculturists. They want this parity to be enforced through State policy. This policy has got to be made very clear, has got to be placed as a standard for the Planning Commission. It is not the job of the Planning Commission to say 'yes' or 'no' to anything that the Ministry or any Minister proposes. It is for the Planning Commission to accept the policy adumbrated and accepted by the Government of the day and especially when the Opposition also is agreeable to it. That is where, Sir, I want the Parliament, as a whole, and all the leaders of the parties to sincerely make it very clear — as they have done now — and stand by it about their attitudes in regard to agriculturists so that the Planning Commission would be able to take it as its master instruction.

With great difficulty, the Government had established, first of all, the Agricultural Prices Commission. But then that began to think only in terms of consumers. With much greater difficulty we were able to persuade the Government and through the Government, the Planning Commission also, to establish what is known as 'Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission' so that the producers' interests also could be given primacy. This has got to be implemented. The Planning Commission is not willing to accept it so very heartily. So, they wanted to go back again to 'Agricultural Prices Commission'

[Prof. N.G. Ranga] and drop the word 'Costs'. It goes to the credit of the former Minister and especially the present Minister and more especially the Prime Minister to have accepted the demand made to them in the House as well as outside that it should not go back again to Prices Commission, it should stand by the assurance given and the policy laid down and the action taken by Indiraji that it should be Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission so that the interests of the farmer would be given primacy, thereafter the interests of the consumers also.

Secondly, Sir, it has got to be accepted — the policy of price parity between agriculturists and others, price parity also between agricultural prices and other prices. This has got to be placed before the Planning Commission and let them prepare their own plans. Now when we ask the Government to take up so many of these constructive activities, which would mean the expenditure of not even hundreds of crores but even thousand crores and more, we do not suggest to the Government how they are to get this money. It is not the business of the Agriculture Minister alone. Fortunately for us, we have had agriculturists put in charge of this Ministry for a number of years. From Raoji, Dhillonji and now Bhajan Lalji, all the three of them are agriculturists. What can they do by themselves? Half a dozen and more Ministries are involved in the various fields. That has got to be done in order to protect the interests of the agriculturists. All of them have got to be put on a panel to be presided over by the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister to be its Vice-Chairman. It should be that panel's job to allot various responsibilities in regard to all these various things that are needed to be done in order to provide minimum protection, minimum satisfaction to the agriculturists. This has not been done. This has got to be done. Otherwise, Sir, what happens? We make all the suggestions. We have been making them again and again almost in every session and the result is not satisfactory. Where is the money — these thousands of crores of rupees — to come from? We want more

power, more irrigation, more anti-erosion measures, more protection against natural calamities, drought, floods, frost and so on. Who is going to pay for this? I suggest that a time has come when we have got to make it very clear to non-agriculturists that they have got to make sufficient contribution and allow the Government to raise sufficient funds in order to finance all these things. That is why, I suggest that there should be a purchase tax except on foodgrains and medicines.

As you know, as a result of the Planning Commission's work and the Government planning also during the last forty years, the middle classes have come up like anything. It is to the credit of our country and our farmers that the middle class have been strengthened and their wealth has been going up and they can now be expected to make some contribution. And that is why, I suggest that now their contribution should be there whether it is 5 per cent or 10 per cent, and in course of time as their wealth grows, the demand that the Government would be making for their contribution would also be growing, but that contribution has got to be collected from those people either in the shape of surcharge on income tax, and various other taxes or in some other ways, but an effort has got to be made. Then, purchase tax also. Middle classes are spending money like anything. Go anywhere in the small towns, and not to speak of citizens. Shops are growing in number, in depth and in wealth and in their profits. Who is responsible for all this? It is the expenditure by the middle classes and the upper classes on various odds which are not so very essential, which are generally luxurious, and which certainly are of higher prices. So, purchase tax has got to be raised and surcharge on income tax has got to be raised in the name of rural reconstruction. I call it rural reconstruction because rural housing has not been paid any attention at all.

And then, the rural hygiene, rural health, all the various services have got to be developed. Where from are you going to get this money? Who is going to contribute?

It is not good to ask the farmers to pay as everybody has said here. Even flourishing peasants do not get more than a thousand rupees as family income per month, as net income, whereas on the other hand, if a farmer is sensible enough to get his one or two sons educated and then they get a job of a clerk, they start with a salary of not less than a thousand rupees each. Their income is generally Rs. 1500 each per month and it goes on to several thousand of rupees. Under these circumstances, how can you expect farmers to agree to make any contribution to the revenues of the Government?

Our friends talk of implementation of the land ceiling and so on. It is good that the ceiling has got to be implemented, the principle has to be accepted. Some people have managed to escape and so on. But nevertheless, because of the law, the land by two generations comes to be divided. By now, it must have come down below the ceiling even in the few cases where people had escaped. The most important thing is not that at all, but it is to see that minimum wages are fixed, minimum employment assurance is given to farmers as well as to workers as has been done in a few States and minimum prices have got to be prescribed.

It goes to the credit of our present Minister here that he has given an exhortation to all the farmers all over India not to indulge in distress sales. It means a lot. They would not sell, but somebody has got to buy their produce, otherwise they do not have money and somebody has to advance them credit and so on. All those things will follow. But first of all, should not be forced to sell his produce. Therefore, it means that the courts should not accept any complaints from the creditors. The decrease should not be enforced; there should not be any distress sales of land for satisfaction of the debts and so on. So many things followed as a result of that very courageous exhortation that the Agriculture Minister had given the other day. All credit to him.

There is also the Crop Insurance Scheme. It used to be up to mandal level and

we suggested that it should be brought down to the village level. In a second, Sir, the Minister came forward and said, "Yes, it should be started from the village itself." Then we also suggested that this insurance should not be limited only to those people who borrow from the cooperative associations and other banks but it should be extended to all the farmers whether they are debtors or not. The Minister accepted it. Then, how could you find fault with the Minister and more so with the Prime Minister?

I am very glad that this young man has become our Prime Minister. He came fresh without any prejudices. He has been going around our 'jhoparies' and our villages and he has seen the misery of our people which has been pictured by so many of our Hon. Members unanimously in this House. He too has shed tears for the sufferings of these people. Therefore, he has taken cudgels with all those authorities in various ministries including the Planning Commission, that their attitude towards farmers should change. This is a great lead that he has given. It is a courageous lead too because the services are not so very powerless, rather often at times they are very much more powerful. Therefore, this exhortation is very much needed. It has come from the Prime Minister himself. It will be a source of strength to the Minister for Agriculture and other ministers associated with various activities of our own farmers. I am very glad about it.

I am also glad that the farmers are organising themselves according to their parties. There was a time when so many Congress people were just wondering whether there will be any need for a separate 'kissan' organisation. We were able to persuade Mahatma Gandhi to agree to it. Now, the Communist Party people were also at times, hesitant because their mentor elsewhere was more keen about the proletariat than about the peasants because they thought that the peasants are petty bourgeois, money-minded and private property minded people and so on.



[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

Here also comes the Gorbachev. The horrors committed by the Stalin's regime and the sufferings were inflicted upon the poor farmers and 'kissans' of Soviet Russia. Today, all these people have got to be helped, served, protected and raised at least to our Class-IV people to begin with. More so, the urban middle class people, salaried people, educated people, all these people have got to be made to pay and they will pay once the Government as well as the Opposition agree to this particular principle.

Sir, there was a time when we wanted the abolition of the 'Zamindari' system. Many people rose against it. But nevertheless it came to be the national policy of all parties. Today nobody is prepared to go back to the 'Zamindari' system. Similarly the Raja Pratha has also gone. Today to be a 'raja', to be hailed as a 'raja' is no longer a matter of credit about a matter of shame. Rajas themselves go on saying that they are no longer 'rajas'. In the same way the approach of the richer classes towards the agriculturists, the attitude of the educated administrative people towards 'kissans' should be raised. This should be given the first priority. The Government and the Opposition should go throughout India and make it as an accepted national policy so that we will be able to strengthen the hands of the Agriculture Minister and the other concerned minister also and we will be able to strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister also. If we accept this, then we would welcome the 'kissan' marches that are going on all over India. If it is right for the Vice-Chancellors, for College professors, for even scientific workers drawing Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 as salaries, and may be for other people also to march for better conditions of life, to organize their own marches everywhere, to go on strike, how is it wrong for farmers to organize themselves, to organize their own marches and make their own demonstrations?

But, unfortunately, some of our political parties seem to think that it is their own monopoly. But it is not the monopoly of the Opposition. It is not the monopoly of the

Government, either. It is because of that, when a wrong time was chosen, a wrong place was chosen by some of our people, other kisans also demonstrated the other day. If you had a demonstration at the Boat Club, we had 3 times, 5 times bigger demonstrations at the Red fort. How did all those people come? One-third or one-fourth of them must have come because of the various facilities provided by these organized political parties; but the rest of them came of their own accord. They came and demonstrated that they were behind the national Government, they were behind Rajiv Gandhi; not because he is the Prime Minister; also because he is the Prime Minister, indeed because he is the Prime Minister he has chosen to champion their cause in such ringing terms, eloquent terms, as had been our charge till now, in favour of the farmers, as against all other classes. Therefore, I make this appeal to the people and to all political parties in Parliament, to stand by the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister in regard to their policies vis-a-vis the farmers. In regard to other things, they may differ. Mr. Raghuma Reddy has mentioned so many things. So many other things have been mentioned by people who have come from other States, from all over India and from all other parties. All these are needed. I am in support of them, except one point, viz. the point made by one to our friends, that the poor farmers, small farmers, inefficient farmers, backward farmers cannot make a proper contribution; therefore, they should be brought compulsorily into cooperatives; their land holdings should be merged into cooperatives. I do not agree with that. On that, I had joined issue with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We fought all over the country against that proposal, viz. compulsory cooperative farming. We also fought against the other proposal that agricultural holdings also should be treated in the same way as the zamindaris; and, therefore, they should be abolished. That system has gone. And what is more, Soviet Russia itself has given it up. It is coming back to peasant proprietorship. Therefore, I stand by self-employment, self-employed peasants, self-employment for farmers, self-employment for all, for as many

of the rural workers in arts and crafts as possible.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the various problems of farmers for the last two days. This itself shows how much interest we take in the welfare of our farmers. Our Senior Colleague Prof. Ranga has given many valuable suggestions in this regard.

Even after 40 years of Independence, the life conditions of the farmers have not improved as much as we expected. The investment for the welfare of farmers is very meagre even though there are about 60 crores of farmers in the country. Merchants, officials and others are receiving better treatment even though they constitute a lesser percentage of population.

I have seen the living conditions of various people in various capacities as President, Secretary etc.

Tax evasion and black money in this country is estimated to be about 30 thousand crores of rupees.

As Prof Ranga has said, the farmer is facing many problems. Therefore, we have to provide water, electricity and other facilities to him. If this is not done then there is no future for farmers in this country.

Democracy is flourishing in this country only on account of farmers and not on account of merchants and politicians. Farmers is like a cow, an innocent person. If he has to lead a life of a good citizen, he should get the following facilities:

1. Crop insurance;
2. Cattle insurance;
3. Insurance for the farmer's property affected by floods and drought.

Irrigational facilities should get top priority in our country. Bhakra Nangal is a big dam which provides water to lakhs of acres of

land for irrigation. The small farmers who take loan for pumpsets, tube wells etc. are not in a position to clear their debts. About three thousand crores of rupees are paid as subsidy for fertilizers. But where does this amount go? The Managing Director of Mangala Fertilizers in Mangalore gets 25 thousand rupees as his salary. It is high time that our Government should look into these matters.

The rate of paddy was about Rs. 180 in the year 1967. Now, the rate is around rupees 200/- only. At the same time what is the increase in the rate of fertilizers since 1967 till today? These differences have to be rectified immediately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you resume your seat for one minute? Hon members, I have a list of 11 members who want to speak on this subject. The Minister is going to reply to the debate at 2 P.M. He needs a minimum of one hour to finish his reply. Therefore, if all the hon. Members present in the House agree, then we can forgo our lunch hour today so that we may be able to finish our discussion on this subject.

ALL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, the House has decided to forgo the lunch hour today. Now I shall request all the members to be brief when they speak so that we may be able to finish it by 2 P.M.

Mr. Basavaraju, now you can continue your speech.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Our Government's objectives are exemplary. We have many programmes like N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P. etc. for the upliftment of the poor masses of this country. But, I am sorry to say that the money paid by our Government for these programmes is being misused by officers, administrators and others.

Cotton growers, Sugarcane growers and all other farmers are facing the problem of marketing. Our Government should come

[Sh. G.S. Basavaraju]  
to their rescue. If the farmers get marketing facilities, irrigation facilities etc. Then the whole country can progress because the farmers is the backbone of our country's economy. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, every session, we are discussing about the agricultural labourers and their economic condition in our country.

Four hundred and forty six Districts are there in our country. There are 5.4 lakhs of villages. Out of which, 4.4 lakhs of villages have been electrified. If there is one bulb in a village, that village also come under the category of electrified village.

Out of 90 million farm holdings, only three-fourth of the holdings are with the marginal farmers. Their holding amounts to two hectares. There are big farms. Because of the failure of land reforms, the actual tiller of the soil has not been able to get agricultural land. This is where we are failing.

The actual farmers, the tillers whom we are calling as poor, do not have land. There are four categories of farmers agricultural labour; small farmers; marginal farmers and affluent farmers. Do you not think at any time that this is the only Department which does not need any training or any kind of technology which would bring the farming in a developed manner? So those are unable to find any job anywhere have to go back to the village for any sort of job that is open to them i.e. agricultural farming. But that is also not available for the whole year. 67 per cent of the people are still depending upon farming. Even after 40 years of Independence this percentage of people have been neglected. And because of this negligence, the country could not move forward. It is unfortunate that the farmers, who are the food growers, are forced to lead a sub-human life. You will be

surprised to know that the average milk consumption is 160.8 grams. Perhaps, it is not sufficient even for a cup of tea. But we are boasting that we are going to be equal to America or other developed countries. If you see our standard of living, per capita consumption of many essential items, you will find that we are one of the poorest countries in the world. But we are boasting too much to get into the 21st century. We have got enough loans. If these had been spent in a better manner, our position would have been quite different. We have given first priority for the industrialisation of the country and spend crores of rupees on that. But what is the result? We are getting only 0.2 per cent of the foreign exchange by exporting industrial goods. If you had given first priority to agriculture, perhaps, our country would have marched forward leaps and bounds.

13.09 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the  
Chair*]

We have lost thousands of crores of rupees in our industries. We are in the debt trap now. This is all because of giving first priority to industry. Now you are going to face resource problem. So you are looking towards farmers for coming to your assistance. So the farmers are the backbone of our country because without farmers we cannot move forward. So more energy, more money should be given for the development of rural areas and agriculture.

You are having so many schemes like cash compensatory support, drought prone area programme, hill area development programme, technology mission on oilseeds. But should they remain only on papers and with the officers? I would like to know how much progress have they made with all these schemes which I have mentioned.

From the beginning we have tried to reach a five per cent development growth but we have never reached the target. So, please try to reach the target. Wherever

there is deficiency, you must check it

We have got Blocks, Districts and *Gram Panchayats*. We have also got fields like poultry, husbandry, fishery, etc. but we cannot develop them within a year. Where are we lacking? Our people do not have training. Our officers who have had their college education, are supposed to be experienced persons and having the technical knowhow. Perhaps that is why they are sent to the villages. But they are not working with the farmers. They are officers. They are the Commanders-in-Chief. So, this tendency of being the Commanders-in-Chief should be stopped. The villagers should be given training for fishery, poultry, animal husbandry and other works. Then the standard of living of our people can be raised within a year, I tell you. Let us start from just now to raise the living standard of our farmers. What is needed for the countryside is houses, drinking water, electrification and good seeds to be distributed in time. We have been repeatedly telling you to look into these small things. If you don't do that, you will not be able to get any resources for any development at all. So, it is high time that you pay attention to these things. This is not something where party politics should come in. This is a national problem and if the national problem is not met by all, then perhaps we will find ourselves in a very difficult position in future. So, Sir, I warn the Agriculture Minister and the Prime Minister also that they must pay more attention to see that our people's and our farmers' standard of living is raised. Then only we can find resources for the future development of our country. With these words, I thank you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the miserable condition of an average Indian farmer is such that he is born with debts and dies with it. Our Government has implemented a number of schemes till date for the welfare of the farmers, yet the farmer is never relieved of the burden of loan. We call the farmers a benefactor which sounds sweet and soothing but

all the efforts made by the Government to raise the economic, social and cultural level of that benefactor have not proved effective due to some or the other drawback. Even today our farmer is illiterate and lacks general awareness due to which the Government machinery and its officials harass him. If the farmer has to get water from a canal, the concerned officials will not make the water available to him in time. If the farmer makes a complaint, against these officials of Government machinery, they will harass him and will not pay attention to him. Therefore, the farmer should be so potent that his requirements of power, fertilizers, seeds and water etc. may be got fulfilled in time.

The hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has taken a very good and major step, under which the farmers were allotted land and given the documents of the land. But even after a lapse of so many years, the farmers have not been given possession of that land for which the hon Chief Minister has constituted a committee, which will visit various districts to enable the farmers to get the possession of the land allotted to them. We should take steps to make all these things available in time and effectively. It is also worth consideration whether the farmer has been able to get a higher price for his crop in the same ratio as the prices of essential commodities like fertilizers, seeds etc. have increased. This is a serious matter which needs Government's consideration because the prices of all the things which a farmer needs for cultivation have risen exorbitantly but the price of his crop have not been increased proportionately. When the farmers will be able to get the proportionately increased price for their crop, then alone we can say that their condition will improve. In case of natural calamities the Government writes off a part of the loans and land revenue due to the small or marginal farmers or defers the repayment of it for some time. But this cannot be the solution of their problems. Unless the farmer starts feeling that he is free from the burden of loan, his condition cannot be said to have improved. We should think of some such remedies so that the farmer may be relieved of the burden of all

[Sh. Dal Chander Jain]

kinds of loans and fully concentrate on increasing his agricultural production. Only then we call him the benefactor in the real sense of the term.

Here I want to make another submission, that the farmers have to run to the various departments to get their problems solved. They have to go the *patwari* and struggle with the departments of power and irrigation for it. As such there are Gram Panchayats and other authorities too in the village to attend to their woes but they do not pay due attention to the problems of the farmers, or else ignore them. So it becomes the responsibility of the people's representatives to provide all sort of relief and assistance to the farmers. The Chief Minister of my State has taken some welcome steps in this direction. I would like that the Central Government should also take similar steps for the benefit of the farmers of the whole country. Only then will the farmers realise that this Government is doing something for their welfare or in their interest.

[English]

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, much has been said about the interests of farmers and agricultural labour. We are today proud of our achievements in the field of agriculture. But then these achievements in terms of increase of production on the basis of these programmes do not relate to the real interests of the farmers. Farmers all over the country have a common goal, there is no doubt about it. Whether they should be helped by organising them politically at the level of parties and all that, I think, deserves serious consideration. But, in fact, the problems faced by the farmers and agricultural labour all over the country cannot be generalised because there are different regions in the country and these different regions have their own problems, I mean, the peasants and the agricultural labour in different regions have different problems. I do not like to make any reference to the general problems that have already been mentioned in the

course of the debate. I represent the North-East where the sub-Himalayan region covers hilly and small, small valleys surrounded by hill areas, topography and general geographical conditions in these small States. Also we can consider along with this, part of the Himalayan State like the Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, part of Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and portions of Tripura too. Although Tripura does not have many problems, they have a problem of very special kind of topography where we need to develop the terrace type of cultivation and also to stop shifting cultivation. The farmers and the agricultural labour who earn their livelihood in these areas deserve a special consideration. We have been demanding a special programme for training the people on terrace cultivation as is done in Japan and other places to avoid shifting cultivation which spoils the environment and forest products of the region. This is not only harmful to the areas but also harmful to the forest. We indiscriminately destroy forest in the name of shifting cultivation. We are not providing farmers a permanent land facility. They shift their cultivation from year to year or within a few years. In this shifting, as we have seen, the entire environment and ecology of the small States in the Northeastern region gets spoiled and we do not know *where we are heading for*.

We have made a demand to the Agricultural Ministry that the ICAR should have special programmes for these areas. What we find today is that the programmes of the ICAR in the Northeastern region remain only in laboratory and it is merely production of samples in States like Arunachal Pradesh. We do not like to see samples. We would like to see comprehensive programme where we should train the cultivators and agricultural labour to use certain clear portions of their land in the hill areas for main cultivation which will need so much of assistance for their water, for special development which perhaps need technical assistance. ICAR has opened its units in all these States. But these units, as we have seen during so many decades, are there only to show samples.

We would like to have a comprehensive programme. I would like the hon. Minister to see that Northeastern States and similar areas in any part of the country — because I do not have much idea about other areas — are assisted by special programmes. I request through you that the hon. Minister while replying should be able to promise all these steps and that the agricultural labour will be assisted not merely by showing samples, but would be trained on large scale. In this way, it not only ensures improvement of agricultural production and lot of the farmers and peasants but also ensures protection of the environment. Unless we protect environment, these areas will become desert, hill desert, like Ladakh in which case, we shall be thinking of shifting the population to other places which again will be a serious problem. In order to avoid this, the Government should take up a special programme in the forthcoming Plan and a special provision should be made. I think, enough information and enough expertise are already available with the Northeastern Council and also with the respective Agricultural Departments of the small States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the House is discussing the matters relating to the farmers and the farm labourers. Being an agricultural country, the condition of India has become like that of the leading lady of the epic of a Rajasthani poet who utters these words "*Aur joon dhanni dhanha, Manakh joon kyon deeni*". Today the condition of the farmer is so miserable that he is fed up of his existence. Today the farmer's ox is quite safe and sound under him which is a privilege for it but the Indian farmer does not have the facility to maintain himself as a human being and he has started hating himself. Yesterday an hon. Member had said that as the farmers were not getting the remunerative price, for their sugarcane, they had set their sugarcane crop on fire. Dr. Iqbal once said about the present days of independence that—

*"Us khet ke harkhushai gandum ko jala do*

*Jis khet se dehkan ko mayassar na ho roti"*

But today in the independent India the farmer does not get a remunerative price for his crop even after burning his crop of sugarcane. Such is the condition of the farmers in Free India. If we peep into Akbar's era, we find that even Tulsidasji had once said that:

*"Aapas mein baith puchhat hein, kahan jaai ka kari."*

The situation is such that people sit together and ask one another as to where to go and what to do? The farmer is the worst victim of all the problems which exist in India and its society today. Whether it is the problem of inflation, flood, drought, epidemic or corruption, it all affects directly or indirectly the farmer only.

If epidemic or inflation strikes, the farmer is helpless because of the lack of resources. If he leaves the village, he will have to come to the town. On the way he will be caught ticketless and thrown into the jail. After facing a lot of difficulties he will come to pull rikshaw in the streets of Delhi and Bombay and add to the slums. In fact all those people who are living without sufficient clothes on their body and without a roof over their heads in the slums are nobody else but the uprooted farmers of the villages.

Such is the tale of woes of the villages that even after 40 years of independence, the villagers have not got any facility due to which all these problems continue to haunt them. Corruption prevails every where and does bring equal dividends to all. For example when an industrialist gives Rs. 5 thousand some where, he expects a return of Rs. 50 thousand on it and if a clerk or an officer pays a bribe of Rs. 500 for a particular work, he may also get Rs. 500 from some other party. But a farmer can not get any such money from anywhere. He is the worst victim of corruption.

Adulteration is another problem. Adulteration is rampant even in the matter of pesticides which are used in the farms. All

[Sh. Het Ram]

such spurious medicines are given away to the illiterate villagers to whom the Government is indifferent. Such medicines given to them are harmful. Our Ministers and leaders have no faith in such medicines and go for their treatment to England or to some other foreign country. The sub standard and spurious medicines are supplied to the villagers which become the ultimate cause of their death. The Government does not consider it necessary to make any improvements in this regard.

I want to quote an example. In 1977 the price of *narma* (cotton) was Rs. 700 and its average yield per acre was 4 quintals. In those days the price of one truck was Rs. 28 thousand which means that a farmer could purchase a truck by selling merely 40 quintals of *narma*. Today price of *narma* is Rs. 500 and a tractor now costs Rs. 98 thousand. Therefore, now a farmer shall have to grow 200 quintal of *narma* for purchasing a tractor. That is the position in regard to the fair price a farmer gets for his crop.

I want to make a request to the Government that provision should be made to supply electricity in the villages. Further, flood control work should also be undertaken and roads should be got constructed in the rural areas. The Government should do something for economic and social security of the farmers. Industrialisation should take place in villages. Village craftsmen, whose hands were cut off by the British, should be rehabilitated. Besides their crops, the farmers themselves should also be insured. Farmers working in fields at night are vulnerable to snake-bite. Another cause of death of the farmers is the sprinkling of pesticides on crops. Loans should be given on low rates of interest. It is the duty of the Government to waive the debts of the poor.

Facilities have been given to industrialists for the export of agricultural products. These facilities should be given to farmers instead of middlemen. Now we are importing wheat. The import substitution benefit

should go to the farmer and not to middlemen.

The Land Ceiling Act is not implemented. The Indian farmer cannot finance elections because he faces difficulty in arranging finance even for himself. We should not compare the performance of the farming community with that of Reliance Industries which is able to treble its assets over three years. Today, the Government helps the Tatas, Birlas and Reliance Group at every step because it needs them. The illiterate and innocent farmers are ignored by the Government because they are thought to be of no use. But soon these illiterate and innocent farmers will revolt and create problems for the Government.

Minimum Wages Act has been enforced. This Act is implemented in factories only. Farm labour is not able to get the minimum wages. That is why farmers do not get an appropriate price for their produce. When the farmer cannot make both ends meet how can he pay to the labour? So the Government is requested to give proper attention to farmers and the latter will take care of the minimum wage aspect. Industries should be set up in villages so that people living there can get employment. Today the country's economy is unstable because there is no representative of farm labour in this Parliament. I belong to a family of farmers. I recall my student days when we had to work in the fields during summer vacation while the affluent used to plan to visit places like Shimla. The Government should provide education facilities in villages so that children over there do not take studies as a part-time occupation. The education system in villages should be designed on the lines of that existing in public schools in the cities.

With these words, I end my speech. Jaihind.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to express my view in this discussion on the problems of farmers and labourers.

Sir, 80% of the country's population earns its livelihood through agriculture. Today, farmers face certain problems which must be solved. It is true that the hon. Prime Minister and the Government have tried to solve these problems through various programmes, the benefits of which have reached farmers to a large extent. But there are still certain problems which need to be looked into. The most important thing is that farmers should get timely supply of water, electricity and quality seeds. There is an acute shortage of transformers also. As a large number of transformers are burnt it is not possible to operate tubewells. Often electricity supply remains interrupted. So the Government should arrange for repair of transformers and tubewells.

Often it has been seen that timely supply of high quality seeds is not available during the Rabi season. They face problems in such a situation. Efforts should be made to ensure timely supply of high quality seeds.

There should be an adequate supply of water in canals. Tubewells should also function properly. If the farmers get proper supply of water and seed they will definitely have a good harvest.

I also want to raise the matter of farm labour. The Government provides a lot of facilities to small and marginal farmers. The Government should prepare a list of marginal farmers who are eligible for benefits and assistance should be given to them on the basis of their eligibility.

Whatever foodgrain the farmer may be producing, he should get the right price for his produce. Ratna Sugar Mill in Shahganj in my constituency is lying closed. Rs. 80-85 crores are due to the farmers for the sugarcane bought by this mill. Crores of rupees are also due to labourers. As today's discussion is on farmers and labourers, the Government is requested to ask the Ratna Sugar Mill to pay back the dues of farmers and labourers in my constituency. The Ratna Sugar Mill should be reopened. Not only

Jaunpur but 4-5 districts in the vicinity will also be benefited. As there is no other sugar mill over there the sugarcane produced in the area cannot be used elsewhere. So efforts should be made to revive the mill.

Subsidy should be given only to eligible farmers. Insecticides should be sprayed on crops free of cost.

Farmers are frequently affected by floods and drought. The Government should make arrangements to prevent flooding of agricultural land.

I want to congratulate the Government for trying to help the farmers in every possible way.

Minor problems which still persist can be solved by making arrangements for supply of seed, water and electricity.

With these words I hope the hon. Minister will consider these points.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

**V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad to take part in this vital discussion under Rule 193. While participating, I would like to give some suggestions about the facilities to be provided to the farmers of this country.

Agriculture is the main occupation of our country. About 80% of the population of our nation is depending upon agriculture.

Our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Minister for Agriculture Shri Bhajan Lal have taken keen interest in the welfare of farmers. Our Government is trying its best to provide more facilities to the peasants. But this is not sufficient. We have to help the farmers to a large extent. The basic facilities that the farmers need are land, water, seeds, pesticides and fertilizers. All these items are very essential for the progress of farmers.



[Sh. V. Krishna Rao]

The standard of life of merchants, bank employees, government employees etc. is much better than a farmer. Hence, it is our prime duty to help the farmers. Electricity, pump sets, seeds etc. etc. should be provided to the farmers at cheaper rates. Marketing facilities should be provided to the farmers. There should be no middlemen. There should be no exploitation of farmers by the merchants. The farmers should get remunerative prices and the Government has to take the responsibility of providing marketing facilities to the farmers.

In Karnataka, there was no rain for the last 7 years. This year we had good rain in the beginning of the monsoon season. But unfortunately, towards the later part of the monsoon season there was no rain. This was affected the cultivation of groundnut, ragi and other agricultural produce in Karnataka.

Farmer's children are not receiving good education facilities. They cannot dream of medical and Engineering Colleges. Therefore it should be the responsibility of our Government to provide educational facilities to the children of farmers.

Fluctuations in the market rates have to be curbed and farmers should be able to get better prices throughout the year. The life condition of the farmers at present is pitiable. 90% of them are not in a position to pay the interest on their loans. Many of them do not have even two square meals a day. In my State, Bangalore, Tumkur, and Kolar districts are the worst affected districts for the last 7 years due to drought. Of course, now the situation has improved. I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to complete the Upper Bhadra Project and provide water to lakhs of acres of land. If irrigational facilities are provided then we can provide foodgrains for the whole world.

At present the farmer is like a rabbit before bear, tiger, lion etc. in the forest. He is a small person in the society. This situation

should change and the solution is irrigational facilities.

During the recent devastating floods in my Constituency, about four thousand families have lost their homes. I request the hon'ble Minister to rush relief measures to my constituency and to rescue the people, especially the farmers. I hope the Hon'ble Minister would do the needful in this regard and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY (Nandyal):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, Farmers' issue is a major issue which is plaguing the country at the moment. A lot of injustice is being meted out to farmers at present. The other day millions of farmers assembled at boat club and passed several resolutions. They wanted to meet the Prime Minister who turned their request. If the Prime Minister of the country declines to meet the farmers, how can any one say that the country belongs to farmers! Absolutely there is no justification in saying that the farmer is the backbone of our country. During the days of British a farmer was more powerful than a hundred soldiers and now he is nowhere. The problems of agriculturists have almost been ignored by the successive Governments ever since India achieved independence. We still remain very backward on irrigation front. Not much has been done in the past to increase irrigation potential. The allocation made for irrigation in the central budget is meagre. Added to this, there is a terrible power shortage in the country. Power generation in the country has not gone up sufficiently to meet the growing requirement of farmers. During summers, there will be acute shortage of power. The progressive farmers who installed engines will have no power. Not only the engines but also the agriculture activity comes to a stand still. Ultimately farmers incur huge losses. This is the position of an average agriculturist in the country today. Here, in Delhi, the Central Government, instead of devoting time and energy to consider providing more facilities to the farmers, is trying to find out ways and means to impose agricultural tax. It is quite strange indeed. The Government is trying to impose

tax at a time when most farmers, unable to survive on their land, are migrating to urban areas disposing off whatever they have. It is becoming more and more difficult to depend on agriculture for their survival. Villages are being deserted and agriculture is taking a backseat. It is reflecting on our food production also. We are still far from that cherished goal of self-sufficiency. I fail to understand why the Central Government is not taking any note of the serious situation which is now prevailing in the country. It is time to take steps to avert the situation. How long are we to depend on import of foodgrains? If we could not solve at least this one problem of becoming self sufficient in foodgrains, then what is that we can boast of achieving during the past 40 years of our independence? What is that we have achieved during the last forty years? Our achievements are the increase in poverty and population. Should we feel proud of this negative achievement? Who is going to control the situation today? Sir, who should raise the crops and produce foodgrains to feed the nation when the Government itself is helpless? How can a farmer pursue his avocation when everything is going against him. Farmer toils hard, day and night and throughout the year to produce foodgrains. His attachment to the land is much more than his attachment to his kith and kin. His land is more dearer to him than his own life. Even when his wife is ill and bed ridden, he goes to his farm leaving her. He attends to the needs of the farm first and the needs of the family next. But the same farmer is now being compelled by the circumstances to sell his dear land and migrate to urban centres for survival. Farmers are preferring to be petty shop-keepers in an urban centre rather than remain in villages and pursue the risky profession of agriculture. It is really possible. It reflects on the performance of the Government. The Government has miserably failed to develop agriculture. They have miserably failed in solving the food problem. No country is so backward as we are in agriculture. Look at China! Their achievement in controlling population and increasing the production of foodgrains is really worth emulating. India was far ahead of China not long ago. Now,

within a short time, China has overtaken India in development. That country has controlled its population admirably. It increased the agriculture production in an equally admirable way. Is it not something which we should feel ashamed of of our slow progress! Now the farmers have to produce foodgrains for feeding the urban people. But they are not in a position to do so. So, the Government has to consider all these things seriously and do something to revitalise the agricultural sector.

On one hand this sector is afflicted with labour problem and on the other there are no remunerative prices for the farm produce. Added to this, there is a cycle of floods and droughts. A farmer who produces foodgrains usually becomes a victim to the fury of nature. The crop either withers away due to drought or washes away due to flood. If by chance a farmer survives these two, he is denied of a remunerative price for his produce. The price he gets is hardly sufficient to meet the expenses for raising the crop. Sir, the Government should think about all these problems seriously and make an effort to solve them. The lift irrigation facility and also the facilities to tap ground water should be provided to the farmers in all drought prone areas. Otherwise, I am afraid, farmers will no more try to raise the crops in these areas.

In fact, as I said earlier, the farmers have started disposing off their land and migrating to urban centres. Immediate steps have to be taken to avert this alarming situation. Sir, in the last 40 years only black-marketters have prospered. Money lenders have prospered. Industrialists have prospered. It is only the farmers, who are ruined. It is the only farmers, who have not derived any benefits of our Planning. The farmers are becoming poorer and poorer as the days are passing by. Our food production is also going down. At least the Government could have constructed reservoirs in the areas where there is a good rainfall. It would have helped in raising food-production level. Instead of utilising money for productive purposes, the Government is squandering

[Sh. M. Subba Reddy]

away money on useless things. Under the present circumstances it is becoming increasingly difficult for the farmers to produce the grain sufficient to feed the urban areas. Our Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture is an agriculturist himself. Yet, he is oblivious of the problems of farmers. Unless there is a revolution of the sort in agriculture, this sector will not develop. Till then the food problem would continue to haunt the nation. The Government should at least wake up now and take steps to usher in a revolution in agriculture sector. There is a Crop Insurance Scheme which is in operation. But it is far from satisfactory. For some reason or the other majority of the farmers are out of its purview now. Sir, a farmer raises his crop facing many odds. There is the risk of the crop withering away afflicted by some disease. Or there may not be timely rains. Even if the crop survives all these odds, yet there is the danger of getting washed out in a flood. Hence the Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented in such way throughout the country as to cover every farmer against every odd. Loans are being advanced to farmers now. But even when there is no crop he is made to repay. While no action is being taken on big tax evaders, the farmers are being subjected to humiliation even if there is a slight delay in repayment. Saletax collection is a big zero. Blackmarketeers never care to pay Incometax. Though we have several taxes, none is being collected effectively. The concerned people care little to pay these taxes to the Government. So in order to hide their failure in collecting the taxes from big wigs, the Government is now trying to impose tax on poor and gullible agriculturists. Sir, I have no doubt, that if the Government imposes the tax on agriculturists, even the few who are still remaining as farmers, would also dispose off their lands and bid goodbye to agriculture. There will hardly be anyone left out to carry on with agriculture.

Sir, Prof. Ranga is a veteran Member of this House. The cause of farmers and agriculture labourers is very dear to him. He is affectionately called by the farmers as "Rytu

Ranga". I was listening to his speech attentively. I share his anguish. His elderly advice has to be taken note of with all the seriousness. Effective steps should be taken to implement them. Sir, the farmers are a neglected lot in the society today. If everyone continues to ignore the farmer and his problems, it will go against the interest of the country. I appeal to the Government once again to see that the situation does not deteriorate any further. It is a pity that our Hon. Minister had turned down the request of the farmers to have a meet to discuss the problems with them. It was a very short sighted decision. Perhaps, he has taken the farmers too lightly ignoring the consequences. Everyone including the Prime Minister depends on the farmers for votes. Hence it was not advisable to keep away from the farmers. This single decision would cost the Government very dearly. The Government has every responsibility to protect the interests of the farmers. Crop Insurance Scheme has to be implemented everywhere and should cover every farmer. Farmers should also be given money to raise the next crop in case their earlier crop is damaged. The banks which are advancing loans at present refuse to give loans once again for the second time. There are no other avenues available to farmers to get money for raising the next crop. Hence it should be seen by the Government that a needy farmer gets sufficient money in time for raising the next crop. No need to say that sufficient money is required to purchase fertilizers etc. in time. which are very much essential to raise a good crop.

Sir, village should be considered as a unit under Crop Insurance Scheme. Irrigation facilities should be developed. We should generate sufficient power, so as to meet the growing requirements of the farmers. Steps should be taken to tap the ground water. Unless ground water resource is tapped fully, it will be very difficult and risky to continue with agriculture in drought prone areas. Latrest Rigs should be imported from America. The Government should see that motors etc. are available in sufficient numbers. The Government should do everything

possible to tap the underground water and be made available to farmers in the drought prone areas. Sir, the present position in such that the rigs which are in use now can not go down deep. The water stable in the wells will be receding constantly, the wells dug this year will not have any water next year. Hence American rigs of eight inches should be imported and supplied in the drought prone areas. This step will boost the agriculture in dry areas. The bane of our agriculture is that of small holdings. The holdings of an average farmer in this country is of 2 to 2 1/2 acres. Such small holdings are beneficial neither to the farmer nor to the country. Under Indian conditions one has to have a minimum of 30 acres to maintain a plough and oxen of his own. In such a condition, it is absolutely no use to have small holdings. Prof. Ranga also mentioned this point. As the holdings sink to smaller and smaller ones, the interest in agriculture will disappear and profit gets diminished. Not only the absentee land lords of these holdings, but also tillers lose interest in them. The profit form such holdings in almost nil.

Sir, farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. If there is good production, well, a farmer may not mind if he gets a bit lesser price for his grain. But in the absence of good production, if farmer does not get a remunerative price for the produce, he is almost doomed. Hence the Government must ensure remunerative prices to all the farm produce.

Sir, Agriculture is mainly dependent on water and power supply. Hence, these two have to be made available to the farmers. We have to maintain atleast the food production level. Year by year it is going down. We cannot depend on other countries for our food requirements. Atleast in this front we have to be self-dependent otherwise there will be no meaning in 40 years of independence and Seven Year Plans.

Sir, there are many more things to say. Since there is time, I conclude my speech thanking you for giving me this opportunity.

14.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Sir, Let me make it very clear at the beginning that inspite of being a cultivator, a farmer I am not here with a begging bowl before the Government. I would ask whether you accept some of our rights or not. Unfortunately, agriculture has been put, or somehow it is there as an essential service. We have no other option, because we have no other source of income. We have no savings. That is why we have to cultivate and now every year excessive or erratic rains.

The basic needs of a human being are bread, then clothes and then shelter. Is it not a fact that this agriculturist is giving you bread? How much do you feel obliged towards him? How much of social obligation and feeling do you have for him? That is to be seen. We have seen that in the first two five-year plans, more attention was paid to agricultural sector, and to rural reconstruction activity. But subsequently, the rural economy was completely neglected; and that is why we have influx of people from rural areas into cities. I am happy they are creating a mess for you. You have neglected their claims, you have neglected your duty to give them anything.

When we start an industry, we speak of giving infra-structure. For the agriculturist, you are giving the inputs: water and other things. What about the infra-structure for the villagers; the drinking water facility? Education of his children upto high school, electricity, his health, communication and roads? We have neglected them; and that is why you find that every villager wants to come to the city, live in slums; and he does not want to go back. I know that the slums are worse than the rural areas. The are dirtier than the rural areas. We know that after 1975 we have had the A.P.C. Since then, we have been requesting Government to give us remunerative prices. To me, remunerative prices mean that they should satisfy not only the need of the cultivator himself, but they

[Sh. Uttam Rathod]  
should also look after the well-being of his children, their education and other things. If we do not give these to them, we shall be denying the rights of the cultivators.

Once when I asked a civil servant as to how the wages and salaries are fixed in Government departments, I was told that a person who is assigned a particular job must have some knowledge about it. Without that, he would not be able to take up that job. Secondly, he must have some technical knowledge, special knowledge about that particular work. I want to ask you; Is it not a fact that in the case of the agriculturist to whom you are not giving a proper treatment and infra-structure, the land and the capital are his own? He is the man who decides what and when to do, whether there are good rains or not. He decides when the insecticides are to be used; he is the person who decides how he should manage, how it should be harvested, and how it should be marketed. What about the circumstances in which he works? I was told that one of the main considerations in fixing the salaries in Government jobs. is the environment where he works.

The hon. Minister can correct me if I am wrong. Do you mean to say that the environment in which an agriculturist is working is very congenial? If not, why can't you give him more prices for his produce? As far as sugarcane is concerned, we have accepted 2-3 zones. Of course, you have favoured some States, certain linguistic belts and you have denied it to us in Maharashtra. What is the criterion? Is it the yield or is it the land on which it is grown and also the content of sugar? I want to tell you that the yield in rain-fed area is bound to be less than in the irrigated areas. If this is correct, then why should you not think of giving dry cultivators some bonus? You give it by way of bonus to the cultivators in the rain-fed areas. Upto Seventh Plan, you have been able to irrigate only 27 per cent of the land and for the rest of the land, we do not know how long it will take. There are many villages where you cannot get even drinking water. How are you

going to give them water for irrigation? It is high time that we start giving bonus to the cultivators in the rain-fed area, just as we are giving a special treatment to the marginal cultivators. So, a Time has come when you must give them something more by way of bonus or in some other form to the man who produces his foodgrains and other agricultural produce in rain-fed area.

When a delegation from Poland came to India, we asked them how they fixed the prices for the agricultural produce. They took the yield and then decided. If the yield is less, then they see that a cultivator gets the same amount, just as you are doing. While importing fertiliser at a much cheaper rate. The fertiliser that you are producing is very costly, but, still, we have to pay for all the inefficiency of the fertiliser factories. So, I would like to say that hereafter the government must not only bring the rural people at par with the urban people but they must also accept their rights to infra-structure and more prices. The government has to see that they must have their own shelter; they must educate their children and they should have every right to get all the benefits that an urban man is entitled to.

I have been in politics for almost 32 years both in Legislature as well as in Parliament. Slowly, I have started doubting my own beliefs. It is a fact that the government is elected by the people. But it is elected for whom? Is it elected for the urban people, for the organised sector, for government servants or for all citizens. If it is for all the people, then it must look after the rural reconstruction; there is no other way out.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur):  
Mr. Chairman Sir, India has progressed in many sectors and in the agricultural sector we have become self-reliant. For this, credit goes to the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Shastri, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the present Prime Minister hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, scientists and planners. But more than anybody else it is the

country's farmers who deserve applause. But it has become necessary to pay attention to the plight of the farming community despite their good performance. As other hon. Members mentioned, the farmer is economically weaker than his counterpart in the industrial sector. Farmers do not get the right price for their produce. Adequate facilities are also not provided to them. I hope more attention would be paid to farmers in the country, particularly in areas like eastern U.P., Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa. I am happy that our present Agriculture Minister hon. Shri Bhajan Lal and his colleagues are working in this direction.

Sir, good rainfall at the beginning of the rainy season. This year made us believe that monsoon would be good throughout the country. That the Kharif and Rabi crop would be good. Unfortunately, some areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh like Mirzapur and Varanasi where there have been no rains for three months in succession leading to a situation of drought. Where there is no assured irrigation, crops have dried and there is no moisture at all for sowing of the Rabi crop. So I request the Government to promptly tackle the situation in drought-affected areas of Mirzapur, Bundelkhand and its neighborhood.

Sir, the primary and basic need of farmers is assured irrigation. Even though our country has a lot of agricultural land, not even one-third of it has assured irrigation. I request the Government to make irrigation facilities available to the entire cultivable land in the country during the Eighth Five-year Plan. According to the demands of the area, irrigation facilities like dams, tubewells, hand pump on lift irrigation should be provided. The Eighth Plan should include provision of irrigation of agricultural land in every corner of the country. The best possible facility a farmer can hope for is timely supply of water for irrigation. The other facilities can be arranged by the farmer himself with a little help from the Government.

Sir, I was very happy yesterday when I heard the hon. Agriculture Minister saying

that if funds given for the benefit of farmers were used for some purpose other than agriculture by the State Governments, no further facilities would be provided to them. This is a very good step and it should be strictly adhered to. I have been saying from the very beginning that landless farm labourers, Harijans and Adivasis should be allotted land. If we are to see peace and harmony in the agricultural and rural sector we must allot land to the farm labourers in rural areas. I suggest that surplus land belonging to the 'Gram Samaj' be distributed among them. Cases pending under the land Ceiling Act should be expedited and 'pattas' of land thus obtained should be given to these people. Where there is no 'Gram Samaj' land or land rendered surplus under the Ceiling Act, the Government should buy land and give it to them.

The hon. Minister also looks after the Forest Department. The entire land under forests is fit for cultivation. Crores of hectares of forest land is cultivable. Adivasis and others who live in forests also want to cultivate that land. I would suggest that, 'pattas' of four or five 'bighas' of forest land should be given to farm labourers, Adivasis and others living in forests.

A condition should however, be attached that trees would be planted on half of the land and the other half would be used for farming. Thus they can get an income from two sources and the rural people would get the much needed relief.

Every citizen of this country wants ownership right of land, in direct proportion to the size of the land he cultivates or possesses. I feel that every person should be given some land, be it for setting down, farming or planting trees.

The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture knows that eastern Uttar Pradesh is affected by drought. Farmers should be extended all possible assistance at this juncture. As our hon. Minister is quite familiar with the problems of farmers, I do not want to go into details. With these words I

[Sh Umakant Mishra]

thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I hope that our hon. Prime Minister, hon. Agriculture Minister and other concerned will pay attention towards farmers.

14.18 hrs.

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

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana):  
Hon. Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. This is a very important discussion. I hope the Government will provide some facilities to farmers. I would like to give some suggestions in this context. There are mainly five reasons for the deteriorating economic condition of the farmer:— 1. Failure of crops. 2. Unremunerative price for their produce. 3. Poor quality of seed, fertilizer and pesticide. 4. High cost of agricultural implements and other inputs. 5. Faulty procedure of disbursement of loans.

Protection of crops against flood and drought is most essential. Supply of electricity, repair of Government tubewells, supply of abundant water in canals during drought and protecting areas adjacent to roads and highways against flood is very important. It has been seen that crossings on roads and highways for passage of water are not broad enough. As the water channels have not been dug properly, the flow of water is blocked leading to water logging for a long time. This causes destruction of crop and, therefore it needs to be looked into.

Higher prices should be given for their produce. For instance wheat crop is bought at Rs. 160- Rs. 170 a quintal and marketed at Rs. 300-400 a quintal. Rich traders stand to gain in this process. The support prices for the next season should be announced at the end of the harvesting season.

Agricultural inputs are very costly. Cost of inputs like tractors, seed, fertilizers and pesticides should be low. Spurious fertilizers should in no case find their way to the farmers. Seed and pesticides, in particular, should be of good quality.

Farmers should be at liberty to sell his raw as well as finished products anywhere in the country and concession should be given on carriage of agricultural inputs. They find it troublesome to wait for hours at the check-post.

Sugarcane cultivation is being undertaken in 80 to 90 per cent of land in Western Uttar Pradesh. This crop costs high and land remains booked for the whole year. The Farmers do not get proper remunerative price for their products. They are not able to send the entire produce of sugarcane to the mills. In order to get rid of this problem the Government should either install as many number of mills as would be required to crush all the produce of sugarcane or give upon permission to the crushers to produce sulphur sugar so that the crushers could run with the income accrued from sulphur sugar and purchase sugarcane at a good price.

The procedure adopted to advance loan to farmers is very wrong. That is why the tractors and land of the farmers had to be auctioned in order to repay the loan. First of all they did not get the full amount of the loan. But they had to pay two to three times of the amount of loan. The officers of the block and the bank grabbed a sizable portion of the amount. That is how they did not get the full amount of loan. I would therefore, like to suggest that the farmers should be given direct loan, if required, on the basis of the cost of their land and their personal account should be opened with the limited amount accordingly. They should also be prevented from selling the land till repayment of loan is made.

During the last 2 to 3 years supply of power to Western Uttar Pradesh has not been for more than 2 hours. Some concession should therefore be given in the electricity bill. Agriculture should be treated at par with the industry and should be supplied power as much as it is supplied to industry.

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is holding a discussion on the problems of the farmers. I would like to put forward a few points with

regard to my State and my constituency.

The surplus land that was available after enforcing the land ceiling Act was allotted to poor farmers and people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan and the allottees were given lease deeds. But the influential persons approached the courts and obtained stay order. That is why allottees have not been given possession of land so far. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should ensure settlement of their cases in the court and give possession of the land to the allottees.

Secondly, permanent water courses had been constructed for distribution of water in the first phase of the Indira Canal, but a lot of irregularities had been committed in the construction. I do not want to go deep into it. I would like to say only this much that 80 per cent of them have collapsed. Half-baked and yellow coloured bricks and insignificant quantity of cement was used in the construction work. Concrete was not at all used. Sand was used to construct the water courses. Any how, let us not bother about the past for what has been done there. The charges in respect of water courses payable by the farmers of Haryana and Punjab have been waived. The hon. Minister is fully aware of it and he is fully aware of our problem. The Government is constructing small channels at its own cost in the second phase of the Indira Canal. The farmers of the area do not understand it. As such charges in respect of water courses payable by the farmers should be waived.

Thirdly, there are two tehsils viz. Nohar and Bhadra in my constituency are rain-fed. The land of these tehsils is fertile and totally plain. This area experienced drought 4 to 5 times. It is only this year that there has been some respite. Two schemes viz. Sidhmukh canal and the Nohar canal are under consideration. Survey work on these two schemes has been completed long back but the papers duly completed, are lying in the Central Water Commission for approval. Some work was taken up in the last year on both these

canals as a famine relief measure. I urge the Government to give clearance to these schemes so that the money already spent on them could be utilised and lakhs of people saved from starvation.

Fourthly, the 60 year old Gang Nahar generally called the Bikaner canal has been totally damaged in the stretch falling in Punjab. The intake capacity of the canal is 2700 cusecs water, but it is running with 1800 cusec water only. The shortage causes heavy losses to the farmers. In order to repair this canal, our Government had sanctioned a canal called link canal which was to be connected with Indira Canal near Naugarh and by flowing its water in the Indira Canal in its first head Sadhuwali. There was a proposal to repair the portion of the canal stretch falling in Punjab again. The portion of this link canal falling in the State of Rajasthan was constructed and the Government of Rajasthan deposited money with the Government of Haryana to construct the small portion of this canal falling in Haryana. But the Government of Haryana has not undertaken the construction work on the canal. I request that it should be constructed as the earliest possible.

I express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

**SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi):**  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, several hon. Members have expressed their views on the problems being faced by farmers in this august House. The House held discussion on this subject yesterday also. I was also present in the House. Some hon. Member said that nothing has been done for the farmers and nobody listen to the woes of the farmers. In this connection, I would like to tell you that the farmer had been facing numerous problems prior to independence. There were no facilities for irrigation and quality seeds were not available. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who had been our first Prime Minister was a man of foresight. The Bhakhra Dam was constructed during his tenure and the dam is providing the facilities of irrigation and supplying electricity to a number of places in



[Sh. Bharat Singh]  
Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. It was the gift of Pandit Nehru. You are perhaps aware that though the population of India was far less earlier we used to import foodgrains. We are very thankful to our Ministers and scientists who devised various means to overcome the above situation. Twenty years back, there was no tubewell at all. It was due to the initiatives taken by our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi that branches of banks have been opened in the rural areas and the farmers are getting loans from their branches. They purchased tractors and installed tube wells out of that loans amount. The farmers got quality seeds, quality fertilizer. They adopted modern methods of cultivation and grew more. The farmers put up hard labour and work day and night. They brave severe heat and harvest crops. They brave severe cold and irrigate their land. They raise bunds in their fields even during heavy rains and secure water in their fields. They produce foodgrains by putting up hard labour. But is a fact that the farmers are also facing difficulties... The difficulty for the farmer is that he does not get remunerative prices commensurate with the hard labour he puts. The farmer would be happy if he gets remunerative prices for the rice and wheat. If there is any problem in paying remunerative prices to the farmer for his produce then he can be helped in some other way. He should be given some sort of allowances. He must get the remuneration for his hard labour.

Secondly, the farmer does maximum hard work to produce maximum foodgrains. In spite of that he does not get the benefits of his labour. He works throughout the day, throughout the year and brings his produce to the barn. If by chance, the produce catches fire from the tractor or short circuit, all his produce reduces to ashes. At this time, no one comes to his rescue. The Government does not help him. It is very essential that the Government should compensate 1/4th of the cost of the crop which reduce to ashes in the barn. The hon. Minister should pay attention towards it.

The farmer works in the field in terrific winter. He works in cold water. The Government should evolve some measures to help the farmer when hailstones destroy his crops. I would like to say one thing about my constituency. Arrangements should be made to flow water in Sarakhpur and Isapur Canals. If water is made available in these canals, the cattle would get water to drink and agricultural land would be irrigated. The farmers should be provided with a quality seeds and equipped with modern techniques of cultivation. They should be supplied implements at reasonable rates so that agricultural production could be increased. The production has increased much as compared to the earlier production and it is increasing further also. At the same time the population has also increased. The hon. Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal is fully aware of the problems of the farmers. He is farmer from Haryana. I am hopeful that he will extend all help to the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA  
(Shajapur): A discussion on the plight of farmers and agricultural labourer is taking place here. I would like to mention a few points in this regard.

So far as supply of power is concerned, the Department of power causes a lot of difficulties to the farmers. The farmer can utilise the motor for irrigational purposes only. He has to set up another motor if he wants to instal some other machine. I would, therefore, like to suggest the motor to be provided to farmers should be multi-purpose. The motor should be helpful in starting any small profession or in installing a thrasher. He would be charged for the quantum of power he may consume. I, therefore, suggest that the motor being provided to the farmer should be multi-purpose. It will help solve the problem of large scale unemployment in the villages because the farmer can employ labourers for the additional work. At present he has to pay Rs. 10,000 to instal a

separate motor. The hon. Minister should pay attention towards it.

Secondly, Government fixes the wages of agricultural labour. But the labourers do not get their wages at the rate fixed by the Government. It is because the real rate of wages is fixed by the farmers of the villages in their meeting which they hold for this purpose. The labourers get wages as per that decision. It is a very big problem. Even today these labourers are engaged for the whole year at the rate of Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 a month. The Government should pay attention towards it. It is a very big problem in the villages.

Thirdly, I would like to point out that the Government have introduced an insurance scheme which is a very good scheme. In this connection I would like to bring to your notice that the insurance authorities do not pay insurance money to the farmers, if crop of half of the farmers in a block is damaged due to rain. I would like to suggest that insurance scheme should be on individual basis. Any farmer, whose crop is damaged owing to rain or drought, should get the insurance amount. It is my submission to you.

With these words I conclude and express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problems of farmers are being discussed in the House for the last couple of days except a small break for some time. Almost all the members of the House have taken part in the discussion and have put forward their valuable view points. For this, I am grateful to the hon. Member and I thank them too.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, it is well known that the farmers are the backbone of the country. They provide food grains. I call them the saviour of life. The man could not live without food grains and it is the farmer, who produces food grains. Therefore, it will not be wrong to call him the saviour of life.

These farmers do tremendous labour and work with devotion as a result of which our country has respectable position in the world. I do not find words to express my gratitude for their hard work.

The condition of the country before and after independence is known to you. If we think of 2-4 years after independence from 1947-1952 every citizen of this country would feel that there was a critical situation in respect of food grains. A country which had splendid past, which has fought the war of independence violently and had driven away the British, could not think of begging something from others. But we had to beg food grains from other countries which lowered our prestige.

In order to regain that lost prestige, the leaders of our country formulated such policies and programmes which may enable us to become self-reliant in so far as good production is concerned and tell the world with dignity that we are a self-respecting nation and self-reliant. The builder of Modern India Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru became the 1st Prime Minister of our country. He had said that every thing can wait but not the agriculture. In view of this, we will have to do a lot for the agriculture and he had earmarked about 44 per cent of the Budget, i.e. slightly less than half, to be spent on agriculture. The plan was formulated with such a big allocation. Do you know how many dams were constructed with this money, not only Bhakra, but many power houses were built, many fertiliser factories were set up, big universities were established, Tractor manufacturing units were installed, banks were nationalised so that farmers may get all the facilities. They may get electricity in every house.

The result is visible to us at present. When the country got independence, we could produce 50 million tonnes of grains which has increased to 153 million tonnes at present. People had expected that our production would go down because of severe drought during the last 4 years but the production of this country has remained stabil-

[Sh. Bhajan Lal] ised. There has been a deficiency of only 4 per cent which is quite insignificant. America is a very powerful country and all the countries expect assistance from them. Due to drought for one year, prices in America have arisen beyond imagination. A country like America has also started feeling that the condition is not good due to drought because the prices have gone up so high. But it is not a small achievement that India contained the rising prices and kept them within limits and did not allow a single man to die of starvation inspite of drought for 4 years. Are you aware of the conditions prevailing in 1956? Lakhs of people had died of starvation and corpses of lakhs of the people were lying on the roads. The older people tell that it was not a such a severe drought and this lasted for only two years whereas the present drought continued for 4 years and no body died starvation and production has also not gone down. In spite of drought in 1987-88, 138 million tonnes of food grains was produced in this country. By the grace of God Indira, this year rain arrived on time and as a result thereof a target of 166 million tonnes has been fixed for this year. I can say confidently that 170-71 million tonnes foodgrains will be produced in this country which will be a record production. Growth rate has also been discussed on the basis of 70-71, 32 million tonnes would be more. Based on the figures, the growth rate comes to 23.9 per cent. If we take the production figure to be 152 million tonnes even then there will be an increase of 12.5 per cent. But we shall not be complacent with this. We have still to do a lot further. First of all, the farmers need water of irrigation, electricity for tubewell, good fertiliser, good seeds, new techniques, remunerative prices and through knowledge about them. We had given them and we will have to provide the same in future as well. Some hon. Members have mentioned that a very small part of the Budget have been spent, they say it is 4.5 per cent. Our Budget during Seventh Five Year Plan amounts to one lakh eighty thousand crore rupees, out of which Rs. 40 thousand crores are likely to be spent on agriculture. I told you the budget for agriculture for five years The amount be

to spent for irrigation and energy would be separate. Roads which are built for the benefits of the farmers would also be extra. There are many things which concern the farmers. As you are aware that fertiliser factory is also established for them, if we take all these things into account, I have no hesitation to say that 50 per cent of the Budget is spent for the betterment of farmers and it is not a small thing. I have already stated that the farmers are the backbone of the country.

I want to refer to some important points raised by the hon. Members about the farmers, otherwise it will take a long if I take up all the points. So far as the question of providing remunerative prices, electricity for the tubewells, provision of seed, fertiliser and water and are concerned the Central Government has always been ready to assist and we also want that priority should be given to the plans for constructing power stations whether Thermal or hydel, and generating electricity. Unless we grant them priority, the economic condition of the country cannot be improved. Agriculture is the base of our economic structure. If the condition of our farmers is good, then condition of every citizen of India, whether he lives in the villages or cities will also be good. Every activity starts from the farmer's house and if the condition of the farmer is good, the entire country will be prosperous. Then comes industry, there has been sufficient progress in the industrial sector in our country but there is a third power which plays its part in the progress of agriculture and industry and he is landless labourer. They increase the production of our country through their sweat. We cannot ignore them. We have received many complaints that the Minimum Wages Act passed by us for them is not being adhered to in many States. Where, there is good growth, this problem does not arise as in the case of Punjab and Haryana. Minimum Wages in Haryana is Rs 19.50 but the labourer is not available even at Rs. 25 while he is also served food for three times a day in addition to tea etc. But this problem is faced at different places. At some places, wages up to Rs. 11-12 are paid with great

difficulty. Therefore, we want that the landless labourers and those who are working in factories should get proper wages because if the production will not increase, the economic condition can deteriorate. Therefore, we should pay attention to the industry also. Keeping all these things in view the Government of India formulated the policy of minimum wages and passed legislation for its implementation. The Government of India has set up a Commission for rural labourers and it has been asked to submit their report at the earliest. The Commission was set up in August 1986 and Shri Jaina Bhai Dardi is its Chairman. We are making efforts that it should submit its report early. Some members of Parliament are also members of this Commission. We have asked them to submit their report early so that Central Government may take early action. Sometimes many problems arise and farmers are paid compensation at different times as in the case of crops catching fire or destruction of crops. But they give nothing to the labourers working in their fields. This is also a problem. That poor man should also be paid some compensation out of that because he also works in the fields. But the farmer claims that his crops have been ruined, he has been left with nothing and he will not get enough fertilisers, what can he give to the labourer. The farmer pays something to the labourers from his own pocket but still he should get according to his entitlement, he must get this. The way the labourer does hard work in the field, he must get some part of the production, I agree with it.

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA: Why do you not fix some percentage for the farm labourers? Just when the crops catch fire or destroyed due to some other calamities the Government pays compensation and relief to the farmer. So please make some provisions so that a part of it goes to the agriculture labourers.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: So for percentage is concerned as I have already said, some where one third part is fixed, somewhere it is one-fourth, somewhere it is one-fifth but still they should get it out of agricultural produce

whatever part is due to them and there are some good farmers who do give them their due but at some places they do not get it. We cannot pass legislation for this purpose. There are some difficulties in it and I feel that there is no necessity of any legislation. If a share has to be given to the agricultural labour on the basis of production then we have already constituted a committee which will consider all these things and if the necessity is felt, a legislation can be drafted.

What I mean to say is that there had been a great improvement in conditions of the farmers since independence and nobody can deny that the Government has done maximum for the farmers what they could do. I am not prepared to accept as some hon. Members have said that the Government has done nothing for the farmers. The farmers can compare the situation of that time *vis-a-vis* present situation, when the country got independence, hardly any farmer had a tractor while hundred to hundred fifty tractors can definitely be seen in every village and even 500 tractors can be found in a big village....

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Such things may be happening in Haryana or Punjab but this situation is not prevalent in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, you may get it enquired.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I agree where the agriculture production has not increased, the condition has not improved so much there but still you will agree that condition has improved much as compared to that in the past. You cannot say that there had been no improvement in the conditions.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Please constitute a commission who may go into the extent of improvement in Bihar, particularly in north Bihar, during the last 10-15 years. The farmers at that place are compelled to work as a labourer.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Agriculture has become totally unproductive in Bihar.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): I can say about the desert areas that agriculture has become unproductive in desert area of Rajasthan. I am fully conversant with those areas. There has been drought for last five years and the entire agriculture has become unproductive.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: This difficulty is due to severe drought in Rajasthan for the last 4 years.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Hon. Minister, you may be aware that your Ministry has formulated a special programme for rice, the reason for this is that productivity has drastically gone down in Orissa, Bengal and Bihar. There are diverse problems which are different from those in Haryana and Punjab.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: There are some reasons for it, I will tell you.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: You may ask your Ministry to go into those problems and have them studied in order to find out as to what are the requirements and how the productivity could be increased and improvements effected.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: I would like to make a request to you to ascertain as to how many farmers in North Bihar turned farm labourers during last 10 to 15 years and what are the reasons behind it.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Yes, why did they turn labourers?

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: It is because agriculture is not profitable there. Farmers do not get remunerative price for their products.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is because the holdings in the area have become smaller. The size of the family of a person who was having 20 acres of land earlier has increased so much after 20 years that every member got two acres of land to his share. It will be difficult to maintain the family with the pro-

duce of two acres of land. Secondly, the modern methods. ... (*interruptions*)

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): The hon. Minister says that the land holdings have become smaller and one family has been divided into four and that only 2 to 4 acres of land fell to each member's share, but on the other hand, I would like to tell him, there are some people who are making a mockery of your Land Reforms Act and have grabbed thousands of acres of land. In certain cases it may be 500 acres or 200 acres. The reason is that we have not been able to implement the Land Reforms Act properly. There are loopholes in it. If land is taken away from these people and distributed among the landless, the poor and the farmers, it will benefit a large number of people. Why do not you implement the Land Reforms Act properly?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I go on replying these minor things, the main points, the important points may be left unrepited.

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur): It is also necessary to understand the point that the farmer leaves away his land and works as a labourer only when he finds that he is unable to have his both ends meet from agriculture. That is why the farmers are fleeing from the villages.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: There are reasons for it. One of the reasons is that they do not get water and electricity in time. Secondly, the rate of consumption of fertiliser is very low in our country. People should take interest in the application fertilisers. If a comparison is made with other countries it will be revealed that people in India use 51 kilogram of fertilizer per hectare on an average whereas it is 300-400 Kilogram per hectare in other countries. This average of 51 kilogram comes when states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Tamilnadu consume at a higher rate of 151 kilogram, 79 kilogram, 79 kilogram and 104 kilogram respectively. Had not the rate of consumption a bit higher in these states the average rate of consump-

tion would have been further less. When the quantity of wheat seeds sown in an acre is 30 to 35 kilogram. The rate of fertiliser consumption is only 4 kilograms. There are some parts in the country where the average rate of consumption per acre is one and half kilogram. Even if millet is sown, the quantity of seeds sown in the land is more than the quantity of fertiliser used. The rate of consumption of fertiliser per hectare is 20 kilograms in Madhya Pradesh, 19 kilograms in Orissa and 16 kilograms in Rajasthan.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: You provide fertilisers.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Fertilizers are not in short supply. But the application of fertilisers is less. Unless the rate of consumption increases, production cannot increase. Increase in consumption rate of fertilisers will serve both the purpose. In one acres cultivation, cost of labour and other expenses remain the same. As such, if the consumption rate of fertiliser is increased, production will be doubled.

SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK (Saharsa): Where the facilities of irrigation are not available what the fertilisers will do?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: At places, where water and irrigational facilities are available, people use less quantity of fertilisers. The production will increase with the increase in the rate of consumption of fertilisers. If people use fertiliser at the same rate as they used to do earlier, production will remain stagnant. One of the reasons of production remaining stagnant is that due to use of fertiliser at a constant rate for the last 20 years the fertility of land has gone towards lower side. Now there is no use of using fertiliser at the old rate. Now the rate of consumption of fertiliser will have to be increased in order to increase the production. For example, a person taking opium does not get intoxicated if he takes the same quantity of opium now what he was taking 4 to 5 years back. He has to increase the quantity of opium in order to get intoxication of that level. The position with regard to land

is almost the same. The fertility of land has gone low. Therefore, the rate of consumption of fertiliser will have to be increased in order to raise production. For example a person taking liquor starts with one or two pegs. Later he raises the quantity to 5 to 6 pegs and a stage comes when he starts taking a full bottle. The same is the case with regard to use of fertiliser in the land. The rate at which fertiliser was consumed 20 years back will serve no purpose now. It has to be increased in order to raise production.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: The rivers flowing from Nepal through our state take away all the seeds and fertilisers with its flow. Please take some measures for that.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Let me tell you that the Government has extended all help to control floods and face the drought situation.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): So far as use of the pesticides is concerned, the latest expert report says that the excess use of pesticides had put adverse effect on foodgrains as well as human health. What the Department of Agriculture has done in this regard.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I do admit that our scientist are engaged in inventing such seeds which will be immune from disease. We will invent such seeds which will be immune from diseases. Pesticides should be used to check the disease. The use of pesticides affect the plants. I do admit that it is not good for human health. You can ascertain from other countries as to the way in which they use pesticides. What I mean to say is that the Government has made efforts to give remunerative prices to the farmers. Several hon. Members have expressed their views in this regard. It will take a lot of time if I reply to one by one.

As you are aware, the farmers always complain that they have no representatives in the Agriculture Prices Commission. We have included there representatives of the farmers in the Agriculture Prices Commission.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Who are they?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: One is from Andhra Pradesh, one is from Punjab and one is from Haryana.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: There is none from Bihar.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: If we take from all the States, the number will rise upto 40. Why know the States which produce more. Today Punjab and Haryana produce the largest quantity of foodgrains.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: You take the labourers from Bihar.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Punjab and Haryana also feed the people of Bihar. Why do you say so.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: They are also exploiting the labourers of Bihar.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: We do not take them forcibly from their villages. You are a responsible person. Some fresh hand may say so. A 5 year child can be picked up and taken away but he cannot be enticed.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I request you to provide greenery in our dry land. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The representatives of farmers are from Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Meghalaya. One of them is Shri Nageshwar Rao and one Shri Randhir Singh is from Haryana. The vice chancellor of the Punjab Agriculture University is the Chairman of this Commission.

SHRI PIUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Why do not you take a representative from West Bengal. You have overlooked the eastern zone.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: One representative is from Meghalaya. It is not possible to take a representatives from every States.

They fix original price and take all the points into account. There after, the report of the commission is sent to the State Governments. We have taken representatives of farmers so that they may not have any complaint.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: You should adopt the same criteria and take into account the details as is done in Industry.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): We welcome the inclusion of three representatives of the farmers in the AC,PC. But the computation method should be changed. Otherwise justice will not be done.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You can observe from the fact that the representatives of the farmers who are there might be taking into account each and everything. It is not so that they might not be doing any thing. They do everything after taking into account all aspects. We have to take care not only of the farmers but also of the consumers. I am more concerned about the farmers, I was born in a farmer's family. I have been reaping crops with my own hands. I know what is the problem of the farmers. What I mean to say is that we should take care of all aspects. We fix prices after making an allowance for a profit of 12 per cent. But the Government will also have to take care of the consumers including poor people, farm labourers, factory workers and the Government staff from peons to officers. Secondly, excessive increase in the prices is not in the interest of the farmers too because he sells 7 things but purchases 110 things. If the prices of his produce go up, will he then be able to get other things at cheaper rates? It is demanded that sugar-cane should be allowed to be sold at the rate of Rs. 100 per quintal. But if it is sold at this rate, will he be able to get sugar at Rs. 2 per k.g. (*Interruptions*)

Please listen to me. Do not interrupt

otherwise the problem of time will arise. On the one side, it is said that cotton should be sold at the rate of Rs. 1000 per quintal, on the other it is demanded that cloth should be available at Rs. 2 per yard. If cotton is sold at Rs. 1000 per quintal, will then the cloth be available at Rs. 2 per yard? Who suffer as a result thereof? The farmer has to purchase 110 things from a pair of shoes to a turban. In order to sustain his life he has to purchase every thing from fuel to gold from the market. (*Interruptions*)

This is what I am saying that we have to take care of all these aspects. It is known to you that prices are fixed after making an allowance for a profit of 12-15 per cent depending on the number of members in a family. This time three representatives of the farmers have also been included so that there is no scope for any complaint from them on this score.

Secondly there was a demand for waiving of loans, many hon. Members have demanded it. Waiving of loans is a tedious job. Nobody will waive loan of any body. Money in the banks belongs to you-out of which he takes loan and thus a third person has no right to waive that loan. Of course some concessions can be given. Concessions are given every year and many loans are written off. If somebody cannot repay the loan or there is a question of decreasing the rate of interest, it can be done. We can grant concessions to the poor but to say that the entire loan be waived, it is not possible.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): In 1937, the Congress Government introduced the Madras Agricultural Debt Relief Act in Madras and that Act has not been made applicable. Even Prof. Ranga said that Act must be made applicable even to banks. Interest must not exceed the principal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: In regard to

loans amounting to Rs. 25,000 there is a provision that amount of interest shall not exceed the double of the principal.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is so in respect of loans upto Rs. 25,000 even to day but I tell you that we can help you... (*Interruptions*)

I want to tell you that if something else comes in, if there is drought...

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: The Bank Regulation Act has been amended so as to make it inapplicable. Now the banks do not give effect to this Act. Therefore, you change this and make it effective even for bank loans.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The law is there and it covers loans upto Rs. 25,000. But I can say only this much that where...

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: We have to compensate the banks then.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: So far as payment of compensation to the banks is concerned, the most point is how to compensate them. Your suggestion is quite right. We will look into it and see what can be done. Every effort has been made to do whatever can be done by the Government. Wherever there is a drought or wherever the interest was more than the principal, it was waived. It has now been decided that the principal should be recovered in seven years. But in case of areas affected by drought and flood it will be recovered in 10 years...

SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi): No interest should be charged for 5 years.



SHRI BHAJAN LAL: But there should be some basis for not charging the interest. If someone takes a loan and is able to repay but does not pay deliberately, then nobody will waive the loan. If some calamity befalls him, then it is right that it should not be charged and some concession should be given.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: If such a condition prevails as has happened in our districts which have been facing drought for the last 5 years continuously.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It has been done. In addition to the principal no interest money will be recovered. In Rajasthan we will recover the loan in 10 years and that too in easy instalments. (*Interruptions*)

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: There has been an earthquake in Bihar, get it waived there also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: A reference has been made to the insurance scheme. It is an important matter. Farmers must get money for damages caused by flood, drought or fire. For this purpose a number of schemes are in operation in many States. Though all the farmers are not covered by these schemes. These schemes are not in operation in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. When I was there as a Chief Minister, I did not start the schemes. They wanted to take a district as a unit but we did not agree. Then they came to the block level even then we did not agree. I said that a block comprises of 100 or 150 villages and if 80 per cent of them suffered a loss, then only the farmers would get something. It is known to you that sometimes a hailstorm does not strike the whole block, but only half a village. Therefore we asked that Patwar circle should be taken as a unit then only the farmer would be benefited. It is for this reason that we did not agree. We demanded that all the farmers should be covered. Which farmer would be covered? The farmer who takes loan from the cooperative bank is covered. This is for the benefit of the bank, what did the farmer get? In this connection we have constituted a commit-

tee, which has already held 2-3 sittings. More sittings are going to be held. I cannot make any promise but we will strive to cover all the farmers whether he takes a loan or not. We may ask them to pay the premium on no loss no profit basis so that all the farmers are benefitted. By a patwar circle, I mean a village as a unit. In case of small village there is one Patwari for 2-3 villages and in case of big villages, there is one Patwari for each village. Since Patwari maintains maintains revenue records, therefore the village should be taken as a unit according to the revenue records so that farmers get full benefit of the scheme. For this our meetings are continuing and it will give full benefits to the farmers. We will take a decision soon in this regard. It will be our effort that whatever decision is taken, it is made applicable to the forthcoming kharif crop. I will tell you more about it also.

We are going to take a big step. Many hon. Members have stated that the prices of grains are cheap at the time of harvesting and after three or four months these become dear. For this purpose we are going to start a new scheme. After holding many meetings, we have reached a final stage. We have also held talks with the Reserve Bank. The only question remains to be decided is when it should be made applicable. It is hoped that it would be made applicable from the next month onward. What is that scheme? As a pilot project and on an experimental basis we have selected one district in every state. The way a trader takes an advance of 80 per cent from a bank by keeping his grains in his godowns similarly a farmer may keep his grains in his own godowns and take an advance of 80 per cent from a bank. At present we have selected one district in every state on an experimental basis, and if the scheme becomes successful, it will be made applicable to the entire country so that this problem is solved for ever.

While initiating the debate, Janga Reddyji accused that Rajivji could not find time to talk to the farmers assembled at the Boat Club. This accusation is baseless. They were given time whenever they had asked

for it. That day I was not here as I had been to Rajasthan but our hon. Ministers Shri Shyam Lal and Shri Rajesh Pilot met the farmers and assured them of solving their problems as far as possible. We have always accepted the right demands but how can we accept a thing which cannot be done.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, this is a discussion on peasants and agricultural labourers. Forty five minutes have passed. Not one word has been said by him about the agricultural labourers. Will he come out with something?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Madam, I have great respect for you. All the hon. Members are respectable. But when I find only ten Members sitting in front of me in the House, I know how much sympathy they have got for the farmers. In the very beginning, I spoke about the labourers but you were not in the House at that time. You ask your party Members, your colleagues they will tell you. First I spoke about the labourers. .... (*Interruptions*) It has been said that farmers were not given water and many other things. One hon. Member said that being scared of the farmers you have shifted the venue of your rally to the Red Fort. But the fact is that we changed the venue of our rally because we had regards for them we did not want that there should be any excesses on the farmers. These farmers had come here to stage a dharna only for one day but they lingered if for ten days. They were provoked whereas we did not want then to get provoked. Even then, we changed the place of our rally as a benevolent gesture because farmer is the backbone on which depends the progress of our country. They can be misled. As now the farmers are in a delusion, but when they will be able to understand the reality, they will realise what the Government has been doing for them. We organised a historical rally at the Red Fort, which was an unprecedented one during these 40 years of independence.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: One person died. They were lathicharged in the train. .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is not the question of somebody's death in the firing or due to lathi injuries. But even the policemen were beaten up there were providing them water. The police did not fire even a single round. If some body dies of heart-failure of which he may die even at his home. What can we do in it. That one person who died there, died of heart-failure. You have made a mention of the pending projects. I am myself of the view that the Government of India should immediately approve those projects, so that work can be started on them immediately because it is the need of the country. With the commissioning of these projects, production will increase and condition of the farmers will also improve. Similarly it has been said about the industrialists that they are never sent to jails, but the farmers are readily sent to jails. You know that if somebody, be it an industrialist or some other person, takes loan and does not return it in time, then legal action will have to be taken against him.

Something has been mentioned here about the support-price. Shri Ram Singh Yadav complained that there has been the crop of Bajra in Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab and Gujarat after a period of three-four years and its price has gone up to Rs. 110 to 115 per quintal, so it should be purchased immediately. In order to ensure that the farmers throughout the country may get a reasonable price for their coarse foodgrains, we have already fixed a support price which is presently Rs. 145 per quintal, we have started procuring it to maintain it at the fixed price level in the interest of the farmers and so far we have procured about 30 thousand tonnes of Bajra alone. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. TULSIRAM (Nagarkurnool): Hon. Minister, Sir, there is a Krishak Parishad, through which the farmers sell their foodgrains' produce directly. They get more rates, as they do not have to pay to the middlemen and now they may get the maximum of price for their produce. Whether you are also going to set up such councils even in other states in the country? (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL:** There is no ban on the movement of food-grains in the entire country. It can be taken to any part of the country. Secondly, you said that tax is imposed on the interest of the money given to the farmer for their acquired land. You know that this is the decision of the supreme court. It is not the decision of state Government or the Government of India that the interest should be treated as a profit. We are considering as to how to do it. We will try that the possession of the land should be taken only when the farmer has got the money for it in time. The land should be acquired at the market rate and it should be the barren land so that there is no resultant decline in the country's production.

I have already said about whatever has been said by Shri Madhu Dandavate and it needs no repetition. I would like to submit that there are some gentlemen who speak in a different tone in the cities and in altogether a different one in the rural areas. While in Calcutta, they will say that the prices have exorbitantly increased. In villages, they will say that the farmer does not get the reasonable price for his produce, hence starving and meting out with injustice. They follow double standards and use different language according to their convenience. *(Interruptions)*

So far as question of helping the small farmer to increase his production is concerned, it is said that locusts swarm the crops. It is well known that Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab face the damages caused by the locusts. Till now, locusts have not reached upto Andhra Pradesh. Most of the damage is caused by them in Rajasthan.

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM:** Do you stop them there?

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL:** Similar views have been expressed by Shri Tripathi and some other hon. Members. You have also said that the rate of electricity should be uniform throughout the country. It is not the law of the Centre. This is a State subject and the states

fix their own rates of electricity. The electricity boards have to incur a deficit of Rs. 1750 crores in one year on account of farmers. The rate of electricity for domestic use is 80 paise per unit and that for the farmer is 18 paise per unit. Thus the electricity boards had to incur a loss of 62 paise per unit on this account.

There was also a mention of the fertilizer. An amount of Rs. 12000 crores has been allocated for subsidy on fertilizer for the Seventh Five Year Plan and during the current year, Rs. 3000 crores have been given in the form of subsidy to the farmers. It will be a difficult situation if the farmers does not get the direct benefit of it. All over the country, fertilizers are being provided to the farmers on the subsidised rates. Subsidy is given to the factories which are manufacturing fertilizers. So, farmers get fertilizers at the subsidised rates. However a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Rao Birendra Singh who was previously the Agriculture Minister, and also the Chief Minister besides his being originally a farmer. The committee will look to it that its full benefit reaches the farmers and also as to how they can be provided subsidies directly. So that the farmer may realise that the subsidy is being given by the Government of India. Now the Government bears the amount of expenditure of crores of rupees on subsidy, but it is not known to the farmers. He will know when he will get it. But what steps should be taken so that the farmers can get the direct benefit of it.

**SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV:** Are you going to give concession on other fertilizers also as has been given on urea?

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL:** In the current year's budget, concession has been given on urea. The excise duty on other things have been reduced from 105 per cent to 15 per cent and on implements also it has also been reduced.

The price of urea has fallen by Rs. 8.80 per bag. Similarly, Sarvashri Somnath Rath, Manoj Pandey, Zainal Abedin, Ram Singh

Yadav and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee made their submissions about the employment of women and the youth. We are looking into it and we want that one-third women should get employment. ... (*Interruptions*) ... The youth should also get work.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: A comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers has been recommended unani-  
mously.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I have stated just now that a Commission was constituted on August 11, 1987 in this regard. When the Commission submits its report, it will be considered. You are also a member of that Commission. Why are you delaying the report? Kindly submit it. Similarly, hon. Shrimati Usha Choudhari, Shri Janak Raj Gupta, Shri M. Raghuma Reddy, Dr. A Kalanidhi and Dr. G.S. Rajans also made very good submissions. Dr. G.S. Rajans has been making interruptions but I do not have any complaint about it. Similarly Shrimati Nir-mala Kumari Shaktawat, Shri V. Tulsiram, Shri Ram Narian Singh, Shri Vijay N. Patil, Rao Saheb, Shri Ramoowalia and Shri Ram Pyare Panika also made a good contribu-  
tion. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi also submitted that foodgrain production should be in-  
creased. Regarding land reform, I want to state that Land Reform laws have been implemented throughout the country. Out of 70 lakh acres of surplus land 45 lakh acres have been distributed among the landless and about the rest of the 25 acres stay orders have been issued by courts. These stay orders have created difficulties. Still the States have been asked to get these cases settled early so that the land can be distributed. *Benami* land is also a state subject. It has been stated that at many places land has been bought in the name of dogs, cats and other animals. This matter should be investigated. States should proceed further in it. All the hon. Members have submitted valuable points but if I give a reply

to each and every point, it will take three hours. At 3.30 p.m. Private Member's Bills are to be taken up.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: You have dealt in detail the special case of the cotton farmers of Guntur and Prakasam District. Several elder members from your side have pleaded for writing off the interest part of the loans. Even some of your MLAs have come and pleaded for it. Why don't you write off the interest part of the loans due?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Some cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh have committed sui-  
cide and it is a matter of great regret for us. The Hon. Prime Minister went here and declared an assistance of Rs. 20,000. The ornaments of these people kept in the banks were saved from getting auctioned and the date of repayment of loans was also de-  
ferred. You are aware that waiving of interest etc. falls under the jurisdiction of the State. Your party is in power in Andhra Pradesh and therefore you should have waived it. .... (*Interruptions*)..... Why did you not do it?

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Our Government has written off cotton loan to the tune of Rs. 4 crores. Why not your Government write off the Bank loans?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You think you are doing a great favour to the people by supply-  
ing rice to them at Rs. 2 per kg. It is the Central Government which is supplying rice at subsidised rates to the State. Whatever the subsidy is left, it should be passed on to the nationalised banks so that the problem of the people is solved. What is your diffi-  
culty?... (*Interruptions*)...

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Our State Government is helping the poor people as well as the farmers. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I do appreciate that you are a well-educated intelligent Member and have made good points about farmers. You are a great sympathiser of farmers. I am also not less than that and none of the hon. Members of the House is unsympathetic towards them. Hon. Shri Ranga has made good suggestions. I will consider all these points seriously. The Central Government will make efforts to implement all the good suggestions and I will also endeavour to ensure their implementation to the maximum possible extent.

With these words, I am very grateful to those hon. Members who have expressed their valuable views here.

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15.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

Fifty-Seventh Report

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th November, 1988."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-seventh Report of the Committee

on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th November, 1988."

*The motion was adopted*

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15.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: IMPLEMENTATION ON NEW 20-POINT PROGRAMME—  
*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up further discussion on the Resolution regarding implementation of New 20-Point Programme moved by Shri Somnath Rath on 19th August, 1988.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): I congratulate Mr. Somnath Rath for bringing this Private Members' Resolution. I fully agree with his view that in the implementation of the 20-Point Programme the much needed commitment is lacking.

This Programme was initiated in 1975, modified in 1982 and re-modified in 1986. Its main and primary objective is removal of poverty. Though several thousand crores of rupees have been spent during the last 13 years, still only marginal change is there in the situation. I do not say that there is no change at all. I do accept that there is some change, but much more is needed to be done. I will quote one instance. You are aware that in northern India especially during the winter months not less than 300 to 400 poor people die because they do not have adequate clothes to protect themselves from the cold wave. Now, IRDP and several other programmes are intended to help the poorest of the poor in the rural areas. If this was really done, if really the poorest of the poor was helped, this situation would not have arisen. This is mainly because during the process of its implementation there are certain deficiencies at different levels. Actually the Government's intention

is that these programmes should be implemented properly and those people, who are below the poverty line, should be helped from a long range point of view. It will ultimately help them to develop socially, economically and educationally. But in many cases this is more on paper rather than on the ground. I shall quote only one instance. When we want to give IRDP loan benefit to a poor person to purchase a milch animal or a pair of bullocks and a cart, or sheep and goat, sometimes it so happens that actually the beneficiary does not purchase that milch cattle or bullocks and cart, or sheep and goat, but the three of them—the beneficiary, the bank officer and the Block officer—will collude. They will not really purchase the animal but will distribute the subsidy due in that particular scheme, to the beneficiary, to this bank man and to that Block official and repay this loan amount, which is given by the bank, after a few days to the bank, whereby the bank's interest is protected and the bank manager is quite satisfied. Now, what is happening in this process? The Government subsidy amount is being distributed but because that poor fellow has not purchased the animal or the bullock and cart, in the long run he is not going to be benefited. We think that he has already crossed the poverty line because he is given an IRDP loan, but in practice he is not going to be brought out of that poverty line. These are the examples which we practically see sometimes. So, my submission is that in such instances; when these lapses have been brought to the notice of the Government, the Government—not only the Union Government but all the State Governments—should strictly act. Whenever such lapses come to the notice of the administration, they must take very drastic measures and penalise the persons who are responsible for such types of things. Only then these programmes can be implemented in letter and spirit. Sometimes it is also happening in another way. The Government of India has given the guidelines. All the States are following them. In our State also, our State Government is strictly following those guidelines. There is selection committee of officers and they select the beneficiaries. "The bank official is also in-

involved. But after a particular poor beneficiary is identified, after the selection is over, the bank officer says: "No, the scheme is not viable, so I do not give the loan." In that process what happens is that the poor fellow who is sanctioned the loan, who is expecting to get self-employment by implementation of that particular scheme, is mentally tortured. He is made to run from pillar to post and he is made to go to the bank any number of times. Many a time this type of non-cooperation from the bank official's side is leading to a stage where we are not able to reach the targets well in time. Only in the last minute somehow those targets may be fulfilled. So, my submission to the Government is that they should kindly issue fresh instructions so that the banks must compulsorily give the loan to the beneficiaries who are identified as per the guidelines given by the Government, and in the process of selection, the bank official should be involved from beginning to the end.

By and large, these funds spent for RLEGP, NREP and IRDP are really helping the rural people a lot. I should say that because of these NREP and RLEGP funds, the hitherto neglected rural areas are able to get some all-weather roads or schools buildings or buildings constructed for community purposes, for the necessity of the people in the entire village. Several such developmental works are going on in a considerable way which is also bringing a lot of change in the face of the rural India. So my suggestion is that more funds should be earmarked for these rural programmes.

My another suggestion in this respect is this. Now, I personally feel that a stage has come where more employment opportunities can be generated from the service sector. Suppose you want to start an industry, it might require Rs. 100 crores or Rs. 200 crores. Because of the sophistication of the process, advanced technology involved, such industries would require more capital but there will be lesser employment opportunities. Now, what we find in our rural areas is, when we go round the villages, a poor fellow goes on his two wheeled cycle having some

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao] baskets behind his cycle with some vegetables, fruits or cloths selling them to the rural consumers and he gets something on which he is able to live without going in for a job to another place. Similarly, in semi-urban areas, we find people going with their 4-wheeled carts keeping some vegetables on them, going round the streets and selling them to the women-folk thereby earning their livelihood. It is just like you find in developed countries where a number of people working in the service sector is nearly 1/3 of the total working forces in those countries. Now, of course, not to that extent but surely a beginning can be made and a situation has come where in the service sector job opportunity can be created by providing the requirements of these people with a very very marginal investment. Supposing the poor fellow is given a cycle with a working capital of Rs. 500 or Rs. 400, then the total cost of his small business is not more than Rs. 1000. So, if you consider giving facility like this to these small people then you will be giving employment opportunities to about one crore people. So, Sir, some such innovative measures can be identified, can be thought of. Then the schemes can be given higher and over-riding priorities in these IRDP loan programmes where more number of poor people can be benefited.

Sir, 20-Point programme is a very vast subject. I do not want to touch all of them. Now, I would like to refer to the housing facilities. Next to food, housing is most important for these poor people. It is the basic need of the people. The Government is admitting that in spite of the fact of houses having been constructed, that is, about 16.2 million dwelling units constructed during the Seventh Plan period, still at the beginning of the 8th Plan, there may be about 29.3 million housing units required. So, Sir, that itself will make clear the gravity of the situation. Now, the Government of India has started observing the housing programme that has been going on in Andhra Pradesh. They have started this programme through Indira Awas Yojana Programme under RLEGP for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Sched-

uled Tribes. I do appreciate it. But what I want to suggest in this connection is that by merely giving a help, that is giving them money for construction of their houses free of cost, I want to ask whether it is advisable to help them like this. Should we not encourage the poor men to work and save something and also encourage them to construct their own houses? Definitely, the Government must help them. To some extent you can give them subsidy in that cost of the house, say for the total cost of Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 8,000 or Rs. 1000 for the construction of the House, you may give them subsidy to the extent of Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000. He must be made to know that he has to work and he must save something to construct his own house. If he gets loan for this purpose, he must be able to pay back the loan in equal instalments. Till now you might have given a few lakhs of persons throughout the country. But there are many crores of people who are to be provided with housing facilities. So, my submission is that you kindly think of extending assistance to the poor people for construction of their houses on this basis. In our own State, for the social welfare measures, our Government has spent nearly Rs. 35 crores during the last five years and it has helped in the construction of 8 lakh houses for the poor Harijans, Scheduled Castes, backward class people, economically backward class people and so on. It has given some Rs. 2000 as subsidy whereas the balance of the construction cost is given as loan and I suggest to the hon. Minister to consider and take it up at the level of the Union Government. So that your assistance, your help may help the State Government in taking up this housing programme in a very very big way so that we may be able to come nearer reaching our target of 29 million units in the coming Eighth Plan period. In this process my suggestion is this. Earlier, my colleague was speaking—he only comes from Bihar—that there is a lot of wastage and corruption in the matter of construction of these houses where sub-standard bricks or lesser quantity of cement and such things are being used. The hon. Member has brought this to the notice of this House. Our experience in our State is, we are involving

the beneficiaries themselves, they are forming a samiti, they themselves are constructing, they are completely utilising the materials, bricks cement, steel that are being required for that are being given by the Government and I hope the Government will adopt a similar policy.

In respect of slum clearance in several cities, the slums are coming up in a very very big way, and I do not understand, while some years back the DMK Government in Madras could tackle the slum clearance and slum improvement programme in a very very big way on a massive scale constructing several thousands of units in that short period, why not the Government take some such measures in other metropolitan cities to clear the slums and provide permanent housing to those economically weaker sections people. In this connection, in our Andhra Pradesh also, in the cities of Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada as well as several towns the Government of India has a plan to assist the efforts of the State Governments with the assistance from overseas development agencies. The hon. Minister for Urban Development very recently came to Vijayawada in connection with a Seminar and she assured that the Government will make available this assistance, and I once again urge upon the hon. Minister to see that this help is made available at the earliest for clearance of these slums in several cities as well as towns in our State of Andhra Pradesh.

We have committed ourselves to the health for all by 2000 A.D. And it was reiterated in the National Health Policy also adopted in 1983. But I ask the Government. Are we really going to achieve that target. The infant mortality is still very high especially in very big States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Orissa. Still the infant mortality is very high and the Government should seriously think about this and take necessary steps to bring down this infant mortality rate. And about population control, I do not know why our Government is not able to act in a declared manner, that means, not that the

Government is not doing many things; it is doing many things to induce the people to go in for sterilisation or birth control measures. But my suggestion is, while in Communist China the Government could convince the minority people in China to undertake family planning operation and while in a Muslim dominated Indonesia it was done, why this Government is not able to succeed in convincing the minority people to take up family planning programmes? Because ultimately it is only when the population growth is retarded, the results can go to all the people and there the religious heads are also convinced. They have agreed to the Government programme and those religious heads are cooperating with Government efforts. Similarly, why not our Government confer with the heads of religions? Several people may be there, you convene all of them and tell them that unless family planning programmes are implemented to the maximum extent, unless the population growth is retarded or arrested, the great efforts of this Government are going waste and much change is not being witnessed and the poor people are not getting the real benefits. So, you also kindly cooperate, you also kindly advocate. Through your disciples or your followers, you take up this family planning education and programme. There is nothing in the religious faith that family planning should not be adopted. But the Government has not taken up this measure till now. They have exploited several other avenues, several other methods for family planning but this particular measure has not yet been tried by the Government. I request them to try this method also.

In respect of giving justice to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people, whatever has been done is practically a drop in the ocean. Even now Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are suffering a lot and the Scheduled Tribes people belonging to some States have come to such a desperate situation that they are wanting for a separate State to be administered by themselves. That only shows that much care was not given to them. There may be budgetary allocations on the paper, in the books,



[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]  
but how far have these benefits reached these tribal people?

For example, our Government of Andhra Pradesh has constructed nearly 1210 new hostels for Scheduled Tribes in a matter of 5 years. Similarly, for backward Class communities, while there were only 600 hostels, our Government have constructed 1030 hostels. Similarly for Scheduled Tribes, 470 new hostels have been opened. Even now, with all these things, our literacy rate is not above the national average. In spite of doing all this, in spite of doing so much for the benefit of those weaker sections, still much more has to be done and I hope the Government will similarly help for the amelioration of the poor people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, for their development in social, economic and educational fields.

Lastly, I would like to point out the public distribution system. Just now, the hon. Minister was telling that the farmers were not satisfied with the prices they were paid. They are not getting remunerative prices whereas poor persons in the urban areas and semi-urban areas are compelled to pay very high prices. In this scenario, the Government's main responsibility comes in the form of public distribution system. I am told, in some States, this public distribution system is not so well established, as a result of which, even the essential commodities that are being supplied by the Union Government are not reaching the poorer sections to the fullest extent. In fact, my suggestion is, why do the Union Government not further reduce these prices? You are now for example, subsidising to some extent the supply of rice or what, in the cost of procurement, handling etc. But our State Government, with limited resources, in the year 1986-87, spent Rs. 285 crores as subsidy in addition to the subsidy element which is involved by way of Food Corporation of India issue prices and are making rice available at the rate of Rs. 2 per k.g. per family. Nearly one crore families are getting this benefit. My submission is that the Government can and should increase its

subsidy on the Food Corporation of India issue price, so that the State Governments' burden will further be reduced and they may be able to utilise that amount for other sectors.

Lastly, I would like to make only one suggestion. Now you are aware that this cloth is another item which is to be supplied to the poorer sections. I would like to bring to your kind notice that the interests of the handloom-weavers have not adequately been taken care of by the new Textile Policy. For example, I would like to say that our State Government is subsidising nearly Rs. 30 crores taking dhotis and sarees from the weavers and giving at 50 per cent of the prices to the consumers. But one item is there. The *Lungis*, which are being manufactured by the handloom weavers in our Prakasam and Guntur Districts as also in some other parts, are lying idle. Regarding the export orders to Ceylon and Burma, they have almost closed their doors. These weavers are suffering like anything. I would like to bring to your kind notice a few instances where suicides have also taken place and the weavers are very much worried. So, I would request the Union Government to purchase such stocks and distribute through the PDS system to other parts of the country and help those poor weavers.

With these few words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the implementation of the 20 Point Programme. We are all agreed that these programmes represent our resolve to bring about a qualitative change in the rural scene and also to bring about a change in the socio-economic structure. That is why, we have included all these programmes and when almost all the programmes are properly implemented, they would improve the quality of life of the people and bring about social justice and economic development. The report says that almost in all cases except one or two, the targets set have been achieved. Our Prime Minister has been

going round the country, visiting the rural areas particularly the villages inhabited by Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and poor people. He has discovered that in the implementation of these programmes, there has been distortion. In his speeches, he has been saying that the funds allocated might have been utilised but the benefits actually reach those for whom they are intended in a very small percent. The other day while addressing a big rally here in Delhi, he said that out of Rs. six that is intended for a particular scheme, for example only one rupee reaches the actual target group. That shows the faulty implementation of these programmes and yet the figures show that we have achieved the targets that we had set.

15.58 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Sir, I have just heard the hon. Member of Telugu Desam asking the same submission about the implementation. Now, I would also like to say the same thing. For instance, I would say that we have been trying to show that we are achieving the targets but what has been found in the study made on the NREP is different. One of the C&AG Report says: "Faulty planning, misappropriation of funds and large-scale bungling have marred the implementation of the NREP in Bihar". This is from CAG's Report. This is an example of how our implementation is faulty. When we come to actual evaluation of 20 Point-Programme — for instance, Bihar got 52 marks out of 57 in 1987-88 — how this achievement was recorded passes my comprehension because as has been found, at the grassroot level the implementation has not been as it should have been and the benefits of the programmes are not reaching the target groups. The Government is aware, the Prime Minister is aware, of the difficulties and has been exhorting the administration and his partymen and others to cooperate in proper implementation of these programmes because, as I said earlier, these programmes represent the soul of our development effort and on this depends

the success of our planning. If we are properly implementing these programmes, we will be actually eradicating poverty and minimising unemployment, which is the need of the time. Therefore, I would suggest that we cannot always depend on governmental machinery because funds are spent hundred per cent whereas the physical targets in actual terms would be even fifty per cent. Therefore, I would say that the time has come when we should undertake a study on the cost of delivery for each one of our developmental schemes.

As the Prime Minister himself indicated some time back "it is pointless if we have to spend 80 per cent of the funds of the project on administration and 20 per cent on actual benefits to the people." Now here is our Planning Minister. I will submit to him to undertake a study of this position where the administration is costing 85 per cent of the total cost of the scheme and only 15 to 20 per cent is left for the beneficiary. This is a point which should be studied now and these distortions should be corrected if we want to make rapid progress.

We have the onerous task of reducing the number of poor from 37 per cent in 1987 to 25.8 per cent in 1990 and further five per cent by 1999. This task too cannot be accomplished only by Government alone. All these efforts have to be supplemented by voluntary agencies and voluntary efforts. In the complex and vast country like India we cannot achieve these things only through Government machinery. I would like to quote in this connection, observations of one of our top Sociologists, Professor M.N. Srinivas: He says:

"In discussing rural development programmes, there is a real danger of being boxed into a situation where rural development becomes synonymous with the activities of the government of the day and this can also happen with international programmes."

I would also refer to the observations of Professor V.K.R.V. Rao. He says:

[Sh. Satyendra Narayan Sinha]  
 "devolution of power is the basic pre-requisite for success of IRDP."

I am glad the Prime Minister is emphasizing this point and is going to enact a law for holding Panchayat elections on time in order to strengthen the Panchayati Raj institutions. If you want to involve people at the grass root level, I think this is the only way of doing so and the Prime Minister is very right in emphasizing this point.

We have also to give importance to voluntary effort. Where Voluntary action has been significant there the benefit of the funds spent is the highest. I would therefore urge the Government to upgrade the voluntary action in attaining the goals of 20 point programme.

As my friend has said just now, even in the distribution of credit there is *Go/Maal*. So the credit should be distributed in camps meant for the purpose among the rural poor. If you have the Panchayati Raj institutions, they will be working as watch dogs in regard to this and the credit sanctioned would go to the person for whom it is intended.

Identification of beneficiaries is already being done in many places, in Gram Sabhas. But in many states Gram Sabhas are not active, particularly in Bihar, Panchayat elections have not taken place for years. It is high time elections were held and these institutions are made active and alive. If this happens, it would be easier for us to identify the real beneficiaries. The programmes which are intended to lift the people living below the poverty line will be correctly implemented.

The Hon. Member who spoke before me has said about the selection of beneficiaries and the collusion that takes place between the officers as well as the bank managers and the beneficiaries. This is not an isolated case of Andhra Pradesh; this is happening elsewhere also. I think the Government is aware of this and is trying to deal with the situation. I would only say that we have to involve the people in this.

The otherday while I was speaking on the Budget I had suggested that at the block level although you have the 20 point programme committee, yet it is not functioning in the objective manner as it should. We should delink it from politics and we should provide representation to all those people, maybe belonging to all parties, who are interested in the real social work. They should see to it that proper implementation is done.

In technology mission evaluation, for instance, a process of people's participation has been tried through an organisation headed by the former Chief Justice Shri Bhagawati. Some such organisations could be set up to involve people in regard to 20 point programme.

Now we have been often receiving complaints about the land reforms. Here in this House also it is often stressed that land reforms have not been properly implemented and lands have not been properly distributed. If lands have been distributed, in some cases the possession has not been given, even where possession has been given, the wherewithal has not been provided for carrying or cultivation, etc. In this case also I would suggest that you need the support of the village Panchayats. They will be able to tell you who has got the land in excess of the ceiling, which lands are being held in Benami and whether the records are correct or not. Emphasis has been laid in this programme that village records must be updated. The records should correctly show who is owning how much land. I am sorry to say the land records have not been updated. In many places consolidation of holdings has not yet taken place, particularly in Bihar. In some areas it has been done and in some other areas it is still in the process of being done. On account of faulty land records you have not been able to identify the excess land and further where excess lands have been identified you have not been able to distribute the same largely due to litigation. We should have special courts so that these cases can be speedily decided and they are not prolonged in usual civil litigation courts.

A word about minimum wages. It is also a very vexed problem. We are often referring to this question. The Prime Minister is aware of this and because of this he has appointed National Rural Labour Commission headed by Shri Darji. I hope this Commission will submit its report soon but even before the report is submitted we should address ourselves to this problem. In many areas particularly in Bihar there is resentment, dissatisfaction and tension in the villages on account of this, leading to violent clashes. You must have come across such news in the newspapers where large number of people have been killed. Government have undertaken this 'Operation Sidharth' in Jahanabad and Aurangabad areas which are affected by this so-called naxal movement. It is not only a question of minimum wages. It is a question of all-round development of that areas plus the social outlook of the people. The national education policy which we are implementing does take into consideration the point of changing the social outlook of the people, and bring about equality. Through Operation Blackboard, you are going to provide quality education at the rural level and if it is properly implemented then the children of affluent families would study in the villages along with the children of the poor families. They will sit together, read together and talk to each other on equal terms and there will be a change in the mental outlook. In the Navodaya schools talented children from rich and poor families will get quality education. They will stay together and lead a community life and when they will go into society they will go with a different mental outlook. There will not be any complexion. This national education policy is bound to change the social outlook which is contributing at the moment to a large extent in creating social tensions coupled with lack of development in those areas. Therefore, altogether this 20-point programme has taken an overall view of the society as it is and how to bring about a qualitative change in the society. This is the main thrust of this 20-point programme and instead of only criticising the implementation part of it, I think, we should all go about telling people to cooperate in the best of spirit in the

implementation of these programmes.

Already an atmosphere of awareness has been created through this programme. But still there is a lot to be desired. We should, instead of telling here, go to villages, ourselves see the implementation of it and cooperate with the authorities concerned or with the people entrusted with the implementation of it and see that the schemes are properly implemented and the benefits of it do reach the persons for whom it is intended. Here the role of the voluntary organisations is vital. There are many voluntary organisations which are working in the field. I name the Sarvodaya for instance. Bharat Sewak Samaj can also take up this work. Like that, we can identify the voluntary organisations — if we have not already so — and entrust this work to them. So, they can motivate the people to work honestly because a large part of bungling, that has taken place, is due to corruption that is eating into the very vitals of our system. This can only be fought by public awareness and by rousing the social conscience against it. Then alone, we can create a wall of public opinion or a system against corrupt practices and see that those who are indulging in wrong practices, are brought to book or are terrified from actually indulging in this kind of malpractices, because of a strong public opinion for which we have all to work in the villages to create that awareness.

Prime Minister has been going about seeing things for himself and telling people where the fault lies and what should be done. He has talked of the responsive administration. It is a very good thing. I do hope that in times to come, the administration will become responsive and it would be possible for the Government to create that kind of machinery about which we have spoken. The Ministry of Programme Implementation has been engaged in institutionalising an effective monitoring system which would not only motivate the effective implementation of the programme but also see about the speedy communication of dependable information in the areas to enable the monitoring agencies to interpret signals and intervene in a

[Sh. Satyendra Narayan Sinha] prompt and constructive manner. I think, when you reply to the debate, you will be able to tell us the progress that you have made in this regard and what kind of institutions you have evolved for the monitoring system.

I will again say that in the implementation of 20-point programme, there should be no politics. It should be delinked from politics. We should all see to it that the social structure undergoes a change, the economic structure undergoes a change. We proceed towards the socialist goal that is set before us. This 20-point programme in that respect is revolutionary concept and is intended to take us faster towards that aim.

With these words, I commend this programme and hope that the Government will further look into the deficiencies in the implementation of this programme.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the proposals put forward by hon. Shri Somnath Rath for the eradication of poverty. Under the 20 point programme, two points, namely, the first and the twentieth are very significant. If these two points are implemented properly, the 20 Point Programme can be successful in eradication of poverty. Therefore I want to throw light on the first point here. In the first point, it has been stated that priority has to be given to fighting poverty. Along with the eradication of poverty more employment opportunities have to be provided. Removal of poverty, raising of agricultural production, increasing productivity, removal of social and economic disparities and qualitative enhancement of living standards are the main objectives of this programme. The programme which has been given top priority for eradication of poverty is the Integrated Rural Development Programme. Under this programme, certain families have been selected in the rural areas who are to be the beneficiaries under this programme. Now the question arises as to how far have we been able to implement

this programme successfully. According to the information available with me, in the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan, 39.9 per cent people were living below the poverty line. Under this programme our target is to reduce this percentage of poverty to 28.2 per cent by 1989-90 and to 5 per cent by the year 2000 A.D. However in view of the pace at which we are progressing, it seems that we will not be able to achieve our target by 2000 A.D.! The need of the hour today is that radical changes will have to be brought about in the Integrated Rural Development Programme. If we do not do it, we will never be successful in achieving our aim of alleviation of poverty and the people living below the poverty line will never be uplifted. I think even to this extent that the Government figures which claim that at the start of the Seventh Five Year Plan, 39.9 per cent people were living below the poverty line are not based on facts. I doubt if we will be able to bring down this limit to 28.2 per cent by 1989-90. The reason behind this is that earlier we considered those families as living below poverty line whose annual income was less than Rs. 3500 per annum. Later on the Government extended this limit to Rs. 4800 and when prices further rose, this limit has been increased to Rs. 6400. This means that now those people who earn Rs. 6400 or less per annum are considered below poverty line. The reality is that if we hold a survey throughout the country, 50 per cent of the total population will be found to be living below this limit. Then a new situation will arise. I want to describe about my own constituency which is drought stricken for the last 5 years and even this year when the situation in the whole country is quite good, it is still in the grip of drought. Leave aside the whole country, the condition in even our neighbouring district has now improved whereas the situation in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur is still bad. Drought condition has been prevailing there for the last 5 years. 27 per cent people of Barmer district falls below poverty line and in Jaisalmer district 20 per cent people are below poverty line as per the definition formulated by the Government. This is so because you have put a condition that beneficiaries families to be

taken up under the I.R.D.P. programme should not possess land in excess of the limit prescribed for it. Under that programme, the Government has prescribed a limit that if a person is in possession of more than 10 hectares of unirrigated land, he is considered as above poverty line. This decision taken by the Government is absolutely wrong. This criteria should not be applied in drought prone areas and where the land is infertile. Today the situation there is such that people are leaving their land to work in the mills in Haryana, Gujarat and Pali as labourers. They are migrating to Jodhpur to work in the factories. The people are now leaving their occupation of agriculture and becoming labourers. In fact, 80 per cent people are there living below poverty line as against 27 per cent under your criteria. I have gone through all the statistics and have estimated that the definition of a small farmer covers one owning land up to 62.5 bighas whereas a landless is allotted land by the Government not less than 75 bighas after the allotment of which, he becomes a big farmer as per the definition and is not considered as below poverty line, as a consequence of which he is not entitled to avail of the benefit of that programme. Under the present situation, in order to provide benefit under I.R.D.P. programme, a family comprising 5 to 8 members, all persons of 18 years and above are supposed to be owning a share in the land. Thus they are considered as small farmers and below the poverty line. If it has been done from this point of view, it is right. In order to improve the situation of the people living in desert areas, it is necessary to bring them under the definition of small and marginal farmers, lest they should not get the benefit of Government schemes. Only those who live below poverty line are benefited by these scheme. All the people in my constituency whose condition is bad are not able to get the benefit of these schemes, due to which they are getting poorer day by day. Therefore it is a point to be considered that these people belong to a special area which have peculiar conditions. Special attention should be paid as to how to remove the poverty of people living in areas where only one crop i.e. Khariff is grown in a year

and there is no Rabi crop.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the desert development programme was implemented in our areas only after I made a lot of hue and cry in the Lok Sabha. We have been benefited by it because under this the sand-dune stabilisation work has been done in our area, due to which grass and trees have started growing on the dunes, and the land is becoming stable. Therefore this programme needs to be expanded as it has proved quite successful. In this regard, my suggestion is that instead of getting the work done by the Government, local people should be provided assistance to execute the work. This will help in improving the economic condition of those people. Due to the stabilisation of the sand-dunes there, trees and grass have started growing and there has been a lot of gain out of it. This programme is meant to eradicate poverty in the real sense. This programme consisted of two schemes and the bureaucracy which knows nothing has stopped those schemes. I held talks with the officials frequently but they did not pay attention to it. It has come to be seen that the officials do what they determine. We have seen a similar situation prevailing at the Centre also. I tried my best to change their mentality but they stopped the schemes under desert development programme. Under this programme exploration of tubewell was taken but they said it clearly that this would not be taken under this programme. They did not give any reasons when I asked them as to what objection did they have in it. You know that water could be explored with the help of this programme which enables to provide irrigation facilities. Chandan tubewells have been sunk in Jaisalmer by means of which the output of water has been 40,000 gallon. My implication is that exploration of tubewell programme has been quite successful. It was a part and parcel of our desert development programme but it is regrettable that the officials completely stopped it. Similarly there were animal husbandry programmes but the Rajasthan Government misused it. They opened the dispensaries in this regard but did not do any significant work in this direction. This is not right that we should

[Sh. Virldhi Chander Jain]  
 be punished for their fault. This programme can bring a lot of development. You know that the livestock in our country is an important wealth. Cow is the backbone of our villages and gives good milk. There will be no objection if some expenditure is incurred to bring improvement in its breed. The Rajasthan Government has totally stopped this programme at present, and our Central Government is providing cent percent aid to the desert development programme. This is the reason why the extension of desert which was taking place earlier has stopped now. My submission is that this programme should be expanded in the Eighth Five Year Plan, and more funds be allotted for this. In the Seventh Five Year Plan, an allocation of Rs. 237 crores was made. My submission is that an allocation of Rupees One thousand crore should be made in the eighth Five Year Plan. In the Hill Development Programmes launched by the Government, a provision of Rs. 500 to 700 crores is made. Therefore it becomes necessary that a provision of Rupees One Thousand crore should be made for the desert development programme. This can bring in a radical change in the desert area and turn it into greenery. It is a man made desert. Today the situation is such that there is vegetation in even that area. The trees there are famous by the name of *Khejri* and are extremely useful. It is essential to make Rajasthan a developed area in order to eradicate poverty from there.

Besides, there is also a need to amend the definitions of small and marginal farmers suitably. The definitions of small and marginal farmers in the irrigated areas are also the same although they get canal water and the level of ground water in those areas is 30 to 40 feet deep. In our area the level of ground water is 200 feet. According to the definitions of small and marginal farmers, a person owing land between zero to 3/4th hectares comes under the category of a small farmer whereas that of owing land between 3/4 to 1 1/2 hectares is said to be a marginal farmer. The same criteria is applied to our area also. Both these limits should be doubled for our area so that the small and the

marginal farmers may really get the benefit, and after being benefited the people in our area may progress.

Secondly, besides the poverty eradication programme, programmes like better use of irrigation water, strategy for rain fed for agriculture and bigger harvest have also been started. About the Indira Gandhi canal in the desert area, which was called Rajasthan canal earlier, our former Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru had decided to get water for irrigation by making an agreement with the Pakistan Government in 1955. Its work was started in 1958 and Shri G.B. Pant even laid its foundation stone but 30 years have passed since 1958 and its progress is extremely slow. Had this scheme completed within 10 years, a radical change would have been brought about in the desert areas through this Indira Gandhi canal. Crores of rupees are spent when drought or famine strikes but there would have been no need of these if Rajasthan canal had got ready earlier. Rather it would have played a significant role in increasing the country's food production and making our country self-sufficient in foodgrains. My submission is that a provision of Rs. 100 crores has been made by the Government in the Plan but its cost goes on increasing with the progress in the construction of this canal. If a provision of Rs. 100 crores has been made, then according to my estimate its construction is going to take 25 years and then alone will this scheme be implemented and its benefit be met. But we can not wait for 25 years and therefore, it is necessary to expedite its construction work.

The Central Government has helped Haryana and provided cent percent assistance in case of the Yamuna-Sutlej Link Scheme. Therefore central Government can provide cent percent assistance for this project also or spend the amount and after spending the amount if this project is completed within a scheduled programme of 10 years, a sea change can be brought about in the desert areas. So it is very necessary to complete this project.

The biggest weakness of the various

poverty alleviation programmes like the I.R.D.P. is that they have a provision for giving subsidies. Today tribal areas get 50%, scheduled castes 1/3rd part and others 25% subsidy. But this subsidy is grabbed by development officers, doctors and the sarpanch. We made efforts to physically verify the assets. I went along with the authorities to 10 places. At 8 of these places people did not bring anything e.g. cattle etc. for physical verification. At one place an honest sarpanch did come forward with his assets. At another place we detected a lot of irregularities. I mean to say that physical verification indicates that poverty still exists among them. The purpose for which they took the assistance has not been utilised for the same and they have not become self-sufficient. In the AICC meeting we passed an economic resolution on 4-5 November. It was decided to provide a productive job to one member of every family. To do this it is necessary to introduce a scheme in every State wherein one member of every family living below the poverty line should be provided with a productive job. Today a situation exists where only Government service is considered to be a productive job by the people. The Government's TRYSEM programme has also not been successful. There are no experts to impart training under the TRYSEM programme. Whatever training is given is incomplete. As a result thereof such training is of no use. The programme should be improved to make it more effective.

In programmes like I.R.D.P., the provision of giving subsidy should be withdrawn. The benefit of interest should be given in these programmes. Interest should be waived for the first 4-6 years. Instalments should not be demanded if famine-like situation exists in some area. In this way the various programmes can be made successful. There should be a monitoring system. In the absence of such a system the problems of the poor remain unsolved, denying them their due. The hon. Prime Minister rightly said that of every Rs. 100/- sanctioned for removal of poverty, only Rs. 15/- actually reach the poor. We accept that administrative expenses are unavoidable. Yet we must

ensure that no part of the Rs. 100 we spend for removal of poverty reaches the wrong pockets. Our objective is to strengthen the economic state of the poor. For this the money should reach the hands of the poor and this money should be utilised for the purpose for which the same has been taken. The N.R.E.P. and the R.L.E.G.P. have proved to be beneficial. Assets have been created and the entire rural picture has changed. But the 'Wells' programme should not be linked with the 'Jaldhara' scheme. Being useful in itself, the former should be independent. If wells are dug under the N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P., roads will not be laid and the country's progress will slacken. So this programme should be kept independent. The 'Jaldhara' scheme is of tremendous use to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, poor and marginal farmers. The N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. should be combined because their common objective is the removal of poverty and solving the unemployment problem. The first step towards achieving this objective is to provide a job to at least one member of every family. Today a peon earns a salary of Rs. 1000/- per month while 75% of the country's farmers are not able to get that much amount.

Today the problem with land reforms is that at present cases are pending in the courts in respect of 25 lakh acres of land. The Government have not found a way to dispose of these pending cases. The State Governments should be directed to take action against persons involved in 'benami' transactions, however powerful they may be. 'Benami' transactions should be brought to light even if they have links with any political party. Land reforms should be implemented properly. We abolished Privy purses of the former rulers of the states and nationalised the banks but we could not eliminate vested interests. This country cannot progress unless vested interests are dealt with properly. We have to deal with vested interests who withhold money and create impediments in our efforts to remove poverty. We have to eliminate them.

With these words I support this proposal.



[English]

SHRI P.K. THUNGON (Arunachal West): While we talk about the 20-Point Programme, to me it appears that unless and until there is proper implementation, all these programmes are meaningless. Unless and until we have a proper machinery, proper administration and machinery, the implementation of these programmes is not feasible. I would like to touch upon the 20th point of the 20-Point Programme. It says that we shall simplify the procedure, we shall delegate authority, we shall enforce accountability, we shall evolve monitoring system from block to national level and we shall attend promptly and sympathetically to the public grievances. So far as we are concerned, unless and until our administration is responsive to the public need, I think, it is not possible to satisfy the public requirements and to carry on satisfactorily the developmental work.

We have inherited a colonial system of administration. It is 40 years now since we attained Independence. As you are aware, the colonial system of administration was a vested system. Their main purpose was to serve their own interest and mainly to collect revenue. That is why, the Deputy Commissioners which we call now, are, even at many places, called as Collectors. This very name represents that they were appointed to collect revenue. But after independence, the thrust of collection of revenue is not as important as the thrust of development so that we can generate more revenue, we can have more GNP and the overall development of the country is more. Unless and until we reform our administrative system according to the need of the time, it will not be possible on our part to satisfy the needs of the people and to have accelerated growth.

I have been hearing the hon. Members who spoke on this Resolution. Most of the hon. Members have said that there are delays and improper implementation of the 20 Point Programme. Why? Because the system is not working properly. I do not think we can deliver goods to the people. It is high

time that we thought very sincerely about some kind of improvement or some kind of a change in our administrative system so that it can be more responsive to the needs of the people.

We call government employees as public servants because they are the employees of the public. The government is elected by the people, by the public, and they are employees of that public. But when the people, who are supposed to be the employer, go to an employee, go to an officer, sometimes their plight is very deplorable. Therefore it is time that we think about this.

Our dynamic and young Prime Minister very rightly appears to be a little impatient in implementing particularly this part of the 20-Point Programme. That is why he has very rightly been saying that there should be some change, there should be more powers given to the local self-government, there should be more representation from the public themselves for planning, etc. I think the first change that we can think in any type of administrative reform within the framework of our democratic system is that unless we start the reforms from the grass-root level, it becomes difficult to bring the reforms. Therefore, we shall have to think about this and shall have to start the process as quickly as possible. I would urge upon the hon. Minister that from the Planning side also he should hasten up to delegate more powers to *Panchayat* system, not only up to the district level but up to the Block level and downwards. I think there are many programmes which are relevant for one place but which are irrelevant for other places. For example, some time ago there was a programme that if the rural people take up some work, they will be paid in terms of *atta*. But in some parts of the country, particularly I have the experience in Arunachal Pradesh, people do not take *atta*. Many of our people do not take *atta*. Therefore, the very spirit of the programme gets defeated because of the practical problems. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to stress that our administrative system has to be reviewed and in this regard, the *Panchayati Raj* sys-

tem should be revitalised. If need be, we should give Constitutional status to the District Panchayat, Zila Panchayat or Zila Parishad so that they can involve the local representatives as well as they can supervise the implementation. Also, Sir, as I said, because of local problems, planning can be done on the basis of particular local area with the help of the local representatives in that particular area or the District. I would request the hon. Minister for Planning to see that the Local Bodies are more and more involved in planning process so that the planning process is taken up in right earnest and benefit the local people. The planning process should start from the bottom instead of from top level. Then only the fruits of the planning can reach the poor people in the rural areas. The people at the grass-root level can benefit the achievements of the planning. Sir, I do not want to go into other points.

Sir, I have to make one point. While talking about the implementation, why should we only consider whatever we have? We should look forward to better and new avenues, even on the Administration side also. For example, we have computers even in Administration also. If the latest technology can be used, if the latest technology can be inducted into this system, it can be more efficient and then we can render quicker and better service for implementation of not only the 20-Point programme but the overall administration and the development of the country.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, this 20-Point Programme is a well-conceived programme and the intention of this programme is quite good but we have failed on the implementation side. Sir, lakhs and crores of money are spent for various programmes. The development work should be expedited and completed in time, as per schedule. The Government has spent money on these programmes, no doubt. But I should like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that in regard to the input given to every block, if you assess, you will find that money has been given more than the need of each block. The

Government has never assessed how much input has been taken by these blocks and how much money has been spent on these blocks. So, nobody is willing to take the risk or take the responsibility for the accountability of the money spent on each block. The Government does not know how many blocks we have in our country and how much money has been spent, for what purpose, for which item and to whom the money has been given. We have got block level machinery for the implementation of all the programmes. But have you ever asked the number of the items to be considered for implementation of each programme? Have you ever asked how much money has been spent for a particular programme, say, fishery? You will find that some blocks have received lakhs and lakhs of rupees, sometimes even crores of rupees, but what is the position there? The fish is sold at Rs. 40 per kilo there. So, Sir, if the money had been properly utilised, we would have been in a position to export tonnes and tonnes of fish to foreign countries.

17.00 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Even, for instance, see in the case of poultry, how much money has been spent for poultry. You will find that every Indian, each one of us, should have two or three eggs a day for the money we have already spent. But what is the position? Perhaps, subject to correction, the average man's consumption in India for eggs is only 0.02. And see the money we have spent for poultry development or take the milk. What is the revelation? How much money we have given for good cattle, cattle of good breed, and how much milk we have got so far? Today, if I may speak subject to correction, perhaps it is correct that our per capita consumption is 68.8 grammes. So how much milk is for the per capita? It is just perhaps not enough for a cup of tea! That means, a good number of people, crores of our people, do not even reach the stage of a cup of milk still. The 20-point programme is supposed to alleviate poverty. But what is our living standard?

[Sh. Piyus Tiraky]

How much per capita we are getting? How much meat we are getting? How much per capita of eggs is available? How much of vegetables are available? The money has been lost for nothing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this discussion?

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Yes, by a minimum of two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, we extend the time by two hours.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: It is because there is a mistake, everybody, even a chowkidar in employment, a public servant whoever he may be, whether it is I or my son or somebody else — 'public servants' means they are the boss of the public. They have to command, but not to work with the people. But they are called 'public servants'. In the villages also, the village level workers are there, they are supposed to assist, not assist but to tell them how to go ahead and also tell that a farmer can get more profit in the years to come. But no, in this scheme so much money has come and there is a middleman. Suppose some person is not knowing for what purpose the money has come, the village level worker will have to tell that 'this is for such and such scheme, so much money has come, please apply. I am there, I will get you the money.' He should not say, 'No, I will not be able to do this work, I do not know.' What for this Government is giving the money? Perhaps it will be written off if you can't pay it. So, first they have to get the money by loans or something. But 50 per cent of it is pocketed by the middleman. But just to get the money, a number applications are there. So, Sir, the block level machinery who are supposed to implement this 20-point programme must be accountable there. If the money is spent after years, then for which purpose that money is given. If the block could not spend money for the purpose for which it is given, then where has the money gone, where they have failed? So,

there must be accountability of the machinery. Unless you do it, you will not know how the money is spent, for which purpose it is spent.

Sir, I have my own experience. A loan is given to the farmers, especially to the tribal people. They are supposed to be inexperienced in other jobs. So, for poultry piggery and other things they are given the money. But you don't think that all the tribals are interested in all the fields. That is why, I am suggesting that you give training to these people, in the line in which they are interested. Unless a person is interested to go to some business, he will not succeed in that business. Similarly, when a person goes for rearing goat, he must have a thorough knowledge about goat, what kind of disease could afflict the goats and what is the treatment to be given to those goats afflicted by a particular disease, where is the veterinary doctor to whom he should go. So, there must be a training scheme. He must also know, what is the profit he will get if he rears two or three goat. What would be his assets after say 5 years and what would be the return? Everything must be clearly told to the beneficiaries by the Government officers, village officers. It is not that just you have got the money, just give him something Rs. 200 for one goat. Where would he get a goat? Here also, you have to guide him; you must assist him. All these services must be rendered to the beneficiary, who has really got interest in that line. If these steps are taken, everyone will be profited by that and our country will also be profited.

Similarly, for piggery, animal husbandry and poultry also, you should not distribute the money *at random*, just because money has come and therefore, you are distributing it without any exercise. It is not that, I am working as Chowkidar for Rs. 60 and just because, loan is to be taken, I will leave that job and take the money and spend it. If any person is having that kind of intention, then he should not be given the loan because that would not be spent purposefully. The Government should know before giving the loan that this person is very much devoted to this

line and he will always be interested in this job and he will devote most of his life to improve this. In every Block, you can find 10 or 12 such persons. If proper training and guidance is given to the beneficiaries, the village of this country would have another face, a very brighter face and our living standard will go high. What is our living standard? Don't see Delhi where we are all English speaking people with coat and tie. We have changed to English. I am also speaking in English because if anybody speaks in any other language, he is a "Bekhooph", he has no knowledge. He is a second class. Everybody wants to speak English whether it is good or right, yes or no. This is the understanding. The officers must have a tie. He must have a good suit. Our Government is also going to provide some dress for every Department. But what is the dress for the farmers, 67% of the population who are in the agricultural side? In the past, we were trying to amalgamate with the commonmen of this country. Now officers have the distinction; even Chowkidars, peons have distinction that the people should know. Government officer is not a public servant but he is a boss of the public. In Bihar, there are some districts where I have seen and experienced about the Block Development officers and other officers. They want so much *bakhshis* to do the work. They have meetings, clubs. They say, you have so much plantation, why don't you give something here. This kind of thing is going on. The officers are getting fat and not the actual beneficiaries. You also know that these things are happening which are not new. Everybody knows it. You know the social structure. We are following a system in which the fittest persons can survive. The villagers living in the rural areas will not be able to survive. All the exploiters, who cannot exploit the people living in big cities and towns, are moving to the villages and immediately within a few months and years, they become big men by exploiting these innocent people. These exploiters are seni there. Further, there is no accountability on the part of the people who are implementing these welfare programmes. Therefore, we have to stop this exploitation first. The Government

is satisfied if a lot of money is spent which is intended for the 20 Point Programme. But it should not be measured in terms of money that has been spent on these welfare programmes. We have to take into account the actual output. We have to take into account as to how much each block is contributing to the nation.

Sir, our standard of living is low when compared to some other countries. Another thing which I would like to mention is that our living standard should not be judged in terms of having a Radio or TV in every home. Our country is a poor country. We are boasting of being the biggest democracy in the world. We are boasting that our country is entering the 21st century and we will be landing on the moon soon. But what is our standard of living? Still, our people remain poor. There are people who are poorest of the poor in our country. What is the quantity of calorie we are providing for our masses? We are still not able to provide the required calorie for our masses. What is the reason? Our farmers have been neglected. Our developmental work in the block and village level, which feed the entire nation, has been neglected. The officers are not made accountable to the money they spend. Several hon. Members have mentioned about this fact. There is no question of party politics in this regard. We are all one, as far as this subject is concerned. If our country remains poor, if it is neglected, then it will be a shame to our country. There are rich countries with poor people living in them. It is a shame to India, if the people remain poor and neglected. It is not a problem for the Congress Party or any other party. This is a national problem. We are all concerned about it. We must sit together and work for the development of our country and to improve the standard of living. Big plants like Durgapur Plant alone cannot improve our standard of living. A few Iron and Steel plants alone cannot improve the standard of living of this country. But only our farmers can improve the standard of living of this country.

Sir, this 20 Point Programme is a very laudable programme. But the Programme

[Sh. Piyus Tiraky]  
itself cannot produce anything unless we are able to implement it properly. We are speaking of modernisation in the field of industry etc. But, why can't we think of modernisation and applying modern technology in the field of agriculture, in the field of Poultry, Animal Husbandry etc. Only they can help raise our standard of living.

Sir, I am fortunate enough to have been able to speak on this subject. At the same time, I would like to point out that speaking in Parliament without any fruit is also useless. Many of our friends have suggested that there should be accountability on the part of the officers who are implementing these programmes. Schemes remaining on paper and killing the time of Parliament would not do anything. The Government should not delay in fixing accountability. The hon. Minister is a young Minister. He is coming from the region where this kind of corruption is going on. He knows better than I know about such things. He is wielding power. The hon. Minister must make the officers accountable. If it is done within a year or so, the people of India will remember that the Ministry of Planning is doing well. For whatever money that has been spent, there should be results. There are several schemes and I do not want to go into the details of those schemes. Already, my other colleagues have said much about them. If I also speak about them, it would be a mere repetition.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to support your Resolution. In fact, the Hon. Minister Mr. Engti, the Minister of State for Planning is present here in this House to listen to us on various aspects of 20 Point Programme, but in my all humbleness, I would like to submit that your presence itself is not sufficient on behalf of all the Ministers. That is because, each point of the 20 Point Programme concerns various Ministries and except perhaps, Railways, Civil Aviation, Atomic Energy or Home, all other Ministers ought to

have been present here when a Resolution on 20 Point Programme is discussed in this House.

This 20-Point Programme cannot be allotted to a single Ministry under the Business Rules. It is not an independent portfolio to be allotted to an individual Minister. The point concerns various Ministries. In any case, you will convey our feelings to the respective Ministries on various points and also to the opposition MPs.

The 20-Point Programme, in my view, is not only a programme of the Government of India. I have always considered it as an economic constitution of the Government of India. Our Constitution has given us various rights of political nature, social nature and economic nature. But only it was Mrs. Gandhi whose vision could give birth to this 20 Point Programme to specifically lay down a sort of economic constitution for the country. And it is from that time onwards that a special stress is being laid on the economic programmes based on this document. So much so, we the Congressmen in this House and elsewhere have considered this as an important document for the purpose of achieving the goals of this country. And if the Hon. Members of the opposition today are scared of anything, it is this 20-Point Programme. They are not scared of our speeches; they are not scared of our ideologies; they are not scared of any other thing. But they are very much scared of the 20-Point Programme because it is only through this medium of 20-Point Programme, we have wiped them out and we are going to wipe them out because at no time, wherever they are, they have any programme, even akin to this 20 Point Programme. Therefore, this is our basic instrument of achieving our economic goals.

Whenever I refer to the 20-Point Programme, I always say, as my learned colleague Mr. Thungan has said that the 20th Point of the 20 Point Programme constitute the main soul of this programme because if this 20th Point Programme is implemented thoroughly, then with the same amount that

we are spending today, we can achieve results almost six times because as the Prime Minister himself has stated we get only one-sixth of the real thing that we spend in the villages. Therefore the 20th point is specific on the procedure and delegation of authority to enforce accountability, monitoring the system and hearing of public grievances.

Fortunately I am a member of one Consultative Committee which is looking into the aspect of various matters relating to administration. I have had occasions of reading and going through several reports concerning administrative reforms. Therefore I feel that our procedures should be simplified, accountability fixed and action should be taken. I had asked sometime in this House as to how many officers or employees of the Government of India or the State Governments have been suspended only on the ground of their failure to implement any of the 20 point programmes. Is there any statistics? Forget about other administrative aspects, if we have in mind of taking serious action against any officer or any employee who fails to implement or fails to discharge his responsibility with respect to implementation of 20 point programme as per the scheme, then I think another 20 to 25% achievement would have been there. In this respect I would like to state very specifically that this point should be taken into account.

Your Resolution speaks specifically of the first point, i.e. attack on rural poverty. In this respect I would like to state that the decentralisation of power is the most vital point. Today the Prime Minister has taken up this as a very vital task for him because it was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi to have Gram Raj in this country. Various states in our country so far have not been able to achieve any sort of a semblance of local self-governments. Therefore our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has decided about this. He has first met the collectors, he met the Chief Secretaries and tried to assess from them what are the difficulties that they face at the local level, what are the problems of the

Panchayat and other local bodies. Having assessed the situation, through the medium of the party — through the Parliamentary Party and through our party — a study has been made. Today for our study not less than four or five documents are available only on this aspect of local self-government.

The Prime Minister is going ahead with giving Panchayat a proper status, of trying to have some sort of mandatory legislation to hold Panchayat election in time.

Not only that, of our districts which are the backbone of the administration and which are not so far recognised by the Constitution, we have to find some important place in the Constitution of India. If you see the third Resolution which stands listed in my name in the Private Members' Resolutions today, I am specific on this subject of inclusion of districts in the Constitution.

Secondly, just as we have three lists in the Constitution — Union List, Concurrent List and the State List — I have proposed through my Resolution — of course it may not come today — that a 4th list be added to the Constitution of India which shall be known as 'District List' and powers be given to the districts under the 4th List, allocating specific subjects to be handled by the district bodies. The time may come when a 5th list also is asked for so that the power percolates down. Because the Prime Minister has been stating that our power should not lie only in Delhi or in the State Capitals; but it should percolate down to districts and blocks. Therefore, in view of this aspect strengthening of panchayats is very important.

Secondly, we are today making an assessment of the achievements of the various State Governments and in doing so what we do is perhaps ask for figures from them. Once I was told that an officer from the Government of India secretly goes to a State and finds out how the programme is being implemented. But I have found it is not so. In fact, it should have been so. Instead of relying upon the figures submitted by State Governments on each of the points and then

[Sh. Santaram Naik]  
giving marks to the States makes no sense. Our assessment should not be how many wells have been dug in a village. Our assessment should be on the basis of a person who has gone there and seen whether those wells are existing. Our assessment should be on the basis whether cows or other animals which have been given are with the respective men and being utilised. The other day Prime Minister got a complaint in Amritsar that the same buffalo had been sold 16 times under the same programme. This is mis-utilisation of the programme. So the Prime Minister has said that he wants to give more powers to the districts and panchayats. This assessment in villages cannot be done through Delhi. Therefore, percolation of these powers down is required. As far as the hon. Minister is concerned some monitoring is being done. You are doing it on the basis of the information given by the States. With the coming of computers from here you feed figures and then send a man to assess the actual availability of those goods at a place. In this manner this aspect of actual fulfilment of the objective under 20-point programme has to be done.

Another aspect that I would like to touch upon is the twentieth point of the 20-point programme. It speaks of establishment of public grievances cells. At one time it was decided to establish such cells in Central Government departments. Various Central Government departments have established these cells but these cells are functioning on a skeleton basis. No systematic public grievance cell machinery in the Government departments has been established so far. As far as State Governments are concerned most of the State Governments have not taken up this aspect seriously. Only a skeleton thing has been done. Not State Government has taken up this aspect of establishing public grievances cells in their respective departments and, therefore, strict instructions have to be issued to the State Governments as far as this aspect is concerned.

Now, Sir, as far as land reforms are concerned in many places we know land

reforms have not been enforced. Who is responsible for this? Not necessarily the Government. In many cases because cases are pending in High Courts and Supreme Court that land reforms have not been implemented. In most of these cases, it is because of this. Government has enacted legislations. But these legislations have been challenged in the courts and stays have been granted. As far as my State is concerned, it is also there.

Once I had suggested here; let the Government of India make a list of these pending cases and through the Attorney-General make special mentions in the Supreme Court. Obviously, if the burden is taken by the Government Attorney, of course, the Judges will certainly listen and request the Judges of the Supreme Court or of various High Courts at various levels that these matters somehow be disposed of, say, within a period of six months or so. If this is done, this entire point — namely, point 5, if I am not mistaken — of the 20-point programme will be fulfilled by the Government. Once the court clears it, then further implementation part remains. Obviously, the Government is interested in that. Government is interested in giving benefits to the landless persons. They are not interested in becoming unpopular by not enforcing the land reforms. Therefore, the Government is interested. The only question is the legal hurdle which comes in the way of implementation of the 5th point of the 20-point programme which can be done away with.

Lastly, I would like to suggest to you that in the matter of implementation, the aspect of accountability — which I had suggested — should be strictly adhered to. Of course, there are various cadres of services of the State Governments. There are all-India cadres which are controlled by various authorities. There are service rules under which if a Government servant falters, action can be taken. There is no doubt about it. But if the Government of India issues instructions to the various State Governments on this line that faltering of employees of the Government in the implementation of 20-

point programme should be with independently and a more serious note should be taken of its faltering, then the seriousness will be realised by the State Governments.

I request you to issue such instructions immediately to the State Governments so that the authorities take this aspect very seriously. If this is done, the effect will be felt. What is that? The indirect effect is that you avoid delays and wastage. If you avoid delays and wastage, you get the results twice or thrice the results that you get today. Obviously, it has got an indirect effect. Therefore, in these circumstances, I support the resolution of Shri Rath so that on the basis of the discussions that we are holding here, the hon. Minister for Planning, Mr. Engti, should write to the various Ministries and ask them to take necessary steps in this regard.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to participate in this debate on an important topic like the 20-point programme implementation. This is a resolution moved by you and while I speak, you are in the Chair.

At the very outset, I would like to pay glowing tributes to the sacred memory of Madam Indira Gandhi whose birth anniversary we are going to observe tomorrow. On the eve of her birth anniversary, we are discussing this programme in this House. It was her brainchild. This programme is the brainchild of our beloved ex-Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. We all know that it was she who for the first time launched this programme in 1975 and she was quite sincere in its implementation. This programme actually under her guidance has done immense benefit to the people of this country.

While this is being debated in this House, there has been no point of difference so far. Even friends opposite while participating in the debate have welcomed it and have all praise for the programme. It is a laudable programme. They have also observed that its implementation should be improved. There is a lot of scope for im-

provement in the field of implementation. The implementation is not as satisfactory as it ought to be. It is faulty.

As you saw, friends opposite representing different States where non-Congress Governments are at the helm of affairs, for example West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh etc. also spoke. Shri Rao and Shri Tiraky spoke and before that one Member who spoke represents West Bengal, where there is CPM and the left-front Government. All of them were critical of the implementation. Obviously, in their States also, undoubtedly the implementation of the 20-Point Programme which has a very noble objective needs improvement. There is a lot of scope for improvement.

However, if you look at the figures given in the report, you will get a different picture. The Central Government after all collects reports from the different States. They compile the figures and present it before us. But what we find is that there is a lot of gap in the picture presented in the report and the actual position in the field. We are visiting the fields quite often and we have direct contact with the masses. I am giving you one example. On 8th last, about eleven days before, I attended a meeting of the District Development Board at Dhankanal in Orissa. I have two districts within my jurisdiction, Sambalpur and Dhankanal and in that DDB meeting, there was an item and it will be interesting for the Members to know what is happening. If you depend on the officials, if you put credence on their reports solely, you are gone. I am giving you this illustration. The District Magistrate, as you know, happens to be the Chairman of the DDB. It is again a misfortune that the District Magistrate presides over a meeting where M.L.As and M.Ps sit as ordinary members and address him as 'Sir'. There was an item in the agenda — drinking water. Some tubewells were sanctioned by the Government, without waiting for the Members to give their opinion, the Administration had gone ahead with the execution. What did they do? They just placed it before the Committee for *post facto* approval.



[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

I can give you another instance. At least, we have a bitter experience in Orissa. Sir, we, the MPs preside over the DIC (District Industry Centre) meetings. We are the Chairmen there. It is very kind of the Government to nominate us as the Chairman. But the officers, the Secretary and the DIC General Manager and even the Collector come to us with a list and they say, "You approve it. You cannot change it, we have drawn this list"

MR. CHAIRMAN: For your information the collector, the working chairman, approves everything, and you only have to sign it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Let the Minister also know it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When it is questioned, it is said that is the direction of the Reserve Bank. The Finance Minister of Orissa said that it was the direction of the Reserve Bank and you cannot change it.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I thank you for your observation. I was just coming to it. So, let the Central Government, which is represented here by the Hon. Minister, also know as to what sort of humiliation the MPs are subjected to in the district level meetings and other meetings. How can you expect miracles; how can you expect desired results if such a situation prevails. If they prepare the list honestly, we have nothing to say but when we go to the field we come across a lot of genuine allegations. For example, this block officer has collected money, this officer has done this and that officer has done this and so on. They prepare a list which we are bound to approve in the meeting.

Sir, I was referring to the drinking water problem. Shri K.P. Singh Deo also raised this problem. When we ask them what is the purpose in their placing the thing before us when they have already gone with the programme, then they say that since there was no meeting it was not placed, and that they

have covered all the villages where there were no wells. I stood up and congratulated the collector and said, "Anyway you have bypassed us but if you have covered all the villages where there were no wells, it is very good thing." He asserted that there is no well-less village now. But at the same time one Chairman of the Panchayat Sammiti came to me and requested that since there is not a single tubewell in some villages I should request the collector to include those villages under this programme. That is how the confrontation took place and the officer's version was proved wrong. So, if you rely hundred per cent on their report, where will you land up?

Now, I will come to the other point. During 1977-80 there was departure from the 20 point-programme. This programme was given a good-bye by the Janta Government. They did not believe in the eradication of poverty. So, whatever good work was done by Indiraji they did not follow it. In 1982 Madam Indiraji again came up with a revised 20 point-programme. Then in 1986, some points were dropped and some new points were included. I would say that really a practical approach was adopted while drawing up this 20 Point-programme by our present Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He is restless in one sense, to fight poverty, he is restless to see that poverty is eliminated; he is restless to see India playing a leading role in the 21st century. He wants India to be a leading light in the whole of the world. That is his anxiety. We have to cope with his dreams, and the anxiety which he expresses. But what about the health of the bureaucracy, the machinery on which we are dependent? Are they capable of implementing the dreams of our young Prime Minister who is very much a visionary?

The new 20-point programme renewed the commitment of the Government towards eradication of poverty, raising of production, reduction in income inequalities and the removal of social and economic disparities in general. This, in its entirety, is actually in tune with the economic philosophy of the Congress Government. The economic phi-

osophy and programme of the Congress Government is to achieve socialism. Naturally, we cannot achieve socialism so long as we have poverty, so long as we have imbalances, so long as we have inequalities in income and in social status. In general, it aims at improving the quality of life of the people. It is not a declaration of intent, but a charter of emancipation of the poor.

Again, as you know, we have discussed agriculture and the problems of farmers and the problems of agricultural labourers during the last two days. The hon. Minister of Agriculture was replying to the debate today. Of these 20 points, as many as four relate to agriculture, and rightly so. India being essentially and dominantly an agricultural country, the salvation of India, the progress of India basically lies in the promotion of agriculture, in the advancement of agriculture. That, in its turn, will also strengthen our industrial movement, because the raw materials for the industry are supplied from the agricultural sector. That way, the No. 2 programme relates to rain-fed agriculture, better use of irrigation water, bigger harvest and also enforcement of land reforms. These four are directly linked with agriculture.

What is the challenge, what is the problem in the agricultural sector? I was speaking yesterday in the other debate. I will not repeat what I said. As you know, concentration of land is there. Eightyfive per cent of the total land holdings consists of plots under 2.5 hectares each, whereas 10% or 20% people control about 80% of the total agricultural land. So, the problem is there in the eastern India. Unfortunately, Mr Bhajan Lal, our Minister of Agriculture thinks of agricultural conditions of India from one angle: that is, from the angle of Haryana and Punjab only. While talking of agriculture or looking at the conditions of farmers, he should set aside for some time Haryana and Punjab from his mind, and look to the other backward States like Orissa, Bihar, parts of Andhra, parts of U.P. etc.

What about productivity? To raise productivity is the challenge. Unless productiv-

ity is raised, naturally whatever we do, the lot of the agriculturists and farmers will not improve. Again, when I say that increase in productivity has to be achieved, it has to be done without much increase in the cultivation cost, because if you spend much, and put a lot of fertilizers, that is spend much more money on that item and thereby get some high yields, where will it lead us to? Naturally, some technology has to be utilized in agriculture. Productivity will no doubt go up, but the cost of cultivation will not be proportionate. Of course, prices are going up. The price is going up. Even the procurement price you are increasing from year to year. But whatever increase you are giving in the procurement price gets nullified because in the field of essential commodities and inputs on which the agriculturists depend, the increase is much more; it does not have any relationship. So, that is the problem.

This is very important. The dignity of labour has to be manifested in the field of agriculture. Our officers must know how to respect the poor farmers, poor people in the villages; they should not forget, however educated they may be, that they had been educated, they have come up to this level, on the sacrifices of those poor people, who are starving in the villages, who are half-naked in the villages. So, naturally, they have to salute them because it is their effort which is feeding them.

Their salary is drawn from the State Exchequer which is enriched, which is contributed to by the poor people in villages, regardless of their poverty; whether they have got food to eat or not. It is they who are paying for these people; it is they who are paying for the salary of the bureaucrats. We have to respect them.

Now, I would like to say something about the importance Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is giving to the 20-point programme. It will be evident from this. Out of the total public sector outlay of Rs. 1,18,000 crores for the Seventh Plan, the outlay for this 20-point programme is Rs. 60,500 crores, which represents 36.6 per cent of the total outlay;

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi] and the share of 20-point programme in the total central pool is 22.6 per cent. Now, in entirety, the total outlay of the Central Government for this 20-point programme accounts for 22.6 per cent, and in the States, it is much more; it is 46.1 per cent. The total outlay for 1987-88 is Rs. 44,698 crores of which the outlay relating to 20-point programme is Rs. 13,507 crores that is 23.4 per cent.

According to the Seventh Plan target, in the field of bringing down the percentage of people below the poverty line (it was at that point of time about 40 per cent) our programme is to bring it down to 28 per cent at the end of the plan period and further to 10 per cent, at the end of Eighth Plan and to 5 per cent by 2000 AD. My request to the government will be let there be such a plan, programme that by 2000 AD, there should not be anybody left in the country below the poverty line. So, this should be our ideal; this should be our contribution to the new generation and also in regard to the 21st century.

About land reforms — earlier it has been said how large number of cases are pending in law courts. The government should find out way to fight out the bottleneck. It is ridiculous that even the minimum wage is not ensured in some government firms. In a Central Government Agricultural Firm in Orissa, the labourers are thus exploited. Some contractors say that in the tender papers the rates that were given were for less. So they cannot pay at the rate of prescribed minimum wages. For solving the problem of drinking water and to make it more realistic, the block meetings should be attended by P.H.D. engineers and the list could be drawn in consultation with the representatives of the people. The 20-Point Programme a movement of the people is to be implemented. Unless we involve the people in general and their representatives actively in particular and remove corruption in the field of implementation of the 20-point programme, it can not be implemented properly.

As you know, corruption is the enemy of the democracy. If the poverty continues like this, it will endanger democracy.

Before concluding, I request the Government to give serious thought how we can fight out corruption and ensure the success of the Twenty-Point Programme, which was launched by our late Madam Prime Minister Indiraji and being continued by our present Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKARLAL (Pali): Mr. Chairman Sir, to remove poverty from the country and for the country's all-round development our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi introduced the 20-Point Programme in 1975. It was revised on 14 January, 1982. When it was evaluated in 1984-85, it was found that under the 20-Point Programme 100 million people who were below the poverty line had been uplifted. But 272 million people still remained below the poverty line. For their upliftment our hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi placed a 20-Point Programme before both the Houses of the Parliament on 20th August, 1986. When this programme was introduced in April, 1987 everyone in the country had high hopes that its implementation would rid the country of poverty and unemployment, bring drinking water to villages and increase productivity in the country. But, Mr. Chairman Sir, the implementation of the programme has not been upto expectations. The first reason for this is improper identification of people living below the poverty line in villages. Consequently, money which is supposed to reach the poor ends up in the hands of the corrupt. This is due to improper implementation of the programme at the rural level. Identification of the poor should be done at the 'Gram Sabha' by members of the Panchayat Samiti and officials from the block level and Panchayat. Only after proper identification can the poor get maximum benefits of I.R.D.P. and other such programmes.

Mr. Chairman Sir, another problem is the process of giving loans through banks. There is so much of red-tapism that the poor are not able to get much benefit. For this banking rules have to be changed, particularly those related to payment of subsidies. These changes would simplify the procedure by which the poor can seek the assistance they desire.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman Sir, of all the programmes of the Government, the most important one is that of the limited family. If we are not able to limit our families, good effects of all pro-

grammes will be nullified by the unchecked growth of population. Therefore, the family planning programme needs to be implemented in an effective manner.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will continue next time.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, November 21, 1988/Kartika 30, 1910 (Saka)*