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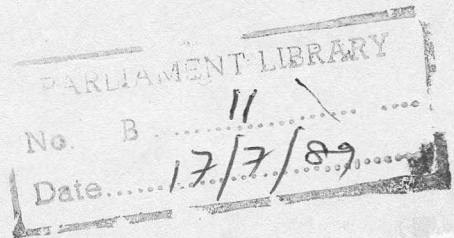
LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)

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(Vol. XLVI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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[*Eighth Series, Vol. XLVI, Thirteenth Session, 1989/1910 (Saka)*]

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 24, 1989/Phalguna 5,
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: How is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs standing in the centre?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He should always be in the centre.

MR. SPEAKER: He should be in the centre of the ruling and the opposition benches and not in the corridor.

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): Sir, I was on my way to seat.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Bonds to Raise Funds for Development of Rail Communications in Marathwada Region

*41. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE†:
SHRI D.B. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have allowed Maharashtra Government to float bonds to raise funds for better rail communications in the Marathwada region; and

(b) if so, the details of the Scheme.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Active or otherwise?

DR. DATTA SAMANT: This is the demand of the hon. Minister also.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: The reply is that the matter is under consideration. Marathwada is a backward region of the State of Maharashtra. With a view to developing transport facilities in Marathwada the State Government had recommended four projects. Out of them three are gauge conversion and one for a new railway line. And the successive Chief Ministers including the hon. Finance Minister have been pressing for the sanction of these projects and allotments for these projects particularly Manmad-Aurangabad-Parbhani-Parli-Vaijnath metre-gauge line and Parbhani-Purna Mudkhed metre gauge line into broad gauge. Yesterday, the Railway Budget provided Rs. 15 crores for the first project and a token grant of Rs. 1000 for the second project. The Railway Minister has always been praising the Maharashtra Government for agreeing to raise debentures of nearly Rs. 80 crores for the New Bombay railway i.e. Mankhud Belapur railway. And yesterday in his speech he reiterated and appreciated such efforts of the State Governments to come forward and contribute for railway projects. In view of this when the Maharashtra Government has offered to raise public bonds for these projects, what is now the

technical difficulty? Why is the Government not agreeing to such a proposal? Why is it kept under consideration?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, I do not think that I can request my colleague the railway Minister to react in a question which is put to the Finance Ministry. As regards the first part of the question, it is a fact that successive Chief Ministers of Maharashtra have been trying their best to see that these railway lines are sanctioned and adequate amounts are provided for execution of these lines. Both the lines have been sanctioned by the Railway Ministry. There is no difficulty about it. But, at the same time, it is true that in one case the amount provided happens to be Rs. 15 crores, in the case of the other it is just a token provision of Rs. 1,000. Might be, the explanation which possibly I can give will be that since these debentures were going to be floated, this might have weighed with them. I can not say on behalf of the Railway Ministry as to actually what weighed with them. There was a meeting between the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the Railway Minister, the Minister for Planning and myself. All four of us sat there, discussed the whole matter and agreed in principle that we will have to take definite steps in this direction in order to see that this backward area gets the benefit of the railways.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Sir, my second supplementary is that in view of this meeting which has already taken place and in which it has been agreed in principle, as the hon. Minister has said, how long will it take ultimately to take the final decision.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Ultimately this has to be sent in a proper shape and form to the Planning Commission and thereafter the Planning Commission will send their proposal to the Ministry of Finance. Might be that in order to expedite the whole thing, all of us will again sit there and prepare the proposal and see that it is expedited.

SHRI D.B. PATIL: Sir, it is an accepted fact that Marathwada region is a backward region. That is why it has been provided in

the Constitution, under article 371 (2), that a Development Board for Marathwada should be established. That itself speaks for the backwardness of Marathwada region. The hon. Finance Minister comes from Marathwada region and he has been pressing for the rail communications in Marathwada. Not it is upon him to sanction at the earliest the scheme to issue bonds. The Government of Maharashtra is very anxious about rail communications in Maharashtra. One or two years back, there was a proposal that the earth work for new lines should be worked out and done under the Employment Guarantee Scheme and the Maharashtra Government was prepared for it. Considering all these facts, will the hon. Minister take an early decision in the matter so that the speed of development could be accelerated in Marathwada?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, I quite see the anxiety of the hon. Member. It is a fact that this is a backward area and something needs to be done. That is why we will try to expedite the things.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, it is good that I am asking a question to the Finance Minister who also happened to be the Chief Minister, who also made the demand which we are making in the House from the other end of Maharashtra... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: To Mr. Madhu Dandavate, the Railway Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That is right. It is a wonderful combination, Sir. I did my job by allowing the first route to be completed... (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dighe was saying that you were pressing. Who will press the Finance Minister and whom will he press?

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Whom-

ever we press, he has to impress the Prime Minister. Sir, is it not a fact that the question of floating the bonds to raise funds for better rail communications in the Marathwada region arose, as you yourself just now said, out of the fact that this region is considered as a backward region. Now, in terms of region, the backward caste includes Marathwada as well as Konkan region. He knows it very well, Sir. Therefore, I would like to know that having accepted in principle that the bonds should be floated and fortunately... (Interruptions). Sir, is it a bell for me?

MR. SPEAKER: No.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Sir, I am so loyal that even if inadvertently the bell is rung, I become very conscious... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate that.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: He is so conscious of it that even if a bell rings in his television, he opens the door.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Fortunately the hon. Railway Minister yesterday gave enough indication that he accepts the principle of raising funds through the bonds. Now, in view of this, will the Finance Minister accept the very principle that he made from Bombay as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and expedite the clearance of issuance of bonds both in the case of Marathwada Railway as well as West Konkan railways? This you referred to me as a former Railway Minister. Now, I am asking this question. I did my job by negotiating the matter with the Planning Commission and getting the first part of the 62 Km. in Apta-Roha Section of the Konkan Railway. Fortunately that is also constructed. So, I did my job. Now, kindly do your job.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: That is exactly what have replied to the question Sir, that the

whole matter is under the consideration of the Government. I can assure the hon. Member that the Prime Minister is also equally sympathetic to this Railway line. (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Sir, I will tell you one thing.

As far as "consideration" and "survey" are concerned, these terms are there. I will give you a very interesting quotation. In Railways, it is said:

"Where there is a will there is a 'Railway'; when there is no will, there is only a survey."

That is how you consider that. I am very frightened of the word 'consideration' from my experience. That is exactly what is happening with the term "under consideration". So, let him give a time-bound assurance as to when it will be done and when the bonds will be allowed to be issued.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I must express my gratitude to the hon. Member for passing on this information as to when he was the Railway Minister, how he looked at it. Anyway, I can assure the hon. Member that when I say that the whole thing will be expedited, we will see that within a stipulated time—I won't be able to mention the exact timing—we will try to see that the whole thing is expedited.

MR. SPEAKER: I can well realise that when you are sitting in the train, you travel at the same speed, all of you.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Sir, I support the demand for the development of the Marathwada region by having more railways because at one time I also represented a part of Marathwada. But the point is, that the floating of the bonds for the development of the Railways is the main concern of the railway department or the Railway Finance Corporation. I do not understand where the Maharashtra government comes into the picture. But I am very happy if that is consid-

ered as a new policy. I would like to know whether the Government of India is going to support all such proposals which come from various States for floating public sector bonds for the development of not only Railways but also many other projects taken up by State undertakings.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I can well understand the indication which the hon. Member has given to me that in different States there is a demand for all types of Corporations for floating loans. I won't be able to say at this stage anything about the whole thing. But whether the Railway Finance Corporation should also take part in this or the Maharashtra Government alone will be asked to go in for floatation of the bonds, that is also one of the point which is under consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uttam Rathod; Last supplementary.

SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: rose

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, junior Chavan wants to ask a supplementary.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I hope he will come after me.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: What about junior Chavan? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I can't take it a family affair.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I will ask only half a question.

AN HON. MEMBER: Half a question will be passed on to him.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, when this question bonds issue was taken up, there was a demand through the Janata Vikas Parishad recently when a Railway Convention was held that the railway lines which they have proposed should also get the benefit of these bonds. May I know from the

hon. Minister if he is prepared to do that? Will they at least give priority to Adilabad-Mudkhed railway section so that the Marathwada region gets coal from Chandrapur?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, this question is being replied in the context of the demand made by the Maharashtra Government. I don't think I have all the details as to what transpired in the Janata Vikas Parishad. But these are the two railway lines which have been sanctioned and we will try to see how we can accommodate both of them.

SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister if a specific proposal has been received by the Finance Ministry regarding floating of bonds and if so, what has been done in this regard.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: Let him answer with paternal affection!

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Sir, the guidelines are very clearly laid down by the Finance Ministry, if the floatation of any bonds is to take place what are the guidelines which every one is supposed to follow. If it fits into that, then certainly it will be taken into account, but about the details as to whether the Maharashtra Government has sent such a proposal or not, I will have to find out, I don't have information readily available with me.

[*Translation*]

Maintenance allowance limit

*42. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum amount of maintenance allowance per month that a wife is entitled to get from her husband;

(b) is the same maximum limit applicable irrespective of the income and property of the husband;

(c) if so, the reasons, if any, for not

linking the maximum limit to the income and property of the husband; and

(d) whether it is proposed to do away with this maximum limit and link the amount of maintenance allowance with the income and property of the husband?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) (a) to (d). There are no limits fixed for the grant of maintenance by a husband to a wife under various personal laws. However, section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides for a maximum limit of five hundred rupees. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to do away with the maximum limit of maintenance of five hundred rupees prescribed under section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a social problem and a solution to this problem cannot be brought about by any law. The law can impose some restrictions only. It is a pity that in a country like ours, brides are burnt and before their funeral pyres cool down, parents of other prospective brides approach the parents of these boys and tell them that they are ready to marry their daughter to the boy. Only a social boycott could check this tendency. It is a matter of shame indeed that people abdicating their wives have to pay Rs. 500 only towards maintenance allowance according to provisions of the law. Now-a-days when the minimum wages have crossed the limit of Rs. 500, should this law be applicable in today's India?

Secondly, it is not possible to assess the money being spent by the women when these cases are pending in the courts and the delay that is involved therein. There are several foreign nationals who marry Indian girls and go abroad. There are many Indian nationals also who marry the girls here and go abroad leaving their wives behind to face

lots of hardship. There is no one to provide them maintenance expenses. I would, therefore, like to know from the Government whether it will bring forward any other legislation to raise the limit of maintenance allowance of Rs. 500 which deserted women get from their ex-husbands as per the provisions of the existing laws or make efforts to raise the limit of this amount?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Mr. speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that earlier this subject was dealt with in section (488) of the Cr. P.C. and later it was replaced by section (125) in 1973. Prior to 1973, amendments were made in Hindu Marriage Act in 1955 and 1956 and the Hindu marriage laws were thereby codified. Our leaders felt that there was need for such a thing, and they made a provision for it in the Hindu Marriage Act, and the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act. If the women are suffering and facing problems as has been pointed out by the hon. Member, they can seek justice and relief under these Acts, and demand pending litigation maintenance. If the hon. Member desires, I shall furnish the complete information in writing. The question of providing maintenance was felt under the Muslim Shariat Act and the Muslim Women Protection Act was passed in this House accordingly. Today they are getting more than Rs. 125 towards maintenance. Maintenance allowance to the extent of about Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 90,000 was awarded to a Muslim woman by a Lucknow Court. The Christian community is governed by their personal law so far as maintenance is concerned. All the religions and sects in India have the provision of maintenance in their personal laws. We find that a large section of women get relief under these laws. Even then if there is any suggestion from a womens' organisation or anywhere else it will be considered. Provision of maintenance was already made in the general law, i.e. Cr. P.C. during the British times, because there was no Hindu code Bill or any other Act. They had, therefore, made a provision of Rs. 500 for destitute women at that time. I am of the view that after the codification of various personal laws, the above law

does not have any significance.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Agarwal is absolutely right. Suppose the monthly income of a person is Rs. 10,000 and if his ex-wife gets only Rs. 500, that is an injustice.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I would like to tell the hon. Member that if a man deserts his wife, the question of maintenance in this case is decided under the judicial principle.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: But only Rs. 500 has been provided therein.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Thousands of rupees are paid in pending litigations under the Marriage Laws. It is given according to status.

MR. SPEAKER: Then it is all right.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Speaker, Sir, though it is all right, yet I take some exceptions. It is very astonishing that we raise slogans that we should not be bound by religions dogmas. It is only due to this dogmatism that more and more excesses are being committed on women. They are being left abandoned in very miserable conditions. They are not provided any maintenance allowance. I would like to relate two specific instances. There are cases where foreign nationals marry Indian girl and go abroad abandoning their brides. The condition of these brides becomes miserable. There is no law for them. In the second instance, Indian nationals abandon their brides and go abroad. They go beyond the purview of the Indian Laws. The Indian Courts have no powers to summon them. Who will pay money to these destitute women and who will look after their maintenance. May I ask the hon. Minister if the Government proposes to take any step in this direction?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: So far as the question of people living in the country who are facing this problem is concerned, I have already replied to it. Now the hon. Member wants a clarification about the two catego-

ries of people. As regards foreign nationals who marry in India and go abroad, I would like to inform the hon. Member that as per the law of our land, if a case is pending against a person the courts do not permit them to leave the country. In the second instance i.e. Indian nationals leaving the country after marriage, action can be taken on their property and their property can be attached. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Nothing of the sort. You cannot stop them from going away... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: When maintenance is given from property, the person concerned is put to imprisonment under section 125. This much is the difference. As far as the foreign nationals who marry in India and there after go abroad, I am not aware how serious this problem is *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Article 44 of the Constitution envisages common civil code. I feel even after 42 years of independence, no earnest effort has so far been made to have a common understanding, at least on very sensitive areas like this. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this aspect will be particularly considered and whether steps will be taken for giving proper maintenance in such cases where the capacity of the husband who has effected divorce is very high and is capable of paying more. I want to know, at least, in future whether steps will be taken to ensure that.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I have specifically mentioned that when we go for trial of maintenance, the judicial principles governing maintenance are very sound. They not only see the needs of the woman but they also see the status of the husband of the woman and of the family concerned. I have myself defended thousands of such cases. If the husband has got the capacity to pay and his pocket is very deep, we can pull out lot of money from him.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know, the financial limits in all statues, regulations as well as in the Constitution have been revised from time to time, keeping in view the fall in the purchasing power of the rupee. This limit of Rs. 500/- which of course applies only to destitute women and women who are unable to maintain themselves was fixed in 1974. Since 1974, by the process of inflation the value of the rupee is roughly about 25 percent of what it was in 1974. In order to allow the ex-wife the same purchasing power that was available to her in 1974, it will be appropriate if this limit be raised at least to Rs. 2000/-, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is not aware of the fact of inflation and therefore why it is unable to introduce an amendment on its own as it has done in many other cases of statutes, regulations and the Constitution.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I have already submitted and I would like to clarify again that Section 125 is not a Section actually meant for actual maintenance of women. It relates to child, it relates to old and infirm parents, it relates to a destitute woman. I would only see that this Section 125 can be used in all exigencies whether it is parent, child or wife. But in case it is felt that Rs. 500/- is too meagre, well this is a matter which comes under the Code of Civil Procedure and I would pass on this information and the sentiments of the House to the hon. Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, with your permission, for the information of the House, I would like to say that the aspect on which the hon. Members are agitated, I do appreciate their views in this regard. The Law Commission has also suggested to raise the limit of Rs. 500/- a questionnaire has been prepared by the Law Commission to the various States to obtain their view in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: SHRI VISHNU MODI - not present

Shri Chitta Mahata- not present

Dr. G.S. Rajhans.

Vacant posts in Railways

*45. DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in the Railways for the last three years;

(b) the reasons for keeping them vacant; and

(c) the steps taken so far to fill up those posts?

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) In Groups A & b there is no post lying vacant for three years. In regard to Groups C & D information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c). Vacancies keep on occurring from time to time due to employees demitting service through superannuation, voluntary retirement, medical incapacitation, resignation, removal, death, etc. and creation of new posts. Steps are taken to fill up these vacancies through direct recruitment or departmental promotion depending upon the rules applicable to the particular category and grade. Vacancies in Group D are normally filled, barring certain exceptions, by screening of casual labour and substitutes. Direct recruitment, departmental promotions and screening are all continuous processes and hence there will always be some vacancies at any given point of them.

[*English*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government have received complaints that the claims of casual labourers with long tenure of service are overlooked and those with shorter tenure are made permanent. If it is so, what has the Government done in this regard?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: The question asked by the learned Member is not related to main question, however I would like to tell him that recruitments in the railways are made in four ways. They are done in four different groups i.e. A, B, C, and D. Recruitments to group 'A' posts are done through the U.P.S.C. Recruitments to group 'B' posts are done by promotion. Recruitment to group 'C' is made by direct recruitment. Recruitment to this category is made by the Railway Recruitment board on the basis of qualification possessed by the candidates. The group 'D' posts are filled in by candidates from among the casual workers after screening their candidature. After screening is over we appoint them to these posts. There is no such information with us that people who have worked less number of days as casual labourers were recruited and the people who have worked for more number of days have been ignored. If the hon. Member has got any such information, he should write to me personally so that I could hold an enquiry into it.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: During the last few years in the Jamalpur Railway Factory neither any new posts were created nor any vacant posts were filled up. There is a feeling among the people that probably the Government wants to close down the Jamalpur Railway Factory. I would like the hon. Minister to tell the truth.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, I would like to clarify regarding Jamalpur Railway Factory that there is neither any proposal to close it down nor of retrenching workers. Of

course, if such a situation arises, we shall make every arrangement to utilise them at other places. If workers of the same category are available there we shall absorb them in other job.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the supplementary question is a very lengthy one, but I would like to confine myself to one point only. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that a number of posts are lying vacant in Parliament including Prime Minister's Secretariat even though deserving Scheduled Caste candidates are available to fill these Vacancies. What are the reasons behind this?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, this question is not related to the railways. Hence, I shall not be able to reply to this.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not have taken the pains of even standing up.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: An assurance was given in this very House in the year 1981 that the casual workers in the railways will be gradually de-casualised and will be absorbed permanently in the railways. Yesterday, the Year Book which was given to us along with the Budget papers, it was stated there that still there were about two lakh casual workers in the railways. May I know from the Minister by when all these casual workers will be absorbed in the railways as per the assurance given in this very House?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Member has pointed out that the number of such casual labourers is about 2 lakhs. Sir, in this connection I would like to make it clear to the hon. Member that recruitment is a continuous process. I appreciate the sentiments of the hon. Member. It is a continuous process and we make regular efforts so that there is no shortcoming in the casual labour system, in Railways.

[English]

Lok Adalats

*46. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO†:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

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

(a) the number of Lok Adalats held so far in different parts of country, state-wise;

(b) the number of cases handled by these Adalats.

(c) the number of cases in which free legal aid was provided;

(d) the result of survey conducted if any, to assess the public response to these Adalats and their potential for further expansion; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to establish these Adalats in the remaining parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) (a) According to information made available by the State Legal Aid Boards, Lok Adalats held are as follows: Andhra Pradesh 74, Assam 14, Bihar 13, Delhi 9, Goa 5, Gujarat 225, Haryana 129, Karnataka 246, Madhya Pradesh 83, Maharashtra 553, Orissa 297, Pondicherry 9, Rajasthan 244, Sikkim 3, Tamil Nadu 5, Uttar Pradesh 586, West Bengal 9, (Total Lok Adalats: 2,504).

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) 10,03,109 cases.

(d) No survey has been conducted by the Central Government since the Lok Adalats are being held by the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards.

(e) Steps are being taken to motivate the remaining States and Union Territories

to organise Lok Adalats.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: As the hon. Minister is well aware of the fact that every day we are finding hundreds of dowry death cases throughout the country and most of these cases are not coming to the Law enforcing machinery in this country, in this connection, I would like to ask the Minister whether he would consider the idea of widening the area of Lok Adalat to dispose of the cases relating to dowry and family disputes which contribute to peaceful and amicable living of the common man.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: The dowry death is a very serious problem and so far as criminal aspect of dowry death is concerned, it needs a very deterrent punishment. And I do not think Lok Adalat would be a proper forum for that.

So far as matrimonial alliance is concerned, there is a possibility of reaproachment. Lok Adalats do take cognisance of such cases and several settlements have been arrived at and families have been rehabilitated.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: The people sitting in regular courts are sitting in Lok Adalats also. I would like to know whether the Minister will propose more number of Lok Adalats to dispose of millions of pending cases in the different courts of our country.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: The Lok Adalats were started as an experiment, as an alternative mechanism to settlement of disputes. Because of the encouraging response received at the hands of the people at large this was made part of the Legal Aid Authority Act and with the Act coming into force, every court will hold Lok Adalats as a regular phenomenon. I hope with this the movement of Lok Adalats will gain momentum.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Lok Adalat is doing a very good job. According to the reply, only 15 States and Union Territories have

had Lok Adalats. About the remaining States also we have asked questions. In part (c) of the question we have asked for the details—the steps taken or proposed to establish these Adalats in the remaining parts of the country. His answer is, steps are being taken to motivate the remaining States and Union Territories to organise Lok Adalats. We have requested the Hon. Minister to state what are the concrete steps that he has taken to organise Lok Adalats in these union territories and also states.

Secondly, in Bhopal Tragedy case and in such cases if Lok Adalats were encouraged to take up the case, by this time things would have been settled there itself. In such cases also can you ask the Lok Adalats to look into it and step into the field? I am not asking that they should step in, in the criminal cases.

Actually people are not aware of how to seek the legal aid. Your publicity through the Doordarshan and Radio as also all other printed media could be made available to the people who are needy of availing of justice.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: If you kindly read the Part (a) of my answer you will find that all major states are taking interest in the Lok Adalats and even from the Opposition ruled states we are getting good cooperation. So far the cases solved are more than 10 lakhs and the compensation distributed Rs. 104 crores even more than that. I am quite aware as to where these Lok Adalats are not being held. For example in the North East Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura—in tribal states you will see that they have got a similar system to that of Lok Adalats. They hold Lok Adalats of their Panchayats in their villages and they settle their disputes very quickly. But even there we have placed money at their disposal. If they want to start some efficient functioning of their Lok Adalats, they can do so. But you will appreciate that it has to be done after the local people get acquainted with the system.

So far as the question of Bhopal Gas Tragedy is concerned, the Supreme Court

verdict is also being opposed in this country. What else can be done? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: The Lok Adalat movement was started more than ten years ago. Still we have not put the Lok Adalat on a statutory basis. As can be seen from the reply, some States have done well and other States are not doing so well. Will the Hon. Minister think of giving a statutory basis for the Lok Adalats by having a model bill for each State and having a uniform code for the functioning of these Lok Adalats. Will he also allocate budget funds from the Central Government for the functioning of these Lok Adalats so that there is incentive on the part of the States to make use of this? The necessity for Lok Adalats to reach the village level has been stressed a number of times. But still the Lok Adalats have not been in a position to go to the village level. They are now confined only at the Zilla and Taluk level. What steps will be taken to see that the Lok Adalats reach the village level by having mobile courts and mobile Lok Adalats?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: So far as Lok Adalats are concerned, I have submitted earlier also that it has been made a chapter in the National Authority of Legal Aid Act and if you read the whole chapter, it has been provided that Lok Adalats can function from a trial court to the highest appellate court as a permanent mechanism. My friend knows that we have had a different Law Commission report on the Gram Nyayalayas like the mobile courts. That is a different mechanism to meet that major demand of the grass root litigation. That has been circulated to the States. Most of the States have replied and we are actively considering what suitable mechanism should be developed that will solve the problem of the rural folk in this country and the grass root litigation. These two aspects are connected with the States because the States have to establish Adalats for the trial Court right upto district level. If they cooperate with this, we can only sit and discuss what kind of financial assistance would be required and what will be the allocation by the States themselves. Financial stringency, of course, is the major prob-

lem that the States have told us. But we have circulated the Law Commission report. If that report is accepted and implemented by the States, I think, the question of pending and other questions of expenses and hardships of the rural population will be met. We are very very anxious to implement that report with the cooperation of the States. I hope the hon. Member is fully aware to what extent we have discussed in our Ministry but the question is, unless the States cooperate we cannot give the district judiciary more than what we have already suggested to them. I am confident that taking this whole time in having the Law Commission report and having the Lok Adalats as a mechanism in the legalistic authority, if both these aspects are implemented, most of the problem will be solved.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has complained that he does not get the required co-operation from the State Governments. Has the Central Government discussed the setting up of *Lok Adalats* with the States and is there any proposal to provide financial assistance to them?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: The central legal aid committee is looking after the implementation aspect. Its entire budget is distributed among various States and the State Governments also allocate funds to it from their respective Budgets to run these *Lok Adalats*. If all the State Governments accept the proposal of mobile courts and *Lok Adalats* are also set up in all the States. The poor people who live in far flung areas will not be required to come to the cities because they will get justice at their door step.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: The Minister has said that the State Legal Advisory Boards give the recommendation or the information to the Central Government regarding the cases before the

Lok Adalats. The *Lok Adalats* were formed because of the backlog of cases as informed by the Chief Justices of various High Courts and also the Supreme Court. Now what is happening is that at the lower level the rural poor who have the biggest problem of going to court because they depend on their daily wages or the meagre amount that they earn. The rural poor are the one that have to be helped by these courts. If the Minister looks into the records he will find that maximum number of *Lok Adalats* were held, that is, 586 in U.P. where the backlog of cases are more than 7 to 8 lakhs. So, what is the government doing to facilitate those rural poor in their litigation? (a) How are you publicising the fact. Doordarshan, Radio and Government agencies should be made responsible to propagate this system of justice which will be beneficial to the rural people and not rich.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, *Lok Adalats* were not suggested by anybody. It is a thinking process which started with the present Government. It is meant for the poor. I would refute this that it is meant for anybody else. It is meant exclusively for those indigent classes of society which do not have the means to get their rights implemented and resist those who are better placed in the society.

We have been helping children, women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Everybody has been helped through the *Lok Adalats*. It is a multifarious effort. There were certain cases outside the court, that is, in addition to the cases settled in the court because the *Lok Adalats* function on holidays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Then, *Lok Adalats* are travelling only to the rural areas. We have been able to take revenue cases. We have been able to take minimum wages cases. We have been taking Motor Accidents Tribunal cases which relate only to those families whose breadwinner has been snatched away due to a tragedy in the family. Crores of rupees have been given on the spot through the mechanism of *Lok Adalats* to the victims of the accidents.

So far as making the Lok Adalats more popular by means of publicity is concerned it is a very good suggestion. I would use whatever methods are possible. This suggestion is only for action.

[*Translation*]

Decline In Foreign Exchange Reserves

*47. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:†
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there has been a steady decline in the foreign exchange reserves of the country, also during the current year;

(b) if so, the position as on 31 December, 1987 and 31 December, 1988;

(c) the specific reasons for the decline in the foreign exchange reserves; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

[*English*]

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

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) which stood at Rs. 7145 crores as on 31st December, 1987 have been showing increase and decrease since then depending on the inflow and outflow of funds due to transactions. The Reserves went up to Rs. 7291 crores as on 8th April, 1988 but came down to Rs. 6218 crores as on 31st December, 1988.

(c) The decline in reserves, as per available indications, is due primarily to sharp increase in international prices of some of the major bulk commodities like steel, non-ferrous metals, petro-chemicals and other imports; increase in import of petroleum products, fertilizers and steel; imports of wheat, rice and other items necessitated by unprecedented drought of last year and lower net receipts of aid and higher repayments to the IMF as compared to last year.

(d) A Special Action Plan drawn by Government for Balance of Payments turnaround aims at measures to generate additional exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange earnings through NRI Deposits/bonds, additional direct/indirect investments and increased tourism receipts.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, the question of foreign exchange is causing a great anxiety. The hon. Minister has himself admitted that the foreign exchange reserves have come down from Rs. 7,291 crores as on 8th April, 1988 to Rs. 6,218 crores as on 31st December, 1988.

If my figure is not wrong, it has come down to Rs. 5,844.2 crores by January 13, which is a depreciation of 12.5 percent compared to the figure 52 weeks ago. Now this has caused a greater problem because our value of the rupee versus the Special Drawing Rights is decreasing constantly. The import in the Seventh Five Year Plan has increased by 35 percent whereas the export has risen by 11 percent. The economists have advocated that the policy of import liberalisation has not paid dividends to the country and there should be further policy correctives in this matter if we are to get out of this morass.

I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister that in view of this situation, what policy correctives he proposes to take to improve the balance of payments position in the country.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I would like to say that the question of foreign exchange reserves cannot be tagged down to a particular point. It fluctuates from time to time. The foreign exchange reserves, for instance on 1st January of last year were Rs. 7,145 crores. Then, they went up on 31st March of last year to Rs. 7,287 crores and on 8th April, these were Rs. 7,291 crores. On 17th February this year for which I have the latest figure, it was Rs. 5035 crores.

The reasons for this overall decline over a period of time from point to point were due to many circumstances beyond our control. The main reasons are: the increase in international prices—obviously not in our control; increase in import quantities, much of it necessitated by the drought, which again is not in our control; and lower net receipts of aid particularly due to the fact that the concessional aid under IDA now has other claimants like China and Indonesia.

Whatever it may be, I would like to address to the point made by the hon. Member that import liberalisation and the imports have not yielded results. That is not correct. I would respectfully say, that is grossly incorrect. The results of our policies have been brought out in the Address of the Rashtrapati himself where he has pointed out that now the country is in a very good state of the economy. It was brought out there that in spite of unprecedented drought, the rate of growth was around 4 percent. It was also brought out that as a result of these policies, the projections for the next year are an overall growth of exceeding 9 percent—to quote the Rashtrapati in his Address. So, the policies have been very successful while at the same time we are taking effective steps to turn around the balance of payments position in our favour. I would like to address myself to the point made by the hon. Member that exports have not been substantial. They have been very substantial. Let me quote the latest figure. The increase in rupee terms in exports, for 1988-89 as compared to 1987-88 has been to the extent of 24.4 per cent and since the hon. Member has spoken in terms of SDR, it has been to the extent of 10.6 per cent in terms of SDR over the preceding year.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): The import liberalisation policy has been mainly responsible to increase exports also.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I did not say that exports have not risen. The hon. Minister has referred to Rashtrapathiji's speech on which we are discussing. I wonder that when the agricultural production has gone up when everything is going up, on the one hand prices are rising and on the other hand the balance of payments is decreasing and that the Chairman of the Finance Commission has to make adverse comment about the reserves position of his country, there are certain things on which I would like the Finance Ministry to clarify. The hon. Minister has referred to drought and all that. I would like to know whether it is a fact that import of machinery and allied equipments have gone up by 35 percent compared to the export of 11 percent. This has no relevances with drought. If your import of machinery and allied equipments have gone up by 35 per cent in a country where we claim as one of the most advanced countries of the world so far as technology is concerned and the export has gone up only by 11 per cent, then obviously there is an imbalance which needs to be corrected. In the entire reply of the hon. Minister there is no indication as to how the imbalance is sought to be removed and will the hon. Minister kindly throw some light on this?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I have already given the figure. We do not tally with the pessimistic observations made by the hon. Member. As far as imports of machinery is concerned, the hon. House will admit that upgrading technology and machinery is not a thing for consumption. It is for building import substitution and for increasing installed capacity. I would like to say that the import of machinery which the hon. Member has mentioned has already yielded substantial results. To mention some, for example, installed capacity for fertilisers and non-ferrous metals is being enhanced, crude production as a result is likely to go up from 30.3 million in 1987-88 to 32.1 million tonnes in 1988-89, import bill, as a result of our increased efforts within the country on edible oil has come down from Rs. 1137 crores in 1987-88 to

Rs. 620 crores in 1988-89 and it will go down further. Import of machinery is for import substitution. We are very careful on imports so that we increase our capacity which will lead to import substitution.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, that is not my question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: It looks that the whole of this House is dissatisfied with the answer given by the hon. Minister. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: At least it looks so, through the glasses of Shri Ramoowalia.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: The Minister, Shri Faleiro, is really intelligent because he knows how to twist statistics. While giving his reply to the question, he says—foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights). You have not taken into consideration the sharp depreciation vis-a-vis the Special Drawing Right. The exchange rate has moved to 1 SDR = Rs. 2.538. You have challenged my friend, Shri Dinesh Goswami that nothing has happened. But he has not quoted from himself, he has quoted from the report of Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank, Shri D.P. Ojha. You have said that special Action Plan drawn by Government for balance of payment turn-around aims at measures to generate additional exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange earnings through NRI Deposits, Bonds, additional direct and indirect investments and increased tourism receipts. The foreign exchange reserve declined by Rs. 1978 crores during April—August, 1988 compared to Rs. 1189 crores during the same period previously. Did you not exploit these measures previously? You are going to take those measures now. Did you fail to use those measures previously? If you had used them, why the results were not satisfactory.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The reserves consist of three things; one, foreign

currency assets—those are the ones which fluctuate. Then SDR holdings and gold holdings. We do not touch them; they remains. It is the currencies that fluctuate.

The hon. Member is under the misapprehension that due to our policy, this decline has taken place. I would first clarify what I have said earlier. There has been increase in international price, for instance on items like nickel the price has gone up, speaking in terms of tonnes, from 7541 dollars in January 1988 to 17771 dollars in January 1989; an increase of 136 percent in international price. That is not under our control, and the prices have gone up in terms of dollars. Similarly, steel scrap, the prices have gone up by 58 per cent; LLDPE, plastic items, hundred percent increase and so on. The second reason for decline is the import of foodgrains caused by the drought; again not under our control. In April-December, 1987-88, we were not importing any rice or wheat, but we had to import foodgrains to meet the drought conditions between April and December 1988-89, 825 thousand tonnes of rice and 2000 thousands of wheat and so on and so forth. The reasons were beyond our control. But we are taking steps to turn-around the balance of payment; the steps have proved to be effective and we would like to control the situation to turn in our favour as far as the balance of payment position is concerned.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I have great regards for the hon. Minister, Shri Chavan, but I would venture to say that there is something wrong with the import policy. If reasonable price was paid to the agriculturists, there would not have been any need to import foodgrains. For example, when there is a possibility of producing oilseeds in Andaman and Nicobar Islands worth Rs. five-six crores, using only a small area, no permission has been given for that, whereas thousands of crores of rupees worth edible oil is being imported. Similarly is the case with the sugarcane. Our experience also shows that we have paid remunerative price and there is no need for its import. I wish the Hon. Minister will look into the import policy and rectify indiscriminate import of foodgrains and fertilisers etc.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Counterfeit American Currency Racket

*43. SHRI VISHNU MODI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket involving printing of counterfeit American dollars has been unearthed recently;

(b) if so, persons arrested or prosecuted; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such activities 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) 11 persons were arrested in Bombay in January, 1989. Action has been initiated against the culprits under the Indian Penal Code.

(c) The counterfeiting of currency is a punishable offence under Indian Penal Code (IPC). In order to check such activities special cells have been set up both at the State and the Central level.

Income-Tax Raids on Mafia Gangs

*44. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given on 5 August, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 1562 regarding Income-tax raids on Mafia gangs operating in Dhanbad and other areas and state;

(a) whether any follow-up measures have been taken by Government in those case; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The Income-tax Department has taken necessary follow-up measures since the conduct of searches in June, 1988. The cases of leaders of the "Coal Mafia" and their associates have been centralised with an assessing officer in Calcutta under the control of Commissioner, Central, Calcutta for purposes of coordinated and effective investigations. Orders have been passed under Section 132 (5) of the Income-tax Act in all the cases, where there was a seizure of assets. The assessing officers have held the assets to be unexplained and have ordered for the retention of the same to meet tax liability. In respect of cases where prohibitory orders were placed on bank accounts during the course of searches in June, 1988 the orders have been lifted in a majority of the cases after due verification. The Department has also taken up investigation and verification with the motor registering authorities regarding the ownership of various vehicles discovered during the course of searches. References have also been made to the Valuation Cell regarding valuation of immovable properties belonging to persons of this group of cases. Other investigations relating to assessment have also been taken up.

Central Vigilance Commission Observations on Credit Camp Scheme

*48. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has made observations in respect of the nationalised banks on the credit camp scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have ordered any follow-up action on the Central Vigilance

Commission observations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the report of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for the year 1987. C.V.C. has not made any adverse comment on the credit camps but has drawn attention to a case of abuse of authority in granting certain loans in a branch of Union Bank of India. The concerned branch manager was placed under suspension and a case was registered for investigation. Following investigation criminal prosecution has been launched against the branch manager and others. The bank has also initiated regular departmental action for major penalty against the branch manager involved in this case.

Expenditure in Export Promotion Councils

*49. SHRI ANIL BASU:
SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system to check wasteful expenditure in the Export Promotion Councils; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). Export Promotion Councils are registered as Companies under the Companies Act or as societies under the Societies Registration Act.

The day to day affairs of these Councils are looked after by their Committee of Administration/Working Committee. These Committees have powers to incur expenditure as per the provisions of the Articles of Association of the respective Councils. The Annual Accounts of the Councils are subject to statutory audit by the auditors appointed in this behalf by the Council. The audited accounts are thereafter placed before the Annual General Body Meeting of the respective Council for their approval.

Vacancies of judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

*50. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA:
SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

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

(a) the number of vacant posts of judges and additional judges and the number of cases pending in each High Court and the Supreme Court till date; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for speedy trial of the pending cases and to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) Steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies in the High Courts and the Supreme Court in consultation with various Constitutional authorities expeditiously and the recommendations of the Committee consisting of three Chief Justices of High Courts set up in 1984 have been forwarded to the High Courts and the State Governments for reducing the arrears.

STATEMENT

High Court Cases Pending

Sl. No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Actual strength			Vacancies			Pendency of cases as on 31.12.1987
		Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Allahabad	55	5	60	48	—	48	7	5	12	362014
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	2	26	20	—	20	4	2	6	80060
3.	Bombay	42	6	48	40	2	42	2	4	6	139548
4.	Calcutta	44	—	44	43	—	43	1	—	1	170038
5.	Delhi	25	2	27	22	—	22	3	2	5	77447
6.	Gauhati	12	—	12	11	—	11	1	—	1	20242
7.	Gujarat	18	3	21	13	—	13	5	3	8	59566
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1	6	4	—	4	1	1	2	9633
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	—	7	7	—	7	—	—	—	37025
10.	Karnataka	25	—	25	20	—	20	5	—	5	72190
11.	Kerala	21	2	23	20	2	22	1	—	1	116735

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12. Madhya Pradesh	23	7	30	20	3	23	3	4	7	56638		
13. Madras	25	—	25	21	—	21	4	—	4	195443		
14. Orissa	11	1	12	10	—	10	1	1	2	40444		
15. Patna	35	—	25	29	—	29	6	—	0	64110		
16. Punjab & Haryana	23	—	23	21	—	21	2	—	2	60962		
17. Rajasthan	22	1	23	22	1	23	—	—	—	52998		
18. Sikkim	3	—	3	1	—	1	2	—	2	59		
Total	420	30	450	372	8	380	48	22	70	1615152		

Supreme Court: Sanctioned strength = 26 Cases pending as on 31-1-89 = 200566

Actual strength = 20

Vacancies = 6

Cracks in River Dams

*51. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANI-
GRAHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RE-
SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some river dams have developed cracks;

(b) if so, the names of those dams and the year of their construction; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for their immediate repair?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Tigma Dam in Madhya Pradesh, Konar Dam of Damodar Valley Corporation, Hirakud Dam in Orissa, Rihand Dam in Uttar Pradesh and Parvati Dam in Rajasthan have been reported to have developed cracks. These dams were constructed in 1929, 1955, 1957, 1962 and 1963 respectively. The project authorities are taking necessary remedial measures.

World Bank Assistance to Sardar Sarovar Project

*52. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has withheld assistance to the Sardar Sarovar Dam Project;

(b) if so, whether the Senior Vice-President (Operations) of the World Bank stated at a press conference in New Delhi that unless the environmental and displacement problems associated with the project are resolved they would withhold funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The World Bank has not withheld assistance for the Sardar Sarovar Project on account of any issues including environmental and rehabilitation problems.

Derecognition of Export Houses

*53. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export houses derecognised by his Ministry in 1988; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Commerce has not derecognised any Export House in 1988.

(b) Does not arise.

Income Tax Raids on the Premises of Property Dealers etc.

*54. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:
DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR
TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a massive countrywide operation, the officials of the Income-Tax department raided a large number of premises, mainly those of property dealers and colonisers etc. during the months of December, 1988 and January, 1989;

(b) if so, the details of those searched and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the persons found guilty and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). The Income-tax Department conducted searches at the premises of certain builders, architects, property dealers and building contractors, during the months of December 1988 and January 1989, at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Bangalore, Goa, Coimbatore and Cochin. The

names of the persons/groups searched, are given in the Statement below. During the course of these searches, prima facie unaccounted assets amounting to Rs. 3 crore 75 lakhs 84 thousand in all were seized, besides incriminating documents indicating tax evasion. The persons searched, in the course of these searches, have admitted concealment of income aggregating to Rs. 7 crore 68 lakhs 19 thousand. Appropriate measures under the Direct Taxes enactments, such as follow-up investigations, proceedings under section 132 (5) of the Income-tax Act etc., to quantify concealment of income/wealth have been taken up in all these cases.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Name of the Group/Person Searched</i>
1	2	3
1.	Bombay	M/s Shanti Builders.
2.	Bombay	M/s Dholakia Builders.
3.	Bombay	M/s Ajmera Builders.
4.	Bombay	M/s Dattani Construction.
5.	Bombay	M/s Conwood Construction.
6.	Bombay	M/s R.N.A. Builders.
7.	Bombay	M/s Jain Group
8.	Delhi	M/s Competent Construction Co.
9.	Delhi	M/s Mohan Construction Co.
10.	Delhi	M/s Anand Raj Agencies.
11.	Delhi	M/s Rajendra Builders.
12.	Delhi	M/s Jaina Group.
13.	Delhi	M/s Unitec Ltd.

1	2	3
14.	Delhi	M/s Salwan Const. Ltd.
15.	Delhi	M/s Chawla Traders Ltd.
16.	Delhi	M/s B.R. Arora Group.
17.	Delhi	M/s Shalimar Sales Corporation.
18.	Delhi	M/s Paras Nath & Associates.
19.	Delhi	M/s Gaurav Investment Ltd.
20.	Delhi	M/s R.P.S. Investment Ltd.
21.	Delhi	M/s Jainco Properties Ltd.
22.	Delhi	M/s Aggarwal Associates (P) Ltd.
23.	Delhi	Mr. Mahendra Jain.
24.	Delhi	M/s A.K.T. & Associates.
25.	Delhi	M/s Monga Consultancy Ltd.
26.	Delhi	S.S. Jaspal
27.	Delhi	Satya Chowdhary
28.	Delhi	M/s Shaukat Rai Malhotra
29.	Delhi	M/s Dream City Builders (P) Ltd.
30.	Calcutta	M/s D.C. Paul & Sons.
31.	Calcutta	M/s Modern Group Design.
32.	Calcutta	M/s H.K. Sen & Associates.
33.	Calcutta	M/s Baid Group.
34.	Calcutta	M/s Duftory Group.
35.	Calcutta	M/s Khadim Group.
36.	Calcutta	M/s M.D. Mundhra Group.

1	2	3
37.	Bangalore	Gopalan Associates.
38.	Goa	Kamath Construction (P) Ltd.
39.	Cuttack	Chitta Pd. Ghosh.
40.	Cuttack	Chowdhury K.C. Das.
41.	Cuttack	J.C. Budhraj and others.
42.	Bhubaneswar	B.B. Jena.
43.	Guwahati	Janaki Jain & Jhumarmal Jain and others.
44.	Ahmedabad	Hasmukhlal K. Shah.
45.	Surat	Thakorbhai Manchabhai.
46.	Surat	Vishnubhai Doriwalla.
47.	Coimbatore	P. Kumaravelu Swamy & others.
48.	Cochin	E.P. Abdul Rahiman.

Appraisal of Credit Camp Scheme

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

(a) whether Government have made any appraisal of the nationalised banks credit camp scheme;

(b) if so, whether the appraisal was found satisfactory; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Credit camps are organised by Public Sector

Banks as part of the overall programme to accelerate flow of credit to the Weaker Sections. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had conducted a sample study on credit camps in 1986. Based on the feed back obtained then and subsequently, the programme is kept under review by the banks. In granting loans to Weaker Sections, banks are required to follow the instructions and guidelines, issued for the purpose, by Reserve Bank of India.

Cases pending in Agartala bench of Guwahati High Court

*56. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases pending in Agartala bench of the Guwahati High Court; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to enable speedier disposal of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) As on 30-6-1988, 3570 cases were pending in Agartala circuit Bench of Gauhati High Court.

(b) Besides increasing the Judge strength of Gauhati High Court from 10 to 19, recommendations of the Committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts, set up in 1984 to reduce arrears have been forwarded to the High Courts and the State Governments for appropriate action.

Unauthorised Export of Skeletons

*57. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any 'major racket' being carried out in the north-eastern States regarding the unauthorised export of human skeletons to the Western Countries through Bangladesh has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). On the basis of a newspaper report enquiries were made but there was no evidence of such exports being made.

Visit of High Powered Japanese Mission

*59. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered Japanese mission which recently visited India found Japanese investment in India to be beneficial for both the countries;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements, if any, reached between the two countries; and

(c) the States where Japanese investment will be utilised and the purpose for which it will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). A high level Japanese Government mission on economic cooperation visited India from 31st January to 7th February, 1989. The mission discussed in general terms the medium term and long term perspectives of economic development in India as well as prospects for strengthening economic cooperation between India and Japan. No specific agreements for Japanese investments in India were signed.

Payment of D.A. to Central Government Employees

* 60. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the All India Consumer Price Index

for industrial workers as on 1st January, 1989 (base 1960 : 100) on the basis of which Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is sanctioned;

(b) whether the Central Government employees have become eligible for one more instalment of D.A. from 1st January, 1989; and

(c) if so, how much it will cost the exchequer during the year and the time by which a decision would be taken by his Ministry to pay the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) Base (1960=100) ending December, 1988 on the basis of which sanction of Dearness Allowance will be considered to Govt. employees w.e.f. 1.1.1989 is 818.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The additional cost on account of the release of the DA instalment w.e.f. 1.1.1989 will be nil during the current financial year as payment of DA for the months of January and February 1989 will be made during the financial year 1989-90. The matter regarding payment of DA with effect from 1.1.1989 is under consideration.

Loan to Sick Shipping Companies

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

(a) whether any decision has been taken by Government to give rescue loans to a number of sick shipping companies; and

(b) if so, the particulars of shipping companies which are eligible to get this loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). There is no proposal for giving rescue loans to sick shipping companies. However, the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India (SCICI) has carried out financial appraisal of the shipping companies assisted by erstwhile SDFC. In the case of those sick Shipping Companies which are considered to be viable, rehabilitation packages have been worked out for them by the SCICT. The rehabilitation packages include inter-alia, restructuring of the outstanding loans by converting the excess of the principal amount of the debt over the actual valuation of the assets into interest-free frozen debt and the outstanding interest into cumulative convertible preference shares. The promoters of the rehabilitated companies are also required to put in adequate contributions.

Major Irrigation Projects of Orissa Pending for Approval

375. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the major irrigation projects in Orissa which Union Government have cleared for implementation and the projects which are still in the process of clearance; and

(b) the total investment on all these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). From the beginning of planned development, three major irrigation projects costing Rs. 170 crores to benefit 8.7 lakh hectares were completed. Another five major projects estimated to cost Rs. 1470 crores to benefit about 9 lakh hectares have been taken up. Four new major projects estimated to cost

Rs. 640 crores have been received from the State Government.

Difficulties in Rubber Industry

376. SHRI T. BALA GOUD:
SHRI P.A. ANTONY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rubber industry is facing any crisis at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to tide over the crisis; and

(d) whether there is any new incentives proposed, including planting and replanting subsidies, for encouraging natural rubber cultivation?

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

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

(d) For encouraging natural rubber cultivation the measures implemented by the Rubber Board already include:-

- (i) rubber plantation development scheme;
- (ii) scheme for acceleration of development in non-traditional areas;
- (iii) establishment of nurseries and distribution of planting materials;
- (iv) supply of estate inputs to small holders on subsidised rates;
- (v) advisory and training services;

(vi) scheme for promoting irrigation in rubber plantations; and

(vii) community marketing and processing.

Technical Cells in Commercial Banks

377. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether commercial banks have technical cells for evaluating the financial needs of small units; and

(b) if not, the remedial measures taken to rectify this situation?

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 Zonal and Regional Offices of commercial banks as also the branches located in areas having concentration of small scale industrial units have technical cells for evaluating financial needs of small scale units.

Cancellation of Trains for Orissa

378. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY:
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demonstrations which took place in different parts of Orissa protesting against the withdrawal of trains and the new time table particularly against New Delhi-Puri Express and Nilachal Express;

(b) if so, the details of these protests;

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard;

(d) whether the pilgrimage and holy city of Puri has been seriously affected on account of cancellation of trains without adequate train service to cater the needs of pilgrims from various parts of the country; and

(e) if so, whether Government are considering to restore the earlier train services?

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

(b) Agitations took place at stations viz. Gangadharpur, Sompeta, Mandasa, Manjuri Road, Puri, Khurda Road, Bhubaneswar, Barang, Haridaspur, Cuttack, Jenapur, Khallikot, Jakhapura, Jajpur Keonjhar Road, Kapali Road PH, Kapilas Road, Soro, Jaleswar, Baitarani Road, Nirakarpur, Berhampur, Ramibha etc.

(c) Various stoppages were provided to certain trains and a through coach between Puri-Tirupati was introduced with effect from 1.1.1989. During the summer time table, 979/980 Howrah-Tirupati Express is proposed to be rescheduled to provide a day time travel between Berhampur-Bhubaneswar and 215/216 Palasa-Bhubaneswar Passenger is being restored with effect from 1st March, 1989.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

Railway Projects in Trivandrum Division

379. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects in the Trivandrum Division of Southern Railway where the work is going on;

(b) the details of the amount spent on each project out of the amount sanctioned for those projects; and

(c) the percentage of the work completed in each project and when each project is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Work is in progress on Ernakulam-Alleppey, Alleppey-Kayankulam and Trichur-Guruvayur new B.G. Line projects in Trivandrum Division of Southern Railway.

(b) Amount spent upto 31.1.89 on Ernakulam-Alleppey is Rs. 45.80 crores, Alleppey-Kayankulam-Rs. 12.26 crores and Trichur-Guruvayur-Rs. 3.89 crores.

(c) Progress as on 31.1.89 of Ernakulam-Alleppey is 67.5% Alleppey-Kayankulam-24.2% and Trichur-Guruvayur-6.2%. Ernakulam-Alleppey is expected to be commissioned by June, 1989. Completion of Alleppey-Kayankulam and Trichur-Guruvayur will depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.

Procedure for Grant of Supplementary Import Licences

380. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supplementary Import Licence is granted as per Para 232 of the Handbook of Procedure;

(b) if so, in what circumstances this procedure can be waived;

(c) whether the import licence for a total of 75 mmu of Potassium Pencillin-V first crystals for the year 1988-89 was issued without processing it as per laid down proce-

dure; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). In terms of the provisions contained in Paragraphs 63 and 64 of the current Import & Export Policy and Paragraph 232 of the Hand Book of Procedures, supplementary import licences are granted only on the basis of Certification of essentiality by the Sponsoring Authority and indigenous clearance given in the Committee.

(c) and (d). Following the above procedure, an unit was granted supplementary licence for import of 75 MMU of Potassium Pencillin 'V' First Crystals, against their application for 1987-88, on the basis of certification of essentiality by the sponsoring authority, and the decision taken at an Inter-Ministerial Meeting between the Ministry of Commerce and Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals.

[*Translation*]

Rail Link to Nahtor (Bijnor)

381. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to connect Nahtor suburb (District Bijnor) situated near Dhampur, on Moradabad-Saharanpur railway line from where a large quantity of cotton and hand-loom clothes are exported;

(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) Short dead ended railway lines are generally not viable. Besides, there is no bulk transportation requirement justifying the suggested rail line.

[*English*]

Compensation to Relatives of Staff Members of RRBS Killed during Bank Robberies

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

(a) the number of staff members of regional rural banks (R.R.Bs) killed by dacoits during robberies in 1987 and 1988 with details of particulars of staff members and regional rural banks; and

(b) in how many cases, compensatory amount has been granted to nearest relative of the deceased staff as per Government policy?

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

Railway Bonds

383. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected so far since April, 1988 through Railway Bonds;

(b) whether the Railways are floating more Railway Bonds this year for public subscription; and

(c) if so, the amount proposed to be

collected through those Bonds and how the same is to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). During the year 1988-89, Indian Railway Finance Corporation has been permitted to raise funds to the extent of Rs. 600 crores, through issue of Bonds. Of this, an amount of Rs. 500 crores has been collected by the Corporation on private placement basis and for the balance Rs. 100 crores subscriptions have been invited through public issue. These funds will be utilised for procurement of Rolling Stock to be leased to the Indian Railways.

Banks

384. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to review the performance of the rural branches of various public sector banks in Karnataka and other States; and

(b) if so, the direction given to different banks or the reviewing authority to take necessary steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Under the Lead Bank Scheme districtwise Annual action plans are prepared in each State including Karnataka. Bankwise performance under these plans is reviewed at various forums on a continuous basis.

Irrigation Projects Pending for Clearance

385. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of irrigation projects of different States are pending with Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, State-wise details thereof and since when these projects are pending for clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). 99 major and 85 medium irrigation schemes received from the States from time to time are under process of examination at the Centre. The state-wise details are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Name of State</i>	<i>Number of Major Schemes</i>	<i>Number of Medium Schemes</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	5
2.	Assam	0	1
3.	Bihar	10	15
4.	Gujarat	8	0

1	2	3	4
5.	Haryana	4	2
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	3
8.	Karnataka	4	0
9.	Kerala	2	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10	5
11.	Maharashtra	14	32
12.	Manipur	1	2
13.	Meghalaya	0	1
14.	Orissa	3	13
15.	Punjab	6	0
16.	Rajasthan	7	4
17.	Tamil Nadu	4	1
18.	Tripura	1	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	16	0
20.	West Bengal	2	0
Grand Total		99	85

Assistance by LIC and GIC for Victims of Rains and Floods

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

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India and General Insurance Corporation of India had offered to help the State

Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana by advancing loans for the construction of houses for the victims of rains and floods in September, 1988;

(b) if so, the amount advanced by each of the two Corporations to each of the States for this purpose; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

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) Both LIC and GIC had not received any request from the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana for loan assistance for assistance for this purpose.

Collection of Wealth and Gift Tax

387. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of wealth tax and gift tax collected during the last financial year alongwith the number of assessees;

(b) the corresponding figures of the amount collected by way of gift tax and wealth tax during the years 1984-85; 1985-86 and 1986-87; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to increase the collection of these taxes?

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

<i>Collections</i>	<i>No. of assessees (in crores of Rs.)</i>	<i>(in thousands)</i>
Wealth-tax	100.58 @	634
Gift-tax	8.23@	96

@ Provisional

(b)

<i>Year</i>	<i>(in Crores of Rs.)</i>	
	<i>Wealth-tax Collections</i>	<i>Gift-tax Collections</i>
1986-87	174	9
1985-86	153	12
1984-85	107	11

(c) Several instructions have been issued for early completion of assessments for increasing the Collection of these taxes. The progress is watched through monthly monitoring reports pertaining to pendency and disposal of assessments as well as collections of taxes.

Steps to Increase Shrimp Export from Kerala

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

(a) whether Government contemplate any measures for stepping up the shirmp exports during 1989 from Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other main seafoods being exported from Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Marine Products Export Development Authority has established a separate office at Cochin for promoting shrimp farming in Kerala for stepping up production of shrimp for export. The measures taken for stepping up the shrimp exports include promotion of shrimp farming for augmenting production of cultured shrimps, setting up shrimp hatcheries and seed banks and promotion of value-added items like IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) shrimps.

(c) The other main seafoods being exported from Kerala are lobsters, cuttlefish,

squids, frozen fish, crab meat, clam, tuna etc.

[*Translation*]

Suggestlons of Law Commiission

389. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of suggestions made by the Law Commission to Government during the last one year;

(b) the suggestions which have been accepted by Government and the suggestions which are under consideration; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken on the remaining suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Law Commission submitted the following nine Reports during the last one year:

<i>Report</i>	<i>Subject</i>
1	2
123rd	Decentralisation of Administration of Justice: Disputes involving Centres of Higher Education.
124th	The High Court Arrears—A Fresh Look.
125th	The Supreme Court—A fresh Look.
126th	Government and Public Sector Undertaking Litigation—Policy and Strategies.
127th	Resource Allocation for Infrastructural Services in Judicial Administration.
128th	Cost of Litigation.

1

2

129th	Urban Litigation—Meditation as alternative to Adjudication.
130th	Benami Transactions—A Continuum
131st	Role of Legal Profession in Administration of Justice.

(b) and (c). The recommendations made in the 130th Report of the Law Commission were taken into account while enacting the Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, 1988. The recommendations contained in the remaining Reports are at various stages of consideration. It is not possible to indicate a definite date by which a decision could be taken on the recommendations.

Train Accidents

390. SHRI S.D. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents occurred during the last three months and the causes thereof;

(b) the number of accidents averted because of alertness of drivers and other employees/persons during that period;

(c) the number of persons awarded in these cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During the period November 1988 to January 1989, 141 consequential train accidents occurred on the Indian Railways. These accidents occurred due to failure of railway staff, failure of persons other than railway staff, failure of

equipment, sabotage and other incidental factors.

(b) and (c). 73 potential accident situations were averted due to the alertness of staff. 106 railway staff were awarded in this connection.

(d) Staff who positively help in preventing potential accidents through timely action and vigilance are given due recognition by giving them cash awards and certificates etc.

[English]

Scheme for Water Tank to Store Rain Water in Maharashtra

391. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to create more water tanks to store rain water which can be used both for generation of power as also agriculture in Maharashtra with central assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes which have been taken in hand;

(c) the additional capacity that will be created; and

(d) the work plan for 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d). Under the normal programme of surface water minor irrigation scheme, irrigation tanks are being constructed by the State Government. The ultimate irrigation potential of Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes in the State including tanks has been assessed as 12 lakh ha. of irrigation potential. Till 1987-88, the total likely potential created is 7.02 lakh ha. The target for 1988-89 is 0.2 lakh ha. against which likely achievement reported is 0.31 lakh ha.

Upgradation of Cities

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

(a) the basis and guidelines to upgrade

<i>Class</i>	<i>Population</i>
'A'	More than 16 lakhs.
'B-1'	Above 8 lakhs but not exceeding 16 lakhs.
'B-2'	Above 4 lakhs but not exceeding 8 lakhs.
**C'	Above 50,000 but not exceeding 4 lakhs.

*No Compensatory (City) Allowance is admissible in 'C' class cities.

In classification of cities on the basis of their decennial census population, the population of municipal area of the city is taken into account for HRA purpose, and the population of Urban Agglomeration of the city, where such U.A. exists, otherwise municipal area of the city, is taken into account for CCA purpose. HRA as admissible in a city on the basis of its classification with reference to its population in the municipal area, has also been made admissible in its Urban Agglomeration w.e.f. 26.10.77 as a result of decision of the Government on the demand of the

a 'C' class city to 'B' class or a 'B' class city to a 'A' class city;

(b) the reasons for keeping Vishakhapatnam as 'C' class city and steps taken to upgrade it;

(c) whether Government propose to review the classification of all the cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) As per extant criteria, cities/towns are classified for House Rent Allowance and Compensatory (City) Allowance on the basis of their population as revealed in the decennial census figures. The criteria followed in this regard are as follows:-

Staff Side.

The current classification of cities is based on the population Census 1981.

(b) Vishakhapatnam is not a 'C' class city. It has been already classified as a 'B-2' class city.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Roof-Travelling

393. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prohibited the travelling of passengers on the roof of trains;

(b) if so, whether a large number of passengers still travel on the roof of the trains in some parts of the country;

(c) if so, the steps taken to check roof travelling; and

(d) the action taken against the passengers found travelling on roof as well as the railway employees who fail to check them from travelling on the roof the trains?

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

(b) It has come to the notice of the Railway Administration that on certain overcrowded sections passengers resort to roof top travelling particularly on occasions when there is extra ordinary rush of traffic on account of festivals, seasonal movement of labourers etc.

(c) and (d). The following measures are taken to prevent and discourage travelling on roofs of the trains:-

- (i) Notices and posters are exhibited at station premises and announcements made through public address system at important Railway stations highlighting the dangers of roof travelling;
- (ii) Ticket checking staff are instructed to prevent passengers from travelling on roofs and make them get down before the

departure of trains;

(iii) Raids and checks are conducted with the help of RPF/GRP to prevent roof travelling and offenders are prosecuted;

(iv) Capacity is augmented to the extent possible by providing additional coaches or by running additional trains when there is extra demand for accommodation on trains during festivals etc.

Cancellation of Trains on Delhi-Badotsre Route

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

(a) whether the passenger trains Nos. 6 SSD and 9 SSD plying between Delhi-Saharanpur via Baghpat and Badot have been cancelled w.e.f. 30.1.1989; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and when these trains are proposed to be started again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). 6 SSD/9 SSD which were temporarily cancelled due to Kumbh Mela have since been restored.

[*Translation*]

Bank Loans to SCs and STs for Construction of Houses

395. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the guidelines issued by the Union Government to the States regarding housing loans etc. to be provided from the nationalised banks to the Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to all Scheduled Commercial Banks on housing finance which *inter-alia* provide that loans to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000 be provided at an interest rate of 4% per annum. The Reserve Bank of India has further advised the banks that out of the total allocation for lending either directly to individuals or group of individuals or indirectly by way of terms loans to housing finance agencies, housing boards, HUDCO etc., care should be taken to ensure that atleast 50% of the amount lent is used for beneficiaries belonging to SC/STs, economically weaker sections and low income groups.

[English]

West Coast Railway

396. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the beneficiary States have proposed to provide financial assistance for completion of West Coast Railway project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Small Industries Development Bank

397. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Small Industries Development Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Government are considering to set up a Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as a subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to cater to the financial needs of small scale and tiny industries. SIDBI's equity will be Rs. 250 crores and it will have its own separate Board of Directors, including representatives from the Small Scale Sector. SIDBI when set up would administer both the Small Industries Development Fund and National Equity Fund set up in the IDBI.

Expansion of Tea Production Areas in North East

398. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been steps to expand the tea production areas in the North Eastern region through experiments conducted in Manipur and adjoining areas;

(b) if so, the areas covered and the amount spent with the results thereof; and

(c) whether Government have involved the State Government of Manipur in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). All the North East-

ern States Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, etc. have been found to be eminently suitable for tea plantation. To encourage tea planting in these States, Tea Board has been operating a scheme viz New Tea Unit Financing scheme and is extending substantial financial assistance by way of loan and subsidy. So far about 359.42 hectares have been planted through financial assistance provided by the Tea Board. The total amount of loan and subsidy released so far under the scheme works out to Rs. 65.18 lakhs and Rs. 19.28 lakhs respectively.

(c) Tea plantation to the extent of 52 hectares has been established with the Tea Board's fund in Manipur by Manipur Plantation Corporation Ltd., an undertaking of the State Government.

Laboratory Test of Imported White Cement

399. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sometime in July/August 1984 the Bombay Customs had sent the samples of imported white cement for laboratory tests to Government laboratory; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the tests reports confirmed that the imported white cement was found to be in conformity with ISI specifications; and

(c) if not, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Sample of imported white cement was tested by the Bombay Custom House Laboratory in July/August, 1984 and found to conform to "IS-8042-1976" for white cement.

(c) Does not arise.

Nutmeg and Clove Under Spices Board

400. SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to cover tree spices like nutmeg and clove by the spices Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): The Government does not at present propose to include tree spices like nutmeg and clove in Schedule to the Spices Board Act, 1986.

Abolition of Customs Duty on Import of Pollution Control Equipments

401. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI T.V. CHANDRASHEKHARAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Environment has recommended major fiscal and financial incentives for pollution control equipment to his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). The Ministry of Environment and Forests have made certain proposals suggesting relief in customs and excise duties on certain items of pollution control equipment. Necessary action would be taken on these proposals having regard to revenue and other considerations.

National Housing Corporation to Assist Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes

402. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any housing corporation at the national level to assist Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the construction of houses or purchases of houses;

(b) whether Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are finding it difficult to get housing loans from banks and other financial agencies; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to set up a national housing corporation exclusively to assist Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in housing activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). There is no housing corporation at the national level for providing housing finance to Scheduled Castes/Tribes nor is there any proposal to set up such a Corporation. However, Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to Scheduled Commercial Banks to provide housing finance to individuals including Scheduled Castes/Tribes. Moreover, to Scheduled Castes/Tribes housing loans upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000/- are to be given at a concessional rate of interest at 4% per annum. Further, Reserve Bank of India has advised banks to ensure that atleast 50% of their lendings directly to individuals, cooperatives, etc. and indirectly through Housing Boards, Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), Housing Finance agencies, etc. is lent to beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, economically weaker sections and low income groups.

Execution of Irrigation Projects

403. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government followed two different approaches for the execution of the major and medium irrigation projects in the Krishna and Cauvery basins;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka had discussed the matter with Union Government and sought help in these irrigation projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The State Government formulates and implements the irrigation projects according to its own priorities.

[*Translation*]

Over-bridges in Bilaspur City and Jayram Nagar

404. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct overbridges in Bilaspur City and Jayram Nagar in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There is a proposal for construction of road-over-bridge at Bilaspur only.

(b) The site for the proposed road-over-bridge has been fixed. The State Government is yet to finalise the other technical details including the estimate for the work.

[English]

Rubber Plantation In Orissa

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

(a) the total area brought under rubber plantation in Orissa, so far,

(b) whether Government are aware that the climatic condition of Phulbani district in Orissa is favourable for rubber plantation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the area under rubber plantation in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) About 180 hectares of land has been brought under rubber cultivation in different areas of Orissa so far.

(b) No, Sir. A recent survey carried-out in this area has revealed that the district is generally not suited for economic rubber cultivation.

(c) Rubber cultivation is being promoted in the districts of Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Denkanal, Cuttack, Puri and Ganjam. A zonal office of the rubber Board was set up in Bhubaneshwar and regional offices have been set up at Behrampur and Baripada. The rubber growers in Orissa are being given financial assistance under the Rubber Plantation Development Scheme which include cash subsidy, interest subsidy, additional assistance for use of planting material of advanced growth raised in polybags etc.

Transportation of Goods by Traders Through Railways

406. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has brought to the notice of the Railway Board the misuse of legal protection by the private booking agencies given under the provision of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 resulting in colossal loss of revenue to the State Exchequer on account of massive evasion of sales tax by the traders who transport their goods through the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures contemplated by Government to plug the loopholes to check tax evasion by transporting goods through the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Government of Uttar Pradesh have written to the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) alleging evasion of sales tax by traders on consignments moved by rail through the City Booking Agencies.

(c) Instructions have been issued to the City Booking Agencies to ensure that names and addresses of the consignor and consignee and full particulars of the consignment are properly filled in the forwarding notes. They have also been directed to extend full co-operation to the authorised sales tax officials to collect information from relevant railway records.

External Assistance to Assam

407. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Assam had sought any external assistance for implementing developmental programmes in the State during the last three years, up-to-date;

(b) if so, the number of projects under implementation in Assam with external assistance;

(c) whether any project has been started in Assam with World Bank assis-

tance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The details of projects in Assam for which external assistance has been committed during the last three years are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Date of agreement	Donor agency	Amount US \$ million	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Third National Agriculture Extension-(NAEP-III) project	29.6.1987	International Development Association	85.00	This is a multi-State project. The participating States are Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Assam.
2.	Third National Seeds Project	22.12.1988	-do-	150.00	A multi-State project with the participation of Assam', Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

[*Translation*]

Train Accidents at Mehrauli-Badarpur Crossing and on Kathgodam Route

408. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many people died in the collision between train and truck on Mehrauli-Badarpur railway crossing near Tuglakabad Railway Station of Northern Railway on 22nd January, 1989;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on 22nd January, 1989 Kashipur Kashganj Passenger train and a goods train had collided on Kathgodam line and many employees and citizens had died in this accident; and

(c) if so, the details of actual casualties in the said two rail accidents, financial compensation given to their families, the details of investigation of these accidents and the safety measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). In the level crossing accident 2 occupants of truck lost their lives. Departmental inquiry was conducted into this accident and according to its findings, the accident occurred due to failure of Railway Staff.

In the accident to Kashipur-Kasganj Passenger train, two railway staff lost their lives. This accident is under statutory inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle, Gorakhpur. Rs 24,000/- has been paid as ex-gratia. No compensation has been awarded so far by the Judicial Courts.

The following measures are taken to prevent accidents:-

(i) Publicity for precautions to be

taken while

Crossing railway tracks at level crossings.

(ii) Intensification of safety drives.

(iii) Counselling of staff.

(iv) Holding of safety camps

(v) Emphasis on refresher courses, etc.

[*English*]

Premium for LIC Policies

409. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the premium for different Life Insurance policies is the same for a tax-payer and a non-tax payer;

(b) whether Government have come across representations against charging the same rate of premium from a tax-payer and a non-tax payer in respect of LIC policies; and

(c) If so, the reaction of Government in the matter?

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

(b) No such representations appear to have been received by Government.

(c) Does not arise. In any case, in respect of rates of premium, LIC cannot distinguish between a tax payer and a non-tax payer.

F.I.C.C.I. Suggestion on DA Scheme

410. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged Government to scrap the scheme of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Foreign Exchange Earned by EOUs in Andhra Pradesh

411. SHRI MANIK REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of details of 100 per cent export oriented units (EOUs) in operation in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the products being exported by them, country-wise; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned by them in last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). In Andhra Pradesh, twelve 100% Export Oriented Units have reported commencement of operation. The names of the units and the products manufactured and exported by them are given in the statement below. Information on country-wise exports made by 100% EOUs is not available.

(c) According to the reports furnished by the units, exports during the last 3 years were;

	Rs. Crores
1985-86	12.00
1986-87	18.00
1987-88	6.00

STATEMENT

100% Export Oriented Units in Operation in Andhra Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	Product manufactured and exported.
1	2	3
1.	M/s. Khammam Granites	Granite Memorials
2.	M/s. Nav Bharat Enterprises Ltd.	Cigarettes
3.	M/s. Srinivas Cystine	L-Cystine

1	2	3
4.	M/s. Fibro Made ups & Co.	Textile Mattresses, sleeping bags, automatic cushioning.
5.	M/s. Suri Computers (P) Ltd.	Computer Software
6.	M/s. Richimen Silks Ltd.	Fabric Silk
7.	M/s. VDR & Co. Nylon (P) Ltd.	Nylon Fishnet
8.	M/s. Gautam Construction and Fisheries	Tuna and other fishes
9.	M/s. LVR and Dong In Granite Co	Granite tombstones, decorative products.
10.	M/s. Seal Fisheries P. Ltd.	All varieties of fish.
11.	M/s. Rock Copco Ltd.	Granite slabs
12.	M/s. Chendur Sea Foods Ltd.	All varieties of fish

Collision between 2 BD (Barwadih-Dehri-on-Sone) and down Howrah, Goods Special 534 trains

412. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report of the inquiry instituted to look into the collision of 2 BD (Barwadih-Dehri-on-Sone) passenger train and down Howrah Goods Special 534 train on December, 16, 1988 has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, the findings thereof, as to the causes and the extent of damage to life and property suffered; and

(c) the action taken against the persons found responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle who is holding a statutory inquiry into this accident, has submitted his Preliminary Report.

(b) According to the provisional findings of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, the accident occurred to the failure of Railway Staff.

The Guard of the Goods train lost his life in this accident.

The loss to Railway property has been estimated at Rs. 1,50,000/- .

(c) Action will be taken on receipt of the final report.

[Translation]

Shatabdi Express

413. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Shatabdi Express' the fastest train in India, running between Delhi and Jhansi, has not proved commercially viable;

(b) the average daily sale of tickets and capacity of this train;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce some second class coaches in place of air-conditioned coaches in this train for making it economically viable and within the reach of the common people;

(d) if so, by what time; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Train-wise statistics of earnings and expenditure are not maintained.

(b) The daily average sale of tickets for journeys between various stations in January, 1989 was 337 by 2001 Dn and 339 by 2002 Up Shatabdi Express. The carrying capacity of this train is 467 passengers.

(c) to (e). Non-air conditioned coaches cannot be attached to trains running at speeds above 110 Kms. per hour due to dust nuisance.

[English]

Support Price for Natural Rubber in Kerala

414. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand from the rubber growers in Kerala for fixing support price for natural rubber at Rs 20.50 per kg.

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

(c) whether the representatives of the rubber growers will be given representation in the body to decide the price of natural rubber?

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

(b) The buffer stocking scheme being implemented by the Government provides for remunerative returns to the growers, as also steady supply of natural rubber to actual users at a reasonable price. The revision of the price band under the buffer stocking scheme is considered by Government on the basis of variations in the factors taken into account for the fixation of the same. Presently there is no case under consideration of Government for revision of the the price band.

(c) The present arrangements do, not provide for associating any outsiders to decide the price band for natural rubber.

Sickness in Fishing Industry

415. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) are aware that while total quantity of shrimp exports has increased annually, there has been an average decline in actual shrimp catch per vessel:

(b) whether the low value of rupee as against foreign currencies partly accounts for continuing slow rise in shrimps exports.

(c) the remedial measures contemplated by MPEDA to stem the sickness in fishing industry; and

(d) whether MPEDA propose to give any subsidy to boat owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The MPEDA does not have information vessel wise catch of shrimps.

(b) There is no evidence to show that low value of rupee as against foreign currencies partly accounts for continuing slow rise in shrimp exports.

(c) The remedial promotional measures taken by MPEDA inter alia include interaction with financial institutions for financing deep sea fishing projects and port authorities in Cochin and Tuticorin to facilitate

operation of vessels for lobster fishing.

(d) MPEDA is already administering a subsidy scheme to assist fishermen to mechanise their country crafts.

Seizure of Heroin and Gold across Indo-Pak Border

416. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of heroin and gold have been seized from smugglers operating across Indo-Pak border since January this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum and value of the contraband seized;

(c) whether a nexus between these activities and smuggling of arms by terrorists from Pakistan has been established;

(d) if so, what evidence to that effect has come to notice; and

(e) what effective steps have been taken to prevent this smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA): (a) and (b). The quantity and value of gold and quantity of heroin seized during January, 1989 on the Indo-Pak sector of the land borders are given below:-

	<i>Quantity (in Kgs)</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in crores)</i>
Gold	241.58*	7.3*
Heroin	528*	No precise value of heroin can be indicated since it depends on its purity, place of origin etc.

* The above figures are provisional.

(c) and (d). Nexus between smuggling activities of gold and heroin with those of firearms from across the border from Pakistan cannot be ruled out.

(e) The anti-smuggling drive throughout the country have been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in vulnerable areas of sea coast, land borders region and airports remain alert to check and detect smuggling into the country. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipment such as: metal detectors, X-ray machines are utilised for prevention and detection of gold concealed on person of passengers and their baggage/in cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the concerned agencies in the prevention and detection of smuggling into the country.

Loan by EXIM Bank of Japan

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

(a) whether Government have signed any contract for loan with Export Import Bank of Japan; 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) No Sir.

(b) However, recently two loans have been availed of by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), the terms of which are given below:-

	IDBI	IRFC
(i) Amount: billion	Yen 20 billion	Yen 15
(ii) Maturity	20 years	20 years.
(ii) Rate of interest	5.3% p.a.	5.3% p.a
(iv) Commitment: fee	1/4% p.a.	1/4% p.a

Revenue Collection from Orissa

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

(a) the total revenue collection from Orissa during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 under each Central tax; and

(b) the amount under each tax returned

to Orissa during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The total revenue collected from Orissa State during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 under each Central tax is as under:

Year	<i>Rs. in crores</i>					
	Income tax (including Corporation Tax)	Expenditure Tax	Wealth Tax	Gift tax	Central Excise Duty	Customs Duty
1986-87	36.00	—	0.50	0.035	173.69	50.00
1987-88	45.00	0.04	0.27	0.03	183.73	54.00

(b) Amount paid to Orissa State as its Share of Central Taxes and duties during 1986-87 and 1987-88 is Rs. 374.98 crores and Rs. 402.24 crores respectively.

Building up of Dams for Flood Prevention on Ganga and Brahmaputra Rivers by Foreign Countries

419. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI VISHNU MODI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Government has made a proposal to European leaders and the international community to build a series of dams on the Ganges and the Brahmaputra rivers in order to prevent flooding

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

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

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

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

Scheme to Improve Economic Status of Weaker Sections

420. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state:

(a) whether Government had formulated a scheme to improve the economic status of the weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme was operated through the nationalised banks;

(d) whether certain norms were observed for the identification of the borrower of the bank;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether several bank officials have allegedly misused their authority in sanctioning a number of fictitious loans; and

(g) the details of the reported cases of such banks/bank officials, the amount involved and action taken against the loan sanctioning officers and the persons receiving the loans under mass loaning scheme since the scheme's operation till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (g). Public Banks extend credit to weaker sections under various schemes and organise credit camp as part of their overall measures to enhance flow of credit to these category of

borrowers. The banks observe the guidelines/instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time regarding eligibility criteria, project appraisal and post sanction supervision as also recovery procedure etc, for all loans given by them whether at credit camps or otherwise. Central monitoring of the number of cases sanctioned and disbursed in credit camps is neither considered feasible nor necessary. However, any case of abuse of authority, whether relating to credit camp or otherwise, whenever comes to notice is taken up for suitable remedial action.

Inflation Rate in Metropolitan Cities

421. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage rise in the All India Inflation rate at the end of 1988 and how does it compare with the inflation rate at the end of 1987;

(b) the comparative rise in the percentage of consumer price index in the major metropolitan cities in the country from April-September, 1988 and October-December, 1988 and how does it compare with the rise in the price index during the corresponding period in 1987 ; and

(c) the major reasons for variations in the inflation/consumer price index in the various metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The percentage rise in Consumer Price Index on a point to point basis at the end of 1988 was 8.8 per cent as against 9.3 per cent at the end of 1987.

(b) A statement showing comparative rise in the CPI in the major metropolitan cities is given below:

Comparative Rise in CPI in major metropolitan cities

<i>Cities</i>	<i>1987</i>		<i>1988</i>	
	<i>April-Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.-Dec.</i>	<i>April-Sept.</i>	<i>Oct. -Dec.</i>
Delhi	11.91	-0.37	7.01	Nil
Bombay	6.50	2.04	5.09	-0.23
Calcutta	8.47	-1.23	7.72	2.01
Madras	6.37	4.13	5.00	2.93
All India	8.60	0.94	7.04	1.49

(c) The consumer prices in different cities vary with the interaction of forces of demand and supply determined by factors such as pressure of population, levels of income, efficiency of marketing structure, etc.

Malwa Canal of Madhya Pradesh

422. SHRI SAMBAJJI RAO KAKADE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a scheme for Malwa Canal;

(b) whether there is any possibility to change the present Narmada Valley Project to include the Malwa Canal to utilise the surplus water from the Narmada Sagar reservoir;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which Government propose to take final decision on this proposal?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise

Seizure of Narcotic Drugs

423. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of heroin and other narcotic drugs seized so far in the country since 1 April, 1988; and

(b) the value of the seized narcotic drugs in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The quantities of heroin and other drugs seized in the country from 1.4.1988 to 31.1. 1989 are as under;

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of drug</i>	<i>Quantity (Kgs) (Provisional)</i>
1.	Opium	1,575
2.	Heroin	2,682
3.	Hashish (Charas)	5,892
4.	Ganja	28,596
5.	Morphine	3
6.	Amphetamine	9
7.	Methaqualone	1,289

No. precise value of the drug seized can be estimated, either in domestic or international market, as this is dependent upon various factors like purity of the drug, place of origin, local demand and supply, etc.

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

Assistance to Sick Units by BIFR

424. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

(a) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) proposes to take some steps to further streamline the disbursement of funds to sick units;

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken;

(c) the details of the sick units in the country and help provided by Government to those units; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take to revive sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir. BIFR does not disburse funds to sick units.

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d). As per the latest data available with RBI the position of SSI sick, non-SSI sick and non-SSI weak units weak units as at the end of June, 1987 is as below:-

Sector	No. of Units
SSI sick	1,58,226
Non-SSI sick	1,057
Non-SSI weak	655

RBI have issued guidelines from time to time 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.

Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 also takes preventive, ameliorative, remedial and other measures in respect of sick industrial companies as per the provisions of the Act.

CBI Raids on Premises of State Bank of India and State Bank of Indore

425. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that C.B.I. Enforcement Department had conducted raids on the residential premises of senior officers of the State Bank of India and State Bank of Indore branches in Delhi and Indore during 1982 to March 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any penal action has been taken against the senior officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Central Bureau of Investigation has intimated that on 16.12.83 it had conducted searches of the residential premises of a Manager of State Bank of India, Kalkaji (New Delhi) branch in connection with investigation of three cases registered against him for his alleged showing of undue favour to some private parties, in the grant of credit facilities. During the searches, incriminating documents relating to the investigation of these cases were seized.

(c) Central Bureau of Investigation has further intimated that whilst one case is pending trial in the Court in the remaining two cases, suitable action has been recommended to the Bank authorities.

Closure of Textile Processing Units of Amritsar

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

(a) whether about 100-odd textiles

processing units in Amritsar, which provide direct or indirect employment to about 70,000 workers are facing closure on account of alleged illogical central excise duty regulations;

(b) whether Government have received any representation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The Government are aware that a strike was observed by some textile processing units of Amritsar from the 12th January, 1989 to the 20th January, 1989 demanding shifting of the excise duty on fabrics to the yarn or fibre stage.

(b) and (c). The Government have received a representation from Amritsar Printers' and Processors' Association, dated the 23rd January, 1989. In this letter, the Association has suggested shifting of central excise duty on synthetic fabrics to yarn or fibres. Alternatively, the Association has suggested restructuring and reduction of excise duty on synthetic fabrics. However, in view of the forthcoming Union Budget it would not be possible to indicate the Government's response to these suggestions.

[*Translation*]

Customer Service in Bank Branches in Delhi

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

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding ill-treatment being meted out to the depositors in the branches

of State Bank of India and other banks in Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in respect of these complaints; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor and the full details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Banks have taken a number of measures to bring about improvement in service rendered to their depositors/ customers. These measures include inter-alia evolution of time norms for rendering common services, speedier clearance and collection of cheques through computerisation of clearing houses and increased use of courier service, creation of machinery for quick redressal of customers' grievances, extending to individuals the facility of immediate credit of outstation cheques upto Rs 2500/-, payment of interest at savings bank rate for delayed collection of outstation cheques beyond 10/14 days and increased interface between customers and bank executives with a view to facilitating quick redressal of grievances.

Specific complaints received from depositors/ customers are promptly looked into for appropriate remedial action.

[*English*]

Assistance by Banks to Sick Small Scale units

428. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have emphasised upon the banks to come to the rescue

of the sick small scale units in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued to the banks in this regard;

(c) the number of sick small scale units in the country which have been benefited by the banks during the past six months; and

(d) the further steps Government propose to take to provide more help to sick units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has reported that detailed guidelines in respect of sick units have been issued in February, 1987 to all Scheduled Commercial Banks for detection of sickness, norms of potential, viability of sick industrial units and parameters for provision of concessions/ reliefs to potentially viable sick industrial units taken for rehabilitation. The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has also issued similar guidelines to State Financial Corporations in July, 1987 and formulated a refinance scheme for extending rehabilitation assistance to sick small scale industrial units through banks and State Financial Corporations. The banks have also been advised in July, 1988 that the nursing programmes in respect of potentially viable sick SSI units should be formulated and implemented in a time bound manner.

As per the latest consolidated data available with RBI, 4980 units with outstanding amount of Rs. 232.96 crores were reported to be put under nursing programme by financing banks as at the end of June, 1987.

Proposal to Enhance the Productivity of EOUs

429. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to turn the Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) into flourishing concerns; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). With a view to improving the operational viability of 100% Export Oriented Units and strengthening their export capability, the scheme of 100% EOUs was revamped during 1987-88 and measures announced. No further changes are under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Rail Link to Sirouj Lateri and Maksudangarh (M.P)

430. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to connect rural areas of Sirouj -Lateri-Maksudangarh (Madhya Pradesh) to Ganj Basoda station on Central Railway by laying a new railway line in the next five year plan; and

(b) if so, when the survey work of this area is likely to be started?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

FICCI Suggestions on Investment in Saving Schemes

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

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has made suggestions recently to provide more incentives to people to invest their savings in Life Insurance, National Savings Certificates and provident Fund

(b) if so, whether these suggestions have been examined with a view to mobilise more resources for developmental activities; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c). The suggestions made by FICCI, as indeed, from other associations and persons, are taken into account in the formulation of Government policy.

Irrigation Potential and Utilisation

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

(a) the number of Command Area Development Authorities (CADA) and the

projects under the Command Area Development Programme (CADP) set up in the country so far, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the total hectares of cultivable Command Areas covered under those C.A.D.A. and C.A.D.P. in different States and Union Territories; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken by Government to bridge the gap between creation and utilisation of irrigation potential and thereby obtaining optimum agricultural production from irrigated land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below:

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme, Central Assistance in accordance with an approved financing pattern is being given to the States and Union Territories for On Farm development works, like construction of field channels, Land levelling, field drains and introduction of warabandi for optimum utilisation of irrigation potential. States have also been recommended to adopt a number of steps, such as unified control of irrigation water management from headworks to farm-gate, adequate funds to be mobilised for modernisation to make good system inadequacies and for meeting maintenance requirements, intensification of efforts to secure active participation of irrigators in the CAD Programme, etc., to optimise the utilisation of irrigation potential.

STATEMENT

State/Union Territory wise number of C.A.D. Projects/Authorities and Culturable Command Area

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>State/U.T.</i>	<i>No. of C.A.D. projects</i>	<i>No. of C.A.D Authorities</i>	<i>Culturable Command Area(000 ha)</i>
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	3	1341.27
2.	Assam	3	2	52.30
3.	Bihar	6	4	2393.64
4.	Goa	2	1	16.36
5.	Gujarat	21	4	953.18
6.	Haryana	4	1	443.87
7.	Himachal Pradesh	3	0	10.09
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	2	61.86
9.	Karnataka	5	4	1920.79
10.	Kerala	10	1	92.24
11.	Madhya Pradesh	22	7	1500.75
12.	Maharashtra	16	7	1279.26
13.	Manipur	2	1	29.00
14.	Meghalaya	1	0	0.90
15.	Orissa	4	5	601.60
16.	Rajasthan	4	2	92.74
17.	Tamil Nadu	5	0	664.51
18.	Tripura	1	0	4.49
19.	Uttar Pradesh	3	3	4308.00

1	2	3	4	5
20.	West Bengal	4	3	1832.35
21.	Daman & Diu	1*	0	3.41
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1*	0	8.28
Total		131	50	18490.89

* Damanganga project comes under Gujarat, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. It is being counted for as two projects, one for the State of Gujarat and another for U.Ts.

Income Tax Exemption to Churhat Children's Welfare Society

433. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh High Court in its verdict on Churhat Children's Welfare Society lottery has suggested quashing of the Income-tax exemption order;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken in accordance with the High court Verdict?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise

[*Translation*]

Vacancies at High Level Posts in Public Undertakings

434. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of Chairmen, Managing Directors and Directors are lying vacant in the public undertakings under the control of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the names of such undertakings with details of posts lying vacant and since when such posts are lying vacant; and

(c) the steps being taken by his Ministry to fill these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Details about the vacancies in the posts of Chairman, Managing Directors and full-time Executive Directors in the public sector undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce are given in the statement given below:

(c) Efforts are being made to select suitable persons to fill the vacant posts, in consultation with Public Enterprises Selection Board.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Corporation</i>	<i>Number and Designation of posts</i>		<i>Date from which lying vacant</i>
1.	Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation	(a)	Executive Directors (3)	29.12.1988
		(b)	Executive Director (1)	30.12.1988
2.	Projects & Equipment		Executive Director (1)	1.11.1986
3.	Tea Trading Corporation		Functional Directors (3)	January 1986
4.	Mica Trading Corporation		Director (Finance) (1)	14.2.1989

[English]

Express Train Between Vijayawada and madras

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

(a) whether the travelling public from Vijayawada to Madras and Vice-Versa is facing difficulty in the absence of an express train on this route; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to operate an express train from Vijayawada to Madras and Vice-versa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There are a number of Mail/Express trains running on Madras-Vijayawada Section.

(b) Does not arise.

Reduction in Rate of Interest on Lending by Banks

436. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are considering to permit a reduction in the rate of interest on lending by banks;

(b) if so, the expected advantage thereof; and

(c) whether the lowering of interest on bank lendings affect the deposits with the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The question of lending and deposit rates is kept under continuing review and suitable changes are made as and when deemed necessary. The deposit mobilisation of banks may not be affected by the variation of

interest rates on lendings.

Production and Export of Castor Oil

437. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of castor oil exported in 1988;

(b) the countries to which castor oil is exported:

(c) the name of State production castor oil; and

(d) the incentives provided for the producers of castor oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The total value and quantity of castor oil exported in 1988 are as follows:

<i>Quantity (In Mt)</i>	<i>Value (in Rs. crores)</i>
31.533	54

(Source: Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Bombay).

(b) The major countries to which castor oil is exported are USSR, GDR, and France.

(c) Castor oil is produced mainly in the states of Gujarat Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, U.P., and Bihar.

(d) CCS @ 5% on export of castor oil medicinal is admissible to exporters.

New Trains in Southern India

438. SHRI S. G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to run 'Ahimsa' trains from Ahmedabad to Pune via Diva-Bassein line from 1 May, 1989;

(b) Whether there is also a proposal to run four more trains on that line to Southern India also, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for which local trains are not run on this route in spite of strong demand for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). During the summer time table a weekly train between Ahmedabad-Pune via Diva-Vasai will be introduced. In addition it is proposed to run existing weekly Trivandrum/Cochin/Hyderabad South bound trains Ex. Western Railway via this line.

(c) For want of infrastructural facilities.

Expenditure on Repairs of Office Buildings of Nationalised Banks

439. SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms prescribed in the matter of incurring expenditure on repairs/renovation of office buildings of nationalised banks; and

(b) the amount spent by the Dena Bank for renovating the Chairman's office or any other part of the office in Bombay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Repairs

and renovation of office buildings are carried out in banks on the basis of needs and exigencies.

Dena Bank has reported that it has not incurred any expenditure on renovation of Chairman's Office. A sum of Rs. 12.29 lakhs was, however, spent in 1988 on other office premises in Bombay.

Passenger amenities at Macheda, Panskura and Kolaghat

440. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of lavatory and latrine etc. on Macheda, Panskura and Kolaghat stations of West Bengal passengers particularly ladies are facing a lot of hardship; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for the construction of lavatory and latrines etc. there to ease the suffering of the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Existing toilet facilities for ladies and gents at Macheda, Panskura and Kolaghat stations are considered inadequate for the present level of traffic. Railway has initiated action to provide additional toilet facilities.

Export of Furniture

441. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States and Union Territories exporting furniture;

(b) total value of export from this item so far, country-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to draw certain guidelines to encourage more States and Union Territories to involve themselves in this trade to earn foreign exchange;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) According to available information wooden furniture is being exported mainly from the states of Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(b) During 1987-88, wooden furniture valued at Rs. 110 lakhs was exported. A statement showing country-wise export figures is given below.

(Source: Chemicals & Allied Products Exports Promotion Council).

(c) to (e). Export of wooden furniture is under open general licence and as such all manufacturers exporters are free to export wooden furniture.

STATEMENT

Showing country-wise export performance in respect of wooden furniture for the year 1987-88

<i>Country to which exported</i>	<i>Export (In Rs. lakhs)</i>
1	2
Australia	1.0
Bahrain	6.0
West Germany	5.0
Japan	50.0

1	2
Kuwait	5.0
Maldives	1.0
Nepal	10.0
Oman	6.0
Singapore	10.0
UAE	5.0
UK	8.0
USSR	1.0
USA	2.0
Total	110.0

Railway Bridge Over Ganga at Patna

442. DR. C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of railway bridge under construction over the Ganga at Patna; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Engineering - Cum-Traffic Survey for a rail bridge across river Ganga, near Patna, has been taken up and is in progress.

(b) It is difficult to state at this stage when bridge would be completed.

Coastal Railway in Kerala

443. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position about the construction of the coastal railway line in Kerala;

(b) the amount spent so far and the further requirement in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Work is progress on Ernakulam-Alleppey, Alleppey-Kayankulam and Trichur-Guruvayur new B.G. line projects and coastal railway lines in Kerala.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 61.95 crores has been spent on these 3 projects upto 31.1.89 and as per present indications Rs 53.80 crores more are to be spent.

(c) Ernakulam-Alleppey is expected to be commissioned by June, 1989. Completion of Alleppey-Kayankulam and Trichur-Guruvayur will depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.

Construction of SYL Canal

444. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal is going on as per schedule;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to achieve the target; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Construction of some of the works on the SYL Canal Project has got delayed because of a number of reasons like farmers' agitation, unprecedented rains in monsoon of 1988, Contractor's performance etc. etc. The work on the Sirsa Aqueduct, where work remained suspended for some months due to litigation, has since been re-allotted in December, 1988 after the legal hurdles were overcome.

(c) The Central Government is providing the funds for the project and monitoring the project to resolve bottlenecks and help in organising the necessary inputs.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal to Split Supreme Court

445. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to split Supreme Court into constitutional court and a court of appeal; and

(b) if so, whether the branches of the court of appeal will be established in different States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B.SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The Law Commission in its 125th Report had, inter alia, recommended that if the Supreme Court is split into Constitutional Court and Court of Appeal or a Federal Court of Appeal, no serious exception could be taken to the Federal Court of Appeal sitting in Benches, in North, South East, West and Central India. The copy of the Report has been forwarded to the Chief Justice of India

for eliciting the comments/views of the Supreme Court.

Setting up of National Credit Council

446. SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Credit Council on the lines of the National Development Council; and

(b) the main features of the above scheme?

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.

Meeting of Chief Ministers on Consignment tax

447. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of Chief Ministers on consignment tax was held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed during the meeting;

(c) whether Government propose to take effective steps for implementation of issues finalised in the meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various issues discussed in the Conference include rate at which consignment tax is to be levied, machinery for assessment of consignment tax, valuation of consignment transfers, method of distribution of the proceeds of consignment tax, concurrent power of exemption to be given to the Centre and the States and issue of guidelines about the same by the Centre after these guidelines are formulated by a Committee including some of the Chief Ministers, to be set up by the Union Finance Minister.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Necessary action will be taken in the light of the decisions taken/discussions held.

(e) Does not arise.

Provident Fund Accounts of Maharashtra

448. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has been pursuing the matter of clearing the backlog of provident fund account which is due to it from Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for withholding the payments of the same; and

(c) the steps taken by Union Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Loans have been released to Government of Maharashtra against Public Provident Fund collections in Post Offices upto December, 1988. In respect of collections through State

Bank of India, based on available figures upto June, 1988, loans have been released.

Benefits of Polavaram Project

449. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some issues linked with Polavaram project of Andhra Pradesh are still being sorted out by the Central Water Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue from the project and the estimated cost of construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to submit a modified Project Report keeping in view the observations made by Central appraising agencies.

Strengthening of State Ground water Organisation of Maharashtra

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

(a) whether Union Government have received any reports from Government of Maharashtra regarding centrally sponsored scheme for strengthening the State Ground Water Organisation;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated and provided uptill now; and

(c) the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c).

Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of strengthening the State Ground Water Organisations, an amount of Rs 329.55 lakhs has been released to the State Government from 1976-77 to 1987-88 as 50% Central assistance as grant on matching basis for purchase of drilling rig, survey equipments etc. No proposal has been received for 1988-89. Utilisation report for releases made till 1986-87 has been received from the State Government. The equipment has been used for drilling and other survey work.

Sheds at Platforms on Railway Stations In Maharashtra

451. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations in Maharashtra which do not have sheds at platforms and the number of stations which have very small sheds at platforms;

(b) the criteria fixed by Government for covering uncovered or small sheds; and

(c) the number of stations where platforms are likely to be covered in Maharashtra during 1988-89?

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.

Request for Financial Assistance for Mahananda Basin Flood Control Plan

452. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the finalisation of the Mahananda Basin Flood Control Plan;

(b) whether any request has been re-

ceived from the Government of Bihar for financial assistance for the implementation of the plan;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been expanded to the State Government for flood control and drainage works on the Mahananda system during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89; and

(d) the actual expenditure incurred on the above, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Ganga Flood Control Commission has updated the comprehensive plan of flood control for Mahananda basin in 1987 in consultation with the State Governments. It is for the State Governments to carry out the detailed investigations for finding out techno-economic viability of each scheme.

(b) The Government of Bihar has requested for financial assistance for flood protection works in Bihar as a whole.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government of Bihar has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 10.20 lakhs during 1986-87.

Rate of Increase of Export During April-December, 1988

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

(a) the rate of increase of total exports in rupees during April-December, 1988 as compared to the corresponding period of 1987;

(b) the corresponding rate in SDR's and

(c) the corresponding data about exports invoiced in dollars, sterling, rouble mark & yen separately with the percentage of total invoicing in each case.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) According to the provisional figures, India's exports during April-December, 1988 amounted to Rs. 13926.68 crores as compared to Rs. 11197.41 crores during April-Dec., 1987, thereby registering an increase of 24.4. per cent.

(b) In SDR terms, the growth rate works out to 10.6 per cent.

(c) The details of exports invoiced in dollars, sterling, rouble, mark and yen are not yet available for the period specified.

Punctuality, Speed and Frequency of Trains

454. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the punctuality rate, quarter-wise during 1988 of the express and mail trains connecting various part of the country with the North-East in particular with Guwahati; and

(b) the steps taken to improve punctuality to reduce travel time and to increase frequency during 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During 1988 the overall punctuality performance of Mail/Express trains of Northeast Frontier Railway which serves the North East region, is as under

I Quarter	89.3
II Quarter	87.3
III Quarter	85.4
IV Quarter	93.0

(b) Frequent Agitations/Bundhs in the region is the main reason affecting punctuality of trains. Round the clock monitoring is being done to improve the punctuality performance. Increasing the frequency and speeding up of trains is an on-going process. During 1988, on N.F. Railway, 18 trains were speeded up and frequency of train No. 57/58 was increased.

Setting up of National and Zonal Advisory Committees for Banking

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up national and zonal advisory committees for banking, involving Members of Parliament, so as to advise and monitor the role of the banks in socio-economic transformation of society, particularly in respect of self-employment and poverty alleviation schemes;

(b) if so, the likely date by which such committees are likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, whether any mechanism involving the Members of Parliament would be evolved for this purpose in the near future?

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 there is no proposal to set up national and Zonal advisory committees for banking. However,

the nationalisation scheme provides for constitution of Regional Consultative Committees (RCCs) which periodically reviews the performance of banks in different States. The State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) has also been constituted for each State to review the position of banks in the concerned State. At the District level the performance of banks is reviewed in the District Level Review Meeting and District Consultative Committee. The existing machinery for assessing the performance of banks including with reference to the lending to priority sector, poverty alleviation schemes etc. is considered quite adequate.

Railway Examination Centres In Himachal Pradesh

456. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has received a request for the opening of Railway Examination Centres in Himachal Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Board on this request and the places in Himachal Pradesh where the Examination Centres have been sanctioned; and

(c) if not whether such centres would be set up at the places for which the demand has been received and the likely date by which it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such request has been received by the Railway Board. However, prior approval of the Ministry of Railways is not necessary for opening of examination centres by the Railway Recruitment Boards.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Railway Recruitment Boards, which conduct examinations for recruitment to Group 'C' posts on the Railways, open examination centres, wherever justified.

Passenger Amenities at Guler and Nandpur Bhatoli

457. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway has earmarked adequate funds of the construction of a railway rest house and rain-shelter on the platforms at Guler and Nandpur Bhatoli stations of Kangra Valley Railway and also for other passenger amenities at these two stations;

(b) if so, the exact amount provided for the two stations for these facilities in the works programme; and

(c) the likely date by which the facilities would be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Adequate passenger amenities, including cover over platform and Rest House facilities are available at Guler railway station. At Nandpur Bhatoli railway station, provision of a rest house is not considered justified. Railway has initiated action to provide a cover over platform at this station at an estimated cost of Rs. 50,000/- during 1989-90. Other amenities provided at Nandpur Bhatoli railway station are considered adequate.

(c) The work of cover over platform at Nandpur Bhatoli railway station shall be completed in 1990.

Involvement of Para-Military Forces in Smuggling activities

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

(a) whether any instances of involvement of para-military forces in smuggling activities have come to the notice of Government; and if so, the details of such instances during the last three years, including the current financial year; and

(b) the action taken by Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). One instance of smuggling of Ganja in a vehicle of the Central Reserve Police Force has been reported during the last three financial years. In this case 300 Kgs. of Ganja was recovered from a Bihar bound truck of Central Reserve Police Force and was detected by the D.I.G. in charge Group Centre, Imphal while the truck was being loaded with the goods. It is reported that one C.R.P.F. Officer has been arrested in this case. Persons arrested for smuggling are prosecuted in Courts of law in suitable cases.

Export and Import of Cashew

459. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) the main importer countries of India's cashew;

(b) the quantity of cashew exported during 1987 and 1988;

(c) the quantity of raw cashew imported by India during 1987-88; and

(d) the outcome of the visit of Japan and other countries of the cashew trade delegation sponsored by the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India during November-December, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The main importing countries for India's cashew are USA, the Netherlands, Japan, USSR, Australia, U.K. Hong Kong, Singapore and FRG.

(b) As per figures of cashew Export Promotion Council, exports of cashew during 1987 were 38598 MT valued at Rs. 340.30 crores and those during 1988 were provisionally 31777 MT valued at Rs. 256.37 crores.

(c) The quantities of raw cashew imported by India in 1987 and 1988 were 45515 MT and 26005 (provisional) respectively, valued at Rs 72.81 crores and Rs. 35.93 crores (Prov.) respectively, as per the Council's figures.

(d) Apart from getting first hand knowledge of the market situations in countries visited, the visit has also helped to establish and strengthen contacts as well as to iron/ out problems with a view to maintaining and improving India's position in those markets.

Port Blair as Free Port.

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

(a) whether Government propose to convert Port Blair in the Andaman into a free Port;

(b) If so, by when; and

(c) the main advantages/benefits envisaged therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) (a) to (c). Government have since decided that in view of the environmental aspects it may not be possible to establish a Free port in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Stoppage of Credit Flow from NABARD

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

(a) whether Government are aware that serious difficulty has arisen for farmers from sudden stoppage of flow of credit from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to many States;

(b) the reason for such stoppage;

(c) whether Government have received any representation in this regard;

(d) whether Government propose to resume the credit flow from NABARD; and

(e) if so, the time by which the credit flow is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had advised the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and State Land Development Banks (SLDBs) that refinance from NABARD will henceforth be subject to their compliance with various instructions laid down by RBI/NABARD relating to issue and repayment of loans, interest rates, rescheduling/deferment of loans etc. This had resulted in non-availability of refinance to SCBs/SLDBs for a short period till the banks had given an undertaking to follow the instructions. However, this did not affect the credit flow in the States as the refinance

facilities were resumed after a brief period.

The refinance facilities that can be availed of from NABARD are subject to such conditions which are deemed essential for healthy functioning of credit institutions which include proper management, good recovery discipline, etc. Refinance from NABARD is provided to credit institutions only for the purpose of augmenting their resources and subject to the condition that these funds are channelised in areas considered important from the point of view of overall economy.

Private Sector Banks

462. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-nationalised private sector banks (other than cooperative banks and foreign banks) in the country;

(b) their total deposits at the end of 1987 and 1988;

(c) their advances during the same period;

(d) the number of their branches and the number of employees working therein;

(e) whether Government propose to nationalise them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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 at present 32 non-nationalised banks (29 scheduled and 3 non-scheduled) in the private sector are functioning in the country.

(b) and (c). The aggregate deposits(

other than from banks) and advances (excluding inter bank advances) as on the last Friday of December, 1987 and 1988 in re-

spect of the scheduled Indian private sector banks, are furnished below:-

(Rupees in crores)

Year	No. of Banks	Deposits	Advances
1987	30	5415.5	3021.75
1988	29	6412.46*	3535.27*

(*Provisional)

(d) As per the information available with the RBI, as on 30.9.88 the 32 private sector banks had 3637 branches. RBI has further reported that the present data reporting system of the Bank does not generate the information relating to the number of employees working in private sector banks.

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

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

(e) and (f). No such proposal is under consideration of the Government:

(b) The Study Group has given certain recommendations on some specific areas viz. (i) Housing Development (ii) Social Security Schemes, and (ii) Customers Service.

Study Group to Review Working of LIC and GIC

464. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :
SHRI VISHNU MODI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the study group constituted in December last year to study the working of Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations and the reaction of Government thereto?

(c) whether the study group has recommended formation of a separate subsidiary of the Life Insurance Corporation for housing development in the country; and

The Group has recommended to consider formation of a separate subsidiary of the life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for housing development, viz., "Bima Niwas Nigam". The General Insurance Corporation of India's (GIC) proposal for setting up of a Housing Finance Company with equal equity participation between the Corporation and the Bank was also noted by the Study Group. In the field of Social Security, the Group has appreciated the insurance schemes of the LIC for the benefit of weaker sections. The Group has also noted various schemes launched by GIC for the benefit of rural and low income groups, such as personal accident, hut insurance etc. The Group has recommended steps for raising the level of customer satisfaction still further in the two organisations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) LIC is examining the various modalities in connection with the formation of a separate subsidiary for Housing Development, including legal aspects involved.

[*Translation*]

Maintenance Allowance to Wives whose "Husbands are Serving Abroad"

465. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in most of the cases where husband happens to be serving abroad, a wife entitled to maintenance allowance is not able to get it in spite of the orders of the competent court; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to ensure that wife gets maintenance allowance in all such cases without delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Savings Bank Account in Banks

466. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing procedure for opening a new Saving Bank Account requires the person concerned to be introduced to the Bank by another person already

having an account with the Bank or some other person known to the Bank; and

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to do away with this requirements?

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

(b) No, Sir.

[*English*]

Export and Domestic availability of Medicinal Plants and preparations

467. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of medicinal plants being exported, year-wise, country-wise and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) Whether besides unprocessed medicinal plants, medicinal preparations have also been exported and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the yearly availability and demand of medicinal plants in the country for various plants/preparations exported at (a) and (b) above; and

(d) whether there has been an increase in availability due to planned planting during various plan periods and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The value of export of medicinal plants (crude drugs) during 1986-87 and 1987-88 are given below:—

Year	value (in Rs. crs)
1986-87	57.96
1987-88	77.36

The major countries to which exports are effected are USA, UK, West Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Spain and Thailand. Export data regarding quantity of medicinal plants exported are not being maintained. Exports of medicinal preparations, based on medicinal plants, are insignificant and, therefore, relevant data are not maintained separately.

(Source: Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals & cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Bombay)

(c) and (d). A number of medicinal plants are under commercial cultivation. However, reliable data regarding availability and demand of individual medicinal plants are not available. The ICAR is operating an All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants with nine research centres in different parts of India. It carries research work on selected crop and have brought out several improvements both in varieties developed and cultivation practices evolved on these crops. This has eventually improved commercial cultivation

and availability of their raw materials in the country both for use in India and for export.

Domestic and Foreign Debt

468. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the domestic and foreign debt has been continuously increasing during the past years;

(b) if so, the amount of domestic and foreign debt during 1986-87, 1987-88 and from January to December, 1988 respectively;

(c) the amount which Government have to pay as interest during the current year; and

(d) the amount which has to be repaid from the principal amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Information is given below:

(Rs. Crores)

	Debt Outstanding at the end of		
	March 1987	March 1988	March 1988
(i) Domestic debt	146247	171135 (R.E.)	198005 (B.E.)
(ii) External debt (at the current rate of exchange)	48895	54817	Not available

(c) The amount of interest to be paid on debt on Government Account during the current year in respect of domestic debt and foreign debt was estimated in the Budget for 1988-89 to be Rs. 12842 crores and Rs. 1258 crores respectively.

(d) The amount of principal to be repaid during the current year in respect of domestic and external debt is estimated to be Rs. 149034 crores and Rs. 1383 crores respectively.

Non-Developmental Expenditure

469. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-developmental expenditure of Government has been increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the year-wise details thereof for the last three years and the reasons for the unbated increase.

(c) the estimated amount of such expenditure during the current year; and

(d) the measures adopted by Government during the current year; to reduce this amount and the extent of savings as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The non-developmental expenditure of the Central Government for last three years and details thereof are as follows:

Years	(Rs. in crores) Non-developmental Expenditure
1985-86 (Accounts)	21218
1986-87 (Accounts)	25876
1987-88(RE)	30686
1988-89(E.E)	35431

Details of the above expenditure are:

	1985-86 (Accounts)	1986-87 (Accounts)	1987-88 (RE)	1988-89 (BE)
Interest Payments	7512	9236	11450	14100
Defence Expenditure	7987	10477	12000	13000
Pensions	727	870	1556	1593
Police	707	821	993	1115
Grants to states	1648	1405	1541	1657
Lumpsum provision for D.A., etc.	800
Others	2637	3067	3146	3166

(d) Government have been continuously taking measures to reduce low priority non-developmental expenditure. In the current year the economy instructions issued last year have been continued. Ministries were instructed to contain the spending within Budget allocations. Wherever additional expenditure is inevitable matching savings or improved receipts should be identified as far as possible. Ministries and Departments were also advised to meet the liability on account of payment of additional instalments of dearness allowance and bonus to Government employees from within the Budget allocations to the extent possible. The results of these measures will inter-alia be incorporated in the revised estimates of the year which will be presented to Parliaments shortly.

[English]

Proposal to change Disciplinary Rules applicable to Bank Officers

470. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the disciplinary rules applicable to the bank officers for facilitating proceedings started during their service period continuing even after retirement; and

(b) if so, the time by which such changes are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The matter regarding suitably amending the disciplinary Rules for facilitating continuance of proceedings after retirement of officers is receiving the attention of the Government.

Supplementary Import Licences

471. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cases of Supplementary Import Licence which have been cleared during 1988-89 without prior approval of Supplementary Licencing Committee Headquarters; and

(b) the reasons for allowing these imports without having them considered by the Supplementary licencing Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). There are sixteen cases of either issue of supplementary import licence or amendments in the existing supplementary licences which were cleared during 1988-89 by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports in his capacity as Chairman of the Headquarters Supplementary Licencing Committee, keeping in view the emergent nature of the case. Ex-post-facto approval of the Headquarters Supplementary Licencing Committee was obtained in all such cases. Supplementary import licences are also issued on the basis of approval by the Empowered Committee on Fishing Trawlers in the Ministry of Surface Transport or on the basis of the decisions taken at the Inter-Ministerial meetings:—

Export of Drugs

472. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and value of drugs exported in 1986-87, 1987-88 and likely to be exported in 1988-89, country-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to locate more markets and increase the export of drugs;

(c) whether some foreign collaborations have been signed therefor;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of Industrial approvals issued as on 31 December, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Export figures for drugs during 1986-87, 1987-88 and likely to be exported during 1988-89 are indicated below:

Year	Export of drugs (In Rs. crores)
1986-87	87.18
1987-88	139.71
1988-89 (Target)	240.00

Statement of major items of drugs exported from the country valuewise and destination-wise is given below.

Year	No. of letters of indents issued	No. of Industrial licences issued
1986	46	37
1987	35	30
1988	41	16

(b) The major measures taken by the Government to boost the export of drugs, inter-alia, include rationalisation of customs duty on drug intermediates vis-a-vis the corresponding bulk drugs; total flexibility for export production of drugs within the existing facilities; allowing export production of drugs not yet approved within the country with certain conditions; inclusion of drugs under group 'B' of EXIM Bank's Commodity Credit Scheme and enhancement of pre-shipment credit from 90 to 180 days, supply of major petrochemical raw materials at international prices by the Public Sector manufacturing units for export production of drugs etc. Other measures like visits by Indian Business Organisations, Participation in Trade Fairs and Sponsoring of delegations are also being taken to promote export of drugs.

(c) and (d). No foreign collaboration has been signed for export of drugs.

(e) The number of industrial licences and letter of indents issued under the provisions of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act for manufacture of drugs and pharmaceuticals during the last 3 years are given below:

STATEMENT

(Estimated Rs. in lakhs)

Items	Exports during		Major Destinations
	1986-87	1987-88	
1	2	3	4
Sulphamethoxazole	700.1	1723.3	GFR, USA, Bangladesh, Kenya, Singapore, Hong Kong.
Ibuprofen	195.3	866.1	GFR, Hong Kong, UK, USA, South Korea, Bangladesh, Thailand, Japan.
Tinidazole	156.0	156.0	GFR, Italy, Spain, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Cyprus, Singapore, Netherlands.
Metronidazole Benzoate	NA	50.0	GFR, Italy, Belgium, Bangladesh.
Trimethoprim	10.9	182.3	GFR, Thailand, Bangladesh, UK.
Amodiaquine HCL	100.3	63.0	Denmark, GFR, France, Kenya.
Erythromycin Estolate	NA	173.7	GFR, Hong Kong, Italy, Thailand, Singapore, Denmark.
Erythromycin Stearate	370.2	189.5	GFR, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, Canada, Japan, Denmark, Switzerland, Malaysia.

1	2	3	4
Ampicillin Trihydrate	415.9	657.3	GFR, USSR, Denmark, Spain, Switzerland, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Belgium.
Potassium Iodide	166.2	446.1	GFR, USA, Italy, Sweden, Australia, Thailand, UK, Philippine, Singapore, Hongkong, Sri Lanka, Belgium, New Zealand.
Paracetamol	348.2	569.0	GFR, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, UK, Kenya, Noman, Denmark, USA, Spain, Australia, Singapore, Japan, Thailand, S. Korea.
Ethambutol HCl	450.1	753.8	GFR, UK, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Thailand, Hongkong, Bangladesh, Singapore, Mexico.
Sodium Iodide	125.3	133.2	GFR, USA, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, S. Korea.
Tolbutamide	45.1	91.4	Hongkong, Singapore, China.
Chlorpropamide	93.1	167.6	GFR, Denmark, Belgium, Thailand, Netherlands, Hongkong, Canada, USA, Hungary, Singapore, Switzerland.
Oxyphenbutazone	150.9	67.3	GFR, Kenya, Spain.
Sodium Citrate	30.1	63.7	Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Netherland.

1	2	3	4
Metronidazole	115.0	90.5	GFR, USA, UK, Italy, Bangladesh, S. Korea, Srilanka, Nigeria.
Thiacetazone	29.1	60.4	GFR, Bangladesh, Belgium.
Mebendazole	216.0	202.1	GFR, Hongkong, Bangladesh, Italy, New Zealand, Switzerland, Denmark, Australia, Thailand.
Aspirin	47.0	58.9	GFR, UK, Bangladesh, Netherlands, USA, Spain, Italy.
Analgin	34.0	38.7	Denmark, Australia.
Methyl Dopa	277.7	285.9	GFR, Denmark, Canada, UK, Japan, Thailand, S. Korea, Switzerland.
Amoxycillin Trihydrate	NA	428.4	GFR, Japan, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Thailand.
Cephelexin	NA	375.0	Switzerland, Singapore, Bangladesh, Taiwan.
Salbutamol Sulphate	15.0	16.7	GFR, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Italy, Switzerland.
Doxycycline HCL	NA	200.0	Switzerland, Canada, Yugoslavia.

1	2	3	4
Diazepam	49.0	32.1	GFR, Sri Lanka, Tunisia.
Di Iodothyroquinoline/ Iodothyroquinoline	50.1	64.4	GFR, Thailand, Denmark, Switzerland.
Emetine Salts/ Hydrochloride	3.9	28.5	Switzerland, GFR, USSR.
Quinine Sulphate	23.6	81.6	Italy, UK, USSR, GFR.
Papain	276.5	109.7	Australia, UK, USA, Ireland, GFR, Belgium, Denmark.
Calcium Sennosides	32.5	96.3	GFR, Italy, USA, UK, Japan, Switzerland.

(NA : Not Available)

Inland Container Depots

473. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some inland container depots;

(b) if so, how many inland container depots have been set up at different places so far;

(c) whether any long term plan has been drawn up for the establishment of such depots;

(d) if so, the number of such inland depots proposed to be set up by the turn of the century; and

(e) the details of the plan of the Government in that regard?

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

(b) At present, seven Inland Container Depots are functioning at different places in the country.

(c) to (e). It is proposed to set up 21 Inland Container Depots in the country in a phased manner depending on the generation of export and import traffic in ISO Containers.

Appointment of Judges

474. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has recently made an order on the Judges appointments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether Government have filled up the vacant posts; and

(d) what are the details of the remaining posts vacant, their number and States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The Supreme Court Advances-On-record Association has filed write Petition against the Union of India praying for the issue of a Writ of mandamus or direction to ensure that all the vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts are filled up within a reasonable time. The Writ Petition has come up before the Supreme Court several times and is still pending before it. The Supreme Court has in its orders passed on 15.11.88 and 7.12.88 expressed the view that the vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Court should be filled up in expeditiously.

(c) The appointment of Judges involves deliberation and consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and is a continuous process.

Steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies in the High Courts and the Supreme Court in consultation with various Constitutional Authorities expeditiously.

(d) A statement showing the strength and vacancies of Judges in various High Courts of the country and the Supreme Court as on 20.2.1989 is given below.

STATEMENT

The Strength and Vacancies in various High Court as on 20.2.1989

High Court	Sanctioned strength			Actual strength			Vacancies		
	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Allahabad	55	5	60	48	—	48	7	5	12
Andhra Pradesh	24	2	26	20	—	20	4	2	6
Bombay	42	6	48	40	2	42	2	4	6
Calcutta	44	—	44	43	—	43	1	—	1
Delhi	25	2	27	22	—	22	3	2	5
Gauhati	12	—	12	11	—	11	1	—	1
Gujarat	18	3	21	13	—	13	5	3	8
Himachal Pradesh	5	1	6	4	—	4	1	1	2
Jammu & Kashmir	7	—	7	7	—	7	—	—	—
Karnataka	25	—	25	20	—	20	5	—	5

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11. Kerala		21	2	23	20	2	22	1	—	1
12. Madhya Pradesh		23	7	30	20	3	23	3	4	7
13. Madras		25	—	25	21	—	21	4	—	4
14. Orissa		11	1	12	10	—	10	1	1	2
15. Patna		35	—	25	29	—	29	6	—	6
16. Punjab & Haryana		23	—	23	21	—	21	2	—	2
17. Rajasthan		22	1	23	22	1	23	—	—	—
18. Sikkim		3	—	3	1	—	1	2	—	2
Total		420	30	450	372	8	380	48	22	70

Supreme Court: Sanctioned strength = 26

Actual strength = 20

Vacancies = 6

Stay Orders against Detention Under Cofeposa by Smugglers

475. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and Enforcement Directorate has found that smugglers and criminals of Bombay procured stay orders against their expected detention under COFEPOSA even before they saw the detention orders, by making a statement in the Calcutta High Court that they live in the Andamans as reported in the 'Times of India' (Bombay) dated 26th January, 1989;

(b) if so, how many such stay orders were obtained; and

(c) whether Government are considering to make suitable amendment to the relevant laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It is a fact that 10 persons of Bombay against whom detention orders under the COFEPOSA Act have been issued, have obtained stay orders from Calcutta High Court by making a statement that they live in the Andamans.

(c) The Government is at present not considering any amendment to the COFEPOSA Act to prohibit the Courts for granting stay orders. However, the stay orders are being opposed in Calcutta High Court so that the injunctions may be got vacated.

Transportation of Fish and Bombay Suburban Trains

476. DR. DATTA SAMANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Western Railway has withdrawn the permission to carry fish in Bombay suburban trains under the Western Railway from 13 January, 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of pass holders for carrying fish in this Railway zone?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Between July, 88 to December, 88, 17,773 season tickets called produce vendors season ticket authorising carriage of perishable, vegetables, milk etc., including fish, were issued on Bombay suburban section.

Shortage of Judges in High Courts

477. PROF. RAMAKRISHNA MORE:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of judges in various High courts in the country, the number of cases are piling up day by day;

(b) whether Government have fixed any quota of judges in ration of population; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps contemplated by Government to appoint adequate number of judges in various High Courts and particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) The increase in Pendency in the High Courts, besides the inadequate strength of judges is due to several other complex factors.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. However, the judge strength of High Courts is fixed on the basis of workload, subject is availability of accommodation and the financial constraints etc. Steps have been taken to appoint adequate number of Judges in High Courts.

Non-Official Directors in Boards of Nationalised Banks

478. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised the names of the non-official directors in the boards of the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) if so, the full particular thereof; and

(c) the extent to which non-official directors will contribute in smooth functioning of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The process for nomination of non-official Directors on the Boards of nationalised banks is already in hand. The non-official Directors represent the interests of depositors, farmers, artisans and persons having special knowledge and practical experience in matters which are useful for the working of the nationalised banks.

Sanctioning of Loans Under Credit Camp Scheme

479. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to know that loans under Credit Camp Scheme of nationalised banks were indiscriminately sanctioned without proper identification and through middlemen;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) the remedial measures 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). Credit Camps are organised by Public Sector Banks as part of the overall programme to accelerate flow of credit to the weaker sections. Central Government have not made any appraisal of the Nationalised Banks Credit Camp Scheme. However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had conducted a sample study on credit camps in 1986. Based on the feed back obtained then and subsequently the programme is kept under review by the banks. In granting loans to weaker sections, banks are required to follow the instructions and guidelines issued for the purpose by Reserve Bank of India.

Value of Rupee against Foreign Currencies

480. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The extent of depreciation in the value of the rupee against the leading hard currencies of the world in the basket of currencies adopted by the RBI and against currencies of leading trading partners of India;

(b) the effective exchange rate month-wise in 1987 and 1988 in relation to US dollar, Sterling pound, Deutsch Mark, Swiss Franc and Japanese Yen;

(c) the reason for rupee's decline and downward course; and

(d) whether this depreciation of the rupee or its effective devaluation is against the national interest and particularly our trade balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The ex-

change rate of the rupee is fixed with reference to the exchange rate movement of a suitably weighted basket of currencies, mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. In a regime of floating exchange rates, upward or downward movements of the value of rupee, which depend upon the fluctuations in the value of these currencies, is a normal phenomenon.

The month-wise relative exchange rates of rupee against some of the important hard currencies during 1987 and 1988 in terms of monthly averages are given in the statement below.

(d) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

Month-wise relative exchange rate of rupee per unit of some of the important foreign currencies (monthly averages)

Year/Month	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	Deutsche Mark	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen
1	2	3	4	5	6
1987					
January	13.0098	19.6044	7.0096	8.3512	0.0842
February	13.0534	19.9469	7.1602	8.4787	0.0851
March	12.9334	20.5965	7.0483	8.4122	0.0854
April	12.8027	20.8851	7.0699	8.5644	0.0896
May	12.7030	21.1658	7.1036	8.6377	0.0904
June	12.8503	20.9345	7.0691	8.5228	0.0890
July	13.0306	20.9714	7.0516	8.4856	0.0867
August	13.0857	20.9109	7.0493	8.5097	0.0887
September	13.0111	21.4110	7.1815	8.6698	0.0909
October	13.0638	21.7094	7.2650	8.7485	0.0912

	1	2	3	4	5	6
November		12.9715	23.0452	7.7196	9.3905	0.0959
December		12.9466	23.6586	7.9211	9.7260	0.1008
1988						
January		13.0846	23.6033	7.9307	9.7401	0.1027
February		13.0605	22.9616	7.7001	9.3866	0.1011
March		12.9793	23.7897	7.7435	9.3675	0.1021
April		13.1778	24.7439	7.8825	9.5264	0.1055
May		13.3206	24.9016	7.8631	9.4399	0.1068
June		13.8269	24.5718	7.8700	9.4580	0.1086
July		14.1010	24.0338	7.6412	9.1974	0.1060
August		14.2484	24.1838	7.5414	8.9946	0.1065
September		14.4984	24.4153	7.7689	9.2012	0.1079
October		14.6847	25.5206	8.0810	9.5490	0.1140
November		14.9571	27.0739	8.5636	10.2085	0.1215
December		15.0369	27.4755	8.5708	10.1690	0.1218

Railway Accidents in Kerala

481. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:
SHRI T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway accidents occurred in Kerala during the last three months;

(b) the reasons for those accidents; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard to remove apprehensions or even alarm among the travelling public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). Statistics of railway accidents and related information are maintained railway zone-wise and not State-wise.

Gold Bars Confiscated from a Boat in Lakshadweep Island

482. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gold bars to the tune of nearly Rs. 10 crores were confiscated from a boat which ran ashore in an uninhabited island in Lakshadweep recently;

(b) whether arrests have been made subsequent to this seizure; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a dispute has arisen between Central Excise and Customs as to who should proceed with the case and if so, whether it has been amicably resolved, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The Hon'ble Member is pre-

sumably referring to a seizure of 1200 gold bars of 10 tolas each with foreign markings and 105 silver slabs weighing on an average 30 Kgs. each, totally valued at Rs. 7.03 crores which were recovered and seized by the Lakshadweep Police/Administration from a craft "Al Fahad" which ran aground at Cheriyakara, Suhelipar a Lakshadweep Island and were then handed over to the Customs authorities of Cochin during 9th to 11th January, 1989.

(b) All the eight persons on board this craft who were of Pakistan nationality have been arrested and have since been detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

(c) To resolve the dispute about jurisdiction in respect of this area, Notification No. 11/89 (NT)/Customs dated 17th February was issued. According to this Notification, the Assistant Collector of Central Excise, Ernakulam-II Division has been appointed as the Assistant Collector of Customs for the Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands.

Report on Train Accident near Perumon

483. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Safety Commissioner has submitted a report on the recent major accident near Perumon, near Quilon in Kerala, of the Bangalore-Trivandrum Express;

(b) if so, his conclusions regarding responsibility for the tragedy and recommendations for future; and

(c) whether the report will be laid on the Table of the House?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, has submitted only his Preliminary Report.

(b) This will be known only on receipt of the final Inquiry Report.

(c) It is not the practice to place the inquiry reports of the Commissioners of Railway Safety on the Table of the Sabha. However, as in the case of reports on serious railway accidents, the report on this accident will also be supplied to the Library of Parliament when the report is published on conclusion of prosecutions, if any.

Revival of Credit Camps

484. **SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is some proposal under consideration of Government to revive the credit camps as reported in the Economic Times of 4 February, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where these credit camps will be revived in the first instance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Credit Camps are organised by the Public Sector Banks as part of their continuing effort to improve the flow of credit to weaker sections and appropriate decisions in this regard are taken by them keeping in view the relevant factors.

Car Racket in Bombay

485. **SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have unearthed a multi-crore car racket in Bombay recently;

(b) if so, the details of the arrests made in this regard; and

(c) whether an enquiry has been ordered to go into the details of importing and re-exporting of these cars and if so, when a report of the Committee is expected to be received by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had unearthed a racket involving illegal dealing/importation of foreign cars and the person master-minding the above had been apprehended. The Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had made seizures of two imported cars at Delhi, one each on 5th September, 1988 and 6th January, 1989 for unauthorised importation into India. The investigation in these cases revealed the involvement of a Bombay based car dealer Shri Haren P. Choksey. Shri Haren P. Choksey was also found involved in the importation of foreign cars at Cochin by giving false declaration and thereby evading customs duty.

(b) Shri Haren P. Choksey was arrested on 13th January, 1989 and has since been detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 on 3rd February, 1989.

(c) No such Committee has been constituted.

Working Group to Monitor Performance and Profitability of Banks

486. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRI T. V. CHANDRASHEKHARAPPA:
SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group set up by the Reserve Bank of India for monitoring the performance and profitability of the banks in the country has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the working group and the number of recommendations accepted by Government; and

(c) the extent to which these recommendations will be helpful in improving the working conditions and profitability of the banking system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not set up any Working Group for monitoring the performance and profitability of banks in the country.

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

Concessions to Export Promotion Zones

487. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a demand for the some concessions to the export promotion zones in the country; if so, the details thereof with particular reference to southern and western zones;

(b) the extent to which Government have acceded to the demands and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which non provision of concessions would adversely affect the export potential in the country; and

(d) the alternative steps, if any taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). Incentives offered in all the Export Processing Zones in the country are generally similar. These include duty free import of capital goods and production inputs, tax holiday for 5 years, 'Deemed exports' benefits on supplies from the domestic tariff area, or cash compensatory support on the output of 50% of the normal rates, exemption from Central Excise duty and permission on a case by case basis to sell upto 25% of the production in the domestic tariff area, besides requisite infrastructured facilities to establish production on a competitive basis. Some of these incentives such as cash compensatory support on output and facility to sell the product upto 25% in the domestic tariff area were announced recently after taking into account the representations of the industry and are expected to improve the viability of the units and strengthen the export potential.

The functioning of the Zones is reviewed from time to time with a view to improving the efficiency through appropriate input support.

HRA to Central Government Employees

488. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI RAMASHRAY
PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Central Government Employees Association and various other organisations for the payment of increased House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance from 1 January, 1986 the date from which the new pay scales were paid as per the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Urga Railway Station in Bilaspur

489. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Urga Station in Bilaspur district has started; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

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

(b) The various works being undertaken at Urga Station are in different stages of progress and are targetted for completion in 1990.

[*English*]

Schemes to Check Floods In Flood Prone Areas

490. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the regions that were adversely affected by floods during 1988;

(b) the losses monitored in the shape of property and human lives due to floods during 1988;

(c) whether Government have formulated any permanent schemes for checking floods in flood prone areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of such schemes and the time likely to be taken to implement the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were adversely affected by the floods during 1988.

(b) 3,442 human lives were lost. The estimated loss to the crops, houses and public utilities is reported by the States was Rs. 5,000 crores.

(c) and (d). Flood management is a State subject. The responsibility for planning, investigation and implementation of flood management works rests with the

State Governments. The Central Government, however, provides overall guidance and technical assistance as also relief assistance at the time of flood occurrences. The Centre has set up the Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Brahmaputra Board to develop master plans in cooperation with the State Governments concerned for the benefit of the chronically flood affected areas. Also, Central Water Commission maintains flood forecasting network on the inter-State rivers to give advance warnings to flood prone areas.

Risk Fund Contribution Scheme

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

(a) whether the Risk Fund Contribution is a Central sector scheme operating in some States on 50 : 50 basis;

(b) if so, the names of the State where such scheme is under operation;

(c) the subsidy which is being provided to Large Sized Agricultural Multi-purpose Societies (LAMPS) in Orissa under the Scheme;

(d) whether the NABARD is providing re-embayment facilities under the scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The scheme is applicable to all States and Union Territories. However, the States which have utilised the Scheme so far are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh,

Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Contributions to Risk Fund are made at the rate of 10% of the total consumption loans disbursed by Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks. The expenditure on this account is initially incurred by the State Government, and later, 50% of this expenditure is reimbursed by Government of India. The amount so far reimbursed by Government of India to Government of Orissa on account of contribution to Risk Fund is Rs. 1,17,932/-. Separate figures in respect of LAMPS are not available.

(d) and (e). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that there is no stipulation in the Scheme for contribution from NABARD towards the Risk Fund. However, NABARD accepts the advances by cooperative banks for consumption purposes as a legitimate charge for the purpose of short term credit limits.

Import Licence for Import of Potassium Penicillin-V

492. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an import licence for potassium penicillin-V first crystals was issued without having the recommendations of the sponsoring authority for 1988-89; and

(b) if so, under what circumstances the import licence was issued without the recommendations of the sponsoring authority for 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). An unit was granted supplementary licence for import of

75 MMU of Penicillin-V during 1988-89. This licence was granted against their application for 1987-88 which had been duly recommended by the sponsoring authority.

Smuggling of Drugs to International Market through Calcutta

493. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether clandestine operations of a syndicate, opening a new route of smuggling drugs to international market through Calcutta and the development of its close relation/contacts with the poppy growers in Uttar Pradesh has recently come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to identify the syndicate and its contacts with the poppy growers in Uttar Pradesh and in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). No such clandestine operation of a drug syndicate, opening a new route of smuggling drugs to international market through Calcutta and the development of its close relation/contracts with the poppy growers in Uttar Pradesh has come to the notice of the Government. However, in a recent case, seizure of heroin involving a quantity of 1.200 kgs. from two persons in Sealdah Express, bound for Calcutta, at Faizabad railway station had been effected and both the accused had been ordered to be detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, on 8.2.1989.

Vacant Posts in South-Eastern Railway

494. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacant posts of operating maintenance and running staff in the South-Eastern Railway at the end of 1988;

(b) the reasons for keeping these posts vacant and the period for which these have been lying vacant; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to fill up these vacancies to reduce the workload on the existing strength?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). Information as on 1.1.1989 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Consideration of Recommendations of Rangarajan Committee

495. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI S.M. GURADDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Rangarajan Committee;

(b) whether Government have since examined the recommendations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The Committee constituted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, its Deputy Governor on mechanisation in banking industry had, in its report submitted in 1984, recommended

installation of Advanced Ledger Posting Machines (ALPMs) at the branches, mini computer systems at Zonal/Regional Offices and main frame computer systems at the Head Offices of the commercial banks. The Committee had recommended a 5 year plan for mechanisation/computerisation in banks spanning from 1985 to 1989. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Reserve Bank of India in consultation with the Government and these are being implemented by the banks in a phased manner. The progress achieved by the banks in this behalf is being closely monitored by Reserve Bank of India, on a continual basis.

Joint Ventures with USA

496. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI T.V. CHAN-
DRASHEKHARAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have been keen on joint ventures;

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

(c) the details of joint ventures between India and US to be undertaken during 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). Several proposals of collaborations between India and US firms for investment in India and abroad have been received for consideration of the Government. During 1988 Government has approved 191 proposals for collaboration with U.S. firms in India. Out of 21 Indian joint ventures/wholly owned subsidiaries in USA for which approvals were given, 16 of them are in operation and five are being imple-

mented and four more applications have been received.

[*Translation*]

Demands of Bank Employees

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

(a) whether about two lakh bank employees/officers went on one day nationwide strike on 25 January, 1989;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the demands of bank officials and their results; and

(d) the details of financial burden on Government as a result thereof and the time by which these demands will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) A section of Officer employees of banks had given a call for strike on 25th January, 1989 in support of their demands relating to scales of pay, D.A. and other allowances etc. The Indian Banks' Association on behalf of the public sector banks is currently holding discussion in this regard with the officers Associations and the results are awaited.

Indo-French Joint Committee Meet

498. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Indo-French Joint Committee was held in the last week of January in which views were exchanged on

the possibilities of trade and economic expansion between the two countries;

(b) if so, the names of the establishments/whose representatives participated in the meeting of the committee; and

(c) the time by which the decisions arrived there will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Seventh meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee was held at New Delhi on 30th and 31st January, 1989 in which matters of bilateral trade and economic interest were discussed. The Indian delegation included representatives of Ministries/Departments of Commerce, Finance, Industrial Development, External Affairs, Textiles, Civil Aviation, Railways, Health, Agriculture, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Energy, Mines and Tele-communications and Organisations like State Trading Corporation, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation and the Trade Development Authority.

(c) The discussions in the Joint Committee are essentially in the nature of exchange of views between the two countries and as such there is no agreed time frame for follow up on these discussions.

[English]

Rail Link between Bombay and Andheri

499. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project to connect Bombay-Andheri was under consideration of Government to provide help to the commuters of Greater Bombay; and

(b) if so, whether the same has been

approved and construction work has started and if so, the time by which it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Andheri is located on sub-urban rail net-work Greater Bombay and is already connected by commuter trains with Bombay VT/Churchgate stations.

(b) Does not arise.

Expansion of Wheel & Axle Plant at Yelahanka

500. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity of the Wheel & Axle Plant at Yelahanka in Karnataka State has been expanded recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred/to be incurred thereon;

(d) by when the expansion work will be completed?

(e) whether Government propose to stop import of equipments which are required for the expansion of the plant; if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether Government also propose to stop the import of equipments which are manufactured in the plant; if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is proposed to augment the capacity of wheel production at the Wheel & Axle Plant, Yelahanka from 70,000 to 85,000 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 31.89 crores.

(d) The work after approval is likely to take approximately three years to complete depending on availability of funds.

(e) Bare minimum import of equipments may have to be made wherever equipment is not available from the indigenous sources.

(f) Even after expansion of W.A.P. wheelsets and loose wheels may have to be imported as per requirements.

Procedure for Sanctioning Bank Guarantee to Borrow from Foreign Bank

501. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure followed by the Syndicate Bank and the State Bank of India for sanctioning a bank guarantee to any industry to borrow from a foreign bank to the extent of 3-4 crores in foreign currency for the establishment of a new industry;

(b) the time taken by these banks normally to clear such proposals; and

(c) whether any such proposals are pending with these banks for clearance; if so, the details thereof and the time by which these proposals are expected to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):(a) State Bank of India and Syndicate Bank have reported that all proposals for issuing bank guarantees to raise foreign currency loans from foreign banks abroad or from overseas branches of Indian banks are treated on par with similar credit proposals. The technical feasibility and economical viability of the project is appraised. The banks also examine whether the project has the approval of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and whether the proposal satisfies the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. The borrowers are also required to obtain clearances from all agencies.

(b) The banks have reported that subject to the borrowers fulfilling all the requirements, such proposals are generally cleared within 2 to 3 months period.

(c) According to the banks no such proposals are pending with their corporate offices.

Loan to Start Poultry Farm

502. SHRI MANIK REDDY:
SHRI G. BHOOPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedures for sanctioning a loan amounting to Rs. 30-40 lakhs for the purpose of starting a poultry farm by unemployed graduates by the Punjab National Bank and the State Bank of India in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) concessions available to the applicants for starting such a venture;

(c) the time taken by these banks normally to clear such proposals,

(d) whether any such proposals are pending before these banks in Andhra Pradesh, if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any such proposals were financed earlier in Andhra Pradesh; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Proposals for sanction of loans amounting to Rs. 30-40 lakhs for setting up Poultry Farm are processed having regard to (i) the viability of the proposal; (ii) NABARD guidelines on Techno Economic Appraisal of such units, and (iii) the competence and ability of the applicants.

(b) The interest rate on term loans granted to such units is 12.5% per annum. Further, the usual requirement of contributing the margin at the rate of 25% may be relaxed to 15% on the merits of each case. If, however, the intending borrower is an unemployed farm graduate, further relaxations may be given as under.

- (i) Loan may be provided for purchase of land also if the borrower belongs to a family having no land holding and offers a package proposal for purchasing agricultural land and undertaking farming activity.
- (ii) The repayment of loan may be allowed in 8 years (as against 6-7 years in other cases).
- (iii) No margin to be insisted upon to start with. Borrower may build up the stipulated margin of 15% in 4 years' period.

(c) According to the existing instructions

for lending to priority sector all loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- should be disposed off within a fortnight and those for over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.

(d) and (e). Punjab National Bank has reported that it has not yet financed any such proposals in Andhra Pradesh and also no such proposal is pending with them. State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that proposals for setting up large poultry farms have been financed by them in the past. The bank has further reported that at present three loan proposals for setting up large poultry farms are pending with the bank. The loan amount applied for under these cases ranges between Rs. 46 lakhs to Rs. 168 lakhs.

Extension of Import-Export Pass Book Scheme to Silk and Woollen Garments

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

(a) whether the Import-export Pass Book Scheme has been extended to silk and woollen garments;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the import entitlement and export obligation fixed for these items under the revised scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The Import Export Pass Book Scheme covers silk and woollen garments right from the inception of the Scheme.

(b) and (c). The details are given in Chapter XX of the Import-Export Policy and Handbook of Procedures, 1988-91, as amended from time to time.

Setting up of Gram Nyayalayas

504. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had sought the opinion of State/Union Territory Governments regarding the proposal for setting up of 'Gram Nyayalayas';

(b) if so, the details of response received from the State/Union Territory Governments; and

(c) the final decision of Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The States/Union Territories of Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, Goa, Pondicherry, Delhi and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have accepted the recommendations of the Law Commission. However, the States/Union Territories of Karnataka, Nagaland, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, West Bengal, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Haryana are not in favour of setting up of Gram Nyayalayas.

(c) Comments of States/Union Territories are under examination of the Government.

Railway Link Between Thekazhy and Thiruvalla (Kerala)

505. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of

Kerala has proposed for conducting a feasibility study for a link railway line between Thakazhy and Thiruvalla to link the existing line with the coastal railway line under construction; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Excise Concessions for Deep Sea Fishing Industry

506. SHRI D.P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount granted by way of 50 per cent excise concession to deep sea fishing industry in each of the years 1986, 1987 and 1988; and

(b) whether this amount was fully offset by increased export earnings by sea fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The total amount availed of the deep sea fishing industry by way of 50 per cent excise concession on diesel during 1986-87 to 1988-89 is as follows:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1986-87	13.66
1987-88	14.56
1988-89 (upto December, 1988)	31.92

(b) The earnings from export of marine

products have registered an increase during 1987-88 as compared to 1986-87. However, this increase can not be related directly to the availment of concession in excise duty on diesel by the deep sea fishing industry.

Financial Assistance to Kerala

507. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had given any assurance of financial help to Government of Kerala during 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government had recalled any portion of the funds allocated to Kerala during 1988 by way of flood relief; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Pepper to US

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

(a) whether the ban/restriction imposed by US on the pepper exported from India has been lifted;

(b) if so, the present terms of export of

pepper from India to US and value of total export during 1988;

(c) which other countries offer good markets for Indian pepper; and

(d) whether these countries had any complaints about the quality of Indian pepper exported during 1987-88 and if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The export of pepper from India to US has to be as per quality specifications of the Food and Drug Admn. of USA. The total export of pepper during 1987-88 has been Rs. 240.58 crores of which exports to USA was Rs. 42.51 crores.

(c) The other major buyers of Indian Pepper are USSR, Yugoslavia, Saudia Arabia, FRG. etc.

(d) No, Sir.

Scheme for Tea Plantation

509. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area to be brought under fresh tea plantation and also replantation, State-wise;

(b) amount earmarked, so far, for this purpose; and

(c) by when these schemes are to be taken up and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The estimated areas to be brought under fresh planting and

replanting during the Seventh Plan period and the estimated cost involved thereon state-wise are as follows:—

<i>State</i>	<i>Extension Planting (Hectare)</i>	<i>Re-planting (Hectare)</i>	<i>Cost involved for both 2 & 3 (Rs. in crores)</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Assam	11050	8975	173.28
West Bengal	3500	3950	57.96
Other North Eastern States	5975	825	57.38
Tamil Nadu	1900	950	23.62
Kerala	1600	900	20.72
Karnataka	350	—	2.08
Total	24275	15600	335.04

(c) The above planting programmes have been undertaken during the Seventh Plan period 1985-86 to 1989-90. The progress of planting programmes during 1985-86 and 1986-87 is as follows:—

<i>State</i>	<i>Extension Planting</i>	<i>Replanting</i>
Assam	4172	2013
West Bengal	1300	893
Other North Eastern States	87	33
Tamil Nadu	117	62
Kerala	109	118
Karnataka	7	—
Total	5792	3119

Excise Duty Evasion by Cigarette Companies

510. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any notices were served by the Central Excise authorities for evasion of excise duties in 1983 and 1984 on companies manufacturing cigarettes;

(b) if so, the names of those companies and the amount due from them towards excise duty;

(c) whether any fresh notice has been served on Indian Tobacco Company for evasion of Rs. 214 crores in the period prior to March, 1983;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the fresh initiative proposed to be

taken to recover the entire amount from Indian Tobacco Company;

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

(b) The companies involved are M/s I.T.C. Ltd., M/s G.T.C. Industries Ltd., M/s N.T.C. Ltd., M/s Godfrey Phillips (India) Ltd. and their job-workers. The particulars relating to show cause notices issued to these companies during the years 1983 and 1984 for evasion of Central Excise duties are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Amount involved (Rs. in crores)	
		1983	1984
1.	I.T.C. and others	57.23	00.44
2.	G.T.C. and others	29.93	35.32
3.	N.T.C. and others	00.69	00.12
4.	Godfrey Phillips (India) Ltd., and others	46.54	NIL
Total		Rs.133.39	35.88

(c) and (d). 14 show cause notices involving duty to the tune of Rs. 320 crores have been issued in the years 1987 & 1988, to M/s I.T.C. Ltd., and their job-workers for evasion of Central Excise duties during the period prior to March, 1983.

(e) All the cases of M/s. I.T.C. Ltd., relating to evasion have been centralised for adjudication with the Director-General of Inspection. The question of recovery of any amount will arise only after these cases are adjudicated and the amounts confirmed. However, M/s. I.T.C. have of their own already made some voluntary payments on an ad-hoc basis which would be adjusted when the cases are finally adjudicated.

Issue of Concessional Tax High Interest Bonds by Public Sector Undertakings

511. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to discontinue the policy to allow issue of concessional tax high interest bonds by Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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.

Indian Judicial Service

512. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from the All India Judges

Association with regard to the formation of an Indian Judicial Service on the lines recommended by the Law Commission;

(b) If so, details of the representation; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B.SHANKARANAND):

(a) No, Sir.

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

Comprehensive Package by Insurance Companies for Small Farmers

513. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive package has been worked out by the insurance companies for small farmers to provide for various types of risks faced by them; 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). Various package covers are being offered by the four subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India to small farmers which provide covers for various properties belonging to farmers against risks of fire, lightning, riot and strike, malicious damage, flood, hurricane, tempest and such other natural calamities like earthquakes, landslides, etc.

The basic cover granted is for personal accident, dwelling and its contents and cattle insurance. Such policy can also cover property such as bullock cart, agricultural

pumpsets, pedal cycle, input cost of seeds and pesticides and such other property for which the farmer may like to have a cover.

[*English*]

Irrigation Potentiality of Madhya Pradesh

514. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigated area in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the irrigated land in Madhya Pradesh is less as compared to other States; and

(c) if so, the percentage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) As per the latest available land use statistics (1985-86 Provisional), the gross irrigated area in the country is 53978 thousand hectares.

(b) and (c). The percentage of gross irrigated area to gross sown area in Madhya Pradesh is 13.4% as against the country's corresponding figure of 30.4%.

[*English*]

Proposal for Export of Cement by CMA

515. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from the Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA) who plan to export

cement during this year;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal indicating the approximate foreign exchange likely to be generated, country-wise;

(c) whether the public undertaking units manufacturing cement are likely to be associated with the scheme; and

(d) if so, in what manner?

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

(b) CMA has proposed to export 4 million tonnes of cement which will earn foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 168 crores. The names of the countries to which cement will be exported have not been indicated. CMA have requested for assistance of Rs. 200 per tonne of cement exported by allowing the industry concessions like permitting them to sell one tonne of cement in the domestic market free of excise duty in return for one tonne of cement exported, CCS @ 25% of f.o.b. value and grant of 15% REP license to be utilised as flexibility licence. In addition, they also wanted 50% rebate in railway freight from factories to Indian border.

(c) and (d). Since export of cement has been de-canalised, any cement manufacturer, including public sector undertaking, is free to export cement.

Overdrafts by States

516. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India releases weekly figures of the overdrafts of various States Governments with Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the figures of the overdrafts of

all States in the first week of every month of 1988;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has discontinued the practice of releasing of overdrafts to States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India does not release figures of overdrafts of various State Governments in its weekly accounts.

(c) and (d). The overdraft which occurs in the account of a State Government with the Reserve Bank of India is unauthorised. Under the overdraft regulation scheme in force at present, State Governments are required to wipe out overdrafts in their accounts with Reserve Bank of India within a period of seven consecutive working days.

All egations Against Executive Director of Union Bank of India

517. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 18 November, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 1254 regarding Executive Director of Union Bank of India and state:

(a) whether the CBI has since finalised investigation in respect of certain allegations against the Executive Director of the Union Bank of India and if so, whether a prime-facie case of corruption has been found against him;

(b) whether permission has been sought from his Ministry for initiating action against the Director;

(c) whether the RBI has also 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). Based on the examination of the case in consultation with Reserve Bank of India also, Central Bureau of Investigation has, on 11.2.1989, registered two cases against the then Executive Director of Union Bank of India.

Addition of Special Bogies for Bangalore in Madras-Varanasi Express

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

(a) whether passengers from Bangalore the Varanasi have to change over train at Madras which result in great inconvenience to old people from Bangalore who go to Varanasi on pilgrimage;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to attach additional coaches to some direct train from Madras to Varanasi in order to overcome this difficulty ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) There is no direct service between Bangalore and Varanasi and passengers normally change train at Madras.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Proposal of South Western Zone With Headquaters at Bangalore

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

(a) whether the Railway Reforms Committee has recommended the formation of South-Western Zone with Headquarters at Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether the same has been approved by Government; and

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

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

(b) and (c). In view of severe financial constraints, the Railways are not considering creation of any additional Zone for the present.

Bangalore City railway Station

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

(a) the details of works undertaken on Bangalore City railway station for developing it into a model station; and

(b) the expenditure incurred so far on this project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Following works have been undertaken for development of Bangalore City Railway station into a Model Station;

1. Advance reservation office
2. Construction of retiring rooms
3. Addition and alteration to the existing station building;
4. Provision of high mast light 30 m. height in front of the station building; and
5. Provision of platform shelter on platform No.4

(b) An expenditure of Rs 21.46 lakhs has been incurred upto March, 1988 and Rs. 7.24 lakhs are proposed to be spent during 1988-89.

Train Service Between Bangalore and Ahmedabad

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

(a) whether the train services available between Bangalore and Ahmedabad are not sufficient to cope with the present level of traffic and large number of passengers remain in the waiting list;

(b) if so, whether additional train services are proposed to be provided on this route; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). Some passengers do remain on waiting list but it does not justify running of an additional train for the present.

Export Obligation of Fera Companies

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

(a) the export obligation of FERA companies in general;

(b) the number of such companies recognised by the Ministry and/or the RBI;

(c) the value of the annual production and the annual export by these companies as a whole and separately during 1987-88; and

(d) the short-fall in the fulfillment of export obligations as a whole and separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amendment in Divorce Law

523. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI H.B. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended to the Government a number of measures to amend the present Divorce Law;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations accepted by Government; and

(d) the time by which the amendments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d). The Law Commission in its 15th, 18th, 22nd and 90th reports has made recommendations for the amendment of law relating to divorce amongst the Christians. The policy of the Government in regard to the amendment of the personal laws of minorities is not to amend such laws so long as the initiative therefor does not come from the community itself. No meaningful initiative has so far been received from the representative organisations of Christians in India. The Law Commission in its 59th report has made recommendations about the divorce provisions in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954. The recommendations of the Law Commission have been implemented through an amendment Act passed in 1976. The Law Commission in its 65th report made recommendations for the enactment of a law relating to recognition of foreign divorces. The Government has yet not taken any final decision in the matter. The Commission in its 71st report had made recommendations relating to irretrievable break down of marriage as a ground of divorce in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1981 based on the said report was referred to the Joint Committee of Parliament which had observed that unless the system of family courts is introduced all over the country and a suitable procedure (including provision for marriage counselling services, consideration of matters by experts in the field of psychiatry, social behaviour etc). is devised, it would not be advisable to make the proposed new ground of divorce as part of the law. As the system of family courts has not yet been introduced all over the country, the proposal to amend the Hindu Marriage Act for this purpose has not been taken up.

NABARD Scheme for Loans to Members of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies

524. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme has been formulated by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for fresh loans to members of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it has been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has formulated a scheme for instant fresh finance to members of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies who repay their dues in full. The salient features of the Scheme are as under:-

(i) The Scheme is applicable to all Central Cooperative Banks which are eligible for credit limits for financing seasonal agricultural operations (SAO) but have deficits in non-overdue cover (NODC) or do not have adequate surplus in NODC and hence are unable to avail of the limits sanctioned.

(ii) Drawals under the limits will be allowed for financing exclusively such of those members of Primary Agricultural Cooperatives who have repaid their loans fully

and require fresh loans.

- (iii) Drawals under the limit sanctioned by NABARD will be allowed without insisting on NODC or compliance with seasonality disciplines for 3 months from the commencement of the major crop season.

(c) The facility has been made available from the current rabi season onwards. So far the following State Cooperative Banks have availed of assistance under the scheme:-

(i) Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 37.78 lakhs
(ii) Orissa	Rs. 415.62 lakhs.

CBI Raids on Premises of Nationalised Banks

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

(a) whether the CBI officials had conducted raids during January, 1988 on the premises of nationalised banks in Chandini Chowk area of Delhi;

(b) if so, the names of the banks and the nature of incriminating documents seized by the CBI; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers and if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

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

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

Value of Rupees

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

(a) the value of rupee at present compared with its value in 1960;

(b) the reason for gradual decrease in its value; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to curb the trend of rising prices of different commodities in the light of the decreasing value of the Indian rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The value of rupee calculated as the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Industrial Workers (1960-100) was 12.41 Paise in September, 1988. (with effect from October 1988 a revised series of CPI with 1982 as base has been introduced. The value of rupee for December 1988 the latest available—contested to old base of 1960 works out to 12.22. paise).

The value of rupee has declined due to increase in the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers. The Government has adopted a package of measures to curb the rise in prices of essential commodities. These measures include supply of essential commodities through public distribution system, augmenting domestic supplies through imports as feasible, exercising strict fiscal and monetary discipline and action against hoarders and black marketeers.

Building up of Flood Control Dams on Ganga and Brahmaputra

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

(a) whether Government have a proposal to build a series of dams as a part of flood control measures on the Ganges and Brahmaputra with external assistance;

(b) if so, the countries which have offered assistance for that purpose;

(c) whether any estimate has been made as to how much money would be required and how many dams would be constructed on those rivers; and

(d) the details of the negotiations made with those countries for getting external assistance to build dams on those rivers?

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

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

Opening of Zonal Office of Allahabad Bank at Bhubaneshwar

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

(a) whether Government have a proposal to open a zonal office of Allahabad Bank at Bhubaneshwar;

(b) if so, whether the zonal office is proposed to be opened during the current financial year; and

(c) the other cities where the zonal offices of Allahabad Bank have been opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has received no proposal from Allahabad Bank for opening of its Zonal Office at Bhubanesh-

war.

(c) As per available information with RBI, Allahabad Bank has got Zonal Office in the following cities:

Bombay

Calcutta (2 Zonal Offices)

Patna

Bhopal

New Delhi

Varanasi

Lucknow

Meerut (2 Zonal Office)

Trade with France in Agricultural Sector

529. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRIKALIPRASAD PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities of trade in agricultural sector with France;

(b) if so, the prospect of export envisaged during 1989-90;

(c) whether any agricultural crop has been exported to that country during the last three years;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to expand the trade in agricultural sector in the coming years with France and other European countries; and

(e) if so, the steps taken and the areas identified therefor?

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

(b) On a preliminary assessment, reasonable prospect of exports of certain fruits and vegetables are expected to develop.

(c) A statement indicating export of agricultural products to France during the last three years is given below.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) set up by Govt. for promoting exports of agricultural and processed food products had recently organised a seminar on Indo-French business cooperation to explore the possibilities of trade in agricultural products. A major promotion programme for agro-exports to France would be launched later this year by APEDA in which the Agro Industries Corporations of Maharashtra and Gujarat would be participating together with other trading organisations. Similar promotional programmes will be undertaken by APEDA later in West Germany and the Netherlands.

STATEMENT

Export of Agricultural Products to France

Qty. : Tonnes
Val : Rs. Lakhs.

Item	1985-86		1986-87 (Prov.)		1987-88 (Prov.)	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Guar Gum	1156	100	1553	163	1488	211
Fresh vegetables	207	26	—	—	—	—
Walnut Kernels	637	166	96	26	541	191
Rice	183	21	233	20	294	35
Dehydrated vegetables	92	31	—	—	—	—
Mushrooms	13	91	32*	476	33*	558

* Estimated

Source : APEDA, New Delhi.

Computerised Reservation system at Cuttack

530. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce computerised reservation system at Cuttack railway station in Orissa;

(b) if so, by which year such a system would be introduced there; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). This work has been included in the Works Programme for 1989-90. The progress will depend upon availability of resources in VIII Plan.

Steps to Boost Tobacco Exports

532. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of tobacco is declining the recent years;

(b) if so, the reason for this downward trend; and

(c) the steps taken to boost tobacco exports in the near future?

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

(b) The reasons for the downward trend in exports of tobacco are the world-wide slowing down of demand.

(c) Cash Compensatory Support @5%

has been granted on export of VFC tobacco. Efforts are underway to identify and develop the varieties which produce low nicotine and tobacco with flavor which have demand in some of the importing countries. Delegations are being mounted to countries where there is potential for sale of Indian tobacco. The traditional buyers are being persuaded to increase their purchase of Indian tobacco.

Trade with USA

533. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports to United States increased from 1,117 crores in April—August in 1987 to 1,413 crores in the corresponding period of 1988;

(b) whether the imports also increased from 795 crores to 1,095 crores for the same period from United States; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the spurt in both of our exports and imports?

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

(c) There has been an increasing trend in India's exports to USA of Diamonds, Engineering Products including Electronics, Textiles and Garments. Imports from USA to India have increased in the sphere of Cereals, Fertilisers, Iron and Steel Waste, Power Generating Machines and Electronic Equipments.

Steps to Boost Production and Export of Mica

534. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a good demand for Indian Mica exported in the International market;

(b) whether the prices have appreciated during the last three years and if so, the value of the Mica exported in 1987-88.

(c) the export promotion measures taken by Government to step up export of Mica; and

(d) the incentives given to the States which are producing Mica to step up production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) In the international market, demand for processed mica is declining, but demand for value added mica products is increasing.

(b) Prices of processed mica during the last three years have been revised twice. Aggregate price realisation during 1987-88 was higher than that obtaining in 1985-86 and 1986-87. Value of mica exported in 1987-88 is provisional placed at Rs. 46.52 crores.

(c) and (d). The following steps have been taken by the Government to promote the export of mica.

- (i) Export duty on mica and mica products except mica scrap has been abolished to improve the profitability from the export of this commodity.
- (ii) Sales promotion tours abroad as also participation in international trade fairs have been encouraged.
- (iii) MITCO has set up a number of units for producing value added

mica products.

- (iv) An R & D Centre for the development of new applications and new products for mica at a proposed outlay of Rs. 2.95 crores has been approved by Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation.

Allotment of Rakes to Central and Western Zones

535. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether twenty two rakes were promised to be given to Bombay Suburban Railway;

(b) if so, whether the rakes have since been provided; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of rakes promised to be provided to the Central and the Western Railways; and the number of rakes so far provided; and

(d) the time by which the rest of the rakes will be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. 22 rakes were planned to be supplied to Central and Western Zones in 1987-88 and 1988-89.

(b) to (d).

(i) 16 rakes have so far been supplied.

(ii) Two more rakes are expected to be supplied upto March, 1989.

(iii) The remaining rakes are planned to be provided in 1989-90.

(iv) The shortfall is on account of set back in production programme due to teeth-

ing troubles experienced in indigenous manufacture of traction motor.

Expenditure on Residential Premises of Chairmen of Nationalised Banks

536. SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any norms prescribed in the matter of incurring expenditure for securing premises for residence of Chairmen of the nationalised banks; and

(b) the amount spent by the Dena Bank for securing a flat for the residence of its Chairman at Bombay which is situated near Ashiana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The terms and conditions for appointment of Chairmen and Managing Directors in nationalised banks provide inter alia that they are entitled to a rent free unfurnished house. The type of accommodation, purchase price and rent are to be approved by the Board of Directors of the Bank.

(b) According to Dena Bank, an amount of Rs. 36 lakhs was spent by the bank in 1986-1987 for securing a flat which is in occupation of its present Chairman.

RBI Steps Widen Money Market

537. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently taken certain steps to widen the money market to improve the effectiveness of monetary policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements expected by these steps?

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

(b) and (c). In the recent period the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken the following measures to widen the money market in India:—

- (i) To attract more funds into bills rediscounting market, the entry into the market has been made less restrictive than hitherto. State Bank of India Mutual Fund, Canbank Mutual Fund and select urban co-operative banks have been permitted to participate in this market;
- (ii) In order to impart improved liquidity to short-term money market instruments, the Discount and Finance House of India Ltd. (DFHI) has been set up by RBI along with public sector banks and financial institutions. It has become operative in April 1988.
- (iii) In April 1988 DFHI was exempted from the ceiling of 12.5 percent per annum on the bill rediscounting rate to provide flexibility to the bills rediscounting market.
- (iv) Periodicity of auction in 182 Days Treasury bills has been changed from monthly fortnightly effective July 13, 1988. DFHI stands ready to buy and sell these bills and banks are now provided refinance from RBI equivalent to 50 percent of their

holdings of these bills.

- (v) The DFHI has been permitted to participate in the call money market both as a lender and a borrower and to act as an arranger of funds against the charge of a modest fee in this market and also to render service to the banks in the money market. From October 1988, its operations in the call money market have been exempted from the provisions of ceiling on the rate of interest prescribed by the Indian Banks Association.
- (vi) The procedure for handling commercial bills has recently been simplified by RBI and banks have been permitted to issue usance promissory notes in convenient lots and maturities on the strength of genuine trade bills discounted by them and to rediscount these promissory notes with the participants in the rediscount market and the stamp duty chargeable on such promissory notes has been remitted by the Government; and
- (vii) With a view to facilitating the adjustment of short term liquidity within the banking system a new instrument called Inter-Bank Participations has been introduced on both risk-sharing (for 91-180 days) and non-risk sharing (upto 90 days) basis.

yields on short-term funds.

West German Development Aid

538. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India will be a major recipient of West Germany development aid during 1989;
- (b) if so, the details of aid to be received;
- (c) the names of developmental programmes where such aid is proposed to be utilised, State-wise; and
- (d) the conditions of repayment of such aid to West Germany?

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

(b) During the last Indo-German Consultation on Development Cooperation in January 1989 the FRG authorities have tentatively indicated financial assistance of DM 425 million (soft credit) for the year 1989.

(c) The following major development projects are likely to be financed:—

- (i) Dadri Combined Cycle Power Project (Central Project)
- (ii) Rourkela Steel Plant (Central Project)
- (iii) 30MW Solar Thermal Power Project (Central Project)

(iv) Water Supply, West Bengal

(v) Tank Irrigation, Karnataka.

The measures mentioned above would work towards the deepening and widening of the money market, help banks to even out short term liquidity and impart flexibility to their credit portfolios and improve the payments systems, besides providing better

(d) FRG soft loan in received @ 0.75% per annum with the repayment period of 40 years including 10 years grace period. Commitment charges are also payable to FRG @ 0.25% per annum on the undisbursed amount.

Preparation of new Voter List

539. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI
SHRI HARIHAR SOREN

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

(a) whether Government have started electoral revision all over the country;

(b) if so, the time by which the new voter list will be prepared;

(c) the various steps taken to expedite the electoral revision; and

(d) the steps taken against the enrolment of bogus names in the voter lists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). The revision of electoral rolls in order to maintain them in an up-to-date and in as perfect a condition as possible, is a continuous process. For this purpose the Election Commission undertakes an annual revision of the rolls. In 1988, the Election Commission ordered a summary revision of the rolls in the States of Haryana, Kerala, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland and the Union territory of Delhi with 1.1.1988 as the qualifying date. In the remaining States and Union territories and intensive revision with the same qualifying date was ordered.

As part of the programme of annual revision, the Election Commission would have ordered a summary revision in 1989 in

those States where intensive revision was undertaken in the previous year and similarly an intensive revision where a summary revision had been undertaken. However, keeping in mind the Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Bill, 1988 which seeks produce the voting age from 21 to 18 and which has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament in December, 1988, the Election Commission has ordered a special revision in all States and Union territories. Instructions have been conveyed by the Election Commission to the Chief Electoral Officers concerned that this special revision has to be on the basis of a door to door survey and the enumerators will note only the names of those eligible citizens of 18 years or above as on 1.4.1989 whose names are not already included in the existing rolls. By this process, the Election Commission hopes to update the electoral rolls, including there in the young electors in the age group of 18 to 21. This process is expected to be completed by May—June, 1989.

(d) From time to time, the Election Commission has been issuing instructions to bring to notice that only eligible citizens of India who are ordinarily residents in a constituency should be registered in the electoral rolls for that constituency. The Commission has also drawn attention to section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 according to which making a false declaration in connection of electoral rolls in an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Loans Advanced to Unemployed Graduates in Punjab

540. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number unemployed graduates from low income group who applied for loans

from State Bank of India and other nationalised banks functioning in Punjab during the last two years ending December, 1988;

(b) the details of the loans sanctioned, year-wise;

(c) the details of the loans not sanctioned with reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures adopted by Government in cases of non-compliance of Government Policy for sanctioning loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Under the Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) introduced during the year 1983-84, all educated unemployed youth within the age group of 18 to 35 years and who are matriculates and above i.e. including graduates, are eligible for assistance subject to their satisfying the prescribed eligibility criteria. The information pertaining to target, number of applications received, recommended and sanctioned alongwith the amount sanctioned during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 in respect of Scheduled Indian Commercial Banks including State Bank of India and other nationalised banks, functioning in Punjab is as under:—

<i>year</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>No. of applications received by DICs.</i>	<i>No. of applications recommended to banks</i>	<i>No. of cases sanctioned by banks</i>	<i>Sanctioned amount (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1986-87	15000	41,997	24,390	15,037	3428.80
1987-88	7500	31,342	14,516	7,672	1744.88

(c) and (d). Since the banks in Punjab exceeded the target fixed for them under the scheme in both the years under reference, these questions do not arise.

Impact of Strike on Trading in Spices

541. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI P.A. ANTONY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trading in spices has been affected in Kerala due to the strike by the Hill Produce Merchants Association;

(b) if so, the details thereof including

estimated loss caused in export of these items; and

(c) the remedial measures being contemplated in view of its long term impact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). The strike in question is the subject matter of the State Government. It has been reported that the strike affected the export trade also. Reports indicate that goods worth Rs. 3 crores could not be shipped, and that orders roughly worth Rs. 10.15 crores might have been lost due to strike. The matter was taken up with the State Government. The strike was called off on 2.2.1989.

Balance of Trade

542. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position regarding balance of trade and balance of payment during the past three years and at present; and

(b) the export and import figures as on November. I, 1988 for U.S.A., U.K., Japan, U.S.S.R., Italy and West Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The details of trade deficit and foreign exchange reserves, which reflect the overall balance of payment position, during the last three years and the current financial year are as under:—

(Value : Rs. Crores)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Trade (A) Deficit</i>	<i>End of the month</i>	<i>Foreign (b) Exchange Reserves</i>
1985-86	8763.10	March, 86	7820.03
1986-87 (P)	7631.32	March, 87	8151.21
1987-88 (P)	6657.74	March, 88 (P)	7686.67
1988-89 (P) (April—Dec.)	6601.70	June, 88 (P)	6240.56

P : Provisional

Source : (a) DGCI&S, Calcutta

(b) RBI Annual Report 1987-88.

(b) The provisional figures of export and import from USA, UK, Japan, USSR, Italy and West Germany during April—Septem-

ber 1988, the latest period for which the break up is available, are as under:

(Value : Rs. Crores)

<i>Country</i>	<i>Export (P)</i>	<i>Import (P)</i>
1	2	3
USA	1759.46	1395.86
U.K.	543.16	1187.19

1	2	3
Japan	971.22	1233.12
USSR	1116.90	683.55
Italy	227.61	205.54
West Germany	565.71	1081.52

(P : Provisional) Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Price and Production of Cardamom

543. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production of cardamom over the past two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of prices of cardamom during the past three years; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to ensure a remunerative price to the cardamom growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) (a) The production of cardamom during the past 3 years has been estimated as under:

1986-87	3800 MTS
1987-88	2900 MTS
1988-89	4100 MTS

(b) The decline in production during 1987-88 was due to severe drought.

(c) The weighted average auction price of cardamom per kg. was Rs. 118.32 in 1986-87, Rs. 140.62 in 1987-88, and Rs. 126.48 in 1988-89 (August—January-1989).

(d) Efforts include:

(i) fiscal measures, like shifting sales tax from growers and a proposal to introduce compounding system of taxation based on acreage to reduce the burden of Agricultural Income Tax on the small growers.

(ii) measures to decrease cost of production by implementing various schemes on development and research so as to increase margin of profit for the growers.

(iii) introduction of cash and carry system to ensure prompt payment to growers, and restriction on arrivals of produce in terms of quantity to keep up prices.

(iv) measures to increase domestic demand like promotional sales and to develop more and uses of cardamom in food stuffs, eat-

ables and ayurvedic medicine etc. and

- (v) measures like grant of air freight subsidy, additional CCS and other steps for export promotion to increase demand and to keep up prices.

Train Accidents in Kerala

544. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of all rail accidents in Kerala during the past one year;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there has been an increasing frequency in the rail accidents in Kerala;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been held to find out the causes of these accidents;
- (d) if so, the result thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken to prevent the recurrence of accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (e). Statistics of railway accidents and related information are maintained railway zone-wise and not State-wise.

Seizure of Gold

545. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
DR. PHULRENU GUHA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated quantity of smuggled gold seized in the country along with its value

during the past one year;

(b) whether any arrest has been made in each case of smuggling; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by Government to stop smuggling of gold in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b) 6094 (provisional) Kgs. of Gold worth Rs. 200 crores approximately have been seized by the Customs authorities during the calender year 1988 and 1327 (Provisional) persons have been arrested by them for being involved in smuggling of Gold during the same period.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country especially in the vulnerable areas of the land borders and the international airports and the seaports has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained between all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling including that of gold. Sophisticated equipment like: X-ray baggage machines, detectors, night vision binoculars are being increasingly used. As a result of these measures, the value and quantity of gold seized during the year 1988 has shown a significant increase over that of 1987 when 2250 Kgs. of gold worth Rs. 65.78 crores (approximately) was seized.

Financial Assistance to Housing Sector

546. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have issued

orders to financial bodies in the country to come forward to help housing sector in the country;

(b) if so, the, the names of the States, where such assistance will be given; and

(c) the funds ear marked by each financial institution for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The allocation fixed by Reserve Bank of India for all Scheduled Commercial Banks under 'housing finance' was Rs. 225 crores for the year ending December, 1988. This amount has been raised to Rs. 300 crores for the year ending December, 1989. The allocation is for the country as a whole and no State-wise allocation has been made. LIC/GIC have also been advancing loans to the State Governments, HDFC, HUDCO and State Level Apex Cooperative Housing Finance Societies for financing housing schemes.

Export of Fruits and Vegetables

547. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the fruits and vegetables popular in Europe and North America;

(b) whether the market of those fruits and vegetables has been adequately exploited in these countries;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase their export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The fruits and vegetables

popular in Europe and North America include Mango, Guava, Papaya, Pine apple, Melon, Apple, Pear, Citrus, Strawberry, Banana and Tomato, Aubergine, Bean, Cabbage, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Cucumber, Onion, Garlic, Okra etc.

(b) to (d). On account of various factors such as high air freight rates, strict food laws in importing countries etc., it has not been possible to adequately exploit the market for some of our vegetables and tropical fruits. The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority set up by Govt. for promoting exports of agricultural and processed food products is taking a number of steps to increase export of fruits and vegetables by setting up export complexes, arranging buyer-seller meets, organising expositions and publicity campaigns etc.

Container Services in Cochin

548. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the Railway Container Services to Cochin; and

(b) if so, when it will be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present to provide permanent facilities for domestic container service in the absence of adequate traffic. However, containers are being booked to Cochin/Ernakulam on ad-hoc basis depending on the demands.

Conversion of Tracks

549. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme to replace existing narrow-gauge and metre-gauge rail links during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Details of the gauge conversion projects so far programmed are given in the Statement below.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of the Project	Railway	Length (km)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Suratgarh-Bikaner (MG to BG)	Northern	178	Opened in April 1988
2.	Moradabad-Ramnagar (")	North Eastern	78	Opened in June 1988
3.	Varanasi-Bhatni (")	North Eastern	161	
4.	Kashipur-Laikua (")	North Eastern	60	
5.	Samastipur-Darbanga (")	North Eastern	37	
6.	Mysore-Bangalore (")	Southern	138	
7.	Manmad-Parbhani-Parli Vajjnath (")	South Central	345	
8.	Guntur-Macherla (")	South Central	130	Targetted for opening in 89-90.
9.	Parbhani-Purna and Mudkhed-Adilabad conversion & Purna-Mudkhed parallel BG line (")	South Central	248	
10.	Nadiad-Kapadvanj (NG to BG)	Western	45	

Introduction of Model Sales Tax Legislation

550. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by Government for introduction of 'model Sales Tax legislation';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (e). In pursuance of the resolution adopted at the Chief Ministers' Conference held in September, 1980, the Law Commission was requested to undertake the work of drafting a model Sales Tax Law but they regretted their inability to undertake the same. Subsequently, the work was entrusted to the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

The levy of tax on sales or purchases taking place inside a State is a State subject of taxation under Entry 54 in list II of the 7th Schedule to the Constitution and the State or Union Territory legislatures alone are competent to undertake legislation in respect of matters relating to inter-State sales.

Setting up of a Joint Control Board on Inchampalli Multi-Purpose Project

551. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAM MURTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Control Board has

since been set up for Inchampalli Multi-purpose Project on Godavari river which is an inter-State joint project of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh as per the award of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal for formulating the project report and its implementation;

(b) whether the draft constitution of the inter-State Control Board sent to Union Government and other concerned States by Andhra Pradesh Government has since been considered;

(c) whether it is a fact that Union Government have already taken up the early constitution of the Joint control Board with the concerned three States;

(d) if so, when and what is the present stage; and

(e) whether Government propose to convene a meeting of the concerned Chief Ministers?

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

(b) to (e) The suggestions of the Government of Maharashtra to constitute a Task Force comprising of Chief Engineers of three to prepare a detailed project report has been accepted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Income Tax Collection from A.P. Civil Supplies Corporation

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

(a) whether income tax to the tune of Rs. 40 crores was proposed to be collected from A.P. Civil Supplies Corporation.

(b) Whether the appeals filed by the said organisation were rejected departmentally;

(c) whether the State Civil Supplies Corporation is required to pay Rs. 22.33 crores for the year 1980-86 towards income tax and similarly Rs. 15.8 crores for the year 1985-86;

(d) if so, the reasons for imposing these taxes; and

(e) whether Government have exempted the Central Warehousing Corporation from Income-Tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Income-tax demands of Rs. 6.10 crores for Assessment year 1985-86 and Rs. 4.28 crores for Assessment Year 1986-87 were raised. For 1985-86, appeal was filed before Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals) and demand was reduced to Rs. 4.04 crores consequent on appellate order. The recovery of this amount has been stayed by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal. For 1986-87, no appeal has been filed so far.

(c) It is presumed that the information sought is about A.P. Civil Supplies Corporation. Apart from the above demands, there is no other demand.

(d) The taxes have been levied as the Corporation had taxable income as per Income-tax Act.

(e) Central Warehousing Corporation is constituted under the Central Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962. Its income derived from warehousing and processing or facilitating marketing of commodities, is exempt under section 10 (29) of the Income-tax Act.

Clearance to Polavaram Project of Andhra Pradesh

553. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have cleared the Polavaram Project of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the cost of the project since the 1st Project Report was submitted to the Central Water Commission in December, 1978; and

(c) whether the present project report contains the estimates for both left and right bank canals and also for generation of power at one stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). Andhra Pradesh has been requested to submit a modified project report keeping in view the observations made by the Central appraising agencies.

Tirumala and Godavari Trains

554. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of public demand Government are reconsidering extension of Tirumala Express upto Vishakhapatnam from Kakinada;

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

(c) whether Government propose to change the steam locomotive of Godavari Express to diesel locomotive?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Godavari Express is already running diesel locomotive.

Amendment to Wealth Tax Act

555. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend existing provisions of Wealth Tax Act to make it more rational, equitable and simple for easy compliance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). The amendment of the direct tax laws is a continuous process as such laws cannot remain static. In the winter session of the parliament, the Government introduced Direct Tax Law (Amendment) Bill, 1989 by which some amendments to the Wealth-tax Act have also been proposed. It is always the Government's attempts to see that tax laws become simple and easy to comply with.

[*Translation*]

Case of Forgery in Banks

556. SHRI S.D. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of forgery in banks detected during the last one year and the amount involved;

(b) the number of cases in which bank employees were found involved; and

(c) the number of cases in which action has so far been taken against the guilty employees and the number of cases in which action is yet to be taken?

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 the present data maintenance system does not generate information about cases of forgery in banks separately. RBI has, however, intimated that during 1988 (till September) 28 Public Sector Banks have reported to RBI 1382 cases of fraud from within the country involving an amount of Rs. 2005.23 lakhs. Details of action taken by Banks against the delinquent employees involved in case of frauds during 1988 (till September) are as under:

(i)	No. of employees convicted on charges of frauds	—	73
(ii)	No. of employees given major/minor penalties	—	509

(Data provisional)

[English]

Agreement with France for Protection of Investment

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

(a) whether Government of France had requested his Ministry for a bilateral agreement providing for protection of investments made by one in other country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. During the Indo-French Joint committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation Meeting held in January 1989 the French side requested for signing of a convention for mutual protection of investments which would favour the growth of French Investments in India. However, the Indian side

stated that in view of the excellent track record that India has regarding repayments and payment of royalty etc. such an agreement was not needed.

Rail Heads for Arunachal, Manipur and Mizoram

558. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the rail heads proposed for Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram and the stipulated time schedule for their completion; and

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon upto the stage of completion of these projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The details about the rail heads proposed for Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram, their expected dates for completion and their anticipated costs are as under:

<i>State</i>	<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Length Km.</i>	<i>Anticipated cost (Rs/crore)</i>	<i>Expected date of completion</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	Balipara-Bhalukpong	35	14.18	Dec., 89
Manipur	Siichar-Jiribam	49	39.56	Dec., 89
Mizoram	Lalabazar-Bhairabi	48	36.17	March., 90

Benches of Guwahati High Court in Imphal and Agartala

559. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether permanent Benches of the Guwahati High Court have started functioning Imphal and Agartala;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and when they are likely to start functioning; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the absence of Separate High Court permanent Benches in these cities is causing serious hardship to the people of the respective States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) to (d). It has been agreed, in principle, that there should be separate High Courts for each of the States in the north-eastern region. Till separate High Courts are formed, it has been decided to establish permanent Benches of the Guwahati High Court in the Capital of these States, after the requisite infrastructural facilities have been provided by the State Governments concerned.

GIC Project Envisaging Safety Education to School Children

560. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) has launched an innovative project envisaging safety education to the children in the schools;

(b) if so, the names of the States where this scheme will be implemented and when;

(c) the number of children in each State likely to be covered under the Scheme; and

(d) the amount to be given to the States for this purpose?

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

(b) and (c). The Programme spread over the year 1989-90 envisages imparting of safety education to nearly three lakh children in about 3,000 schools in all the States and union Territories as under:—

<i>Name of the State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>No. of Children to be covered</i>
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	23,000
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1,000
3. Assam	7,500
4. Bihar	12,500
5. Goa	2,000
6. Gujarat	16,000
7. Haryana	5,000
8. Himachal Pradesh	2,700

1	2
9. Jammu & Kashmir	4,000
10. Karnataka	20,000
11. Kerala	15,000
12. Madhya Pradesh	15,000
13. Maharashtra	35,000
14. Manipur	1,000
15. Meghalaya	1,000
16. Mizoram	700
17. Nagaland	1,000
18. Orissa	5,000
19. Punjab	17,500
20. Rajasthan	15,000
21. Sikkim	500
22. Tamil Nadu	31,000
23. Tripura	500
24. Uttar Pradesh	37,500
25. West Bengal	15,000
26. Andaman & Nicobar	200
27. Chandigarh	1,500
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	100
29. Delhi	14,000
30. Daman & Diu	200

1

2

31. Lakshadweep

100

32. Pondicherry

500

(d) As the Programme is being organised by the General Insurance Industry, no amount is required to be given to any State Union Territory.

Leave Reserves/Rest givers on Northern Railway

561. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The procedure for posting category 'C' employees as leave reserves/ rest givers in each category on the Northern Railway;

(b) whether a uniform procedure in all the Divisions of Northern Railway is followed, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering to formulate a uniform policy for leave reserves/rest givers of category 'C' employees of Northern Railway; and

(d) if so, the time by which the policy is expected to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Leave reserves/rest givers in each category of Group 'C' employees on the Northern Railway are provided as per the percentage prescribed by the Ministry of Railways in this regard.

(b) A uniform procedure in all the Divisions of Northern Railway is being followed in this regard.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

Raising of Capital by M/S Reliance Petrochemicals

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

(a) whether Government have permitted Reliance Petrochemicals, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd., to raise capital in the open market;

(b) if so, when and the amount collected by the Company by way of public subscription;

(c) whether Government have received complaints of non-refund of subscriptions by unsuccessful applicants; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to provide security of public money from being misused by this Company as well as other limited companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. M/S Reliance Petrochemicals Ltd. were given consent on 4-7-1988 for raising capital through fully convertible debentures for an amount of Rs. 516 crores plus retention of oversubscription of 15%. As per details given by the company, the subscription against this public issue amounted to Rs.

1213.37 crores.

(c) some complaints of non-refund of subscription by unsuccessful applicants have been received and the Bombay Stock Exchange have taken up the matter with the Company.

(d) Section 73(3) of Companies Act, 1956 (as amended) provides the necessary protection.

Taking over of Export Import Trade

563. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take over the whole of the export-import trade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Both public and private sector have fruitful and complementary role to play in management of import and export trade of our country. There have been no justifiable doubts about the policy of a mixed economy in this area. Further there are adequate penal and punitive provisions in the imports-Exports (Control) Act and Order to check malpractices.

Opening of Branches of United bank of India in Manipur

564. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Bank of India, the lead bank in Manipur, had surrendered licences to open more branches for the State

thereby failing to reach the target of number of branches;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how many such licences have been surrendered till 31 December, 1988; and

(c) whether Government consider replacement of the lead bank status in favour of some other nationalised bank in view of the non-performance of the United Bank of India in the State?

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

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

Sales tax Exemption for Exports of Cardamom

565. SHRI P.A. ANTONY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the benefits of sales tax exemption for exports of cardamom are being passed on to the exporters; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider a proposal to pass on these benefits to the cardamom cultivators instead of exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA): (a) Under the Constitution, no state or Union Territory can make any law for levy of tax on the sale or purchase of goods in the course of export out of or import into the territory of India. Section 5(1) of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, provides for non-liability to tax on sale in the course of export and section 5(3) provides for non-liability to tax in respect of sale or purchase

of any goods preceding the sale or purchase occasioning the export of these goods if such last sale or purchase took place after, and was for the purpose of complying with, the agreement or order for or in relation to such export. The benefit of Section (5)1 would be admissible if the cultivator directly exports the goods and the benefit of Section 5(3) would be admissible if the goods are sold to an exporter subject to fulfilment of the conditions laid down therein.

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

[*Translation*]

Payment of Provident Fund Dues to Retired/retrenched Employees of State Bank of Indore

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

(a) whether the State Bank of Indore has not paid, so far the provident fund dues to some of the employees compulsorily retired/retrenched by the Bhopal/Indore regional offices during 1987-88 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the branch-wise details of the employees ; and

(c) the time by which all such employees are expected to be paid their dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c), State Bank of Indore has reported that none of its employees were retrenched from the bank's service during 1987-88. However, some employees had either been dismissed/removed or deemed to have voluntarily retired during this period under the Rule. The Bank has further reported that nine such employees have not accepted the Provident Fund dues issued in their favour by the bank.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Economic Survey, 1988-89

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Economic Survey, 1988-89, (Hindi and English versions). [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7231/89]

Central Excise (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1988, Central Excise (Amendment) Rules, 1989 and Notifications under Central Excise & Salt Act, 1944

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:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—

(i) The Central Excise (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1154 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1988.

(ii) G.S.R. 1173 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to waive payment of Central Excise duty leviable on electrical grade insulating paper or paper board of types other than coated, impregnated or covered with plastic (excluding adhesives) falling under sub-heading No. 4817.90 of the

Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 during the period commencing on the 28th February, 1986 and ending with the 28th February, 1987.

(iii) G.S.R. 1190 (E) and G.S.R. 1191 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide that in accordance with a general practice that was prevalent at the relevant time so much of that portion of the excise duties on cotton fabrics falling under heading No. 52.06 and man-made fabrics falling under heading No. 55.08 of the Schedule to the Central Excises Tariff Act, 1985 read with the First Schedule to the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 respectively which were short levied during the period from 28.2.86 to 12.5.86 shall not be required to be paid.

(iv) The Central Excise (Amendment) Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 17 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 1989.

(v) G.S.R. 78 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 1989 together with an explanatory Memorandum exempting kits for testing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and re-agents used therein, manufactured by Messers Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pimpri, from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7232/89]

Notification under Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972; Annual Reports of Gomti Gramin Bank, Marathwada Gramin Bank, Malaprabha Grameena Bank etc. for year ended 31.12.1987.

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 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:—

(i) The Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1116 (E) in Gazette of India dated in 2nd December, 1988.

(ii) G.S.R. 1166 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 1988 making certain amendments to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Regulations, 1960. [Placed in Library See No. LT— 7233/89]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:—

(i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff), Amendment Scheme, 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 1160 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 1988.

- (ii) The General Insurance (Termination, Supranuation and Retirement of Officers and Development Staff) Amendment Scheme 1988 published in Notification No. S.O. 1161 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7234/89]
- (3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 3350 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 1988 specifying the exceptions, restriction and limitations specified in notification which shall apply to or in relation to the General Insurance Corporation of India under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation Act, 1972. [Placed in Library See No. LT— 7235/89]
- (4) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions):—
- (i) Report of the Gomti Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7236/89]
- (ii) Report of the Marathwada Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7237/89]
- (iii) Report of the Malaprabha Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7238/89]
- (iv) Report of the Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7239/89]
- (v) Report of the Thar Aanchalik Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7240/89]
- (vi) Report of the Sri Visakha Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7241/89]
- (vii) Report of the Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7242/89]
- (viii) Report of the Basti Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7243/89]
- (ix) Report of the Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7244/89]
- (x) Report of the Bijapur Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7245/89]

(xi) Report of the Jamnagar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7246/89]

(xii) Report of the Chhindwara Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7247/89]

(xiii) Report of the Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7248/89]

(xiv) Report of the Aligarh Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7249/89]

(xv) Report of the Surendranagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7250/89]

(xvi) Report of the Himachal Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7251/89]

(xvii) Report of the Koraput

Panchabati Gramya Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7252/89]

(xviii) Report of the Rani Laxmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7253/89]

(xix) Report of the Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7254/89]

(xx) Report of the Thane Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7255/89]

(xxi) Report of the Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7256/89]

(xxii) Report of the Banaskantha Mehsana Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—7257/89]

(xxiii) Report of the Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See*

No. LT— 7258/89]

(xxiv) Report of the Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7259/89]

(xxv) Report of the Kalpatharu Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7260/89]

(xxvi) Report of the Jhabua Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7261/89]

(xxvii) Report of the Jammu Rural Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7262/89]

(xxviii) Report of the Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7263/89]

(xxix) Report of the Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7264/89]

(xxx) Report of Sri Rama Grameena Bank for the year ended

the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7265/89]

(xxxi) Report of the Cauvery Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditors Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7266/89]

(xxxii) Report of the Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7267/89]

(xxxiii) Report of the Kutch Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7268/89]

(xxxiv) Report of the Kolar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7269/89]

(xxxv) Report of the Mizoram Rural Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7270/89]

(xxxvi) Report of the Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See

No. LT— 7271/89]

(xxxvii) Report of the Nalanda Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7272/89]

(xxxviii) Report of the Chitradurga Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7273/89]

(xxxix) Report of the Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7274/89]

(xl) Report of the Parvatiya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7275/89]

(xli) Report of the Gwalior Datia Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7276/89]

(xlii) Report of Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7277/89]

(xliii) Report of the Sree Anantha Grameena Bank for the year

ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7278/89]

(xliv) Report of the Sri Saraswati Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7279/89]

(xlv) Report of the Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7280/89]

(xlvi) Report of the Krishna Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7281/89]

(xlvii) Report of the Nadia Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7282/89]

(xlviii) Report of the Alwar Bharatpur Anchalik Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7283/89]

(xlix) Report of the Shivpuri Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See

No. LT— 7284/89]

(I) Report of the Etah Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7285/89]

(II) Report of the Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7286/89]

(lii) Report of the Ratnagiri Sindudurg Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7287/89]

(liii) Report of the Chikmagalur Kodagu Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7288/89]

(liv) Report of the Sahyadri Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7289/89]

(lv) Report of the Netravati Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7290/89]

(lvi) Report of the Indore Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December,

1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7291/89]

(lvii) Report of the Viveshvar-ayya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7292/89]

(lviii) Report of the Adhiyanan Grama Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7293/89]

(lix) Report of the Vallalar Gramin bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditors' Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7294/89]

(lx) Report of the Chaitanya Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7295/89]

(lxi) Report of the Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7296/89]

(lxii) Report of the Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank Mainpuri, for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7297/89]

(lxiii) Report of the Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshangabad, for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditors Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7298/89]

(lxiv) Report of the Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. (Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7299/89)

(lxv) Report of the Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7300/89]

- (5) A copy of the Amendments (Hindi and English versions) to the recommendations made in the First Report of the Ninth Finance Commission together with explanatory Memorandum giving reasons for making amendments. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7301/89]

Hundred Twenty-Ninth Report of Law Commission on Urban-Litigation-Mediation as Alternative to Agriculture

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Hundred Twenty-Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Law Commission on Urban Litigation-Mediation as Alternative to Adjudication. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7302/89]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Betwa River Board, Jhansi for 1987-88.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report

(Hindi and English versions) of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding (a) Review by the Government on the working of the Betwa River Board, Jhansi for the year 1987-88 and (b) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT— 7303/89]

Annual Reports and Review on the working of Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta for 1987-88 and Basic Chemicals Pharmaceuticals Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Bombay for 1987-88

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1987-88 along with the Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7304/89]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Bombay, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi

and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Bombay, for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7305/89]

[Translation]

Review on the working of and Annual Reports of Indian Railway Construction Co. Ltd. New Delhi; and Rail India Technical and Economic Services Ltd. New Delhi for 1987-88

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Railway Construction Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Construction Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7306/89]
 - (b) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Railw India Technical and Economic Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and com-

ments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT— 7307/89]

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): Sir, I have given an Adjournment Motion.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down and discuss the budget.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT: Sir, the Government has introduced 1982 consumer Index Series.

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss it in the budget. Nothing doing.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: The workers in Maharashtra are losing DA worth Rs. 30 to Rs. 150 per month because of the arbitrary introduction of 1982 Consumer Index Series. This is very important.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing. Not allowed. I have told you that we are going to discuss the Budget and under that you can discuss this also.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: This is not fair, Sir. All the prices are increasing.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Samant, that is what the Budget discussion is for. Budget discussion relates to that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Mr. Sharma. will you take your seat please? I have not allowed the Hon. Member and nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions)*

DR. DATTA SAMANT: I am walking out.

12.03 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Datta Samant left the House

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Under Rule 222 of the Rules of Business I want to raise a question of breach of privilege involving me against the Editor, Chief Editor, Printer, Publisher and the New Delhi correspondent of the Navbharat Times, New Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already referred it.

[Translation]

Sharmaji, I have referred it.

[English]

I will take you care of it and then I shall let you know.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Let the House know how he has been humiliated. It is a very important case. Let the House know.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Sir, this Navbharat Times dated 13th January, 1989...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, Sharmaji, First let me examine it and establish whether there is a prima-facie case.

[English]

Then I will let you know and bring it to the notice of the House. Let me first take the initiative and then I will allow the Hon. Member to bring it to the notice of the House. Let us go through the procedure. I will share your concern; I will take care of your prestige and the House will share it with you. Don't

worry. Let me first establish it. I will let you know.

I will let you know and give you the full details.

SHRI. V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Sir, the scientists of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences are going on indefinite hunger strike.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing. This is not the time.

SHRI. V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Please allow a Calling Attention Motion on this.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day in the debate regarding Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Prof. Madhu Dandavate made a statement regarding the change of rules in the time of then Minister Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and he mentioned the name of Shri Sanjay Gandhi. Sir, I have the debate before me and I would like to read out what the then Member, Shri Kundu said. Shri Kundu at that stage had said...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, you did not allow Shri Sharma to make a statement. Without sending a copy of the notice to me how can he raise a question of privilege?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no privilege.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is he raising it as a question of privilege?

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: No. I want to read from the record. Neither did Prof. Dandavate get the permission of the Speaker to make that statement that day. He should have taken the prior permission of the Speaker. It should not be made part of the record. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, he has already started the submission. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: Please allow me to speak. Let the Speaker decide.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, you have given it in writing. I am going to examine it and then I will let you know.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: I will mention only one small aspect. In the previous Debate, there was no mention of manufacture of Maruti car.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have given it as a privilege notice, then I will have to look into it.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: But what Prof. Dandavate has said has become a part of the record. I want it to be expunged. I am only quoting from the rules. 'No allegation shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given previous intimation to the Speaker...'

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I will look into it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing unparliamentary. It can be a question of wrong interpretation.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will just let you know afterwards. Let me go through this.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): What is it? We are not able to understand anything.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to understand it and not you Sir.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, I will allow you the time after I see through this. Then I will let you know.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: I want to point out one thing. Prof. Madhu Dandavate was allowed to make a statement without prior notice, mentioning the names of Shri Sanjay Gandhi and Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. I said that it should be expunged. You did not expunge it... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If the question is that Sanjay Gandhi is not in the House, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is also not in the House. Can we not refer to him?

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. This is not his contention.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: You mentioned that it was a reversal of the policy... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, will you please listen to me? Just one minute. I will look into the quotation that you have given to me. Your contention is, what Prof. Dandavate stated on the floor of the House was not in consonance with the record. Isn't it? I will ask for the record, compare it and then I will come to you.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: There was no question of licence. At that time, the debate was on the small car... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will compare it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I can also quote from the record. It says:

"I can tell you, in order to achieve this, our anxiety is that it should be in the public sector."

MR. SPEAKER: I will compare both what he has said and what you have said. Then, I will allow him. He has shown me the record. I will have to look into it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Do not

refer it to the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Health!

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sharmaji, I will allow it only after I have fully gone through it.

[English]

Then, you may state it on the floor of the House.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: I simply want to make a statement so that the House will know how much I have been humbled down and the height of irresponsibility exhibited by the Press.

MR. SPEAKER: I will do it. I will take care of it.

12.10 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): Will your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 27th February, 1989 will consist of:

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) General discussion on the Railway Budget for 1989-90.

As members are already aware that the Budget (General) for 1989-90 will be presented at 5.00 PM on Tuesday, the 28th February, 1989.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): The following subjects may be included in the next week's business:

The following roads are very important for quick and smooth flow of goods and services. The traffic is very high.

Rajasthan Government has requested the Government of India for upgrading the following roads to the level of National Highways:

- (1) Beawar-Pali-Sirohi-Kandla
- (2) Bikaner-Merta-Ajmer-Bhilwara-Chittorgarh-Ratlam-Indore
- (3) Gurgaon-Alwar-Sariska-Dausa-Sawai Madhopur-Shivpuri
- (4) Kosi-Kama-Deeg-Bharatpur-Roopwas-Sepau-Dholpur

It is requested that the above mentioned roads may be declared as National Highways

(2) While Oil and Natural Gas Commission is concentrating in Jaisalmer and oil in Janot area in Kishangarh basin, the following promising areas also deserve to be taken up by these Corporations because according to our experts they may have substantial oil and natural gas:—

1. Sanchoe-Barmer basin
2. Miajlar sub-basin
3. Shahgarh depression
4. Bikaner-Nagaur area

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central): The following item may be included in the next week's business:

More than two lakh textile workers working in sixty textile mills in Bombay have been staying in areas like Lalbag, Parel, Byculla, Worli etc., for last several years. If

[Dr. Datta Samant]

sale of textile mills' land is allowed, the whole complexion of Bombay will change and all working class is mainly from Maharashtra will go out. There is strong resentment among textile workers against this proposal.

Government should not allow the sale of surplus land of Bombay textile mills in the interest of a large number of workers.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): The following subject may be included in the next week's business:—

1. Despite our repeated requests the Centre has not set up any Ordnance Factory in Bihar so far. It is earnestly requested that the Government should give it top most consideration and set up an Ordnance Factory either in the Mithila Region of North Bihar or Bhagalpur region of South Bihar.

2. There is a great demand of Mithila paintings in foreign exchange for the country, it would give employment to the people of Mithila region.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the development of a modern medical system in India and professional skill of the Indian doctors, they are in great demand in foreign countries and they are going abroad in a large number. It has created a shortage of doctors almost in all the Government hospitals in India. People are denied the benefits of modern medical science. Therefore, it is essential that Government should conduct a survey in this regard at their earliest and make a provision of doctors in those hospitals which have been functioning without them.

I would also like to urge upon the Government to put a ban on the migration and foreign stay of the trained doctors so as to make up the shortage of doctors in the Government hospitals. I would request the Government to set up research centres to

patronise and promote the Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and Yunani system of medicines alongwith the allopathic system.

SHRI NANDLAL CHOUDHARY (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the constant failure of monsoon or scanty rains during the last 4-5 years and absence of even *Maltha* rains this year has posed a serious threat to the life of common man in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to extend all sort of financial assistance and necessary cooperation to Madhya Pradesh Government to enable them to deal with this severe crisis on war footing. The whole district of Sagar should be declared as drought affected. Rigs and other necessary equipments should also be made available to them in a large number for the deep boring of hand-pumps, tube-wells, wells and dredging of tanks etc. in Sagar district. In addition to that, recovery of loans and land revenue should also be waived. Potable water projects also require immediate attention so that drinking water may be made available during the ensuing summer season.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): The following may be included in the next week's business:—

Ever since independence education has expanded remarkably on people's initiatives. The organiser of private schools and colleges work very hard initially in mobilising resources and make sacrifices for these institutions. But their enthusiasm gradually lessens due to poor response from people to finance such institutions. Thus facilities which ought to be available in good education institutions are found lacking in private schools and colleges.

It is therefore necessary for Government to provide facilities in these institutions in a gradual manner, preferably by way of taking over the schools and colleges on completion of 25 years of existence.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): The following may be included in the next week's business:—

On February 8, 1989, an unprecedented fire accident occurred at Mysore Premier Studio in Mysore while shooting of the tele serial "The Sword of Tipu Sultan" was going on. Fifty persons died and many were seriously injured.

Government of India should give maximum financial assistance to the families of those who died or were injured or hospitalised.

Government and Doordarshan authorities should also provide financial assistance to the film unit to enable it to complete the serial along with the contributions of the State Government.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): The following items may be included in the next week's business:—

1. Nearly Rs. 200 crore worth of public and private properties were extensively destroyed during December riots in Andhra Pradesh. The damage to properties has exceeded November, 1984 Delhi riots losses. Though the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken some relief and rehabilitation measures much is still to be done. The Union Government should issue instruction urgently to the Commercial Banks to provide loan assistance to the victims at 9.5 percent interest as was done to rehabilitate the Delhi riot victims to enable the victims to restart their economic activities.

2. In mitigating the hardships of people due to unprecedented loss of properties in the recent disturbances in Andhra Pradesh, the Insurance Companies have a considerable role to play. Unless these companies settle claims in a short time, rehabilitation of victims cannot be completed early. Union Government should ask all Insurance Companies to settle the claims without loss of time.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): The following may be included in the next week's business:—

Firstly, the House may take up discussion on the situation of religious and linguistic minorities in the light of the Reports of the Minorities Commission, the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities, the progress report on the implementation of the 15 point programme of the Prime Minister for the welfare of the minorities and the over all communal situation in the country.

Secondly, the House may also discuss the progress in the implementation of the Report of the Second Backward Classes Commission specially of its recommendations on reservation in public employment in favour of other backward classes, at the Central and State levels and, *inter alia*, the difficulties, impediments and contradictions encountered in implementing the policy of reservation and the approach and methods for resolving them in order to ensure early removal of social and economic disparities in our country.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): The following item may be included in the next week's business:—

Aska, in the District of Ganjam (Orissa), has one of the oldest sugar factories in the State as well as in the country. It is a sugar producing area being of sub-tropical climate which is congenial for sugar research. The factory has provided forty acres of land for research institute. As such a sugar research institute should be established at Aska.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I am grateful to the hon. members for suggesting topics to be taken up in the House for a discussion in the next week's business. We shall consider them in the forthcoming meeting.

12.18 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri V.N. Gadgil and seconded by Shri R.L. Bhatia on the 23rd February, 1989:—

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 21st February, 1989."

Kumari Mamata Banerjee to continue her speech. She has already taken 21 minutes.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Yesterday, I was speaking on the President address. First of all, what I want to say is that problem of unemployment is the greatest problem in our country. Even in the President address, the problem of unemployment finds a mention. Our Government has also announced a 'Removal of unemployment' programme but no plan of the programme has been chalked out till now. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to implement the programme in a planned way at the earliest to convert the slogan of 'Bakari Hatao' into a reality because in this country the problem of unemployment is a very big problem which could pose a serious to our country, in case it was not solved. In this context, I want to make a mention of a large number of posts lying vacant in many big undertakings of the Central Government such as railways. Simi-

larly, there is banking sector as well as steel sector and the Coal India Ltd. There are many such sectors where recruitments are not being made due to a ban on the fresh recruitments. Two-third of the actual recruitment is only for an eye-wash. Therefore, it is my request that the Government should declare all the notified vacancies as soon as possible and fill all those vacancies at the earliest. It will provide an earlier opportunity of employment to the unemployed youth of this country who are at least one crore in number.

I want to say one thing more that Government has prepared a national perspective plan for making reservations of posts for women. You have made provision for 30 percent political reservation in Panchayat and district elections. But I want that there should be reservation for women in the matter of the economic development. It is evident from the records of employment exchanges that only two percent of women have been provided employment. It is very shocking that even when there is a provision of equal rights for the womenfolk in this country, then why they are not given equal opportunities in the services? Therefore, I want to request the Government to provide reservation for women in the services as they have already provided 30 percent political reservation for them so that ladies may also get an opportunity to work.

One thing I want to say about postal order which are required to be furnished along with the application for the post. Unemployed youth have to attach postal order with their applications which is a great burden on them. The Government have exempted scheduled caste and scheduled tribes from the fee but the general candidates have not been given this benefit. I want to make a particular mention of a fact that there are a large number of unemployed youth in our country who are not in a position to furnish postal orders even of the value of Rs. 25 and hence are deprived of an opportunity of sending their applications. It is a big obstacle for them. I want to request the Government that they should waive the

condition of postal orders for all categories of candidates, it would be a graceful gesture towards the youths to help them to get jobs.

The House is discussing the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Our Government is helping Bhopal Gas victims on humanitarian grounds and not for any political benefit. It is true that all help to be provided to Bhopal Gas victims, should certainly be provided by the Government. Along with this, I want to raise one more issue in the House. Earlier too, I had raised it in the House. The Government is aware of the fact that in Bihala region of my constituency, thousands of people have become paralytic due to their consumption of rapeseed oil. This oil they had obtained from the fair price shops. Due to this they are not in a position to do any work as they have become physically incapable. I also want to make a request to the Government in this House in this regard that they should take care of the thousands of people of Bihala, who have fallen victim to the rapeseed oil which they had purchased from the fair price shops. This is a great problem. In Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Messers Carbide, which is a foreign company, is involved but what is the reason that the people who have become paralysed because of this rapeseed oil in the country are not being given any amount as compensation by the government. In my view, they should also be given compensation. In my State, they have given Rs. 200 and 2 k.g. of rice to each individual for political gains but out of it one K.G. of rice is accounted to the party funds. This should not be done. Any Member who speaks about the Bhopal Gas tragedy in the House, should also make a mention of those thousands of people who have fallen victim in my area. They should also speak about giving compensation to them. I have great respect and high regards for Mr. Madhu Dandavate. I will also request Mr. Dandavate that he should raise this matter in the House. People who become paralysed after consuming edible oil supplied by the Government should be paid due compensation. (*Interruptions*). It is a human problem and not a political one.

The Central Government claims that

kerosene is available in the country in adequate quantities. I do not know what is the position in other states, but it is very shameful and a matter of great regret that the people in the State of West Bengal are facing acute hardship for kerosene. Every day people stand in queues right from 3 O'clock in the morning for kerosene. Why kerosene is so scarce? I have come to know that the Central Government has already allotted the quota to the State Government. The Food Minister of West Bengal has himself admitted it. We are at a loss why it does not reach the consumers. According to a Press report kerosene oil is being smuggled to Bangladesh bordering the State, clandestinely. This is why there is shortage of kerosene in the State. If at all any such instance of theft comes to the notice of the Government, it should pay due attention towards it so as to ensure that commodities are not smuggled out of the country. There is acute hardship with regard to availability of kerosene in the State of West Bengal. It seems one group is involved in this racket. The Government should pay attention in this direction. As such I request the Government to hold an enquiry into the matter so that the people do not face any hardship.

12.26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would like to say one more thing. The hon. President has stated in his address that the industrial growth has touched a new high in our country. It is a very good thing.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I will take only two minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken twenty one minutes yesterday. I have no objection to allow you, but your Party Members will not get sufficient time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, it is all right that the industrial growth has shown remarkable improvement but at the same time the Government should bring some change in the industrial policy so that regional imbalance could be removed. There are States where there is no industry at all whereas there are other States which get clearance for setting up a number of industries. One thing that I would like to say is that there is no industry at all in Tripura and new industries need to be set up in West Bengal so as to solve the unemployment problem. New industries should also be set up in Orissa and Bihar. The Government should also change its policy with regard to the sick industries. The Government says that it cannot revive the sick industries as it has to pay subsidy to revive them. But the Government will have to do something for those workers who are rendered jobless, who starve and who commit suicide in frustration. It is not that the Government is required to nationalize each and every industry. The Government should find out the reasons as to why the industries are being closed. Today a similar situation has been created in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamilnadu and Bihar as a result of which industries in these States will be closed. How can the industrial growth rise if this happens. Rather, this will not allow our industrial policy to become successful. I am of the view that the Government should set up a Review Committee as it relates to worker's problem. When an industry is closed the management does not face any problem, whereas, the workers face hardship. There is no one to look after them. They are thrown on the roads. I would, therefore, like to request you to set up a Review Committee which could go into this aspect.

One thing more. When we talk of regional imbalances, I would like to take this opportunity to say that the Government should adopt a uniform policy with regard to freight equalisation. In the absence of a

uniform policy on this count the States in the eastern region like Bihar, Orissa, Assam, West Bengal and Tripura are confronting a big problem. No industrialist wants to set up an industry in West Bengal because in the absence of a uniform policy, he does not get subsidy. I, therefore, request the Government to formulate a uniform policy with regard to freight equalisation.

Yesterday, I listened to the speeches of the hon. Members of opposition who were saying a lot of things against the Governor. A new Governor, Shri Rajeshwar, who used to be the Governor of Sikkim has assumed office in West Bengal. The State Government has condemned the posting of the new Governor. I fail to understand as to why the C.P.I. (M) is following a double standard. They say that Prof. Nurul Hasan, is a good Governor whereas for Shri Rajeshwar, they say that he is not good; he is an agent of the Government of India, because he was ex-Director of the Intelligence Bureau. I am at a loss to understand why the C.P.I. (M) is so much frightened of him. There is a saying in our area that aroma of good food satisfies the appetite to a great extent. The C.P.M. knows who is the Governor. They know that he has been ex-Director of the Intelligence Bureau. They also know that there has been lamp scandal, cement scandal and other scandals in the State. They are afraid because they fear that the cat may come out of the bag and they would be exposed. Sir, I want to say that though the Central Government has appointed the Governor but Governor's job is not a political one. (Interruptions)

Sir, the Governor's job is to look after the State and improve the conditions prevailing there. But I do not want to say much in this regard.

The Opposition parties have showered lot of abuses on the Congress. They said a lot of things against the Congress. They have said that the Congress cannot face elections, and it cannot come to power again. In this connection, I must say one thing, that Congress is as clean as the

Ganga. It carries good as well as bad things along with it. The Congress Party has always been part and parcel of this country, it is still there in the country and will continue to remain there. No other party can become a substitute to the Congress.

Sir, you may be aware that some time back, Shri N.T. Ramarao dissolved his Ministry following a leak in the Budget. After two three days, he constituted a new Ministry of his choice. Why does this thing happen? Some astrologer has told Shri Ramarao that one day he would become the Prime Minister. Same is true of Devi Lal. That Devi Lal who was not able to protect the life of a woman in this own household. There are many other contenders including Devi Lal for Prime Ministership. It is sad that the astrologer didn't say that none of them will become the Prime Minister. The astrologer did not say to which party the Prime Minister would belong. Only the Congress Party can provide a Prime Minister to the country and he can not belong to any opposition party.

I would like to submit one more point. The Sarkaria Commission has made its recommendations about the Centre-State relations. We will also discuss them in this august House. In this connection, I would like to point out one thing that if a State Government wants to say anything against the Central Government or the Central Government wants to say anything against any State, they should do so in the National Development Council. They can raise it there. But I would like to raise another issue here. In West Bengal, the Congress Party has a separate machinery and other parties also maintain their own machineries. But it is unfortunate that the Government machinery was utilised in the State to raise big hoardings against the Central Government. Wide publicity was given to the fact that the Central Government does not do anything for the State Government and it does not give anything to the State Government. These hoardings could have been displayed by a political party. But it is not appropriate for the State machinery to do so. I, therefore, request you to hold an enquiry into it. It is not

at all keeping with the spirit of the Constitution. It is unconstitutional and illegal. This should not happen because it will worsen the Centre-State relation.

I do not want to say much. At present no C.P.M. Member is present in the House. It is so because they were aware that this matter would be raised in the House. They do not listen to others. These days the C.P.M. is speaking against the C.P.I. The C.P.M. attacks the Forward Block and the R.S.P. as well. Even then they stay collectively and I, therefore, congratulate them for this quality. Earlier the party which had no identity of its own, is now levelling wild allegations against the Central Government. Recently, an All India Students Conference was held in the State on which crores of rupees were spent. Milk meant for children was diverted there and it was given illegal electric connections. Is it marxism or mendacity? In West Bengal, the State is not developing, rather it has been thrown to dogs. I, therefore, request the Central Government to pay attention to our State, set up industries, work towards its economic development and pay attention to youth. About West Bengal, Shri Gokhale used to say, "What Bengal does to-day, India does tomorrow." But what is happening under Jyoti Basu's regime. The party has grown bigger, but the people have been thrown on roads. They are dying. Please pay attention towards them. Only people belonging to the C.P.M. do not live in West Bengal. People belonging to the Congress also live there. We want that the State should progress and for this we need your assistance.

With this, I conclude.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE (Rajapur): Sir, if CPI (M) Members have run away, why she is harassing me unnecessarily?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She wants you also to go away.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by Shri V.N. Gadgil, thanking the President for the Address he has delivered to both Houses of Parliament.

Naturally, as usual, it is a fairly comprehensive survey of the performance of the Government during the last year and also indication of certain legislations and policies which the Government is going to undertake during the next year. As this is the last year of this Parliament and it is going to be the election year, it is but natural that not only the survey is taken for one year but attempt has been made to highlight the performance of this Government in the last four years also. Equally it is natural that the Opposition Members are not likely to concede any of the successes of the programmes of this Government, again because it is an election year.

There are several points which have been mentioned in this Address and it is the attempt of the hon. Members of the Opposition to belittle this Government or to say that the Government cannot take credit for all these performances. For example, as far as the world peace and disarmament is concerned, when we say the beginning was made by the Delhi Declaration, then many people are tempted to say that very little pressure has been brought by this Delhi Declaration on the big powers, which ultimately held negotiations as far as disarmament is concerned. I would like to submit that unless this pressure was built by Non-Aligned countries and the peace-loving forces in the world, such as India, and unless initiative was taken by India by way of Delhi Declaration, perhaps further progress in the disarmament negotiations would not have taken place. This is a fact and this has to be admitted. The pressure of democracy always make even the biggest powers to change their views and change their attitudes as far as the world problems as concerned. Many people are also saying that the visits of the Prime Minister to China and Pakistan have not achieved anything and

they ask what he has done. They say that China has not still agreed to solve the border problem, Pakistan is still claiming the territory of Siachen and asking India to withdraw from that and there is also a continuing threat of nuclear bomb from Pakistan and so on and so forth. Now, Sir, I would submit in this case that it is a welcome situation that democracy has been established in Pakistan and we should take full advantage of changing circumstances and to improve our relations. Relations and the contacts are not improved immediately. A beginning has to be made and therefore a right step has to be taken which will ultimately result to good relations and perhaps disappearance of the threats which Pakistan is holding towards India. Similarly, even though China has not still agreed to any solution on the border issue I would say that ice has been broken and perhaps a stage is set for further negotiations as far as these border problems are concerned.

Sir, in the internal problems, the achievements which this Government is claiming, there is also a criticism that no internal problem is also solved. Taken for example, Mizoram. They ask what is solved. But I would strongly submit that the Congress Party and this Government took the greatest risk even in handing over the power to Mr. Laldenga and ultimately in a democratic election, the power has come back to this party again. Now, the problem is not as it was before. Even Mr. Laldenga, as it is reported today, has said in a press conference which I quote:

"Mr. Laldenga, Mizo National Front leader, today emphatically declared before the national press that 'the question of going back to insurgency does not arise. He added, if we ever take up arms again, it will be for the defence of India.'"

He has further referred to his declaration about going to jungle and he had said.

"Expressing his anguish at some press reports and rumours that in the event

of an electoral defeat he would go back to the jungles, he said that nobody should say that either in private or in public."

Therefore, Insurgency in Mizoram has been completely given up by these forces and I would ask whether it is a mean achievement of this Government and those who are saying that nothing has been achieved are putting curtain on their eyes not to see the real facts as far as this is concerned.

Now, Gorkhaland question is also practically solved. Hill Councils have been established and normal life is returning in that territory as far as those agitations are concerned. Of course, Punjab solution is not in sight. But there the problems are stupendous and most of the Opposition parties also have not brought any solution to offer as far as this is concerned. But a very significant fact is that even the Governor of that State has been going round from village to village and creating confidence among the people and the villagers so that ultimately a solution will come out and terrorism in that State will also be wiped out.

Now, as far as Sri Lanka is concerned, there also we cannot belittle the performance of the I.P.K.F. Now, this Force has been able to see that elections were held peacefully, even parliamentary elections, President's elections and elections to the Provincial Government and the North Eastern Provinces have been held and they have been established. They have a democratic set up there and therefore the problem has been practically solved as far as Sri Lanka is concerned.

One of the Ministers of Sri Lanka has said today, and I quote from the *Times of India* of today as follows:

"The Sri Lankan Minister of State for Defence, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, has said, the Indian Peace Keeping Force will leave the island only when the President, Mr. R. Premadasa, is satisfied that the provincial government in

the north-eastern province is able to build up its own police force."

Therefore, they have got also full confidence in the performance of this IPKF and till the whole thing is completely brought to normal we shall have to perform our duty as far as Sri Lanka is concerned.

So, consider all these performances and the progress as far as the last four years are concerned, and then we will have to admit that even this Force has also done its duty properly.

On the economic front, of course, due to the successive poor monsoons of four years drought situation had arisen and the Government has had great difficulty in going ahead as far as the economic progress is concerned. But even then industrial sector maintained its upward trend and registered a growth rate of 7.7 percent. Then, infrastructural sectors have performed well, particularly thermal electricity generation, railway movement and coal production.

We must compare all these performances with the performances made during the similar drought situations. But I may say that similar drought situation never existed. This was the worst situation which this country had faced. But a little similar situation arose during the time of Janata regime previously also and we will have to compare the performance of that Government with the performance of this Government.

About the Panchayati Raj system, the Prime Minister and this Government are very much serious in establishing it and therefore, steps are being taken. The President has also stated here that revamping of Panchayati Raj institutions and recasting all their powers and functions is a major priority of the Government and the Government intends to bring forward a major legislative programme to devolve power to the people. I do not know how any political party can oppose this move when the power is to devolve to the grassroot of the people. Nobody can oppose this move. It is an irony

[Sh. Sharad Dighe]

of situation for the State Governments to say that the Central Government would interfere if this legislation is passed. How can it be? It is a federal Government and if you establish Panchayati Raj it will go under the State Governments and therefore, there is no possibility of Central Government interfering at all. The Central Government is making its efforts to strengthen this, to establish this Panchayati Raj system in this country so that the grassroot democracy is established everywhere and there is response from the people, there is planning from the grassroot and it comes to the top level of this country. It is a very healthy sign and it will be a great achievement as far as democracy of this country is concerned if Panchayati Raj system is successfully established and this fear of the State Governments is dispelled. Their power cannot be decreased at all because this goes to the root of the people. If you are opposed to devolving power to the last man in this country, then that is a different matter. Otherwise, every wise person and every political party should welcome this move of the Central Government and support it as far as this is concerned.

Now, I would like to mention two or three things as far as this Presidential Address is concerned, where a little dissatisfaction is there in my mind. Firstly, as far as housing is concerned, a statement has been made here on page 9 that the National Housing Policy has been passed in Parliament. I think, it is an incorrect statement. The national housing policy was discussed in the Upper House but not in this House. It has not been passed in this House. Last time, it was in the list of business but ultimately it did not reach. Therefore, that incorrect statement will have to be corrected. I urge upon the Government to pay more attention to this housing problem. Apart from bread and cloth, the housing should have the greatest priority. We have established a national bank for housing with a fixed capital of Rs. 5 crores. But, I think, the progress in this direction is at the snail's pace. Very prompt and active measures are to be taken to solve

the housing problem in this country, both in urban and rural areas. Now that the national commission on urbanisation has also given its report, the Government will have to take prompt action in considering and accepting those recommendations. A mention has been made in the President's Address that those recommendations are under examination. I would urge upon the Government to take very prompt steps as urbanisation is becoming a great problem and more and more cities are being established. We are facing more and more problems as far as urbanisation of this country is concerned. Therefore, prompt action will have to be taken with respect to those recommendations of this commission.

As far as prices are concerned, the situation is very bad, particularly in the cities. Consumer prices are rising as far as essential commodities are concerned to such an extent that every common citizen, particularly in cities is very much harassed and worried about the rising prices. As a result of this, public distribution system has also collapsed. I may point out here that because of the drastic reduction in the quota of rice and wheat to the States, particularly to Maharashtra, the ration shops in the city of Bombay are facing a great problem and people are not even getting proper ration. They are being harassed; they have to stand in the long queue. I think, that is the position in Delhi also. In urban cities, people are suffering very much due to price rise and due to the shortage of essential commodities such as rice and wheat.

I am sorry to point out that there is no mention in the President's Address regarding labour unrest and unemployment. There is large unemployment which has arisen, particularly due to the implementation of the textile policy. As far as Bombay is concerned, mills after mills are closed and the Government is not taking any steps to prevent the closure of textile mills with the result, every day we are adding so many number to the unemployed labourers in this country, particularly in a city like Bombay. Therefore, again I would urge upon the Government to

review the textile policy and review the boards which are considering viability and non-viability of companies and to take action against the erring Directors or giving funds to the mills for modernisation. All these policies will have to be reviewed because the present policies are resulting in closure of textile mills, resulting in vast unemployment, as far as this country is concerned.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to look into this matter and take very drastic steps as far as labour unemployment is concerned. Labour unrest is there because of the new index base of 1982. A lot of dearness allowance is being lost by a number of labourers as far as this dearness allowance is concerned because the linkage is defective and all the Trade Union have protested against this new linkage, the new Index policy. Therefore, Government may immediately take steps so that crores of rupees which are lost by the workers in terms of dearness allowance can be paid to them and justice will be rendered to them. When the prices are already rising, they are getting less and less dearness allowance. That is the irony of the situation. That may have to be corrected. I hope the Government will look to these urgent problems also.

With these words, I support this Motion of Thanks to the President for delivering his Address.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the president's Address is a document which reflects the state of affairs of the nation and it projects the steps that the Government proposes to undertake in the coming year to meet the challenges that it faces. It is quite natural that in the Address, like any other document, the Government will play down its failures and inflate its success. It is more natural, as my friend who preceded me, Shri Sharad Dighe, has said, that in an election year of confrontation, the Government will try to project everything as rosy and the Opposition to some extent will try to highlight the failures of the Government. This is natural out come of the democratic process, which

we must accept. But unfortunately I find that this address by the President is greatly divorced from the reality. It is almost a fictional work. Except for platitudinous recitals, I don't find really the problems being discussed threadbare or any remedies being suggested.

Sir, in the Presidential Address it has been stated that the economy has done exceedingly well, the performance is exceptional, success in almost all fronts are unparalleled there are positive growth and the growth rate achieved is commendable. But may I ask why in spite of all these that the prices are rising? Not only the Members of the Opposition but also the Members of the Ruling Party without exception are making this point that today if there is one issue which is causing some disquiet in this country, it is the issue of inflation. In fact I once told that if the wives of the hon. Members would have had the right to remain present in the House and vote, then the Government would have fallen because no house-wife today will support the Government in the present state of inflationary spiral. Why is it that in spite of all the positive developments where we have greater progress in the fields of industry, agriculture where there has been greater output of food, the balance of payment position is deteriorating? In fact I had a question today regarding this and the hon. Minister in-charge of Finance have had to admit that the foreign exchange reserve has come down by 5044 crores on January 13, this year, which is less by Rs. 832 crores and the decline is 12.5 per cent which is a perceptible decline. Why is it that in spite of all these achievements a person no less than the Chairman of the Finance Commission who happens to be a Member of the Ruling Party, who happens to be a Member of the Upper House, had to caution the Government that the Centre has entered into a danger zone in its resource position and this can lead to a severe crisis and a grinding halt. I don't find in the President's Address any mention, any reference to these aspects. The President's Address virtually deals with the problem of inflation and unemployments by one sentence. As far as the

[Sh. Dinesh Goswami]

question of inflation is concerned, the President's Address doesn't in any way deal with the question nor of the very acute resource position of this country. It is a fact that both in terms of domestic borrowing and our international borrowing, we are almost crossing the danger signal. Whatever we borrow, we have to use it to pay back the interest. Why is it that the unproductive expenditure is growing every year? In spite of every year's President's Address except this one recital by the hon. President's that this unproductive expenditure will be cut down no real effort has been made in this direction. Why is it that in spite of the fact that there has been increase on the agricultural and industrial fronts, unemployment is growing?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can continue after Lunch. We will adjourn for Lunch and re-assemble at 2.00 PM.

13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at seven minutes past fourteen of the
clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dinesh Goswami may continue with his speech.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati)
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just before lunch I was pointing out that the presidential Address though it reflects the state of affairs of the nation has been more or less a fictional

document. The President quite naturally in this election year will magnify the successes of the government and will under-play its failures. But there should be some relationship with the reality.

It has been sought to be emphasised that on the economic front there has been a bloom; that the problems in the country on the political front have been solved but I ask myself and I ask the ruling party why is it that inspite of 3.6 per cent growth on the economic front the prices are rising. There has been an adverse position in the balance of payment to the extent of 12.5 per cent if I compare the corresponding figure of January 1988 with January 1989. Even a person like Mr. N.K.P. Salve, Chairman of the Finance Commission, a member of the ruling party has warned the Central Government about its resource position stating that the resource position of the Central Government is in dangerous zone. Unemployment is mounting in the country. Unproductive expenditure is increasing and in the Presidential Address one does not find a solution to this problem. Even the president's Address has not been drafted with care because I find two serious mistakes there. One has been pointed out by Shri Sharad Dighe that the President in para 30 has stated that the National Housing Policy has been passed by Parliament. Not to speak of its being passed by Parliament, if I am correct, the National Housing Policy has not even been considered by Lok Sabha.

In paragraph 4, the President has said: "As we enter the final year of this Parliament..." The hon. President should have remembered that the Parliament consists of himself, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. And this is not the final year of the Parliament. This is the final year of the Lok Sabha only. I hope that the President will not translate into action the statement that this is the final year of the Parliament itself. These are not very light omissions. This only shows that the draftsmen who have drafted the President's Address have thought that after all this is not a document which should be carefully drafted.

Then, I ask myself: why in spite of all these achievements in the political and in the economic fields, the Congress Party is losing the elections and losing the popular support? Will, this is a question to which they shall have to apply their own minds.

The Government has said that they are determined to fight terrorism. But it is my charge and which I make with responsibility that the Government has encouraged terrorism for petty political ends.

We are facing a problem of the Bodo population. We know that the tribals not only in Assam but all over India have tremendous problems, problems which have accumulated over the years during the Imperial regime and which in the last 40 years we have not been able to solve. It is not that the AGP Government has created this problem in the three years. These are accumulated problems and the problems need to be solved with consideration and with care. They have 92 demands. But we have made it a point that they are not prepared to discuss one demand, that is the creation of a Union Territory or State within Assam. Assam has been fragmented times without number and we cannot fragment it further. Even the Bodos do not have a viable territory because even in the area of Kokrajhar, where the movement is in its highest momentum, the Bodo population is less than 27 per cent. But we are prepared to discuss and infact there has been discussions on other problems. So, suddenly we find that they have given up 89 demands out of the 92 demands. They have said, "we will concentrate only on three demands." A decision has been taken on 24th December at a convention that the movement leaders will only take up 3 demands. The demand, from a Union Territory, has been changed to a demand for a State. I ask myself and I ask the Government: Why? Now, one of the important leaders of this movement, Sonaram Burglary, Chief of the Bodo Volunteer Force has been arrested. He has made a statement during interrogation that the Union Home Minister whom he met...*(Interruptions)* He has stated that the

Government of India is not going to consider any further Union Territory. And if you want interference of Government of India, then you must now concentrate on the demand for a separate State because then the Central Government can interfere and will interfere. *(Interruptions)* My good friend, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, is here. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order Please.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): Are you asking for order here by the Government of India?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, Don't interfere.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: My good friend, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, with whom I have the best personal friendship, is here. I am not one who finds pleasure in making a personal allegation. I do not make it. But the fact remains that the Secretary of the All-Cachhar and Karimganj Students Association, who has criticised us bitterly today the AGP Government, has made a statement publicly that Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev in a meeting between the tribals and himself encouraged the tribals to go for violence so that there can be interference in Assam. *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, it is not true. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Mr. Samar Brahma Choudhury, who is not kindly disposed towards on this issue a Member of Parliament from the Plains Tribal Council of Assam, who has been extremely critical of us, with all his responsibility has made the complaint that Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev has encouraged the Bodos to go for violence.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: No, Sir.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: It is not for you to reply. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DINESH GOSWAMI: Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev will have all opportunity to meet this point.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): On a point of order. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is raising a point of order. Order please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Only yesterday, the Home Ministry has issued a Press note denying this wild allegation against Shri Buta Singh. I myself, in the Press Conference in Assam, challenged the Assam Government to put forward the allegation made against me and I gave 15 days time. But nothing has come. Now, Mr. Goswami has brought forward certain allegations. I would request him to substantiate it and give it. And you can take any action from your side to get it inquired but such a wild allegation proves the bankrupt political thinking of the AGP Government. He does not know how to come up with it.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I have not made the allegation. The allegation is made by the Secretary of the Assam Cachhar Karim Ganj Students Association. I now demand Shri Santosh Mohan Dev to take action and arrest that young man for making false allegation. I challenge Shri Santosh Mohan Dev that if he has the courage to do so, for making this wild allegation against such an important Minister, let him arrest him.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is a federal pattern of State. The Chief Minister

should arrest him.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I will put forth whatever has come out in the interrogation and I will ask your permission to deal with it in the House. After all the statements have not been made by our friends—they are critical of us day in and day out. Who can just forget that there was violence in Tripura by TNV just before the election and the moment congress (I) has come to power, TNV has disappeared from the scene? Let us not forget it. You can encourage violence but Assam is not going to have the last say. Tomorrow it will be Jharkhand and day after tomorrow it will be Uttarkhand. If this problem of tribal unrest is not dealt with concerted efforts from both the ruling party and the Opposition, we will be facing a situation which will be extremely difficult to tackle. It will be more difficult and dangerous than even Punjab.

The Prime Minister has stated that north-eastern region has come to the national mainstream. May I ask this from the hon. President and the Prime Minister. They have talked about drought. But what about floods? Was there not a problem of floods? Unprecedented floods of the highest dimension were experienced in the State. People of Assam had to suffer the ravages of floods. Rs. 740 crores were lost. In the President's Address, there has not been a mention of it, not even a word about it. If I complain today that this Government and the Prime Minister and the President do not bother at all about the north-eastern region, what answer can they give me? He has stated that the north-eastern region has come to the national mainstream. We demand certain amounts. We were told to give accounts. When we had a loss of Rs. 740 crores, we were given Rs. 20 crores and in instalments, we got Rs. 62 crores. The Prime Minister went to Jammu and Kashmir inspite of the fact that the flood was of a very short duration. He said: 'I give Rs. 51 crores' and to Punjab he gave Rs. 100 crores. I do not mind his giving Rs. 100 crores and more but I would like to question him as to on what basis and from what resources he can give this amount.

There are two sources from where money flows. One is the Planning Commission and the other is the Finance Commission. What is his personal source? We strongly condemn that today this Government is playing politics with human misery.

The Government has said about Panchayat Raj. We do not mind devolution of power. We accept it and we welcome it. But before you go to panchayats, you should see that the states do get power because the Constitution envisages the three-tier system, the Centre the State, and thereafter the local bodies. Today the attempt of the Central Government has been to over-ride the States and that has been apparent from the appointment of the Governors. What has been done in two States. There is friction between the Governor and the Chief Minister, the Governor is not changed. But there is a State where there is harmonious relationship between the Governor and the Chief Minister which is West Bengal. The Governor is shifted which I take as unconstitutional and a man of the Intelligence Bureau has been put in charge as the Governor of West Bengal.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You are afraid.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I am not afraid. This House is considering the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations. The Sarkaria Commission have made specific proposals regarding appointment of the Governors. All these recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission regarding appointment of the Governors have been thrown overboard by this Government. That only shows that the Sarkaria Commission report has been given a descent burial by this Government even before this has been considered. And that is why we are apprehensive that in the name of the devolution of power to the Panchayats, the Central Government is trying today to control the States from here at Delhi by over-riding the States. That is why we have objected to the constant meetings of the IAS and IPS officers with the Prime Minister. A message has also gone

from here that these officers are not to bother about the state Government as they were under the control of the Centre; they should take steps so that the opposition-ruled States ultimately come under the Central purview.

I would submit that there is dichotomy between what the Government preaches and what it practises. The President's Address is a fictional work which the country is not going to take seriously. Even the House has not taken it seriously. I was waiting from 2.00 to 2.10 p.m. ; the quorum bell was ringing and ringing and the ruling party members, who have greater responsibility to maintain the quorum were not present in adequate numbers to constitute the quorum. This is the seriousness with which the President's Address has been accepted even by the ruling party Members. As it is customary that we must thank the President, we support the Motion of Thanks, but with all these reservations that I have expressed.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The President has vividly stated about the performance and achievements of the Government and the action going to be taken in the area of implementation of poverty alleviation programme and other schemes to eradicate unemployment.

This Government has full faith in the youth force and that is the reason why the voting age was reduced to 18. A number of steps have been taken to protect the interest of the weaker section. The country is on a growth path despite serious and unprecedented drought and flood. There is growth in the industry sector, agriculture, production, export and the public sector performance has also improved.

A successful dialogue of our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi with Chinese and Pakistani leaders has reduced the tension with our neighbouring countries, specially with regard to the border issues.

[Sh. Somnath Rath]

A proper stress has been laid on science and technology, which has shown good results in the field of development. The balance of trade and import require attention.

Shri Madhav Reddi stated that the President had not mentioned about the areas where the Government should be cautious. The President has certainly made a mention of page, para 28:

"We need to be very vigilant about the balance of payments...Imports have to be carefully monitored with the emphasis on efficient import substitution wherever feasible."

The President has, therefore, mentioned about the areas where the Government should take active steps and those areas are balance of payment and the need to reduce import.

In other areas, foreign affairs and internal affairs also, the President's Address is very clear. The President has stated the achievements that were going to be made by the Government and the steps that are going to be taken by the Government.

In spite of signs of improvement of relations with Pakistan, the acquisition of technology and material by Pakistan to manufacture nuclear weapons is a matter of concern for us. The non-alignment policy of India has always been to reduce the tension in the world and to maintain peace, stop violence and put an end to nuclear warfare.

Steps have been taken to delink politics from religion as stated by the President. But what is needed is that we should delink politics from crime. In many States, MLAs and other leaders have been murdered. This is an important factor which requires consideration.

In India, the political scenario is very clear. The divergent theory came to the

forefront after the formation of the National Front and the Janta Dal. The Leftist parties are treating the Rightist parties as untouchables. There is no common programme and ideology among the opposition parties and there cannot be at any time. No other political party in India today is able to offer a viable alternative to rule the country; it is only the Congress Party which is in a position to rule the country in right perspective and lead the country. Today, it has come in the newspapers that the Janta Dal leader, Shri V.P. Singh has stated that the States will make adjustments at the time of elections. It is very clear that there is no policy as far as the national level is concerned. They want to get to power somehow or the other in the States as also at the Centre. There is no ideology, no programme. Their only aim is that Shri Rajiv Gandhi should go from the Centre and in the States they should get power by muscle power, casteism or by any other means.

One thing about which the Government should take a note of is that there exist serious lapses between the policy making and its implementation which requires serious immediate attention and the loopholes are to be plugged. More stress is to be given about proper management. The middleman is exploiting the poor people through the poverty alleviation schemes while implementing. Our Prime Minister has also stated that to see that one rupee reaches to the beneficiaries, six rupees are to be spent by way of administration.

The Prime Minister has given thrust on the Commend area Development. In the Ganjam district Orissa though Rushikulya Commed Area Development project is an on-going project, at the Central level it has been stated that it is a new project and it is not being implemented. I would suggest the Finance Minister and also the Planning Commission that Rushikulya Commed Area Development Scheme in Ganjam district, in Orissa, should be implemented in the 8th Five Year Plan.

Stress has been given about the

Kisans. During the discussion on the Direct Tax (Amendment) Bill, yesterday and day before yesterday, the Finance Minister has stated as regards Income tax on agricultural income. Agriculture is the State subject and it has to be decided by the State Government. Therefore, the matter should be taken at the State Government level. The income tax is not decided at the State level and it is the agriculture tax that is decided at that level. The income tax if at all to be levied on agriculturists is levied at the Central level only. The agricultural tax is levied at the State level.

Our marginal and nominal cultivators have worked very hard. The agriculturists have produced to such an extent that we are almost self sufficient. The Planning Commission has stated that after the turn of century we will require 240 million tonnes of foodgrains but now our production is about 160 to 170 million tonnes. So, it will be a Herculean task for us to reach to this target. As such, at this juncture, income tax should not be levied on the agriculturists. When the agriculturists require encouragement, we should not discourage them by charging income tax. I suggest the Finance Minister to think about this when the Budget will be placed before the House on 28th of this month.

Mr. Goswami has referred that the President's Address was not written correctly when it said about entering the final year of Parliament. It is correct in the sense that this is the last year of the term of the Lok Sabha, and he was addressing both the Houses. So, certainly this is the last year for addressing both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha as the term of this Lok Sabha will expire this year. So, much ado should not be made out of nothing.

Stress has been given about the distribution system. I would request the Government to see that this distribution system is run through the cooperatives and not by individual, as it is done now.

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH (Ba-

rasat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Before I dwell upon that, I would like to say a few words.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Bill is being rung. Now, there is quorum. Shri Ghosh may continue.

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH: Before I go into the President's speech, I would like to say a few words on what Shri Goswami has stated here. I would like to tell Shri Goswami that he should carry the impression that all of us belonging to the Congress Party have the greatest love, affection and admiration for the State and people of Assam. It is not correct to say that the Union government has taken a different stand on the question of floods and drought.

I had the opportunity to accompany Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi when he visited Assam during the floods. I had seen with my own eyes and heard with my own ears how Prime Minister was deeply affected by seeing the people of Assam badly affected because of the floods. You may criticise Shri Rajiv Gandhi on other matters, but not on this count. The way he fought the floods and drought and the manner in which he went almost everywhere to stand by the people in distress to redress their suffering is almost unprecedented. I have seen Indiraji. There is no doubt about it that she was a great leader. I also had an opportunity to see Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a great leader of the world. Even then, I would like to say that I have never seen any Prime Minister doing as much as Shri Rajiv Gandhi has done during the worst drought that India had to face during the last 50 years.

Now, I come to Panchayat Raj. I cannot understand the apprehensions of Shri Goswami. The Prime Minister wants to see that real power goes to the people in the villages and not to the State Capitals, to the Chief Ministers and obviously not to the

[Sh. Tarun Kanti Ghosh]

Prime Minister. What is wrong in this? He wants that the Panchayats should be dealt with by the people of the village. What is your objection to it?

Now, I would like to say a few words about the Governors. Shri Nurul Hasan was a very respected Governor in West Bengal. He will be a very respected Governor in Orissa also. I really do not understand why you are afraid of any change of Governors. There should not be any apprehensions in this regard. Uptill now, nothing has been done to disturb any of the Opposition-ruled States.

I do not want to go into this question any further. But I would like to repeat one thing. Shri Goswami knows me personally. I consider him as my own younger brother. The entire Congress (I) all the members in Congress(I) have the greatest love and respect for Assam which is a wonderful State with wonderful people. We want nothing but progress and prosperity for the people of Assam along with the people of whole of India.

Sir, I want to thank the President. He has uttered two very beautiful lines in his speech:

"We shall eradicate poverty and banish unemployment."

"We shall persist and persevere till terrorism is rooted out."

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to tell my friends here through you that unemployment is the biggest problem in India today and in particular among the educated youth. If we cannot solve this problem, the future of the country cannot be as bright as we want it to be. This line will certainly create a wave among the youth and they will feel assured that Government of India is determined to do something for them.

That is why, in this connection I would

like to make a request to our Prime Minister. There are several very important ministers present here. Our Finance Minister, Parliamentary affairs Minister and the Labour Minister are here. I would like to request the Prime Minister that a line "Right to work and responsibility" be put in our Constitution. There are more than 70 democratic countries in the world, including even in the West, having this sentence in their Constitutions, Everybody has a right to work. If we insert this line into our Constitution, the youth of our country will feel assured that the Government means what it says. It proves that the Government wants to do it. So, this is my humble request to our prime Minister and to the Ministry. Let our Constitution be changed and let this line 'Right to work for everyone in this country' be put into it. As a matter of fact 30 per cent reservation for one category and 20 per cent reservation for another category will evaporate if everybody knows that everybody is going to get job. These reservations will only divide our country and it will not unite our country. But as long as there are weaker sections or as long as there are sections which are deprived of their lawful rights, these reservations will only help them. That is why I would suggest that let there be a call that everybody will be employed and for that you should take steps from now on.

You see how Punjab is suffering from terrorism. It is a most wonderful state. I would say, it is not Punjab which is suffering but it is whole of India which is suffering. If we can really eradicate terrorism from our country, then that would be the biggest day for us. I would like to remind the opposition who have been criticising our Prime Minister that—this is the fifth year of his Prime Ministership, this is the fifth Budget which his finance Minister is going to present, it is a matter of record that under his leadership we have achieved an unprecedented growth in industry and in agriculture which was never there in the past. Even during the drought year, India's growth rate was 3.5 per cent and the average growth of industry has achieved more than nine per cent which is more than that of America, Germany, Eng-

land and Japan. This we should all remember. Rather I would say, as Indians we should be proud of the achievements. We have a wonderful Prime Minister. I have got complete confidence in his leadership. I am quite sure that in the manner in which we are trying to boost our industry and agriculture, one day India is going to be one of the four major powers in the world. There is no doubt about it. America, China, Russia and India will be commanding the world scenario within another 20 or 25 years. I may not be here. But many of you will be here. At least our Indian people will be here to see that we have achieved that goal. We are going towards that goal very strongly.

In addition to abolishing poverty, unemployment and terrorism, I would also request the Government that we should try to fight out communalism. Is so unfortunate that in our country even after 40 years of independence, sometimes we see or hear about communalism. That should be completely rooted out. There is no doubt that Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and such other people are still very backward. We have to bring them up so that they can march along with the rest of the country for achieving a goal for better India and better future.

I would also like to say here that the development that has taken place in our country is not equal in every region. I am proud of Maharashtra. It has gone ahead very well. I am proud of Gujarat. It is also going ahead. But do you know about U.P. and about the entire Eastern India? They are running behind. I am not only an MP from Bengal but I am an MP from India. When I see the unfortunate conditions of U.P., Bihar, west Bengal, Orissa, Assam, and other North-Eastern States, I feel very unhappy. I feel very sorry. What I want to say is that when development is taking place in one part of the country, it should also take place in each and every part of the country, so that we can march together. I do not want to take more time but I want to say that India is the first developing country which has achieved food production to the extent where we have not only solved food deficien-

cies but also we are in a position to export food. No other developing country in the world has achieved this within such a short period of time. Thanks to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and to the farmers of our country who have made it possible.

But, at the same time, foodgrains production is not the only thing, we have to see that the agriculturists get the required help that they want to increase the production; and they can do it; I am sure about it, if the banks are more liberal towards them, if the government helps them in time, I am sure, we can raise our foodgrains production much more.

As a matter of fact, during drought, the price increase was not there, because we had so much stock of foodgrains in our country; and we can keep excess stock of foodgrains all the time if we increase our foodgrains production.

In this context, I would like to say that we should improve or scientific education, education on technology in future. Until and unless we make a big thrust on that side, India will lag behind. As a matter of fact, today, India does not lag behind in population, in brain, in technology and in know-how. But in future if we do not go ahead in improving our technology, scientific knowledge and education in other fields, then we shall be lagging behind. So, I request the government through you to lay more stress on this subject.

Anyway, I do not want to take more time of the House. I would like to thank the President for his wonderful Address, particularly the way in which he has asked us to reach our goal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President Address moved by the hon. Member, Shri Gadgil.

[Sh. Kali Prasad Pandey]

65 per cent population of our country which lives in villages cannot raise its demands or meet a leader to express its grievances because of poverty. In his Address, hon. President has emphasised the need of strengthening the Panchayat raj system for which he deserves to be thanked.

Some hon. Members have referred to the foreign policy of India. Shri Dinkar has said that:

Prem nahin kartawya marg se nar ko kabhi girata hai.

Prem sudha peekar hi manav, sheesh daan kar jata hai.

What I mean to say is that we are confronted with the problems with China since long time; we are having no trade relations. If the Government held talks with China to improve relations with her, or visited Pakistan and held talks with the democratically elected Government's Prime Minister, Shri-mati Benajir Bhutto, or if we foiled the coup attempt in Maldives by sending forces there, then all this goes to prove that the Government is sincerely following its policy and will assist every country accordingly. If hostile relations with China had continued and the Government had not held any talks with her, then it was not possible to find out a solution by sitting at home only. No problem is ever solved by merely raising it in the House. The Government has taken steps in the direction of improving relations. You may agree or not, the masses of the country realise that it was essential in the interest of both the countries to establish relations with China.

Similarly, you will find that in President's address concern has been expressed on the increasing extremism in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. I hail from Bihar and I know the conditions prevailing there. As regards Bihar, I can say that so long as unemployment problem is there, extremism will go on increasing.

Today, the conditions in Bihar are not

good. Take any district, you will find indiscipline and lawlessness every where. Just now an hon. Member said that the Government's industrial policy will not succeed unless the Government assure work to every land. Unless job is given to every individual, there cannot be any solution to problem of extremism whether it is Punjab or Bihar. We cannot solve these problems by sitting here in the House. Therefore, it is essential that the backward States should be uplifted by taking assistance from the World Bank or some other banks.

Sir, in the 31st point of his address, hon. President has mentioned that considerable improvement has been made this year in the implementation of the National Education Policy. In the country, 40 per cent blocks have already been covered under Operation Black Board. By covering only 40 per cent blocks under this programme in a country with such a large population we cannot bring radical changes in education. In President's Address a mention has also been made about the Navodaya Vidyalayas. I would like to say something about my district in this regard. constituency is Gopalganj in Bihar, which is adjacent to Nepal border. The people of my constituency demanded that a Navodaya Vidyalaya should be started there and the people in Meerganj region wilfully donated 30 acres of land for the purpose. If Navodaya Vidyalayas are not opened there, what will be the relevance of the Education Policy? The Government should open Navodaya Vidyalayas there in order to encourage the people there.

Sir, my submission is that if the teachers who are to teach under this new Education Policy are asked about teaching under this policy, you will be surprised to know that most of them are ignorant about it. They do not know as to what is to be taught. When the Government introduced this new Education Policy in the House and passed it here, it should also certainly make provision to impart training properly. How can the teachers teach the students unless they themselves know what to teach and how to teach.

Sir, I expected that the hon. President will surely mention the condition of schools in his Address but to my utter disappointment nothing has been said in this regard. Today, the condition whether it is Bihar or Uttar Pradesh is such that there are no proper school's buildings there. If the buildings are there, they do not have the roofs and if the roofs are there, then proper windows and doors, are missing. Unless, we improve our basic education, we cannot improve the educational standard in our country. Shri Rajesh Pilot had made an announcement in the House about the national highway in connection with transport and I was very happy to learn it. The same way, for improvement and growth of education in the country, it is essential for the Government to take steps to improve the condition of the middle lower and upper primary schools. Unless we do it, the new Education Policy cannot prove a success, no matter how much assurance we give to the people about it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is right that population is increasing but keeping the increasing population in view the Government should encourage the small-scale and large-scale industries so that our educated unemployed youth, who are termed as extremists, may get employment there.

You will find that in the President's Address, a mention has been made about reducing the voting age from 21 to 18 years. It was demanded both by the Members of the Ruling Party as well as of the Opposition.

Today, the members of every party, may be out of the selfish motive of getting votes, request the youths to help them. The same youth in India was deprived of his right to vote since ages. We thank the Government and the hon. President for having reduced the voting age to 18 years. Now the youths of India will be able to exercise their franchise.

The constituency from where I come is adjacent to the Nepal. The area laying across the river of my constituency is repre-

sented by Shri Manoj Pandey and the area adjacent to my constituency is represented by Shri Ghafoor. We find that due to embankment erosion of Burhi Gandak river more than half of the population is affected. I would first of all request the Government that they should release the flood relief fund at the right time and give directions to every state that the amount should be spent on flood controlling measures and to ensure that the area has been protected against the possible flood disaster.

As regards, my own constituency-Gopalganj, I would like to request the Government that Gopalganj-Siwan, Eastern and Western Champaran areas of the State are dacoit-infested. Champaran itself was the place where Gandhiji had started his disobedience movement against the Britishers. What I want to say is that there is no industry worth the name in any of the blocks of these districts. I would, in this background, like to request that steps should be taken to set up industries in the districts where there are no industries. This will certainly divert our youths, who are now indulging in extremist activities, to other fields and they will then surely get busy in the development of the nation.

With these words, I welcome the President's Address.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks moved on the President's Address in the House. I am supporting it because the direction given to the country in the policy document is conducive to the prevailing situation.

The current year is being celebrated as the Jawaharlal Nehru centenary year. So, I thank that this Nehru Centenary Year should be a symbol of socio-economic revolution and a campaign should be launched against communalism which we still harbour in some corners of our minds. It is unfortunate that in spite of the 40 years of Independence, we have not been able to create our identity as Indians. At some places, our identity is

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based on community, at some places it is on religion and at other places, it is based on language and region. This is a wound which will cause immense harm to our democracy.

15.00 hrs.

The fundamental principles of this country are democracy secularism, socialism and non-alignment. We have adopted them in principle but we have not been able to put them into practice. I do not understand as to whom should we narrate our tale of woe.

I have a great regard for my colleague, hon. Prof. Madhu Dandavate. Shri Devi Lal who works with him has said in many public meetings that the "Janata Dal" which has emerged as a national alternative is a party of the "Ajgar;" In this term, 'A' stands for Ahirs, 'J' for Jat, 'G' for Gujars and 'R' for Rajputs. Today the people who envisage their party to the national alternative want to run the country on casteist lines. I want to know from them as to what will be the fate of those people who have adopted socialism and have advocated that religion should be separated from politics. Although our Hon. President has hinted towards the separation of religion from politics, it is regretful that the opposition wants the politics of this country to be based on religion and community. We should all condemn it. Persons like Prof. Madhu Dandavate keep silent even after hearing such things. In this context, I am reminded of the episode about the insult of Draupadi in 'Mahabharat'. When Draupadi was being insulted, Dronacharya and Bhishma Pitamaha were present on the scene. They pleaded to the people to protect her. But they replied that they could not speak against Duryodhana—their benefactor. In a situation where democracy is being slaughtered, persons like Prof. Madhu Dandavate who are the 'Dronacharyas' of the Opposition are not protesting. I think that is very wrong.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Ra-

japur): Do not worry, no one is going to touch Draupadi.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: I am equating Democracy with Draupadi. I want to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 years. The youth alone can bring change in this country whether in the social or the economic sphere. Our young people have played an important role in every sphere.

I want to submit that there are still some areas in the country where booths are captured even after 40 years of Independence, there are areas where people have not seen the ballot papers. Sir, booths are captured and people belonging to the weaker sections are prevented from reaching the polling booths. We have seen such cases in Haryana and other States. People have themselves come to us complaining that they have not seen the ballot paper. Our achievement after 40 years of Independence is that people have not seen even the ballot papers. Various measures have been taken in this regard but I would suggest that if you truly want people belonging to the weaker sections to take decisions on their own, then polling booths should be set up in each Mohallah comprising 200-300 votes. Only then, I think that they can vote fearlessly and independently.

I hail from that region of Bihar, a mention of which has been made by the Hon. President in his Address. This is the area of Central Bihar. In his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Hon. Prime Minister too had expressed concern about the fact that Jahanabad, Gaya and Aurangabad have been declared as terrorist affected areas. So far I have not been able to understand as to why extremist elements are active in these 3-4 districts. The underlying reason is the lack of sensitive administration and maximum exploitation taking place in these areas. Due to the social exploitation and lack of sensitivity, extremism is spreading to every village. I think that the struggle there is on a social issue. The weaker sections have come together to protest

against social exploitation. They do not belong to any particular class or community. The Hon. President has himself mentioned this in his Address. In the last paragraph of his Address, the President has said and I quote: "Ahead of us lie exacting challenges and exciting opportunities. You are the repositories of the people's will. In you vests the responsibility of realising the people's dream. We are launched upon one of the greatest essays in social transformation ever undertaken in the history of humankind. The task is so great, and sometimes so daunting, that we are often overwhelmed by how much more needs to be done." Therefore, those poor people have not been able to liberate themselves, so far from the administration supported exploitation which is taking place there. Arrangements for the supply of drinking water have not been made, schools have not been opened and medical facilities have not been provided in their villages. The administration sets up not one but two schools in each village inhabited by the high castes. I want to request the Government to send a team to take stock of the situation there. Development work is undertaken on caste considerations. In the villages belonging to the upper castes, facilities like power supply, drinking water, schools and health centres have been provided but in Central Bihar, neither schools have been opened nor drinking water facilities have been provided in the villages inhabited by the weaker sections. Under such circumstances, the poor man is caught in a dilemma as to where to appeal for the solution of this problem. Today, when the youths of these weaker sections try to get united to demand for the setting up of schools in their villages, they are branded as naxalities.

The step taken for the implementation of the 'Operation Siddhartha' under the direction of the Central Government is welcome as it has provided some succour to the villages but here again those very villages have been selected which are already developed and our underdeveloped villages have been left out. In this way, I think that 'Operation Siddhartha' will also prove to be farce. I want to request that it is necessary

to pay special attention to the concern which has been expressed by the Hon. President for bringing economic and social transformation in those areas, so that the poor may also think that there are people to look after their interests. Even today, the poor people in the villages have faith in the Government and in Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, but the situation is such that the directions of the Hon. Prime Minister are at variance with the directions of the State Government and the directions of the District Magistrates are different from both and as a result, the middlemen mar the ambitious and constructive schemes. Today the Hon. Prime Minister called a meeting of the representatives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the whole country at Vigyan Bhawan and expressed his concern over the fact that in spite of our best efforts, we find the results to be zero at the grassroot level. This is the sort of concern which our Government and Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi are having for the weaker sections. Therefore, it is my request that the Government should take up special schemes.

I want to submit one point concerning the farmers and the agricultural labourers. India is a country of villages and its soul resides in the rural areas. There are 5 lakhs villages in the country and unless we develop the villages, our country cannot progress. The Planning Commission should set up Measurement Boards to determine the schemes to be taken up in different villages. 80 per cent of the people engaged in agricultural occupations are farmers and agricultural labourers. 43 per cent of them are agricultural labourers who live in the villages are employed by the farmers. Unfortunately, they are able to get employment only for three months in a year and for the rest of the 9 months, they have no means of livelihood. In the absence of any means of living, they migrate to other places. In order to illustrate my point, I can cite the example of the 75 thousand agricultural labourers working in Punjab and Haryana who are being exploited. Therefore, there should be some planning for them. It is a matter of happiness that out of total bank loans to be given, 17 per

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cent of it has been earmarked for the farmers. Under the definition of agriculturist, not only farmers but agricultural labourers, who constitute 43% should also be taken into account and programmes are required to be made for them also so that they could be provided employment there itself. In order to achieve this end, small-scale industries and cottage industries units should be set up. In order to solve the problem of livelihood of those people locally, the Planning Commission should start some viable schemes. I would like to make yet another submission regarding land reforms. Hon. Shri Dubeyji is present here. While he was the Chief Minister of Bihar, he got 35 thousand acres of land distributed on 14th November, on the occasion of birthday of Panditji. At that time, I expressed doubt and slightly hinted him that it was easy to distribute land but very difficult to enable the people to get the possession of the land. Statistical dates can be furnished in support of the fact that so much of land has been given to the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes but on physical verification, you will find that even 10 per cent of them have not in fact got the possession of land. Allowed to them. (Interruptions)

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: It means that your State Government is not doing anything.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: I am not making any comment on anyone what can the Government do in this matter? I would like to say one thing. On being expressed doubt by me, Shri Dubey told me with confidence that he would see that possession of the distributed land was ensured. But when I go to the block level and ascertain the actual position in respect of possession of the land as compared to the pattas distributed, the situation is found to be very alarming. Again, the present Government has announced its intention to distribute one and a half lakh acres of land. I again told the Chief Minister that I had the same apprehen-

sion, which I used to have at the time of Shri Dubey... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Is it so be that the land is in possession of other persons?

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: If at all it is in illegal possession of some one, it is the duty of the Government to evict such persons from illegal possession of land. I, therefore, request the Government to send a central team to Bihar to verify the facts and figures submitted by the Government of Bihar in respect of distribution of. The situation there is very alarming.

With these words, while supporting the Motion of Thanks, I would like to submit that this centenary year of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru should be celebrated as year of revolution.

[English]

SHRI M.S. GILL (Ludhiana): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in a democratic set up like ours the President's Address before the Joint Session of both the Houses more often than not, and I would say invariably, is considered a policy statement of the Government regarding the solution of the problems which are facing the nation, problems of all kinds—social, economic and also political. Following the said Address it is usually the budgetary provisions. Which spell out and give an idea of the priorities of the Government and the extent of determination of the Government to solve and settle these problems. It is perhaps because of these reasons that the budgetary provisions are discussed and debated in almost all the democracies of the world only after the Vote of Thanks to the President or the Head of the State. But here in India, the President's Address, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, has become almost a ritual of certain slogans and also a ritual of certain false promises I should say, and baseless boasts to the nation. It has become like this; for the last several years I have been observing it. And all those promises are made, slogans are raised in this Address knowing full well that the condition

of the nation is not that good and knowing that they were not going to fulfil these promises. Yet they are incorporated in the President's Address. The result is that these slogans which are usually coined and manufactured I would say in high sounding words by the bureaucrats, highly paid bureaucrats, keeping an eye on the votes of the teeming millions, poor people of India, who have been constantly misled and are being misled at the time of their voting through these empty slogans and black money power, have led to the exploitation of the poor. Ours is the largest democracy of the world but, I sometimes hesitate to call it a democracy because of certain reasons. We have no doubt adopted the basic principles of democracy, but in practice the democracy is a casualty here. It is here, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that the fundamental principles of democracy are flouted and the ethics of democracy and the norms of democracy are kept at bay. The poverty and ignorance of the people are exploited for perpetuation of dynastic rule. It is here, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the rule of law and justice has been reduced to a mere mockery. It was in November, 1984 here in Delhi and elsewhere thousands of persons belonging to one minority community, Sikh community, even before the eyes of the Home Ministry, were maimed mutilated and reduced to nothing by mass murders gang rape, in human atrocities, arson and loot. But in spite of all this, it was handled so callously by the Government. Although from all sections of the society in India and abroad, from all sections of sikhs and even intelligensia and organisations like PUDR, PUCL, retired judges, retired Generals and everybody demanded that the culprits should be brought to book, this Government did not budge an inch for a period of 4 years. The guilty people have not been brought to book so far. It is here that the sacred book, the Constitution of India has been several times marred, twisted and mutilated by reckless amendments, sometimes simply to keep a disqualified Prime Minister in power and at other time to give vast powers to the Prime Minister to impose emergency even in the normal situation and to suspend the right to life, liberty and prop-

erty and other fundamental rights. It is again here that the judiciary which is the most important leg of the democracy has been subjugated to the whims of the Executive by arbitrary appointments, promotions and transfers of judge. It is again here that at the time of promotion to the Chief Justiceship of the highest judicial forum, some of the senior-most judges, of whom the nation has got reason to be proud of were ignored simply because their interpretation of the Constitution was not to the liking of certain persons in power. We have been reading in the papers that people are kept detained for months together without having resourse to law, without any formal arrest, without getting the police remand from the judicial authorities. They are grilled through the grueling, tortuous, inhuman investigating mechanisation till some of them are reduced to mere pulp and the others are silenced for ever.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I beg, through you, of my countrymen to excuse me for using the harsh terminology but these are the hard facts and stark realities which are compelling me to use this terminology and also to quote those instances which are taking place.

In the President's Address, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has been referred to. I thank, India should be proud of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. What he has done is really a matter of pride for all of us. Now I shall have a little bit glance of the history. I was submitting that empty slogans were disturbing the fabric of democracy. Soon after India became republic, People of India voted Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Congress to power, because partly they wanted to reward the Congress for their sacrifices as the champion of the freedom struggle and they also wanted Ram Rajya of Mahatma Gandhi's conception and dreams to be ushered in. It is because people were given some ideas, some picture of that. It was to this reason that people backed Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru wholeheartedly was done. But unfortunately, very shortly thereafter some tremors started coming in the form of mur-

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muring criticism from the people from the public places, from the buses, from the train-coaches, from the platforms, from the bus-stands and shopping centres and such other places that the British Raj was better than the Congress rule. These were the shouts which were being heard in those days. Immediately those shouts started coming not only from the platforms, buses, jhuggis and jhopris but also from slums from the rural bastis dusty domains from all these places these tremors started coming down. These very ideas came out from the mouth of the persons who were working in the fields, in the industries and factories who were, I should say bare-footed and bare-breasted and also, from people with empty-stomach who were trying very hard to save the lives of their sons and daughters, rickety sons and daughters who were also undernourished, half-fed, balloon bellied children. They were struggling hard to save their lives. But unfortunately they could not get nothing in the long queues in the shopping Centres. They could not get kerosene; they could not get ration; they could not get sugar and all those things which are called bare necessities. Therefore, those murmurs started coming. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru very easily understood the pulse of India. He immediately came forward and gave a new slogan saying that although we have won the political freedom economic freedom has still to be won. He gave a slogan. That slogan was the socialistic pattern of society although he know that it was neither fish nor flesh nor a fowl. It was based on this very slogan that the entire nation again rallied round the Congress. Under that slogan they wanted that there should be no poor; there should be no rich. They wanted that there should be one egalitarian community. That was the concept of Mahatma Gandhi. That was the concept of Rama Rajya around which they rallied. Soon after that the propaganda guns were opened and the entire India reverberated right from the Himalayas to downwards that there would be one egalitarian society. They wanted *Raja Rankh Barabari*. That was being sung in the Himalayas and again

in the Jamuna-Ganga rivers it was being sung in Urdu as Na Koi Banda rahe, Na Koi Banda Nawaz. That means equality. In Punjab also, we heard such ideas as:

Banawange asi saki jaga do is pyase nu,
 Surahi milke chumegi meri mitti de kase nu,
 Khamoshi jan chhale di to hath dekh mehra da,
 Sinhasan hil utega jamane da amiran da,
 Banwange nawi rekha meri takdir de tote,
 Jamana kahen ke nachhe meri zanjir de tote,
 Chug ke kakh kaliyan de nawi kashti banwange,
 Te us kishti nu phir tufan de sir to nawawange.

These were simple songs. These were the songs which started coming out. It was at that stage a shot was fired from across the Himalayas. It was the Chinese aggression. The Chinese aggression dealt a blow not only to the Panchsheel and the *Hindi-Chini Bai Bai* but also it was the beginning of the end of the era i.e. the era of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. When we remember pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, I must point out here, that whatever he stood for is not present here at this time neither in the Congress nor in the Government. He stood for certain principles the democratic principles. It is good to remember him but it would be better if we had followed him, if we had remembered him all these years. But we have not done so, Again the new slogan were given by Shrimati Indira Gandhi i.e. the slogan "Garibi Hatao, hamare hath majbut karo" Another slogan was given this time the country was in danger who lives of India dies". Now a new slogan is coming forward wherein they say that poverty and unemployment by giving power to the Panchayats. This is a new slogan for the coming elections. This new slogan is again an empty slogan like other slogans. People who fought through thick and thin should have been encouraged. Not that this should give an idea that 'Indira is India'. It is

the people who matter. But they want to consume power and then want to have a rule for another five years. Under these circumstances, I am compelled by custom to thank the President. Otherwise, the situation has been brought to such an extent that it is really unfortunate that even after forty years we are standing at the same place where we started from. With these words, I thank you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up Private Members' Legislative Business.

15.31 hrs

FAIR PRICE SHOPS (REGULATION)
BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of fair price shops and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of fair prices shops and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: I introduce the Bill.

15.31/1/2 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE PRICES
FIXATION BILL

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to estab-

lish a Commission to fix reasonable remunerative prices of the agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith.

DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish a Commission to fix reasonable remunerative prices of the agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

UNORGANISED LABOUR WELFARE
FUND BILL —CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up further consideration of the Bill moved by Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil on the 25th November, 1988. Shri Ram Pyare Panika to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my hon. friend deserves to be congratulated for moving the Unorganised Labour Welfare Bill, 1985. Sir, you might be remembering that during the last financial year, with the permission of the Hon. Prime Minister, the then Finance Minister stated that a commission would be set up for the unorganised labour in the country. In pursuance of that assurance, a National Commission of Rural Labour was set up last year and to my good luck, I was also made one of its members by the Hon. Prime Minister. The commission will go into the details of the problems concerning unorganised labourer. But the need of the hour is to affect radical reforms in the

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system in favour of unorganised labourers. Attention is required to be paid to the lakhs of unorganised labourers in rural areas engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, village and cottage industries, carpet weaving industries, handloom, Khadi Gramodhyog and carpentry, as rural artisans, carpenters, goldsmiths and fishermen. Not only in agricultural sector, unorganised labourers are employed in almost all disciplines of development. There are bonded labourers and migrant labourers also. The problem of migrant labourers in Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Assam has assumed alarming proportion and they are badly exploited there. In so far as creating a fund as suggested by him, I do agree with him that such necessity exists. But I do not support his suggestion for achieving this end. He has suggested one per cent deduction from the wages of labourers of organised sector for this purpose. But these labourers have problems of their own. I do not agree to it in principle. If a welfare fund is required to be created, employers and the Government should contribute to it. It does not look proper to snatch other rights. No doubt, a number of laws have been enacted during the last seven-eight years for the welfare of unorganised labourers also, but these laws are not being implemented by the State Governments. So it is most needed that these laws are implemented by them. We are fortunate in having a Labour Minister who has been fighting throughout his life for the cause of labourers. This fact is well known to all of us. We have seen from the close quarters the sympathy which Shri Dubey has for the labourers and wherever he worked irrespective of the capacity, he always worked for the welfare of labourers. Laws are to be implemented by the States. Whenever issue of implementation of laws is raised, Members of opposition take it in terms of Centre-State relation. In order to implement the schemes, such as N.R.E.P and R.L.E.G.P. the Central Government provides funds to the States. They are instructed to provide minimum wages to the labourers employed in these schemes. It is

a fact that central funds are being provided, but work is executed through contract system. Labourers are exploited by contractors. We should resolve that full wages be paid under minimum wages Act to the labourers employed in the schemes for which funds are provided by the Centre. It is the duty of the State Governments to implement minimum wages once it is fixed.

In so far as problem of agricultural labourers is concerned, paying capacity of farmers during drought and floods is reduced. In such circumstances, the Government should provide subsidies to the farmers for paying minimum wages to the labourers. The amount of subsidy to be paid should be equal to the difference between the sums of minimum wages and the capacity of the farmer to pay the wages. This provision will enable the labourers to get wages to fulfil their minimum needs. Failure to take such a step may lead to violent struggle between farmers and labourers at different places. On one hand we see minimum wages being fixed and on the other we see that the farmers do not have the capacity to pay these wages. With the result there is a proliferation of bonded labour who remain at the mercy of farmers. This problem should be studied in all seriousness, so that we can put an end to the friction between farmers and labour. I want to say some thing about the people engaged in other sectors like the carpet on the handloom industry. Our country exports Rs. 250 crores worth of carpets. Exporters of carpets are being given a subsidy to the extent of 17% of exports. Why cannot incentive of 10% be given to the carpet weavers also. This will encourage them to work better. Minimum wages fixed for carpet weavers in places like Mirzapur and Banaras are very low. Carpet industry has been declared as a hazardous industry but the facilities which should be made available to the workers are not being made available to them. Special attention should therefore be paid towards this aspect. Carpet weavers of other countries want to destroy the Indian carpet industry by highlighting the exploitation of carpet weavers in India. I thank the labour Ministry for the formulation of a Rs. 42

crores scheme for Badohi and Mirzapur but the scheme is not being implemented properly. There is no provision of health, education and training facilities. Exporters open training centres only at places of concentration of industry. Jinabhai Dorgi from Gujarat is the Chairman. He has formed the Gujarat Farm labour Organisation. Through this organisation he has trained thousands of Adivasi girls in the carpet weaving trade. Training facilities should also be provided in tribal desert cyclonic drought-prone and hill areas. Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi would like more employment to be generated in the remaining one year of the Seventh Plan. This will help people in the unorganised section in getting employment. I want to say something about migrant labour. This is seasonal labour which works in states like Punjab and Haryana. The Report of the unorganised Sector Commission shall be received after some time. I want the Government to work on 4-5 points in particular. Exploitation of migrant labour should be stopped working hours in the unorganised sector are very long and they should be reduced. We should compare minimum wages for labour in our country with those fixed by labour organisations around the world. We should also ensure that they get the minimum calories. The majority of labour in India do not get enough money to have two square meals a day. Today we need to make a survey of areas where a traditional system of wages is being followed. This system need to be changed and minimum wages should be provided. Problems arise where some departments of the Government start working in favour of exploiters and contractors. Let me cite the example of Uttar Pradesh. When I took up the matter of minimum wages. I thought that court notices would be served on some people and departments. But I was surprised to see that in some matters the U.P. Government had exempted the irrigation Department, the P.W.D. and the Electricity Board. If this happens our demands have no value. The Central Government gives funds to the States on the condition that minimum wages be paid to labour. But many states are not fulfilling this condition. Not only U.P. but a

number of other states are going against the Centre's policy on minimum wages. This policy was framed at the highest level on the directives of the hon. Prime Minister at a meeting of labour ministers of all States. Today the same labour ministers are working against this policy and sheltering exploiters, contractors and middlemen. I request the hon. Labour minister to write to the State Governments to minimum wages to farm labour and unorganised labour.

Along with minimum wages, labour in the unorganised sector should be provided other facilities also. They do not get proper health facilities and their children do not get proper education. An atmosphere conducive to the welfare of labour should be created in every sector. How many exporters have opened schools for weavers, constructed sheds or provided health facilities to them. According to a survey nothing has been done in this respect. If a fund has to be created with contributions from the employer, the state Government and the Centre, it should be created in every state on territory and not at a single place so that the workers benefits. Today the unorganised labour cannot avail of E.S.I. benefits. There should be a system so that unorganised labour can get E.S.I. facility, health, leave and bonus.

Without taking much time I would ask for some steps to be taken before the Commission's report is received. People are becoming more and more aware. Minimum wages should be fixed and other facilities should be provided to unorganised labour. It is not enough to issue directives to State Governments. There should be a monitoring system at the Centre which should keep an eye on all States.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I congratulate Mr. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil for introducing this Private Member's Bill which has been taken up for discussion today. I need not remind you

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about the rich contribution made by Shri Balasaheb as well as his late father in the development of rural areas, especially in Maharashtra where his father, without much education, was instrumental in starting some cooperative sugar factories which today have become an ideal to emulate in several other parts of the country. With this industrialisation, the socio-economic level of the farmers, in particular, the small and marginal farmers in scarce rainfall areas has now improved along with the plight of the agricultural labourers also. So, I understand the sincerity and the concern of the Mover of this Bill to the development and interest of the unorganised labour. So, I congratulate him. I agree with all the objectives and reasons which he has stated in this Bill. He has gone elaborately pleading the Government to take up measures for unorganised labour. Today, it is estimated that there are nearly 274 million unorganised workers in this country. Nearly 90 per cent of the work force is still unorganised. I will not go into the details of the areas where my friends, Mr. Balasaheb and Mr. Panika had already dealt at length. I would like to add a few more points for the consideration of this House.

I agree with Sections 4 and 5 of this Bill where the hon. Member has suggested that the Central Government should contribute nearly 25 per cent of the proposed welfare fund. Similarly, he suggested that the respective State also should contribute 25 per cent. I fully agree with this suggestion. My amendment to this Bill is that in Section 4, it is said that every member of organised labour shall contribute one per cent of his total emoluments to the welfare fund. It is good. There is nothing wrong in it. But what about the crorepaths, the big industrialists, the Tatas and the Birlas who have amassed thousands and crores of rupees through the sweat and blood of the agricultural labour and industrial labour who have played a vital role in producing agricultural crops in the rural areas or doing some petty jobs before ultimately the product comes into the market? My suggestion is that these big indus-

trial houses should also take up some burden of the welfare of these unorganised poor people of this country. You are aware that at the time when this nation got independence, the assets of Tatas, that is, the assets on which the house was having control was only around 36 crores whereas now it is controlling 6400 crores assets in this country. Similarly is the case with the Birlas. Nearly 20 families are controlling nearly more than 20,000 crores. Some of them have made very rapid progress. While in the villages, a farmer cannot purchase one acre of land in three or four years, some of these houses have increased their assets by 100 per cent in three years and another 100 per cent in another three years or so. So, my suggestion in this context is that these big industrial houses should also come and take up the burden of taking welfare measures of unorganised labour and let 5 per cent of the net profits earned by these companies go to the unorganised labour welfare fund. Similarly, there are many more very big business people who are doing a lot of businesses. They may not be having some big companies, but certainly they have a lot of business. Let those people whose annual taxable income is more than Rs. one lakh pay some 3, 4 or 5 per cent of their net income towards this fund. Unless some such measures are taken, how is the plight of this unorganized labour in this country going to improve? In several nooks and corners of the rural areas, the houses of these poor fellows, Harijans and Girijans, or persons belonging to other weaker sections, cannot really be called houses. Those are worse than cattle sheds. In some cases places where the cattle are kept are far better than the houses of these poor people. It is, therefore, high time to take immediate steps in this direction.

There are a number of people in this House who have spent a valuable part of their life in the jails with the hope that the people of this nation will prosper and the position of these poor people, especially in the rural areas, these unorganized poor people, will improve. But I must say that unless some drastic and radical measures are taken, it will take many many centuries.

My suggestion is that the Government should think on the lines of taxing affluent sections and get some money for the welfare of this unorganised labour. Specially in the rural areas, these unorganized people suffer a lot mostly in the absence of a shelter for them.

The Government of India very recently have taken up the Indira Awas Yojna Programme, under which poor Harijans and Girijans are given houses. The programme is, however, on a very small scale and at this rate, it will take many centuries. My suggestion is that whenever such good programmes are taken, the people must be involved. If we do anything without their involvement, their participation, there will not be that much seriousness and the real benefit cannot be derived by those sections. Let them also contribute to some extent, there should be some portion of grant as also some portion of loan, which they can return over the years. This type of housing programme should be taken up on a much bigger scale, so that not only the Harijans or the Girijans, but other backward classes, like cobblers, carpenters blacksmiths, fishermen etc. are also helped.

15.59 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

In this connection, you must have noticed that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have taken up on a very big scale the construction of houses for these people. With our meagre resources, our State has spent Rs. 500 crores for the construction of houses for the poor people. The present Government there came to power in 1983. There were only 50000 semi-pucca houses in our State constructed by the previous Government. Our Telugu Desam Government has constructed over seven lakhs and seventy-five thousand pucca houses during the last six years. Similarly, in every State this programme must be taken up. The Central Government also must help the State Governments in a bigger way and see that permanent houses are constructed for these poor people, so that the problem is

solved ultimately, if not immediately in the near future.

16.00 hrs.

Previously, in the State of Andhra Pradesh when the Telugu Desam came in power, about 18 lakh house Sites were given to the poor people. In the last 6 years our Government has given additional 16 lakh sites to the poor people. Sir, with the meagre resources that we have, we are able to do this much. Mahatmaji said that the basic human need is food, cloth and shelter, and he said it in that order. That is why our Government thought it fit to go ahead with this scheme of giving permanent houses to the poor people.

The agricultural labour in the rural areas is having work only for a few months in a year and for the rest of the year they do not have any work. My suggestion is that not only the State Government but the Central Government also should look towards the welfare of this unorganised sector. Our Government has introduced a scheme under the heading, 'Pension to agricultural Labour'. Under this scheme we are giving about Rs. 30 per month to these poor people. Today Rs. 30 is nothing. With this paltry sum he cannot get even sufficient ration for his family. My suggestion in this regard is that let the Central Government also give another Rs. 30 or Rs. 50 from its own side so that he should have a one-time meal if not a two-square meal. My submission, therefore, is that out of the unorganised labour welfare fund some amount may be earmarked to provide pension to the landless agricultural poor labour.

Now, I would like to say about the women folk who constitute about 50 per cent or more of our population. It is quite disgusting to see that they do not even have the public lavatories in the villages and for that they have to go outside in the open fields. Many a time she has to face the embarrassment. I do not know why Government has not been able to construct public lavatories for the women at least, leave aside for men. I do not know why Government is not taking

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it is a bigger way. I know you have made a beginning but it has to be taken up on a bigger scale. In this scientific age you can have a telephone in a motor car. What I want to say is that when you can spend so much money on these things, why cannot you spend money to provide the basic amenities to the poor rural people? We should have the realistic priorities. When so much of women are suffering in the villages for want of the basic amenities, how can we spend such a huge amount on these modern equipments? My suggestion is that you must change the priorities, and look towards the welfare of these unorganised labour class.

Similarly, there are handloom weavers. Some of them are organised but many of them are unorganised. They are suffering a lot. The problem is that you have forgotten the advice given by Mahatma Gandhi. The 'CHARKHA' which he was using was the symbol of self-employment. In spite of his being busy in other work, he used to work on that. By this he wanted to tell to the millions of people of this country that if we follow the foot-steps of industrially advanced countries like Britain, America or the Communist countries like Russia, then the problem of unemployment will never be solved. That was the main reason why he insisted on the production of goods in the small scale sector or in the handloom sector. But unfortunately we are pampering those mill magnates by allowing several thousands of tons of fibre viscose to be imported into this country, as a result of which, the poor handloom weavers have to suffer. Our Government has a scheme to supply saris and dhotis at half the price, after procuring them from the handloom weavers. Till now, the lungis woven by our weavers are exported to Burma, Sri Lanka and other countries. Now they are facing a big crisis because the exports to these countries are now stopped and there are no avenues open for them. The weavers are suffering a lot and some of them even died due to poverty and starvation. This is the sad state of affairs. Please do not think that I am arguing the case of my State alone.

In any State, wherever such pathetic situations arise, the Government must immediately step in and take necessary action to purchase the accumulated stocks of lungis and other handloom fabrics that the weavers produce. This will enable them to dispose of these items and to again take up weaving. In all these matters, my suggestion is that the Government must have some commitment.

Several people from the State of Bihar work as agricultural labour in the States of Punjab and Haryana. They travel great distances to earn their livelihood. In Bihar, if the minimum wages Act were to be implemented in letter and spirit, in all sincerity, then these people need not go to Punjab and other places in great numbers. Even now, there are many instances where the Minimum Wages Acts are not strictly implemented. At the same time, in some parts of the country, farmers are paying the labourers much more than the stipulated minimum wage. For example, in Andhra Pradesh a woman worker is paid Rs. 10 for three hours work and a man is paid about Rs. 20 for four hours of work. Similar is the situation in Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and some other regions. I suggest that the Government must have strong determination to strictly implement these Minimum wages.

Even today morning, we had a question on the railway workers and the Railway Minister had given the answer. Even now, after working for four or five or six or seven years, the services of the casual mazdoors in the Railways are not regularised and still they are being treated as casual labour and are given just daily wages. I just do not understand this situation. There are some legislations whereby if a person works for more than 240 days in a year, his services must be regularised. Then, how can some lakhs of workers in the Railways, working for so long, be treated as casual mazdoors? This definitely shows that there is a necessity for a good number of additional hands in the railways on a regular basis. Their services are not regularised with the sole idea that regularisation costs the Railways much

more than what it costs today. While the central Government which is supposed to be and ought to be an ideal employer and which is expected to take judicial and criminal action against people who violate the provisions of the very some legislations itself behaves in this way, where is the remedy? Where can the people go and appeal for redressal of their grievances?

Similar is the case with the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. There are a large number of persons working for more than 240 days a year and they are in service for about seven years. But still their services are not recognised and they are not on a regular basis.

I do express my serious concern over low productivity. I agree that productivity must increase and every person must put in his best efforts to produce goods and services in the best possible way in the service of the nation. But at the sametime, you have not overlooked the interests of the people who are working in those organisations with a great hope that their services will be regularised even after four or five years. So, you must have that commitment and only then all these things may materialise. I suggest to the Government once again that they kindly take the spirit of this Private Member's Bill moved by Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patilji and they come forward with another legislation from their side incorporating several of these provisions he has indicated as well as the sentiments, the views and suggestions expressed by several members from this side as well as the other side and ultimately come up with a best piece of legislation so that the interests of these unorganised labours are rightly taken care of and their welfare is also duly taken care of by this Government. Till now their welfare is neglected at several levels. They might have been neglected not only at the Central level but also at the State level. But let us not give an opportunity to them to say that it will take many many more decades by the time they get justice.

With these few words I thank you very

much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

PROF. N.C. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad my hon. friend Mr. Patil has given this opportunity to this House to concentrate on the needs and the grievances of these unorganised labour. This is a very vast subject. Subject itself is unorganised. Millions and millions of people in each State are there who are unorganised so far as labour market is concerned. What is to be done in order to help them? One constructive effort that has been initiated in Maharashtra being followed by one or two other States is for the Government to take up the responsibility of providing employment at least for one adult in every family. How they are going to do it; how they are doing it; and how they are financing it are all serious problems for which body we do not have sufficient information.

I am glad my hon. friend Mr. Panika has drawn our attention to the constructive steps, taken by the Prime Minister in the light of his tours and the knowledge that he has gained about the sufferings of these people. The Prime Minister has appointed a Commission on Agricultural labour. It is rural labour or agricultural labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): Rural labour.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: I hope that Commission would pay special attention to all the points that have been made and those are likely to be made during this debate in addition to other points which were brought to their notice by various people in the country.

The most important thing is how to reach these people and in what areas of employment in the country? These unorganised labourers who are going on with their work are suffering for want of proper protection because there is not enough of protection for many of these people. They are degraded to the level of bonded labour. There is the Minimum Wages Act. It is not being properly or effectively implemented in

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

most of the States and even in regard to the very large sector of unorganised labour who are employed in agriculture. Their urgent need is the provision of house sites, provision of minimum of civic facilities in the towns for the slum dwellers who are also unorganised, a large number of them and provision of house sites in the rural areas especially for the backward classes and the Harijans. Strong efforts, sincere efforts are being made by many of the State Governments; but that is not enough; in that direction also so much more needs to be done. Then there should be a provision of protected house sites and houses good enough, strong enough, so that these dwellers need not be afraid of outbreak of fire during summer season. My hon. friend, Mr. Rao, has drawn our attention to what is being done in Andhra Pradesh. When the Congress was in power, they tried to provide house sites. Now, our friends of the Telugu Desam have come forward to offer small houses also on a large scale, although earlier also efforts were being made to provide these houses in many places. Now all this is good, but that is not enough and so much more has got to be done. But even this effort is not being made in many States and has got to be taken up by those States also.

Then the other thing is the provision of public lavatories and so on. They talk about lavatories here. The least possible public convenience that we can provide for the poor people, especially these unorganised poor is to provide the public latrines, lavatories for men as well as women. In villages, we do not have them. But is it possible to provide them? One might say in those days, Gandhian days, altruistic days, as it was, we tried to provide them with the help of village panchayats. It is not impossible; it is being done even today in part of Andhra known as Rayalaseema by the Rayalaseema Seva Samiti on a large scale. Thousands of these lavatories are being constructed with the help of local people, with their cooperation, with the help of financial support from the local government and some social welfare

organisations. These are what are known as minimum possible human facilities needed for these people in their unorganised conditions. But then they have to be protected from their employers. Now, many of them are under employers. A large number of them are self-employed; and we should increase this particular sector of self-employment. They have to be protected also from the merchants who purchase their goods, from the bankers who provide them credit, from other people who provide them with inputs. All that has got to be studied. For instance, our attention has been drawn to the suffering of the handloom weavers. In the recent past, there are reports of hunger deaths in Andhra Pradesh and in Bihar especially. Now, something has got to be done. There is a textile policy of the Government of India. Now that has not been enough; that has not spelt out any welfare measures for the handloom weavers. On the other hand, it has helped power looms and the organised large scale textile industry. So far as handloom weavers are concerned, they have been at a very great advantage. Now, similarly, the carpet making industry, in all such industries, most of the workers are self-employed, but a good portion of them are unorganised people; they are employed by the master weavers, other employers also and some cooperatives. These people have to be protected; they can be protected through the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act; but that is not also enough.

Similarly, in agriculture, the most important thing is to prescribe a minimum wage. Having done it, to enforce it. Apart from it, once you give the prescription of a minimum wage, that itself sets a standard; and slowly, in two or three years and thereafter, the people will begin to pay at least a minimum wage. And these workers come to know that they are entitled to demand that minimum wage. Therefore, they would be able, some of them at least would like, to go and take advantage of that Act and go to the courts and the labour officers, so much so other workers come to be also benefited.

So, the minimum wage has got to be prescribed. In many areas much more than the minimum wage is being paid today. And the minimum wage has got to be raised also from time to time in proportion to the rise in prices, rise in inflation and so on.

Having done that, how are we going to tackle this unorganised labour and how are we going to help them? A serious study has to be made, and a serious thought has got to be given also. I have myself given a suggestion to "unorganised labour advisory committee" which was attached to the Labour Ministry here. I used to be a member of that. What has happened to that, I do not know, during the last six years whether it is still functioning, what suggestions it received. At that time I had made one suggestion that there should be labour welfare advisors, or on an honorary basis to be appointed from out of those people who devote their time for the welfare of these people, who are themselves public workers, who are not political minded, and politically committed. Such people should be paid an honorarium of Rs. 350 or Rs. 500 a month. Some State Governments have taken up that suggestion. Gujarat, for instance, has gone ahead. Now, what is the function of those people? I do not want to go into the details. But one particular thing I should be able to say. It should be their duty to be allowed to attend the meetings, village panchayat mandals and the samithis or zila parishads also. There they would be able to bring to the notice of those local authorities about the needs of those people and also the manner in which they should be helped. And it is only a beginning. Even that beginning, the social welfare work and legislative activity have not been taken up by many States. Now something has got to be done by the Labour Ministry here at the Centre in order to alert the State Governments and see that something concrete is done in this direction. It should be the duty of these welfare officers or advisors, not only to advise these various institutions but also to encourage workers to bring to their notice, to the notice of those various Panchayat Raj organisations, about their disabilities, about the manner in which they are being exploited, their sufferings and

what they would like to be done for their welfare. Some venue, some opportunity, some organisational method, some ways and means have got to be created in this manner for those people to get into contact with labour organisations and Labour Departments of the respective State Governments and ultimately of the Union Government also. Till today, so little has been done.

In England an effort was made long time ago. That only shows how much backward we are. More than 80 years ago Mrs. Anne Besant started this work in London. So many other people also followed suit. Then there came into existence what were known as Trade Boards. On them there were representatives of employers, representatives of unorganised labour, and representatives of the Government also. These boards used to prescribe the minimum wages, the conditions of employment, the conditions of welfare activity and all the rest of it. Now, through them, these people, though they could not organise themselves in the regular trade union fashion, in an effective manner they used to find protection. I had been suggesting its adoption to Governments in those days. It was in the light of this knowledge of their working I made my suggestion of appointing Hon. Labour Advisers as a very small beginning. Even in this direction, the government has not been able to follow this precedent, which has already been established by the Gujarat Government. I do not know whether any other Governments have taken it up. It is for the hon. Minister to enlighten us later on if he finds time. Some such constructive effort has got to be made. It is good that my hon. friend thought of this question and given this opportunity for us to discuss this matter. But the concrete suggestion that he has made as how to collect money is not a correct one. My hon. friend Shri Panchia has raised an objection. I agree with him. Why should the organised labour, who are not themselves very rich and very happy about their own conditions be expected to make any contribution towards this kind of a fund? The crorepatis should be expected to make their contribution to the Government in an organised manner and in a systematic

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manner through the taxation. They may made charities. But they cannot be expected to make any kind of contribution to any such institution that may be organised by the Government. It is the workers themselves, if and when they are employed, to the extent that they are awakened to their responsibilities, may be expected to make some contribution for the days they find employment into a fund like this. Then the State Government, the Central Government and also the employers who happen to employ them for the time being can make some contribution to this fund. It is not easy for me to make any more detailed suggestion in regard to that. But where are these contractors and other employers? They can be made to pay. Some fund has got to be built in that way. In addition to that, the State Governments as well as the Central Government have got to make such fund in order to ensure minimum social civic facilities and opportunities for the unorganised labour.

It is very big question, a question which needs a very careful consideration and I hope the Commission which was appointed at the instance of our Prime Minister will go into all these matters in great detail and come out with concrete suggestions. In anticipation of it, let the Labour Ministry here be in touch with the Labour Ministries in the States and collect necessary information in all directions, not only bidi workers, those employed in fire workers carpet workers, agriculture workers but also so many other employers as to how many are there and to what extent. Some information is available in the Census Reports and their Employment Annexe Supplement. Now from all these sources let them collect the information and give a serious consideration for implementing the recommendations to be made by the Agricultural Labour Commission.

In the meanwhile, I would suggest to the hon. mover of this Bill not to press this Bill to a division. I am glad that he has given us this opportunity for saying these things in this

House for the benefit of the Labour Ministry to start with and ultimately for the benefit of the unorganised labour.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): I would like to pay full credit to Shri Vikhe Patil for giving us an opportunity to discuss the problems faced by the unorganised labour in the country. I would like to make a few comments on certain provisions.

I would also like to say that while I support the provisions of the Bill, as Prof. Ranga has very aptly said, these are not enough. Nevertheless, the Bill has given us chance to look to the problems of unorganised labour. The country is vast. The problems faced by the unorganised labour in the country are different according to their social conditions, geographical and other economic conditions.

I belong to a region where consciousness in the trade union movement is very young. In this part of the country unorganised labour is living in hell. I think, this is true of other parts also. In our young days, when we asked our elderly people as to what was the hell and what it looked like, we were told that hell was a place where a man carried plenty of good water on his hand but he could not drink it and he carried good food in his hand but he could not eat it. In the same way, the labour today—maybe handloom labour or brick makers, carpet makers, machinery makers whatever section of the labour, particularly unorganised sector, they do the work and we enjoy the fruit. The brick makers do not live in brick houses. They cannot afford it. The carpet makers cannot dream of using the carpets which they are making. Such is the fate of this unorganised labour. In what way we can help them? The Government is seized of the problem. We cannot say that the Government has not done anything because the Prime Minister in his wisdom has made an elaborate arrangement to bring relief to all sectors of our society, particularly in the field of labour. When we talk of the lowest bottom of society, the panchayati raj, do-centralisation of power and all that, we should just remember

the unorganised labour also.

Speaking from my experience, in my area, as I said, the labour consciousness is very small. There has been an attempt to organise the labour cooperatives, etc. After some years of this experiment, now we find that the labour cooperatives remain in name because these labour cooperatives cannot behave like the individual contractors however big or small the contractor may be. They have to deal with the engineer and the engineer has got his own yardstick for awarding the contract. He has got certain underhand transactions. This is true everywhere. I had been associated with many labour cooperatives. Whenever these labour cooperatives demanded within the laws and regulations some contract because through this they could make their welfare, the engineers were not favourable to the labour cooperatives. Naturally they failed. But this did not stop here. The names, however, existed because whenever an engineer wants to favour somebody he says, bring the name of some labour cooperative and he will award you the contract. Now the names are for purchase. The contractors go and purchase the names and make some payment. This does not allow that organisation to grow. Somehow this just spoon feeding. This way, this movement of labour cooperatives has failed in this area. I do not know the situation in other places. I think, similar must be the experience. It is now time that the Labour Ministry under the leadership of the hon. Minister who is himself well-versed on the subject, make an elaborate and indepth study of the problems faced by the unorganised labour.

Mention has been made of the carpet makers and handloom weavers. I belong to a region where handloom weaving is supposed to be thriving. It is thriving no doubt. But just as the benefit of the development in our agricultural field is not reflected on the fate of the unorganised agricultural labour, here also it is not reflected. Only some sections of the society are getting the benefit of the agricultural development. The nation is proud that we are having much more of

agricultural products. Every year we are having more and more of agricultural production. But then the benefit of that production should also go to the agricultural labour reciprocally appropriately and proportionately. But this is not being done. Confining myself to the handloom weavers, I would like to say that the handloom weavers in that area weave for sentimental reasons only because the society needs handloom products. For any ritual, religious and social functions we have to use our handlooms and that keeps the handloom industry alive. But what about the handloom weavers? They just do not get anything. Whatever may be the export facility or the domestic market facility, but the whole profit is not very big. Very little profit is earned out of handloom weaving in that area. In the North-Eastern region, every tribe—it may be in Nagaland or Mizoram or Manipur or Meghalaya—has got its own cloth designs. These cloth designs are very beautiful and they are worth displaying on walls and in museums. But so far as the general marketing is concerned, there is absolutely no organisation which gives them good market value. The weaver gets some yarn from some middleman and the same middleman takes back the woven cloth and gets the little profit. He also may not be making much profit because handloom does not give much profit. The whole sector is a very backward sector. But the little profit that he gets, that also is not shared with the poor handloom weaver. So, to this end I would say that the labour problem in Bihar may be different from the labour problem in Andhra and Maharashtra and other places. But when I speak of the North-Eastern region, there are no big industries. We have only cottage industries, whether they are handicrafts or handlooms and they thrive only on our social needs, on our social sentiments. So, to give relief to such a category of labour, we would like something to be done. Maybe the provision suggested by Mr. Vikhe Patil in his Bill may also be considered, but then this may also meet the same fate as any other Private Member's Bill meets, particularly those which are brought forward from this side of the House. Some of the provisions may get favourable consideration from the

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Minister and then perhaps the Member may withdraw the Bill. But nevertheless this is a very important Bill because this concerns the fate of the unorganised labour in the whole country.

I do not want to take much more time of the hon. House. I would like only to suggest by way of concluding my speech on this subject that the organised labour also should contribute to this Fund. Suggestion was made by some hon. friends that other big industrial houses which are earning profit, should also contribute to the Fund that is being proposed under this Bill. Some kind of a legislation should be brought in response to the discussion, to the sentiments expressed by the Members, and to the proposals made on the floor of this House by way of the debate on this very important Bill. With these few words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

*DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): *Mr. Chairman Sir, there are millions and millions of unorganised labours in our country. Their condition is very miserable. They don't have adequate and proper housing facilities, they don't have proper food and clothing and they are exploited all along. Even where schools are available, their children cannot go to school because they have to work and whatever they earn, is needed in the family. Not only that Sir, the children of these unorganised labourers' families do not have proper clothing which is necessary for going to school. The Government of India has schemes for building houses for the poor, but that is very inadequate compared to the requirements. This problem should be considered very deeply and much more housing facilities should be provided for the poor. Sir, unemployment is increasing in the country by leaps and bounds. It is necessary to start centres for providing work all over the country. This should be done without delay. The villagers suffer deeply for want of roads.

This aspect should also be attended to. The poor villagers produce many articles of beauty and utility in the villages. But for want of proper roads it is not possible for them many a times to bring them to the towns or sub-divisions for sale and getting a better price. In the villages and towns the poor people, specially the womenfolk do not have enough facilities of public conveniences, latrines etc. This affects their health and the environment. The self-employed poor find it difficult to meet their needs even for a day if they fail to earn anything. A welfare fund should be set up immediately for them. The poor people lack proper medical facilities. At many places there are no dispensaries. Even where there is a dispensary, either there is no doctor available or no medicine available or may be both of them are not available. About hospitals, Sir, the less said the better. The number of hospitals in the country is very small compared to their need. Wherever there is a hospital, it is very difficult to get admission therein, when necessary. Even if one is lucky to get admitted, he rarely gets human treatment or medicines in the hospitals.

Here I will mention about one incident, Sir. I met with a serious accident some months ago. I was taken to a Government hospital in Calcutta. In that hospital beds were available but I was turned away saying that 'no beds are available'. When a person like me had to face this situation, you can easily understand the plight of ordinary village folk.

Sir, minimum wages legislation is there, but how many people actually get the minimum wages? Workers in the organised sector manage to get the minimum wages, the Government employees get it, that's all. In the unorganised sector, minimum wages is only a dream. Much more attention needs to be paid to this.

The Khadi commission is supposed to work in the villages. They of course do some work in the villages also, but that is comparatively very little. Its dimensions are very

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

limited. Therefore we have to work much more extensively to provide more job and employment opportunities in the villages. Here I will say that mere chalking out of programmes is not enough. We already have many programmes and schemes. Stress has to be paid to their actual and proper implementation. The programmes are not being properly implemented. The benefit is not percolating to those for whom it is meant. Therefore I will request the Government to take a comprehensive and overall view of these problems and to set up a welfare fund without delay. Piecemeal methods and steps will not be successful. We cannot leave the downtrodden and exploited people behind any longer. They are striving to move forward. Not only programmes for them, they have enough of it. We shall have to watch whether the programmes are being properly implemented or not. The poor people of the villages and of the cities will have to be collectively included and covered in these programmes. We should not go about the welfare work for them with the outlook that we are doing any charity for them.

Sir, I am engaged in the welfare work for a long number of years. This attitude of charity in doing welfare work only humiliates and insults the recipients. This must be avoided. All of us must realise that this large number of people have been deprived of the rights so far, that every person in the society has. These poor people are not being given their due rights. Therefore all of us who are enjoying the social rights should feel ashamed about our brethren who have been denied these rights so far.

All of us must go all out to help them. Social security must be provided for everybody and it must start with the people in the unorganised sector and the people living in the villages without any work or enough earning. I will say one more thing Sir, this may not be palatable to many. The existence of our present society is in danger. This is because all those who have remained neglected in our society so far will refuse to remain in that condition any longer. There-

fore it is all the more necessary to set up this welfare fund for the workers in the unorganised sector forthwith. Proper legislation must be enacted in this respect. As my previous speaker said, it is indeed true that the poor people and artisans cannot themselves enjoy and utilise the various things that they produce or manufacture. We, and people richer than us only enjoy them. Those who produce food for the country, themselves starve, they cannot feed their children. We all have children. We must feel the sorrow of one who cannot feed his children with two morsels. Those who have not experienced want, will not be able to feel it. Those who have not worked among the needy and the deprived will not realise it. I have worked over long years among such people. Therefore I can feel it in my heart and am taking this opportunity to give vent to it.

I will request the Government to come forward and take steps to mitigate their sufferings and to enact necessary legislation for the same. I congratulate and thank our friend Shri Vikhe Patil for bringing forth this important Bill and for providing us with an opportunity of expressing our views on this important subject. He has also provided an opportunity to the Government to become alive and alert on this issue. I once again thank him.

I know that like all other Bills, the mover will be asked to withdraw this Bill also in the end. He will perhaps withdraw it, as usual. But our duty should not end with that. It is our duty and the duty of the Government also to bring succour to these millions of workers in the unorganised sector through such a fund and we must strive relentlessly for that.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this Bill which deals with an important matter. The matters referred to in this Bill involve human consideration. Sir, I also thank the mover of the Bill, Mr. Patil, for having brought forward this Bill before the House and thus

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provided us an opportunity to participate in this debate and discuss various aspects of this Bill, the problems of unorganised labour and the remedial action that is most sought for. Sir, I appreciate the spirit of the Bill. But I do not entirely agree with all the provisions because, as it seems to me, certain provisions are not capable of being implemented. The spirit is good. The objective is good. The purpose of the Bill is laudable and we also express concern for them. I am one with other Members who have expressed concern over the pitiable affairs of the unorganised labour in our country. As our senior-most Member, Prof. Ranga observed, it is a very complex problem. Ours is a complex society, complex country. The composition of the society is also quite different. It requires deep thought. The Government is also not sitting tight on it. It is not that the Government is indifferent to it. They are also trying to do something. Very recently, a national commission on agriculture labour has been set up. They are on their job. I think, last week, our hon. Prime Minister also expressed concern and said that the recommendation of the Commission would be implemented. Even without knowing for a moment what are the recommendations of the commission, he said, they would be implemented. You see the sincerity of purpose and honesty. Before the report is submitted we heard the Prime Minister saying that the recommendations would be implemented. So, here also, the Government has to apply its mind to different aspects of the complex problem and come forward with a comprehensive Bill dealing with all aspects.

I would say one thing here. Whatever might be the internal conditions of the country in the matter of law-making, under the Congress rule, India is definitely a progressive country. We have enacted several progressive legislations. In the field of labour also, on child labour, on bonded labour and so many other things, when we discuss those Bills here in the House, Members from both sides, irrespective of the

Party affiliations, have observed that the implementation is quite tardy; implementation is far from satisfactory. We find that the State machinery, which is the implementing machinery, is lacking in sincerity as there is no proper implementation. Therefore, it is not a question of just enacting the laws. Of course, without a law, you cannot move an inch forward. But we have to enact right type of laws. So, we have to find out and create right type of mechanism for proper implementation. More important than that is, we have to create a congenial climate so that such social laws, progressive laws are put to implementation in letter and spirit. As I told you the bulk, overwhelming majority of our working force are in the unorganised sector. India is by and large an agricultural country. At the time of achieving Independence, India was not capable of producing a pin, a blade. But that India is now recognised as a great industrial power by the whole world. It is one among the ten industrially advanced countries in the world. We have also got the industrial work force, industrial labourers who are organised. They have to their credit the bargaining power and capacity by demonstrating their strength, by stopping work etc. Almost in all the Industrial Undertakings they do have this process of better bargaining power. In spite of all these things, the fact remains that ours is an agricultural country. A vast majority of our people to the extent of 80 per cent depend on agriculture. We are again proud of having attained self-sufficiency in the field of agriculture. I am not going to quote figures. Everybody knows the tremendous impact of our agricultural advancement. The Green Revolution has been crowned with success. We are proud of that. Madam Indiraji, the then Prime Minister was given an award in the highest forum of the world i.e. the United Nations for her great contribution. We compliment the farmers and the peasantry as a whole. But what about those people who are really working in the fields day-in and day-out. They are braving the sun; they are braving the cold-wave and other hardships. The agricultural workers who are unorganised, who produce grains, don't get proper treatment. They produce grains and fill up the kits or the

stores of the farmers with grains. But sometimes they go without food. That is the irony in this country. We do not pay compliments to the agricultural labourers. Without their active cooperation and active support and also participation, could this Green Revolution have been a success in this country? But the point is that the benefits do not flow to these unorganised agricultural labourers.

Sir, our esteemed hon. Minister of Labour, before becoming the Minister, was a prominent labour leader of repute. He adorned the Presidentship of the INTUC. From those days and even prior to that he had also given a call for their welfare. He also expressed concern regarding this state of affairs. A time has now come when we should all go and make all endeavours to organise those unorganised labour force. Their condition is very pitiable and awful. There are such unorganised labour force, contract labourers, beedi workers and agricultural workers. Even they are not paid the basic minimum wage of Rs. 10/- prescribed by the Government. That is not ensured. I can quote instances. Even in the Government farms, agricultural labourers are not paid the wages prescribed by the Government. *CHIPILIMA* Farm is one such farm. That is a Central Government farm situated in the Sambalpur District of Orissa. I can give such instances. In so many other places, the contract labourers are not getting this minimum wage. If they go to the concerned Engineers they plead helplessness. According to the Contractors and Engineers by the time the tenders were out, the revised minimum wage was not there. In such an event, it could not be reflected. Since it is not reflected in the tenders, they could not pay the revised minimum wages. This is the funny situation. But this is a humanitarian question. These labourers are exploited thoroughly and continuously. We come across several instances. When they protest against this, they are threatened with retrenchment. In fact, many of them are thrown out of jobs. Even if we protest, there is no remedy for that.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, you can imagine to what extent we are moving towards urbanisation. People come to big cities because they do not have adequate job facilities in their own areas and they are attracted towards the towns and cities. They are attracted to towns and cities because even in their own small towns they do not find jobs.

"Anant Chinta Chamatkara" For them they go to Haryana, Punjab, Kashmir and many of them go to the Middle East and they are exploited there. They are forced to work for 12 hours or even 14 hours. Like this, many people from Orissa and Bihar have been subjected to such type of harassment. I would say that this is a very serious matter.

We are a democratic country. We are wedded to democratic socialism which means equal opportunity to be provided to all sections of people. But infact we have double standards prevailing in various fields.

17.01 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Although Supreme Court ruling is there that equal remuneration should be given for equal job we do not find it in all spheres. For the same work, we find a lot of difference in the wage structure. What I observe is that there is a lot of discrimination going on this. There are ill feelings and discontentment growing. Various groups are created like the urban people, rural people educated, uneducated, Government servants, non-Government servants etc. This poses a threat to our much needed, much desired national solidarity. Dignity of labour is a very essential part of democratic socialism and that is lacking in our work culture. One may be an agricultural labourer. What is the harm if the landlord embraces him? How many landlords and contractors go and call on their ailing labourer? Dignity of labour has to be manifested in our work culture. It is not a question of changing the structure just in one

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day or overnight. It calls for a revolutionary approach in our thoughts, in our mentality, in our work culture, in our day-to-day work.

Even the agriculturists and small farmers feel neglected. They have a reason to feel so. If all the people—organised people, Government employees, industrial labour etc.—are united, they gain so many things. But on the other hand, a small farmer has limitations. He has discontentment; he has grievances about the prices that are fixed for his produce. There is the Agricultural Prices Commission. But he is not consulted. That is why, there is one demand from farmers, producers and also the labourers that this is the time to give agriculture a status of an industry. This should be examined. These are not simple matters. This will also have its repercussion elsewhere. This should be studied carefully whether agricultural workers can be treated as industrial workers. If we ask a small farmer or a farmer having ten or twelve acres of dry land to bear the medical expenses of his labour, I think, he will be put to great hardship. This being a democratic country and being wedded to democratic socialism, we have to set an example everywhere in providing education, health and all other things to the unorganised labour, howsoever costly that might be. He is entitled to so many benefits, but because he is associated with agriculture as a labourer, he is deprived of them. Such a situation should not be allowed to prolong. In that case, it is the State which should come forward to make proper provisions, to make facilities for medical care, education, etc.

About the provisions of the Bill. I was telling that I do agree with certain provisions in this Bill. A Fund should be created and it should also be mentioned as to how the funds can be collected. Due and careful thought has to be given to it.

The organised labour who are also poor, I am sure, cannot come forward. But we are also urging upon the organised workers who are well paid to look to their brethren

who are in distress. Every good union should adopt one or two villages and should do something. I don't think it is desirable and practicable to ask the organised labour to make contribution for this fund. Our culture is that not I alone, but I and we and our neighbour and friends should all prosper. *Vasudaiva Kutumbakam* is the essence of Indian culture.

There are certain Funds like Mine Workers Development Fund. There are contract labourers, there are various contractors. Tendu Leaf merchants, etc. Why not they pay something to such Funds? It is a question of details. It is time that we gave serious thought to this aspect, to ameliorate the sufferings of our unorganised labour whose conditions are really pitiable. It is a question of dignity. In a democratic country like India we can no more afford to ignore all these people. They are also human beings and we are giving them voting rights. Everyone starting from the Prime Minister to the village chowkidar, everyone has one vote. Similarly in every field we have to provide the basic minimum facilities. How it could be done is a matter of detail.

A Fund should be created and certain other things also should be implemented with all the seriousness that it deserves.

[*Translation*]

SHRIGIRDHARILAL VYAS(Bhilwara): Hon. Mr. Chairman Sir, I support the unorganised Labour (Welfare Fund) Bill, presented by Shri Patil. But I feel that the way the Bill has been presented is not proper. Quite a few hon. Members have raised this point. Section 4 of the Bill says—

[*English*]

"Every member of organised labour who is in receipt of total emoluments of not less than one thousand rupees per mensem, Shall contribute one per cent of his total emoluments to the welfare fund"

[*Translation*]

How will this section be implemented? how can the organised labour be asked to contribute 1% their income towards this fund when they are in no way related to this fund? So this provision cannot be implemented and anyway its implementation will not be beneficial. As hon. Shri Rao said, there are 274 million unorganised labourers in this country. Even if the organised labor makes a contribution of 1% to the fund still it would be inadequate to fulfill the needs of the unorganised labour. So the formation of such a fund should be the responsibility of the Government or the employers who give them employment. Such a fund is very necessary.

I want to draw the hon. Minister's attention towards the khadi Gramodyog sector over which no labour law is applicable. There are 50 lakh workers in this sector, which include spinners and weavers. Khadi Gramodyog is the largest employer in India and no labour law applies to this sector. Nowhere do spinners and weavers get more than Rs. 3/- to Rs. 5/-. These people should also get minimum wages as fixed by the Centre or the States. Nothing can be done towards the welfare of these workers or meeting their requirements if such a step is not taken. When this law was introduced it was said that hospitals, charitable institutions and the Khadi Gramodyog sector will be exempted. Today this facility is being misused. Neither they give bonus nor do they contribute towards any employment fund. There are no monetary contributions on their part. These organisations earn profits in lakhs and yet contribute little towards the welfare of workers. So the law should be applicable to these sectors also. Welfare fund should be set up by these organisations as lakhs of workers employed in them will stand to gain similar is the case of construction labour PWD contractors get contracts worth crores of rupees from the Central as well as the State Governments. But their labour does not get minimum wages and other facilities. There are lakhs of such labourers in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

There is no provision for such people. Their employers are not bound by any law. No action is taken even if the contractor does not pay anything to his labour. So this matter should also be taken up.

There is a provision related to punishment which says:—

[*English*]

"Whoever contravenes the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder shall, if he is an employer, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both; and if he is a member of organised labour for a term of ten days or with fine which may extend to twice the amount of contribution he is liable to pay under this Act."

[*Translation*]

How this provision will be enforced? If they do not want to contribute towards the Welfare Fund, how will you award them sentence for 10 days? Under which provision of law you will award them punishment? If a legislation is passed against it, then it will definitely deprive them of facilities and it will also violate the provision of fundamental rights. Such provision of law can neither be enforced against the employer nor against the organised labour. Therefore this provision is totally uncalled for. As I have already stated that their intention is quite alright but the fact remains that no facilities are provided to the unorganised labour. A Welfare Fund should be created by the Central Government or by the State Government, otherwise these people will not get any facilities. They will feel comfortable and their children also will get education only when these arrangements are made by the Government. In this connection I want to give a suggestion and some hon. members have also expressed similar views. The number of unorganised labourers runs into lakhs-crores and our Hon. Prime Minister

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Vyas]

has also set up a commission for the rural labour and their report is likely to be received very soon. We had expressed our opinion in their questionnaire as well that such facilities should be provided to the rural labour to enable them to lead a better life.

I think their biggest problem is that of a house. You must have observed that a number of provisions have been made by the Government in this respect. Free plots should be allotted to the persons who live below the poverty line in the villages and arrangements are also being made for the construction of houses by the Panchayat and Municipality. The Government has introduced "Indira Gandhi Awas Yojna" and has also established Housing Bank. A number of steps have been taken in this regard. There is no use of the schemes if these are not implemented with full vigour and complete devotion. It is very necessary to provide houses to the labourers having no shelter irrespective of the fact that they are organised or unorganised. A big amount is required to provide them shelter. Besides this, the political will is also must to implement such a scheme as one cannot work without political will. We, our Prime Minister and our party want that such scheme should be launched. But the same cannot be implemented without taking it seriously. Therefore the first and foremost necessity is to provide them shelter.

My second point is about education. Our country is backward because of lack of education. In our country only 38 percent men and 12 per cent women are educated and rest of them are illiterate. Our country is very backward because of this illiteracy. Therefore it is essential to impart education to them whether through adult education or regular education. Besides this, there is a great discrimination in our country. On the one hand education is being imparted in English through Public Schools in our country and therefore the children of the people belonging to higher strata become IAS and IPS and occupy higher positions. But on the

other hand, even the basic necessities such as proper sitting arrangements, books, slates etc. are not provided to the school children in villages. When this is the position prevalent in villages, these children are bound to become only 'Masters' or 'Patwaris'. There is a very big difference in education imported in public schools and other schools. Therefore I would suggest that if we want to bring social equality, this difference of education will have to be dispensed with urgently. Owing to such system of education, a very big gap is existing in our country. The children who study in these public schools, spend large amount of money and after getting education through these schools occupy high positions and then the same people exploit the poor. I therefore suggest that every effort should be made to eradicate illiteracy. This is the reason of backwardness of the unorganised labour. There is an urgent need to impart technical education and other type of education to the unskilled labour in order to make them skilled one. Similarly there is an urgent need to strengthen the co-operative sector as it does not get the requisite amount.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The allotted time for this Bill is over. Is it the wish of the House to extend the time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes. We should extend the time by one or two hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the time being, let us extend by one hour.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): The Cabinet meeting is to take place at quarter past six. Therefore, let it come the next time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will come next time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: I was saying that co-operative sector should be strengthened in order to strengthen the unorganised labour. All their requirements should be met through it. If they need loan, it should be granted to them; Similarly consumer items should be made available to them at cheap rates. Their problems can be solved in this manner only.

I want to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Labour that 80 percent of our population is engaged in agriculture and agricultural work in our country which is available to them for six months only and they remain idle for the rest of six months. The Government will have to provide them work for next half-day. It is not possible that they should go to other places and work there. The Government should arrange to provide them work at their homes, it may be that of khadi or the village industry or something else. Such steps will go a long way in improving their economic condition. Some such arrangement should definitely be made. As I had stated earlier these village industries have not made progress to the desired extent. Although khadi has taken large strides and spinning work has also increased but a very little attention has been paid towards village industries and insignificant amount has been spent on them. Therefore maximum village industries should be set up in villages. People should be trained in this regard and a good amount is required to be spent on them. The programmes included in 20 Point Programme are required to be completed on a large scale. It will be a very good step if we could impart training to them and thus provide them self-employment at village level. There is an urgent need for making such efforts.

I may suggest that the Central Government should implement Employment Guarantee Programme as being implemented in Maharashtra. All programmes like NREP and RLEGP should be coordinated in the form of Employment Guarantee Programme to provide jobs to the unemployed people.

Such provisions should be made so that all construction works whether it is that of roads or ponds should be executed by the Central Government. The welfare activities can be carried further if all these programmes are coordinated. Such a scheme should be launched on a very large scale.

I respect the feelings of hon. Member Shri Patil. He is not present here today. It will be appropriate for him to withdraw this Bill and I would request to the Minister of Labour to bring a new Bill so that welfare activities could be carried out for unorganised labour.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Members of the House are discussing the issue of unorganised labour quite seriously today. My dearest friend, Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas has also exhaustively dwelt on the issues of their pitiable condition, their social standard and their exploitation, in this respect. He has covered the whole issue in a very comprehensive way. I feel that if the conditions of the labourers are not improved and they are kept deprived of the opportunities to progress, the whole nation would have to face a grave situation and it will give rise to various complications I feel the country is already passing through a crucial period due to population explosion. It is felt that population explosion has negated the development of the nation. Population explosion has negated our achievements. I feel that population explosion and unorganised labour have been the primary cause of increasing problems in the country. Unorganised labour has been causing increase in population. When a poor man adopts to a particular social life style and standard of living, he is least bothered about the number of children, he should have. He never gives a thought as to how he would manage to look after more lives. Instead he thinks that addition in children would add to the income of the family.

So, I feel that this Bill, which has been introduced here in the House, enables us to discuss the varied problems of the unorganised labour. But still my submission is that the

[Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

hon. Member should withdraw the Bill and should not press it. Working class is a significant part of our society and the Government should pay special attention towards them. If the Government really intends to check population explosion, it should improve the living conditions of the unorganised labour. Their living standards should be raised. The Government will have to assure them of their means of livelihood. Secondly, our country is a backward country and this is a cause of great concern. In fact, today these people who do not have adequate resources and money, are being exploited. They do not have permanent source of income. Their labour is misused. They are exploited for undesirable purposes. The unemployed labour itself is the unorganised labour. In fact, unemployment is the other name of unorganised labour. I have noticed that a particular section of people in Punjab is responsible for the exploitation of the youth. At the moment, I do not intend to discuss the problems of that region in detail but it is a fact that the problem of unemployment itself has been a major factor which is responsible for the prevailing situations in Punjab. So I think that the matter which is being discussed here in the House, has been one of the basic challenges. I feel that there has been a major contribution of the unorganised labour in the development of the nation. There has been more industrial growth in our country as compared to that in other countries and it has been primarily possible just because of the easy availability of labour and cheap labour. In Western countries, hourly wages are paid to the labour. I have observed that some people in Canada earn at the rate of 24 dollars per hour. The major cause of industrial growth in our country is the easy and cheap availability of labour. Even in the agriculture sector, labourers are unorganised. But they have made a major contribution in making the country self-sufficient in the matter of food-grains. They have also contributed a lot in the production of foodgrains, vegetables etc.

In view of the above facts, I would like to urge upon the Members of the House to give special consideration to the unorganised labour while dealing with the matters of the development, economic situation and industrial situation. It is also essential that the labourers are kept contented in order to check the unrest among the people. Keeping these very things in view, the great national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had laid stress on the fundamental rights. This august House has provided this basic right. Our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi also launched the programme of poverty alleviation. I won't say that she just gave the slogan, for, I do not like to indulge in passing meaningless comments. I say it in all its seriousness that Shrimati Gandhi must have thought of poverty alleviation from the core of her heart and for that she launched a specific programme and our Government too have full faith in safeguarding the fundamental rights. It is only unemployment and the uncertainties about future that gives vent to exploitation and lawlessness. I do not mean to say that it increases lawlessness rather the people are likely to have a bent towards it and it is pertinent for the Government to take certain effective measures in order to provide legal protection to the unorganised labour under the Employment Guarantee programme for their betterment.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK (Kalahandi): Sir, unlike other Members, let me express my thanks to Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, the mover of the Bill, because he has provided us an opportunity to deal and think about the problem which is virtually a challenge to all of us who are committed to the cause of socialism and who are committed to give dignity to all the people of this country. But, Sir, simultaneously, there are provisions in the Bill which are not practicable.

So, at the outset I would like to request

the Labour Minister to bring a comprehensive Bill from the Government side. They should bear in mind that in this Nehru Birth Centenary Year this will be a great service to the cause of the Indian people. It will be a befitting homage to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who was totally committed to human values and human dignity. Sir, I remember the definition of socialism given by Gandhiji. If one can provide a man with means of livelihood, health facility, clothing and shelter, that is the best socialism in Gandhiji's view. When you think of the country or when you think of a great cause, you please think of your fellowmen who is poor, who is not fed properly and who is not clothed properly and who has no house. If you can solve his problem, then that is the greatest human service that you can do. This is what Gandhiji used to say.

Today, despite our many achievements, despite the utilisation of a large amount of manpower, despite our economic and industrial growth, there is a large section of people which is below the poverty line. Most of these people belong to the unorganised labour class. In backward areas where there is no industrial development and the consciousness of the people is low due to lack of education and awareness, there is no labour movement. It is our experience and we have observed with great pain and anguish that the unorganised labour engaged in agriculture sector, bamboo cutting, timber business, etc. are exploited to the maximum extent possible. They neither get the minimum wages, nor are they in a position to raise their voice in protest against the injustice.

The greatest emphasis should be laid on creating awareness. Then alone can this problem be solved. We should see to it that people are aware of their human rights. They must be aware that they are not at the mercy of their employers or even the nation. They are a part and parcel of this country and they have a right to live with dignity. We also have to create awareness among them about the benefits of family welfare and family planing. due to various historical

circumstances, they are not educated. It is our duty to see that they are educated. Adult education schemes and other schemes sponsored by the Central Government should be implemented properly so that they can be educated and a sense of awareness is created in their minds.

We must realise that people living in the midst of an epidemic disease cannot escape its ill-effects. If we are really proud of being Indians, we must take care of not only our own development, but the development of our fellow-beings also. In this regard, we have a constitutional commitment also. We have chalked out various programmes in the Planning Commission. Unfortunately, because of lack of implementation of the programmes, we are not able to do justice to this large section of our society. This is also partly due to lack of commitment and awareness.

I will not take more of your time because many other members have to speak. I only want to urge upon the Government to come forward with a comprehensive Bill in this regard, especially keeping in view the Nehru Centenary. Secondly, we must strive to create a sense of awareness and build a sense of confidence among the unorganised labour. Since they are socially and educationally backward, it is our duty to create such confidence in them. We must also see they realise the importance of family planning. Next, we must develop cooperatives and see that they get justice and benefit through the cooperatives. We have to work out some sort of strategy and policy. many a time because of the temptation of permanent work, we give up the work which could have provided opportunity for more labour. You take the case of NREP and RLEGP. That should not be encouraged. Because it will ultimately hamper the cause of the unorganised labour.

I have nothing more to say. Lastly, I will request the Member of withdraw the Bill and simultaneously I will request the Government to bring forth a Bill for safeguarding our fellow beings for whom we have a moral responsibility, i.e. the unorganised labour.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY (Hazaribagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate the underlying spirit of the Bill. I am sure that the Bill presented by Shri Patil has been framed with bonafide intentions. The concern expressed about the unorganised labour reflects the concern of the entire country. It is not only today or in the recent past but since long that the hon. Prime Minister has been making it a point that measures have been taken to improve the conditions of labourers working in the organised sector, but the same is still to be done in regard to those working in the unorganised sector. In view of these sentiments, Rural Labour Commission has been set up and Shri Panika who has participated actively in the discussion, is also an honourable member of it. There is no two opinion about it that if adequate attention is not paid towards the problems of the unorganised labour, which constitute the biggest non institutional organisation in the country, the situation would not be mere a matter of concern but it would take an adverse turn so it has become essential to take effective measures in this regard. But the provisions made by Shri Patil do not seem to be bonafide. One of the provisions states that the employer would have authority to deduct one percent from the wages of the unorganised labour. But it does not clearly mention the source of such authority and mode of deduction. Today another provision has been made in the Bill which provides that the amount of provident fund would be deducted by the employer and deposited with the Government. It is the trust of the Government and the representatives of the employers are their trustees. It has been repeatedly stated that crores of rupees are collected by the employers in the form of provident fund deductions which they do not deposit with the Government. In spite of a provision of imprisonment for the defaulters, none of the defaulting employers has not been punished with imprisonment. Instead, they pocket the entire money while the administration remains helpless to take any action against them. Secondly organised labour and their unions have also been included in it. Sup-

pose the labourers refuse their contribution, if that amount would be deposited by the unions. Certain strange provisions have been made in the Bill just for the sake of formalities. They can create a grave situation in the country which would be difficult to tackle. The proposal of creating a welfare fund for the unorganised labour seems to be of no use, as it has been observed that all the welfare funds meant for them were created by making a legal provision for levying cess for the purpose. For instance in the case of coal mines welfare fund created for the welfare of the workers working in the coal mines, cess was imposed on the consumers. Only the bulk consumers should be supposed to pay the tax. It should be imposed upon the industries having large scale consumption of the commodities like coal, mica, dolomite, iron ore etc. So that the common man should be relieved of the burden. Only the specific interested parties should be supposed to bear the burden of cess. This Bill positively mentions these specific provisions. Even the payer is convinced that the tax charged on him is meant for the welfare of poor labourers. But the provision of deducting one percent from the wages of unorganised labour is beyond comprehension because it has nothing to do with their interest. Common man does not feel the prick of road cess because it is meant for the construction of roads in their area and thus to provide facilities of transportation. Welfare cess is also levied on the similar principles. In the same way it would be totally unjustified to levy welfare cess on those who have no concern with it. I think that all this will be reduced to sham and will not serve any purpose. Industrial dispute Act will also be rendered ineffective in case the unorganised labour oppose it and refuse to pay this cess. Under the present system we do not have any such provision to penalise those who violate the rules. Instead an employer is supposed to undergo six months imprisonment for violating the law. The Government have made such provisions in all the relevant acts. But the Government finds itself incapable to take any action against the employer if he does not deposit the amount of provident fund with the Gov-

ernment. If at all a case is filed in the country by the Ministry of Labour, he would prefer to pay the penalty which will be as small an amount as the amount of interest on the money already in their possession. So the things which are not rational should not take place. I am sure that the Government would pay as much attention towards the unorganised labour as it pays to the organised labour

so that the people may feel that the Government is very much concerned about their welfare and taking effective measures in this

regard. Labour Commission has been set up for rural labour but organised labour or unorganised labour is not confined only to the rural sector. The Government will have to make provisions for those working in major urban centres and big industrial complexes. TISCO has a major industrial unit in Jamshedpur. It would be ridiculous to suppose that there is no problem. Forty thousand works are employed there in this plant.

Besides, there are workers such as those working with the contractors, the Construction workers and the workers in allied services. They also constitute the unorganised labour. Who is organised and who is unorganised is not the problem, but the real problem is that like organised labour, how we can raise any organisation to unite and to protect the interest of the unorganised labour otherwise there is no doubt that mere enacting laws will not yield good results. Therefore, I would request Shri Patil, who has introduced this Bill in the House, to bring another Bill in which provisions should be made to float union of unorganised labour to unite them. We, all 524 members should take responsibility to work in our respective constituencies to unite the unorganised labour force so that Government may not dare to turn down their demands. The organised labour which we see today, has been organised in the same manner. I know because I have been working among the coal mine workers for the last 35 years. At that time coalmine workers were even worst among the unorganised sector. In those days, 50 paise and a handful of rice were given to them. At that time they pledged to have their union. They used to subscribe for the union from their meagre wages of Rs.

one and Rs. one and half to become members. Since then, country realised their strength and hardships gradually. Today they are one among the highly paid staff. They did it with their united strength and organised force.

Charity and alms will not benefit them but that will be harmful of them. Instead of providing strength to them it will render them destitute. Therefore, we all should resolve to unite them. The unorganised labour will be organised and such organisation will be strengthened with the help of the Government because it is inspiration of the Government to organise the agricultural labour and Government will provide all necessary assistance to them. When we have such a set up, why should we not take benefit of it. Today the situation is such that many people are not aware that they would get funds from the Government if they have to get their union registered. The Government wants to help them. I do not favour a system where we don't contribute anything and instead ask them to give money for their own welfare.

If we can turn the unorganised sector into an organised one, only then we can serve them better. Such a move would give them enough strength and no Government would dare to deny them minimum wages and other facilities. Only when they are organised will they have the power to fight for their rights. Government will have to yield before their united strength.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I suggest that for the welfare of unorganised labour they should be turned into an organised force. The Government should help in making this possible. Their demands, like being brought under the Minimum Wages Act, should be met. Today we see that the Minimum Wages Act is not implemented. The Inspector goes to the villages and returns with the gratification amount given by farmers. He does not try to implement the law. We have made the Minimum Wages Act for people working in the unorganised sector. Inspectors meet the farmers or their employers who are to implement the law and return without verifying the

[Sh. Damodar Panndey]

facts from the labourers because they do not have organised strength.

I suggest that the Minimum Wages Act, Bonded Labour Act and such other labour related Acts be made more stringent. This can be done only through making them organised.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Perhaps my hon. colleague who spoke before me wanted that no one else should get a chance to speak. We people were also waiting.

I thank hon. Shri Patil for introducing a very useful Bill containing original ideas in this House. Possibly there may be some shortcomings towards whom my hon. colleagues have drawn attention. But its other aspect is worth considering. There is no welfare fund for workers in the unorganised sector. I do not think that just because no welfare fund exists there should not be a discussion in the House on this subject. There are a number of sectors where unorganised labour works and welfare fund is of special importance to them. A welfare fund can be created for them if the Government is willing to put in some efforts.

I want to draw your attention towards certain backward states such as Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh etc. from where labourers migrate to other states. When such labourers migrate to other states in search of work they in real sense come under the definition of unorganised labour. A welfare fund can be created for them. One of the States have made a migrant labour Act wherein it is provided that welfare of labour in the unorganised sector be taken up. Labour migrates in large numbers from

Bihar to Haryana, Punjab and Assam. The Number of such people could be registered. The names of their employers can be specified. The Bihar Government has made a Migrant Labour Act when I was Labour Minister there. The Act provided that in the states where labourers migrate for employment, an officer to the rank of Deputy Commissioner shall be posted who will be responsible for registration of migrant labour and ensuring that they get minimum wages. A welfare fund can be created either out of their earnings or separately.

No contribution is deducted from the wages of beedi workers for their welfare fund. Instead, it is their employers who make contributions towards this fund. In fact, these people are contributing in crores towards welfare fund of beedi workers. But it is regrettable that amounts from their welfare fund are disbursed in a most disorganised manner. It is not specified as to what type of labour will get how much. It is not clear as to what part of the fund shall be spent on setting up hospitals, treatment of diseases like T.B. and such other matters concerning labour welfare.

I urge the hon. Labour Minister to consider ways and means to work for the welfare of unorganised labour.

Another point relates to the over-exploitation of migrant labour by their employers. They are forcibly made to consume liquor.

[English]

MR., CHAIRMAN: You please continue next time.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the Clock on Monday, February 27, 1989/Phalgun 8, 1910 (Saka)

