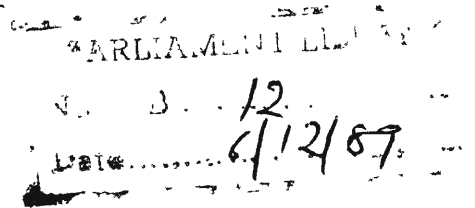


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Thirteenth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते



(Vol. L contains Nos. 41 to 49)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 5, 1989 Vaisakha 15, 1911
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Awadeshwar Prasad Sinha who was a member of the Provisional Parliament and First Lok Sabha during 1950-56 representing Muzaffarpur East constituency of Bihar. In 1956 he was elected to Rajya Sabha and remained a member of that House till 1976.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Sinha took keen interest in the problems of the peasantry and labour.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment. He also took part in the Civil Disobedience, Harijan uplift and Temple Entry movements in 1932-33.

An eminent and dedicated social worker, he was associated with several organisations in various capacities.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions thereto.

Shri Awadeshwar Prasad Sinha passed away on 27th March, 1989 at the age of 82.

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

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

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

UNFDAC Assisted Project

*861. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects to be implemented in the country with the assistance of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC); and

(b) the voluntary organizations/agencies involved in implementation of projects and the extent of their involvement?

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

STATEMENT

(a) The United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC), in an agreement signed on 17th August, 1988 with the Government of India, has committed financial assistance of US \$ 20 million in the field of drug abuse prevention. The amount will be spent over a period of five years. The details of allocation for various activities under the project are indicated as under —

		<i>US \$</i> <i>(in million)</i>
1	Strengthening of measures against illicit drug traffic	7 50
2.	Modernisation and strengthening of narcotic drugs testing laboratories	0 80
3	Strengthening of control over illicit opium production	3 50
4	Drug dependence, prevention and treatment measures	5 35
5	Rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts	2 50
6	Prevention of drug abuse through education and information	0 35
		20 00

(b) Two voluntary organisations, namely, The Opium Deaddiction Treatment, Training and Research Trust, Jodhpur and Jagran of Delhi have been identified for financial assistance. The opium Deaddiction Treatment, Training and Research Trust, Jodhpur would get US \$ 4,50,000 over a period of five years for activities relating to community awareness, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts, in the field of drug abuse. Jagran of Delhi would get US \$ 80,000 over a period of five years for its activities in the field of drug abuse control relating to training of theatre and pantomime artists in creating community awareness against drug abuse.

SHRI SHRIHARI RAO Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has said that 7.5 million dollars have been allocated to strengthen measures against illicit drug traffic. It is often reported in the Press that illicit drug traffic from Pakistan is very acute. What are the specific steps taken to prevent smuggling of drugs especially Ganja and Opium from Pakistan to India? What is the

amount spent and which are the agencies employed for this purpose?

SHRI A K PANJA Sir, the first part of the question does not arise out of this question. But so far as the Indo-Pak border is concerned, we have taken several steps to contain drug trafficking. Indo-Pak border is controlled by the Border Security Force and some other agencies including the narcotic staff and customs staff. There are check points at specific points of entry wherein there are regular checks which are carried on and the border area being a vast area, an open border, the help of the local police is also taken for the purpose of containing the situation. We have established counter-intelligence for exchange of information with Pakistan and India and they are also giving us help. So far as the second portion of the question is concerned, the amount which has been given is 20 million US dollars for a period of five years which comes to about Rs. 27 crores in Indian currency as on 17th August, 1988. Our year starts with the calen-

dar year and not with the financial year. Of that amount, so far as this year is concerned, the total amount which has been budgeted for is Rs. 6.90 crores. Some help is being given for the purpose modernising the Narcotic Control Bureau—The Narcotic Control Bureau has already been set up. Additional help will go for forensic laboratories science and training. The amount allotted for the Narcotic Control Bureau is Rs. 2.20 crores, for forensic laboratories science and training is Rs. 26 lakhs, for the Narcotic commission, which is set up is Rs. 58 lakhs, for the University Grants Commission is Rs. 20 lakhs, for the Ministry of Health, for the purpose of taking care of the people already addicted with drugs, is Rs. 2.27 crores and for the Ministry of Welfare, for opening counselling centres and others, is Rs. 1.37 crores. So, the total amount is Rs. 6.90 crores.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Government take steps to organise students vigilance cells in the university campus and hostels to prevent drug addiction among the student population? In some of the universities like the Osmania University in Hyderabad, such a students cell is already organised. Will the Government encourage them?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Yes, Sir. Whenever there are students particularly in voluntary organisations, we are encouraging them. If there is a cell which is also recognised by the university or by the department concerned, we are encouraging them. You must have seen in the newspapers they are already doing; they are taking out processions and organising seminars in their own locality, and we are giving help to them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, opium is being grown in the country. Particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Kota there is illicit opium production. Farmers produce more than the prescribed limit and then this excess opium is diverted to areas like Barmer, Jaisalmer or Jodhpur. There are no special arrangements to check this. Does the Government intend to take

steps against the illicit opium production by imposing a ban on production of opium above the prescribed limits? This has led to a high intake of opium in our areas. Are any voluntary organisations active in the field of treatment of opium addicts and what has been the result of their efforts?

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, not only in the area mentioned by the Hon. Member, but in Kerala also we had a massive programme to destroy the illicit cultivation of cannabis and we succeeded in our effort. Sir, the problem has to be tackled taking into consideration the whole aspect of it. The farmers prefer to grow easy cash crop. So, the problem has to be solved at the grass root level. Until we provide the farmers with the alternative crop to grow we cannot solve this problem. We have coordinated with the Ministry of Agriculture so that the farmers may be given some aid in the form of some seeds...

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Some compensation.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: No, not compensation but some substitute crop has to be grown in these areas. Otherwise also we have limited the licit growing area. We are bringing down the area of licence cultivation gradually because right now if we completely stop giving licence, it will not be beneficial to the farmers and they will grow it illegally. So, we are restricting even the licit cultivation of Opium to the extent it is required for medicinal purposes. To check the illicit cultivation we have mounted vigil in the sensitive areas so that we can get the information. We have taken the help of the State Government—as we have done in Manipur and Kerala—and destroyed huge quantities of illicit Cannabis cultivation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever the hon. Minister of Finance talks of opium in the context of Madhya Pradesh, his attention is drawn

mainly towards the district of Mandsaur. This year the Government has reduced the size of land holdings on lease to as small an extent as possible. No farmer has now more than 10 areas of land. In the last Session we had discussed this problem in the context of Uttar Pradesh. I congratulate the hon. Minister for having arranged to destroy the illegal opium produced over several hectares in Uttar Pradesh. There is no illegal cultivation in the district of Mandsaur but its farmers have to bear the brunt of illegal cultivation being practiced elsewhere. May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government has any scheme to provide compensation to farm labours who were engaged in this work and whose wages have decreased? The Government will support the lease-holders but what about the landless labourers. In Mandsaur district there are 33 lakh families engaged in this work. I want to know if there is any scheme for them so that I can explain to them that the Government is looking after their interests.

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, there is no scheme for compensating the illegal cultivation.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: It is not a matter of paying compensation.

[Translation]

What alternative can the Government offer to the landless labourers?

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA: As I said in my answer to the first question, we have to solve this problem at the grass root level. Some alternative crop has to be grown in those areas but it cannot be done overnight. The land has to be studied properly in order to see what type of alternative crop could be grown there. This is the difficulty in Mandsaur, Ghazipur and Neemuch areas. We have reduced the licencing capacity. Government is fully aware of the problem of the farmers

and the only solution is to grow some alternative crop there. We have taken up this matter with the Department of Agriculture.

SHRI C.P. THAKUR: Sir, as the phenomenon of addiction is growing in such a huge number, is Government proposing to set up at least one Centre for the treatment of the disease as well as for the rehabilitation of the addicts, as the recurrence is very common, if not in every State at least in the states which are heavily affected by it? In the State of Bihar also we find there is an increase in the number of addiction cases but we do not find any such Centre there.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, there are already a number of centres opened throughout the country and the whole list is with me. If the Hon. Member is interested, I can give the whole list. It is not arranged in the chronological order. There is a Youth Mobilization for National Advancement, Prabhayan, Buddha Colony, Patna-1. This was set up in Patna as a Counselling Centre.

So far as the working of the voluntary organisations is concerned, Bihar has got three such Counselling Centres.

SHRI C.P. THAKUR: They are only on paper.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: If he says that it is only on paper, then he must go and visit that place—I have given the address—and write a letter to me, then he will know that it is not only on paper but it is actually functioning.

Entrepreneurs Problems in Setting up 100% EOUs

*862. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the problems faced by the entrepreneurs in setting up 100 per cent Export-Oriented Units (EOUs);

(b) whether Government have invited suggestions from these entrepreneurs to

find remedy to their problems; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

1. Streamlined procedures exist for granting expeditious approvals and for facilitating the setting up of 100% Export Orient Units. Applications are expeditiously processed and considered by an Inter-ministerial Board of Approvals in the Ministry of Commerce, for according one window clearance. Approved Units are issued a Green Card which accords them priority in access to infrastructural facilities and operational inputs. Imports of capital goods and Production inputs can be made by these units under Open General Licence.
2. Various issues have been brought to the notice of Government from time to time by individual applicants such as stiff competition and unremunerative prices in the export markets, need for a higher level of Cash Compensatory Support, non-acceptance of the viability of the project by financial institutions, difficulties in attaining the specified value addition, problems in the disposal of scrap and waste, constraints in power availability, other infrastructural constraints, non availability of mining leases for some raw materials etc.
3. These issues are taken up with the concerned agencies, Central and State. The scheme has also been revamped by the Government taking into account the suggestions received from the industry, in order to improve its efficiency. Periodical meetings are held by the Ministry of

Commerce associating the various departments and agencies of the Central Government with the entrepreneurs at Delhi and at regional locations to ascertain and resolve problems of individual units on the spot.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the statement, it appears that person or persons or company, whose ever desires to set up 100 per cent Export Oriented Units will get the green card immediately and can set up the units within six months or one year. But we have seen cases where the green cards are issued after two or three years. It is because the other formalities are not being completed and also because of the hurdles being created by the other Ministries—the Industry Ministry and the Commerce Ministry—or the officers at the lower level.

Here it is mentioned that one window system is there to give priority to such industries or to such entrepreneurs, who want to establish or start such kind of factories or industries. But we find that in the Department itself, there is no coordination, let alone coordination between the different Departments. The Ministers of different Departments may be coordinating but their officers don't coordinate. It depends on the whims and fancies of these officers. I can cite one example. The Amethi Textiles Unit which was to be set up in an industrially backward area of U.P. got the licence 1 1/2 years ago. They brought the machinery but it is lying in the Bombay Dockyard for the permission of the Customs Officer of Allahabad. He says that the factory sheds should be completed 100 per cent and then only the shipments will be allowed or transportation will be allowed while in other cases of such types, even the barbed wire fencing is enough for allowing the movement of the machinery from the Bombay Dock to the site.

So, much are the examples. It depends on the whims and fancies of the officers. How are the going to tackle this? The cost of the machinery which is lying at the Bombay

Dock is Rs. 28 crores. A lot of demurrage is being paid there.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: If the hon. Member would kindly give me the details of this, I shall certainly have them examined.

But so far as the broader question which he was raised is concerned, I am afraid the points he has made are very valid. There are lot of delays and there are lot of difficulties because of the inter-Ministerial consultations. These schemes are not working as best as they should in my opinion. But we are examining these matters all the time. The scheme is new. The culture is new. Therefore, it will take a little time for adjustment.

SHRI VJAY N. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether he will propose a meeting of the Chief Ministers and his Ministry specially for these units which are coming up in different States. What are the main difficulties in different States—the industrial atmosphere vis-a-vis the priority which is to be given to such Export Oriented Units?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member. We shall certainly try to meet the Chief Ministers. We already have a proposal to have a meeting with the Chief Ministers for discussing the entire gamut of exports and the involvement of the State Governments in exports.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: There have been persistent demands for a higher level cash compensatory support for these units. What is the present support and is the Government prepared to enhance this?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Cash is not available!

SHRI DINESH SINGH: So far as I remember, they are allowed 50% of the CCS that is available in the domestic tariff area. Some of them have represented. Some cases were considered on case-by-case basis, depending upon their requirements and their merits. But I do not think that we have agreed

to the general proposition.

[*Translation*]

Ganga-Cauvery Link Canal through Bihar

*863. **SHRI VJOY YADAV:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Ganga-Cauvery link canal project through which water is to be supplied to Nalanda district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the areas of Bihar to be benefited by it; and

(c) the stage of this project and by what time it is likely to be completed?

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

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

SHRI VJOY KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir,.....

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is strange that Krishna is saying no to Ganga and Kaveri.

MR. SPEAKER: The work is such that she is free to say yes or no.

SHRI VJOY KUMAR YADAV: The hon. Minister hails from my neighbouring constituency.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTANIK: Then you can sort it out among yourselves.

SHRI VJOY KUMAR YADAV: That course of action has not paid any dividends..... (*Interruptions*) The question is whether there is some Central irrigation project for supplying water to the district of Nalanda in Bihar; and if so the stage at which it stands now? The reply was in the negative. A canal was laid to channelize the water of

river Ganga to irrigate areas in Southern U.P. Does the Government envisage a similar scheme to form a water reservoir in the valley of Rajgir hills. A canal can be constructed from the reservoir to irrigate the "nearby areas of Rajgir, Girihat, Islampur, Akungar, Biharsharif and Asthama. There is no other means of irrigation over there and the situation is serious. If there is no scheme at present, will the Government consider formulating such a scheme? May I know the hon. Minister's view point in this matter because I have been repeatedly raising it since 1980 when I came here?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has given a long speech and it is not clear as to what he wants to know. As far as I have understood, first of all he asked whether there is any irrigation project in the district of Nalanda. He also said that being neighbors we are not getting proper help. I would like to inform the hon. Member that there are three main irrigation schemes in Nalanda district. These are at Panchane, Parmar and Udera. These schemes are being implemented through the special foodgrains production programme and the Central Government is giving the funds for it. This is the reply to his first question. If he can clarify his second question I can reply to that also.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: My first question was whether there is any scheme to irrigate the land in Nalanda district through a canal from the Ganga.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: There is no such scheme. His three questions are over.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Only two questions have been raised.

MR. SPEAKER: The beginning is yet to come... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: The hon. Prime Minister had announced recently that schemes would be formulated at the district level. The schemes which the hon.

Minister has referred to are not related to irrigation and all these schemes are non-operational at the moment. What schemes have been envisaged for the district of Nalanda and what is the state of the Upper-Sekri project? Perhaps, the Upper-Sekri project is concerned with the hon. Minister's constituency also. This project is lying incomplete. The hon. Minister failed to make a mention of it in her speech. What is being done about this project?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: There are three irrigation schemes for which the Central Government has sanctioned funds. This irrigation scheme is being renovated. There was a proposed Ganga-Damodar Link Scheme in 1975. This was meant for irrigation and water transport in Nalanda, Hazaribagh, Bhojpur and Patna. A lot of energy is needed for pumping purposes so this scheme is being considered by the State Government at the pre-feasibility level. The Upper-Sekri project is not related to this.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Sir, Krishna, now you may put a question to Krishna.

SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH: The condition of the Sone Canal is the same as was of the Banh Sagar Project. Due to the callous attitude of the U.P. Government the oldest Maha project is on the verge of closure. A meeting of the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh is to be held to discuss this issue. May I know if the hon. Minister will intervene in this matter and save the oldest project Sone Canal? I also want to know the progress made by the scheme, already approved by the centre, regarding supply the water of the Jamania Ganga to the city.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: The question raised by him on river Sone is not related to this. But meetings of the Chief Ministers have been held periodically. The Government believes in a policy of solving disputes across the table. Two or three days back a meeting of the Chief Ministers of these three States was held and another meeting will be held on the 9th in which the hon. Minister will

also participate. The scheme for the Jamania Ganga is related to Ganga Damodar link and is in the pre-feasibility stage. The Jamania Canal will transport 255 cusec of water per second to various districts. But this scheme is under consideration and nothing definite can be said about it (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.P. THAKUR: A discussion should be held on this because this concerns Bihar and every year a large part of Bihar is affected by it.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Is it a fact that 80 per cent of our water resources are not utilised? Has a national water grid been conceived? Has the latest technology been utilised for the purpose of going in for a national grid so that we may utilise our water resources properly at least by the end of the 9th Plan?

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: There is a provision for inter-basin transfer in the National Water Policy. It is in this background that the National Perspective Plan is being considered.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: The Ganga Canal from Nepal passes from Uttar Pradesh into Bihar. As a dam has collapsed in Nepal, there is no water in this canal. This has caused acute shortage of water in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Is the Government aware of the dam having collapsed? If so, what steps are being taken for its repair?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: This is not relevant to the main Question.

SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some time ago late Shri K.L. Rao used to be the Minister of Irrigation at the centre and the hon. Minister's father, was the Minister of Irrigation in Bihar in those days. At that time a decision had been taken regarding the execution of Mukama Barhiya Tal Project and the main question pertains to that devel-

opment project.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: There is no such project. The Government of Bihar has stated that at present there is no such project.

SHRI KUNWAR RAM: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken or is being taken by the Central Government or the Government of Bihar to execute the said project in view of the fact that a decision in this regard had since been taken.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Mokama Barhiya Tal Project issue is not directly connected with this question. But I would like to inform the hon. Member that when Shri K.L. Rao was the Union Minister, he had gone to Bihar. He had got a survey conducted in respect of Mokama Barhiya Tal Project and admitted that there is large potentiality of growing pulses in this area. Perhaps, the hon. Member is raising this question in this House in that context, Perhaps he is also aware that on 15th instant the Government of Bihar took a decision to set up a Tal Authority for this purpose. When the said authority is set up, the matter of executing the project in an integrated way could be discussed and the point of its implementation would be discussed.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The proposal to set up the authority was initiated at your instance.

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that a number of Irrigation projects are submitted to the centre after their having been approved by the respective states and work on the project is started after the clearance is accorded on them by the Central Government. But due to Forest conservation Act, work on a number of projects is held up mid way. In order to re-start the work on these projects, proposals are sent to the Ministry of Irrigation or the Central Forest Department or the Department of Environment so that the work on them could be completed after receiving

clearance from them. It is also seen that lots of difficulties are experienced in obtaining clearance from the centre. In view of this, will the Government consider to set up a co-ordination committee for coordination between the Ministry of Irrigation, Ministry of Forest and the concerned State Governments so that the irrigation projects are cleared and completed easily.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: If there is any threat to these projects on account of water, suitable remedial measures could be taken by our Ministry, but what can I say if the projects are not being cleared by the department of forests and any difficulty is being experienced on that account.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of national importance. Today, a number of irrigation projects are lying incomplete. Though work on them has been started, but these cannot be executed for want of clearance from the Forest Department. Please ask the hon. Minister to do the needful in this regard. A lot of money is going waste, Sir. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: It has no concern with the Ministry of Water Resources.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: It is definitely the concern of your department.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: No, no.

[*English*]

Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Jogighopa

*864. SHRI ABDUL HAMID†:
SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost to be incurred on construction of rail-cum-road bridge over river Brahmaputra at Jogighopa; and

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

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As per estimate sanctioned in April, 1987, the cost of rail-cum-road bridge over river Brahmaputra at Jogighopa was Rs. 20.05 crores, including share of Ministry of Surface Transport, but excluding cost of road approaches.

(b) The completion of the project would depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

[*English*]

SHRI ABDUL HAMID: The Minister in his statement has stated that an amount of Rs. 120.05 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of a rail-cum-road bridge at Jogighopa. But he is not able to give the target date for the commissioning of the bridge. But the construction of the bridge is not the solution to the acute backwardness of the area. Simultaneously a national railway line is essential. Recently, there has been proposal for a railway line from Pancharatna to Guwahati and I think it has been sanctioned by the Government. I want to know the amount sanctioned for the project and as to when the work will be started.

Another point is, I want to know if there is any proposal for a new railway line from Goalpara to Manikachar which is a border town in Goalpara district, which is the most backward district and there are no other means of communications there. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister when the new railway line from Goalpara to Guwahati would be commissioned and if there are any plans with the Government, for a new line from Goalpara to Manikachar.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, I have already replied to the main question of the hon. Member. The main question pertains to Jogighopa and Guwahati. Since it is a very

important bridge, we are concentrating on 3 points in respect of the construction of this bridge. i.e. the construction of bridge itself, construction of approach roads and laying of a 143 kilometer long railway line from Jogighopa to Guwahati. Work on the project has been started in 1986. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that a sum to the tune of Rs. 35.30 crores has already been spent on this project by 31-3-1989 and upto March, 89, 17.5 percent work of the project has been completed. As regards the point he has raised now, no action has been taken so far. If the Hon. Member is interested in more details, I would like to inform him that we have undertaken work of 7 new railway lines in the North-Eastern sector. Work on Dharmanagar-Kumarghat line will be completed by December 89. A total stretch of 22 kilometres of railway has already been opened for traffic and the second...

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH: He is not interested in details. You are unnecessarily telling all these things.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: I am telling about the new railway lines for the information of Hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Tell only that much what he has asked.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, we are going to open 4 new lines in 1989-90 in the North-Eastern region. As regard the point he has raised now, I would say that no action has been taken on it so far.

[English]

SHRI ABDULHAMID: There is a standing convention that eighty per cent of the job will be provided to the local people. But in Assam, with regard to construction of the railway bridge, allegations were made by the people that less than forty per cent people have been recruited from the local people and another forty per cent people have been recruited from outside the district. As far as construction work is concerned, Goalpara district is the most backward districts and

there are hundreds of landless people. The Company which has been entrusted with the construction work is recruiting labourers from outside the district. I want to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government will give strict direction to the Railway Department as well as the construction company to recruit local people for the construction work as well as the railway job.'

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, there is no information with about the people who have been given employment in these projects. The hon. Member has asked about jobs in the project. If the hon. Member is interested in the details, he may give it in writing. I shall send him a written reply indicating as to whether local people have been employed there or people from outside have been engaged.

[English]

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Sir, communication is the most important one in the modern days. So far as my State Assam is concerned, it is very much neglected. As far as railway communication is concerned, we have been pleading to the Government time and again to improve the communication system. There are proposals for new bridges, not only Jogighopa put Bogibill in Dibrugarh. The Government has not taken any steps as far as the Bogibill bridge is concerned. In the second part of the answer, the Minister has stated that there is no time bound programme. I would say, it is a cavalier reply. I want to know from the Minister, how many years they will take to complete the bridge; whether this will be completed within this century or the next century; to whom the construction work has been entrusted; and whether any middlemen has been engaged while giving the construction work.'

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Sir, we have the same reply despite a large number of

questions on it.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: In reply to the hon. Member's question as to the sources from which this expenditure is being met, I would like to inform him that funds for the project are being made available from 3 sources i.e., the North-Eastern Council, the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Railway. He has also enquired about the time by which the project is likely to be completed. I have already stated that it depends on the availability of resources. But for the year 1989-90 the Ministry of Railways has earmarked a sum of Rs. 13 crores for the purpose and the Ministry of Surface has given an assurance to provide Rs. 10 crores for the construction of this bridge. At the same time..... (*Interruptions*)

You are a very learned Member. Please listen carefully. The North-Eastern Council has assured to provide a sum of Rs. 20 crores. A provision of Rs. 43 crores has been made for the current financial year, 1989-90 and the work is in full swing. Now our efforts are concentrated at completing the Jogighopa bridge. The point of taking up any other bridge will be considered later.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The hon. Minister stated just now that the construction of Dharmanagar-Kumarghat railway line.

MR. SPEAKER: It has no concern with it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Since he had himself given this information I was asking. It will be commissioned by December 1989, but the pace of construction is very slow. It took 9 years for 53 kilometres. But the demand of Tripura is not only for the construction of railway line from Dharmanagar to Kumarghat but also for the railway line from Dharmanagar to Agartala. The Hon. Prime Minister had also given an assurance before the assembly elections that construction would be undertaken to lay railway line from Dharmanagar to Agartala. I would like to know if a plan to construct a railway line from Dharmanagar to Agartala has been

included in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: I would like to inform the hon. Member that the line covering a distance of 33 kilometres from Dharmanagar to Kumarghat is under construction and it will be opened to traffic in December 1989. So far no decision has been taken to extend the construction upto Agartala.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What was the assurance of the Hon. Prime Minister?

[*English*]

SHRI HAREN BHUMJ: Sir, the holy Ganges and the Brahmaputra are the two holy rivers flowing in the country. There are eight bridges over the Ganges covering 800 kms. The Brahmaputra is also equal in length covering 800 kms., but it is having only two bridges; one is rail-cum-road bridge and the other is road bridge. What to speak of the construction of the the bridge, even the consideration of the the bridge, even the consideration for construction of the fourth bridge at Bogibil near Dibrugarh over Brahmaputra is also under shadow. It is the feeling of the people of the State that the State which is producing coal, oil, plywood and more than 50 per cent of the total production of tea in this country, is lagging behind with inadequate rail communication and road transportation; they are having only two bridges over Brahmaputra even after 42 years of independence. In view of the feelings of the people that the State is treated step-motherly I want to know through you the reaction of the Government.'

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, it has no relevance with the main question.

[*English*]

Transportation of Pan Baskets

*866. **SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH:** Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether pan merchants and pan growers are facing a lot of problems in Vasai Taluka of Thane district (Maharashtra) because of non-clearance of pan baskets to Vasai Road by 19 DN regularly;

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

(c) whether pan baskets were left at Vasai Road for want of VP/LR during certain days in January and February, 1989; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to solve this problem on permanent basis?

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Some representations regarding difficulties in the clearance of betel leaf parcel traffic from Vasai Road by 19 DN have been received.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Temporary shortage of Parcel Vans on Western Railway due to operational difficulties. Adequate number of spare Parcel Vans are being arranged by transferring from other Railways.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply of the hon. Deputy Speaker Minister of Railways, it appears that he has been vaguely briefed by the Railway authorities even if the answer is not wrong. In reply to part (d) of the question, the hon. Minister has mentioned the "temporary shortage of Parcel Vans etc. to be the cause of difficulty. But there is no such shortage because 19 DN is a regular train and you have provided that all the Betel Merchants of Vasai Road Station may send their consignments of betel leaves baskets by this train. Betel growers of Vasai district supply betel leaves upto Delhi and Dehradun and if for a single day the betel leaves are not lifted then betel growers incur heavy losses as the betel leaf is a perishable item.

This is a chronic problem and in 1986-87, I had myself accompanied the Divisional Railway Manager for an on the spot study visit to Vasai Road Station and had discussed the issue with him. At that time, the Divisional Manager had assured that the entire stock of betel leaves baskets would be regularly lifted. However, due to the malpractices of the Railway Officers at the Bombay Central itself, the VP/LRs are booked to the capacity and no space is left for the Vasai Road Station. I do not want any assurances, but a promise that within 19 days, arrangements will be made for regular lifting of the betel stocks at the Vasai Road Station, to save betel growers from the losses being incurred by them.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. It is correct that everyday 125 betel leaves baskets are booked at the Vasai Road Station to be carried by 32 Parcel Vans of the Western Railway while the requirement is of 34 Parcel Vans. The reasons for this is the shortage of Parcel Vans, as I told earlier also, because as at present, priority is being given to the production of passenger coaches and we are manufacturing passenger coaches in our Kapurthala factory. After meeting the requirements of passenger coaches, we will try to manufacture the maximum number of Parcel Vans. We have been meeting the demand for Parcel Vans, on exchange basis from other Zonal Railways. The Railway will do their best to avoid any inconvenience to be caused on that account and to make optimum utilisation of Parcel Vans capacity, to lift the entire betel leaves stocks regularly.

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH: I would like to repeat it that the shortage of VP/LRs can be understood on the day when 19 UN comes without them. But VP/LRs are regularly attached to the 19 Dn and are packed to capacity from Bombay Central itself about which I have already written to the Chief Operating Officer giving the datewise position and the number of parcels not lifted from Vasai Road Station on each day. So I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will take any action against the officer incharge

at the Bombay Central after inquiry, on the days the stock of Betel leaves baskets is not lifted from the Vasai Road Station, due to shortage of space?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: Sir, I invite the hon. Member to see me, along with the letters purportedly written by him to discuss the matter and I would like to assure him strictest action against the erring officers.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, about the kind of arrangements being made for transporting perishable items like betel leaves and fish, as a supplementary to the question by my colleague Shri Shah, regarding shortage of booking space by parcel on a particular train of Bombay for perishable commodities instead of other commodities.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: I have already mentioned the priorities.

DR. PRABHAT KUMARKISHRA: While the question of betel leaves transport is being discussed, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that at some railway stations like Bilaspur, Bhopal and Jhansi, sale of betel leaf has been banned and in that case, its transportation has no sense. Mr. Speaker, Sir, betel leaf is an item which is offered to God in pooja.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD: This question is in no way related to the main question.

SHRI BALKAVI BAI RAGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please tell him that when betel leaf is offered to God, he does not spit after chewing it.

[*English*]

Regulation of EPZ Units and EOUs

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

(a) whether the Export Processing Zone

(EPZ) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs) are being regulated by different Ministers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Ministry of Commerce is the nodal Ministry for the scheme of Export Processing Zones and the Scheme of 100% Export Oriented Units. Cases involving the issue of Letter of Intent or Industrial Licence under both the schemes are governed by the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 which is administered by the Ministry of Industry. Financial clearance is subject to approval by the Finance Ministry.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Sir, we all know that our Export Oriented Units and Export Processing Zones were created to earn more and more foreign exchange and also to adopt high technology. But from the answer given by the hon. minister, it is clearly evident that though the Commerce Ministry is the nodal Ministry but the other two Ministries, namely Industry and Finance, are also involved. So, in their functioning also, the Commerce Ministry is facing many hurdles and difficulties, which fact has been agreed to by the hon. Minister while replying to another question by Mr. Patil a few minutes back. So, may I know from the hon. Minister what is the thinking of the Government to bring both, EPZs and EOU, under one umbrella or to have more coordination among these Ministries? Why I am asking this is because you will see that though the Export Oriented Units are selling twenty-five per cent of their production in the domestic market, whenever they want equity or foreign exchange, they are governed by FERA. But in the case of the units located in the E.P. Zones, they are not governed by FERA. So, this is the discrimination. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the thinking of the Commerce Ministry so that this discrimination may not be there and we can earn more and more foreign exchange for which these

types of units were created?

SHRI DINESH SINGH Sir, as I have mentioned earlier, it is our endeavour to create better coordination and to simplify the procedures

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA Are there any foreign companies trying to exploit our export processing zone to sell only 25% of their production in the domestic market which is creating difficulties to our entrepreneurs? In this connection, may I know what is the solution thought of by the Commerce Ministry so that our entrepreneurs may not have such difficulties and the foreign companies also may not exploit them?

SHRI DINESH SINGH Sir, we are not aware of any such difficulties

Deposits of Nationalised Banks in Maharashtra

*869 SHRI PRAKASH V PATIL Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total deposits in the nationalised banks in Maharashtra during the last three years,

(b) the amount of loans given in the State during the same period,

(c) the areas in the State where the deposits were more and loan given was less or vice versa, and

(d) the action taken by Government to set right the imbalance?

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 aggregate deposits and outstanding credit of Public Sector Banks in the State of Maharashtra for the last three years has been as under —

(Amount in Rs Crores)

	Dec 1986	Dec 1987	Dec 1988
Deposits	16,349 73	18,369 50	21,583 01
Advances	13,043 73	13,966 66	15,296 47

(c) and (d) As per information available from Reserve Bank of India the deposits were more than advances in all the districts of Maharashtra as at the end of December, 1987. The banks are required to maintain certain statutory reserves on their not demand and time liabilities and as such the total credit deployed by them will on the whole be less than the deposits

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH V PATIL Mr Speaker,

Sir, from the reply of the hon Minister, it is clear that the Government of Maharashtra has deposited Rs 21 thousand crore and the Centre has advanced Rs 15 thousand crore. The Government of Maharashtra has written to the Reserve Bank of India to reduce by four percent the rate of interest on agricultural loans. This burden will be shared by the Government of Maharashtra and the State Cooperative Bank equally. Under the situation, the RBI will not have to face any difficulty. Under the circumstances, I would like to know from the hon Minister the rea-

sons for which RBI is hesitating to give their permission.

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: This is a very important question. But it does not arise from the question given by the hon. Member. It deals with the deposits and advances generally and not with concessions and rate of interest by the cooperative banks. I am very sorry. If the hon. Member gives a separate notice, I will reply to it later.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you about the state of regional imbalance in the State of Maharashtra. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any proposal has been sent by the Government of Maharashtra to set up an Economic Commission or a Development Board. If so, the line of action proposed to be taken by the hon. Minister in this regard.

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We have not received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra where the banks are being involved. But I agree with the hon. Member that there are regional imbalances within the State, within the State of Maharashtra. For instance, we have regions like Bombay, Pune, where the C.B. ratio is very high and in other regions in the country, like Konkan, from where I come it is extremely low. So, we would like to correct the regional imbalances by the activity of the banks and also in cooperation with the State Government.

SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Sir, it is a matter of practice that funds of the Government's Department are

deposited in certain banks, in certain districts. It is not a rule but it is a matter of practice that these funds are going to a particular bank. But in my district, the Government deposits, their money, are going to the State Bank of Hyderabad and from some other districts, the deposits and their money go to the State Bank of India. Now, these funds are automatically deposited. Therefore, they do not have to go and seek for the deposits, whereas if you evaluate the performance, you will see that in most of the cases the disbursement or the advances or the money which is to be given to the priority sector, their performance is very bad and at the same time they are getting huge deposits. So, I would ask the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider and see that the banks whose performance has been good, especially the urban Cooperative Banks, get the deposits from the Government Departments. If this scheme comes into practice, then the money deposits would go to those banks whose performance is good and not as a matter of practice the deposits would go to certain banks only. I would request the hon. Minister to answer this point.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I appreciate the suggestion of the hon. Member. It is for the State and the Central Government Departments to follow this very good suggestion.

As far as the imbalances are concerned, I would like just to conclude with this that the district from which the hon. Member comes is a privileged district which has a CD ratio of 91 per cent when the national average is 60 per cent. So, it is very well placed.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Telugu Ganga Project

*865. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NAR-SIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position regarding the Telugu Ganga Project: and

(b) whether Union Government propose to take any initiative in sorting out the problems coming in the way of early implementation of this Project?

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

(a) and (b). The project has not been cleared on account of inter-State issues involved. Efforts are being made to sort them out.

Seizure of Gold in Bombay

*867. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated 7 April, 1989 wherein it has been stated that gold worth rupees 17 lakhs has been seized in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes Sir The Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, acting on specific information, searched the residential premises located at Flat No. 305, third floor, Satyanarayan Bhavan, Dr. R.G. Thadani Marg, Worli, Bombay, on 5th April, 1989. The search resulted in the recovery of 45 foreign marked gold biscuits collectively weighting 450 tolas worth Rs. 16.80 lakhs approximately. The said gold biscuits were seized.

(c) One persons has been arrested. The person found involved is liable for penalty in departmental adjudication and prosecution in Court of law.

Norms for Foreign Equity Investment

*870. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-WARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering evolving new norms for investment and disinvestment of foreign equity in Indian companies;

(b) if so, whether greater emphasis to encourage foreign equity investment is being considered; and

(c) if so, the other norms that are being evolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The basic frame-work of our foreign investment policy is laid down in various documents including the Industrial Policy Resolution, which permits technical as well as financial collaboration over a wide range of industrial activities.

[*Translation*]

Bank Loans to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

*871. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some instructions have been issued to various commercial banks for providing certain percentage of loans to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under 20-Point Programme;

(b) if so, whether various banks in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh have followed these instructions; and

(c) if not, the names of banks which have not complied with these instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The major thrust of the Twenty Point Programme is on the eradication of poverty. The guidelines for I.R.D.P. the credit linked programme for attacking rural poverty provide that atleast 30% of the families assisted should be drawn from the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The present data reporting system does not generate districtwise information at all India level. However, the percentage of SC/ST families out of the total families assisted under I.R.D.P. in the State of Uttar Pradesh was 47.91% in 1987-88 and 46.55% in 1988-89 (till January, 1989).

[*English*]

Single Pricing Formula for Power Supplies to Railways

*872. DR. B.L. SHAILESH:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various States Electricity Boards (SEBs) owe to the Railways huge amounts on account of coal transportation dues; if so, the names of the defaulting SEBs and the amount owed by them;

(b) the steps Railways propose to take to enforce recovery thereof;

(c) whether these SEBs impose frequent and ad hoc increases for power supplied to the Railways;

(d) whether the Board also reduce power supply affecting the railway services when warned of suspension of coal supply;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to evolve a single pricing formula for power supplied to the Railways and prevent the Boards from Jacking up rates higher than those worked out the pricing formula; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A statement is given below:-

(b) Railways are constantly pursuing the question of early clearance of the dues with the SEBs at various levels. These efforts will continue.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir,

(e) and (f). To evolve a cost based energy tariff for railway traction, an interministerial Committee was formed and its report was considered by Committee of Secretaries but in view of the provisions of the Indian Electricity Act, the desired relief could not be provided to the Railways.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of the State Electricity Boards</i>	<i>Amount due towards freight charges (excluding other charges) as on 28.2.1989</i>
	<i>(Figures in crores of Rs.)</i>
1. Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board	Rs. 0.10
2. Assam State Electricity Board	Rs. 0.68
3. Bihar State Electricity Board	Rs. 5.34
4. Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking	Rs. 11.36
5. Gujarat Electricity Board	Rs. 54.37
6. Haryana State Electricity Board	Rs. 12.56
7. Karnataka State electricity Board	Rs. 0.32
8. Maharashtra State Electricity Board	Rs. 11.06
9. Rajasthan State Electricity Board	Rs. 2.16
10. Punjab State Electricity Board	Rs. 5.89
11. Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	Rs. 3.88
12. Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	Rs. 73.41
13. West Bengal State Electricity Board	Rs. 6.14
Total	Rs.187.27

Demand to Reduce the Interest on Bills

of cash;

*873. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry had made certain suggestions to reduce the interest on bills in order to bring down the excessive cost of bill financing to enable the public undertakings to accept any pay bills instead

(b) whether Government have studied the system as prevailing in other countries to streamline the procedure to help the industries in their commercial dealings; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

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 Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry had made certain suggestions to reduce the cost of bill financing. After studying the system of commercial dealings in other countries and taking into consideration all relevant factors, RBI decided to encourage a bill culture in India. The interest rate on the discounting of bills of exchange have, therefore, been kept lower than the minimum lending rates for cash credit/overdraft limits availed of large scale units.

Financial Assistance to Kerala

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

(a) the total amount of financial assistance given to Government of Kerala during

1988-89 besides the grants allocated under the planned schemes;

(b) the purposes for which the grants were given and the amount given for each;

(c) whether the assistance so give has been fully utilised by the State Government; and

(d) if not, the details thereof and reasons for not fully utilising the grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) A total amount of Rs. 498.66 crores was given to the Government of Kerala during 1988-89, besides Central Assistance for State's annual plan and Central/Centrally sponsored schemes for that year, as shown below :

(Rs in crores)

Items	Amount	Purpose
(1) Share in Central Taxes and duties	371 16	Devolution of resources to the State on the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission
(2) Grants in lieu of tax on railway passenger fare	3 02	— do—
(3) Grants of Upgradation of Standards of Administration	2 52	For improving the standards of Administration on the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission
(4) Loans against Net Collections of Small Savings	111 28	Incentive for increasing small savings collections
(5) Central Assistance for flood relief (i) Non Plan Grant	5 74	For relief and rehabilitation of flood affected people and repair/restoration of public properties damaged due to floods
(ii) Centre's Share of Margin Money	2 50	
(6) Central Assistance on account of drought 1987-88/ spill-over expenditure in 1988-89 etc	2 44	For providing assistance for the drought affected people on account of 1987-88 drought
Total	498 66	

(c) and (d). Share in Central taxes and duties and grant in lieu of Railway passenger fares under the recommendations of the Finance Commission were in the nature of general assistance to the State and thus their release is not linked to any specific purpose. Similarly, small savings loans given on the basis of net collection in the State were not linked to any specific purpose.

Central assistance for upgradation of standards of administration and relief of natural calamities were released on the basis of the progress/completion of schemes.

[*Translation*]

Loans to Women Entrepreneurs by State Bank of Indore

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

(a) the number of women entrepreneurs in Madhya Pradesh to whom loans have been advanced by the State bank of Indore during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the average time taken to give loans after receipt of application form;

(c) whether more time was taken in giving bank loans to women entrepreneurs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) State Bank Indore has reported that in the State of Madhya Pradesh it has advanced loans to 3012, 3816 and 4824 women entrepreneurs during the years 1986 1987 and 1988 respectively.

(b) to (d). Under the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, loan applications upto Rs. 25,000/- are to be sanctioned within a fortnight and other applications in priority sector within a period of eight to nine weeks. State Bank of Indore has reported that this time frame is generally being adhered to by its branches in dealing with applications from all borrowers including women entrepreneurs. Complaints in this regard if any as and when received are looked into for appropriate remedial action.

Completion of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects of Bihar

*876. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the position with regard to three major irrigation projects of Bihar which were scheduled to be completed during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) the progress report of medium irrigation projects?

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

(a) Out of the three major irrigation projects, namely Upper Koel, Western Kosi Canal and North Koel, the former is likely to be completed and the other two will spill-over into Eighth Plan.

(b) Out of 27-on-going and 15 new medium irrigation projects, fourteen of the former are likely to be completed in the Seventh Plan.

Execution of Lower Indira Project of Orissa

*877. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the original estimated cost of Lower Indira Project of Orissa;

(b) whether the cost of this project has substantially escalated; if so, the revised cost thereof;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the execution of the project; and

(d) the reasons for delay in its execution?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The project originally estimated to cost Rs. 56.55 crores has been returned to the State Government to modify it in view of various comments of the Central Appraising Agencies.

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

Railway Projects on Western Railway

*878. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new railway line projects proposed to be undertaken on Western Railway;

(b) the projects which have been approved by Government for construction; and

(c) the time by which work is likely to start on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). There are three on-going new railway line projects on Western Railway which are approved for construction, viz. (i) Kapadvanj-Modasa, (ii) Kota-Chittaurgarh-Nimach and (iii) Godhra Dahod-Indore and Dewas-Maksi.

Work on Kapadvanj-Modasa and Kota-Chittaurgarh-Nimach projects has already been taken up. Godhra-Dahod-Indore and Dewas-Maksi project has been included in the Railway Budget only in 1989-90. Preliminary arrangements to commence work on this project will be made in 1989-90 itself.

IMF Suggestion to Dilute Foreign Equity Formula

*879. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has suggested to India to dilute the existing foreign equity formula under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) to what extent Union Government have agreed to the suggestion of the IMF ?

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.

Tetrapak Proposal

*880. DR. G. VJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Original Tetrapak Proposal was cleared on the condition that the material used for lamination would be 100% indigenous;

(b) whether these conditions are being adhered to;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to ensure that the conditions stipulated are adhered to avoid loss of foreign exchange; and

(d) the penal action taken against such defaulters?

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

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

Expansion of Equity Base of Fishing Units Seeking Rehabilitation from SCICI

*881. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in equity base of fishing units, seeking rehabilitation from the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India (SCICI), is required in terms of some percentage already determined by the SCICI;

(b) if not, the criteria being adopted by the SCICI for expansion of equity base of the fishing units seeking rehabilitation from it.

(c) whether the fishing units find it difficult to bring in additional equity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The Shipping & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI) has reported that while considering rehabilitation proposals from fishing companies, there is no fixed percentage for increasing their equity base. The broad criteria being adopted for determining the extent of additional equity to be raised relate to the

existing networth of the company concerned, past financial performance, future profitability projections and the effect of additional equity on the overall viability of the concerned unit.

Import of Cement

8142. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1983 Government allowed import of cement under O.G.L. through various designated agencies of the state;

(b) whether the imports of cement was to be effected for the actual users only;

(c) whether the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) Ltd., was one such designated agency;

(d) whether the DSCSC had appointed agents for imports and distribution of cement;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government are aware that the agents of DSCSC have sold cement in open market in violation of import policy; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Under the Import Policy, 1982-83;

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

(d) to (g). Under paragraph 119 (3) of the Import Policy, 1982-83, the importing agencies were required to import cement on account of actual users only who had registered their specific demands with the import-

ing agency. M/s. Byford Ltd. were appointed by Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. as their agents for arranging import and distribution of Cement. No complaint has been received, about the sale of Cement by the Agents of DSCSC, in violation of the Import Policy.

Labour Co-operative Society on Western and Central Zones

8143. SHRI KAILASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are labour cooperative societies on Western and Central Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof separate on both zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). At present there are six Labour Cooperative Societies functioning on Western Railway, five for handling goods and parcels and one exclusively for parcels. On Central Railway, there is one Labour Cooperative Society at Akola in Bhusawal Division handling goods/parcels and transhipment contract at Mur-tazapur Station.

[*Translation*]

Acquisition of Land by Railways

8144. SHRI R. N. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide employment to one member of the family whose land is acquired for use by Railway administration;

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

(c) whether relaxation is given to such

persons in age and educational qualifications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Instructions exist that when land is acquired on a large scale for projects on the Railway, an individual displaced on account of such acquisition or his wife/son or daughter can be considered on a preferential basis, for employment in a Group C or Group D post, or for engagement as casual labour in the organisation concerned. This is subject to certain conditions specified in this regard. In any case, such employment is limited to one job per family.

(c) and (d). As a rule, no relaxation is given in such cases in the specified conditions governing age and educational qualifications for recruitment to the categories concerned. However, in individual cases of acquisition of land, if the circumstances so warrant, relaxation of specified age limits is considered.

[*Translation*]

Acquisition of land by Railways In Tirupati (A.P)

8145. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Central Railway has acquired the land of the people of Settipalla village in district Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) on 5 May, 1984 to set up a Rail Repair Workshop of Railways in Tirupati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons given em-

ployment in Railways out of those whose lands were acquired by Tirupati Railway Division in 1984; and

(d) the number of persons who have not been given employment yet and the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The land was acquired by the State Government and handed over to South Central Railway for the

carriage repair workshop, Tirupati.

(b) A statement is given below:-

(c) and (d) Application for employment were received from 238 persons. 60 persons were found eligible and were offered employment. 178 persons could not be offered employment for reasons of ineligibility on account of being underage/overage, below the prescribed educational qualifications, claimant being other than the family members, etc.

STATEMENT

Village : Settipalla

<i>S.No. & Survey No.</i>	<i>Extent Acres</i>	<i>Name of the Registered holder or occupier</i>
1	2	3
20/1	12.16	M. Venkata Subbaiah
20/2	1.50	C. Ramaiah Chetty
20/3	0.09	P.Thulasemma
20/4	0.01	V. Devaraju
20/5	0.02	Ogilappa
20/6	2.22	Narayanaswamy etc.
20/7	0.03	T. Venkatagurunathan
20/8	0.03	K. Gevindaswamy
20/9	6.18	S.R. Venkatasubbaiah
20/10	0.59	Smt. Yasodanna
20/14	5.09	C. Sreenivasacharyulu
20/15	1.51	K. Subramanyam
20/16	0.41	Subramanyam

1	2	3
20/17	0.41	M. Govindaswamy
20/18	0.26	T. Munaiah
20/19	0.59	Krishnaiah
20/20	0.57	H. Subramanyam
20/21	0.21	A. Guravaiah
20/23	0.17	K. Chengaiah
20/24	0.16	K. Venkatamuni
20/25	0.16	K. Govindaiah
20/26	0.23	Guravaiah
20/27	0.69	R. Gopal
20/28	0.57	K. Podda Chenchiah
20/30	0.10	K. Subramanyam
20/31	0.50	K. Chengaiah
20/32	0.54	K. Guravaiah
20/33	0.62	K. Subramanyam
20/34	0.10	K. Govindaswamy
20/35	0.21	T. Dibbaiah
20/36	0.11	Y. Subbaimma
20/37	0.72	K. Krishnaiah
20/38	0.26	T. Dibbaiah
20/39	0.11	K. Krishnaiah
20/40	0.24	Chonchu Bathaiah
20/41	0.47	Chengamma

1	2	3
20/42	0.37	P. Munaiah
20/43	0.21	Padda Munaiah
20/44	0.07	G. Gangaiah
20/45	0.04	K. Chengaiah
20/46	1.36	K. Venkataramaiah
20/47	0.06	K. Chendraiah
20/48	0.21	Peddagovindaiah
20/49	0.03	K. Chendraiah
20/50	0.69	K. Srrinivasulu
20/51	0.25	K. Subramanyam
20/52	0.03	Venkata Subbaiah
20/53	0.10	P. Ranaiah
20/54	0.05	P. Govindaiah
20/55	0.22	P. Krishnaiah
20/56	0.41	K. Chengaiah
20/57	0.05	K. Munaiah
20/58	0.05	D. Pedda Munemma
20/59	0.45	Chinna Siddaiah
20/60	0.06	K. Subramanyam
20/61	0.10	K. Gartamma
20/62	0.16	K krishnamma
20/63	0.08	K. Bathaiah
20/64	0.21	J.Padda Mumemma

1	2	3
20/65	0.05	J. Krishnaiah
20/66	0.04	Padda Changaiah
20/67	0.10	Muneiah
20/68	0.12	K. Venkatarayulu
20/69	0.10	K. Siddaiah
20/70	0.22	K. Munaiah
20/71	0.27	Thella Gangaiah
20/72	0.12	T. Gurnvaiah
20/73	0.07	V. Venkatramaiah
20/74	0.02	K. Munemma
20/75	0.07	K. Subramanyam
20/76	0.08	K. Muneiah
20/77	0.08	K. Venkatrayulu
20/78	0.15	K. Subramanyam
20/79	0.36	K. Gangaiah
20/80	0.07	K. Siddaiah
20/81	0.31	K. Subramanyam
20/82	0.12	K. Venkatamuni
20/83	0.24	S. Govindaiah
20/84	0.07	Krishnaiah
20/85	0.34	K. Chengaiah
20/86	0.26	K. Munaiah
20/87	0.25	K. Krishnaiah

1	2	3
20/88	0.21	K. Venkatamuni
20/89	1.04	K. Subramanyam
20/90	0.31	Jalli Peddamunaiah
20/91	0.62	Jalli Pullaiah
20/92	0.43	J. Pedda Munemma
20/93	0.64	Sidda Munemma
20/94	0.30	D. Srinivasulu
20/95	0.31	J. Chinna Siddaiah
20/96	0.15	K. Jayaramaiah
20/97	0.25	P. Siddamuni
20/98	0.13	Pullaiah
20/99	0.10	Pundla Venkataiah
20/100	0.01	Siddamuni
20/101	0.06	T. Venkataiah
20/102	0.09	Chinna Iragaiyah
20/103	0.20	Pullaiah
20/106	0.62	Rajaiah
20/107	0.16	K. Venkatarayulu
20/108	0.13	K. Siddaiah
20/109	0.01	T. Chengaiah
20/110	0.03	T. Guravaiah
20/111	0.03	Sivalingaiah
20/112	0.15	Munaiah

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
20/113	0.17	K. subramanyam
20/114	0.46	T. Pedda Chengaish
20/115	0.96	Chengalrayulu
20/116	0.32	Chengaiah
20/117	0.89	K. Chinna Subbaiah
20/118	0.35	J. Nadipaiah
20/119	0.84	T. Gangaiah
20/120	0.13	Chinna Iragaiiah
20/121	0.24	Krishnaiah
20/123	0.96	B. Venkatamma
20/124	0.54	Chenchaiah
20/125	0.79	Smt. Rajamma
20/126	0.26	Pedda Subbaiah
20/127	0.38	Venkata Subbaiah
20/128	0.05	Krishnaiah
20/129	0.41	Govindaiah
20/130	0.15	Pedda Subbaiah
20/131	0.38	Krishnaiah
20/133	0.55	Chinna Iragaiiah
20/134	0.75	Chengaiah
20/135	0.22	Subbaramaiah
20/136	0.19	Munaiah
20/137	0.29	Muni Chengaiah

1	2	3
20/138	0.25	Chengaiiah
20/139	0.21	Subbaiah
20/140	0.24	Ramaiah
20/141	0.18	Subbaiah
20/142	0.30	Chengaiiah
20/143	0.32	Nagaiiah
20/144	0.30	Subbaiah
20/145	0.57	Smt. Lakshmanna
20/146	0.11	Subbaiah
20/147	0.20	Nagaiiah
20/148	0.17	Subbaiah
20/149	0.15	Chinna Iragaiiah
20/150	0.17	Ramaiah
20/151	0.21	Chengaiiah
20/152	0.24	Kalahasthi Musalaiah
20/153	0.35	K. Subbaramaiah
20/154	0.65	K. Chengaiiah
20/155	0.90	Muthalaiah
20/156	0.79	Venkatasubbaiah
20/157	0.37	Nagaiiah
20/158	0.42	Govinddaiah
20/159	0.10	Nagaiiah
20/160	1.04	Smt. Lakshmanna

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
20/161	0.54	Smt. Nangamma
20/162	0.37	Ramaiah
20/163	0.25	Govindaiah
20/165	0.20	K. Krishnaiah
20/166	0.20	K. Chinna Subbaiah
20/167	0.30	Pedda Subbaiah
20/168	0.36	Chinna Siddaiah
20/169	0.44	Smt. Sundaramma
20/170	0.22	Bathaiah
20/171	0.21	Smt. Krishnamma
20/172	0.25	Smt. Garatamma
20/174	0.45	K. Bathaiah
20/175	0.57	Smt. Garastamma
20/176	0.75	Smt. Krishnaman
20/177	0.31	
20/178	1.93	Smt. Munemma
20/179	0.99	Chendhaian
20/180	0.17	Venkata Chengaiah
20/181	0.84	Smt. Pedda Munemma
20/182	0.45	Smt. Vellamma
20/183	2.42	Chinna Kannaiah
<hr/>		
Total	82.67	

[English]

Revenue Collected from BIDI Industry

8146. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue collected from the bidi industry during the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 year-wise and state-wise;

(b) whether this revenue or part of it is disbursed among the States; and

(c) if so, the amount given to different States, in this regard year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) A statement given State-wise and year-wise details of central excise revenue from bidis is given below:-

(b) and (c). Out of the net proceeds of basic and special excise duties collected from all excusable commodities, including bidis, 45% are distributed among the States as per the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission. The net proceeds of additional excise duties in lieu of sales tax are distributed among the States per the recommendations of the Eight Finance Commission, after setting aside 2.39% of the net proceeds from this duty from Union Territories. However, information regarding the amounts disbursed among the States in the case of central excise duty from bidi alone, is not available.

STATEMENT

S.No.	State	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra	1242	1254	1362
2.	Gujarat (i)	36	35	37
3.	Tamil Nadu (II)	2031	2073	2405
4.	Karnataka	2119	1948	2335
5.	Andhra Pradesh (iii)	2368	2307	2614
6.	Kerala (iv)	541	549	590
7.	West Bengal (v)	1161	328	1468
8.	Orissa	141	157	178
9.	Bihar	736	752	809
10.	Uttar Pradesh	875	965	1120
11.	Madhya Pradesh	3060	3162	3220

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Rajasthan	154	157	156
13.	Assam (vi)	16	16	17

- (i) Include Dadra & Nagarhaveli, Daman & Diu
- (ii) Includes Pondicherry and area comprised in Malakipara Tea factory range, being a part of Periyar Village of Mukunduram Taluk of Trichur district of Kerala but excludes Mahe commune of the village yanam.
- (iii) Includes village Yanam of the U.T. of Pondicherry
- (iv) Includes Lakshadweep and Mahe commune of the UT of Pondicherry but excludes area comprised in Malakipara Tea factory range, being a part of Perioran village of Mukundapuram Taluk of Trichur district of Kerala
- (v) Include Sikkim, Andaman & Nikobar Islands
- (vi) Includes Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tirpura & Arunachal Pradesh
- NB: No collection excise duty from biris has been reported from the State of Haryana Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh & Goa.

Money Belonging to Indian National Army in Banks in Japan

8147. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of money belonging to the Indian National Army

founded by Netaji is still in the banks of Japan;

(b) whether any other money is with banks in any other country; and

(c) the steps taken to acquire this money of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government are not aware of monies due to them in this respect lying in banks abroad.

(c) Does not arise.

Complaints Against M/s. Sanchayani Savings and Investment

8148. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some complaints against M/s. Sanchayani Savings & Investment (I) Ltd., Calcutta have been received by his Ministry from Sanchayani Investors Association, Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the nature of complaints and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Government have received representations from Sanchayani Investors Association, Khetri Nagar, Rajasthan about non-payment of claims by M/s. Sanchayani Savings and

Investment (I) Ltd., Calcutta and bouncing of cheques issued by the Company. The matter has been looked into by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

M/s. Sanchayani Savings and Investment (I) Ltd. is a residuary non-banking company. To regulate the activities of such companies and to protect the interests of the depositors, RBI issued a new set of directions called the Residuary Non-Banking Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions, 1987. RBI has reported that M/s. Sanchayani Savings and Investment (I) Ltd. had challenged the constitutional validity of the Residuary Non-Banking Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions, 1987 before the Calcutta High Court in September, 1988 and had obtained a stay. The matter is therefore, sub-judice.

As regards bouncing of cheques, in term of the provisions of Banking, Public Financial Institutions and Negotiable Instruments Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988, bouncing of cheques has been made a punishable offence with effect from 1.4.1989.

Over-Bridge at Siliguri Bazar Railway Crossing

8149. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct over-bridge at the Siliguri Bazar Railway crossing on Northeast Frontier Railway to check the road traffic congestion there.

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) any other alternative measure proposed to be taken to overcome this problem?

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

(b) Does not arise

(c) Construction of road over-bridge at the location is not feasible in view of the densely populated areas on both sides of the level crossing.

(d) To alleviate the problem of road traffic, the existing level crossing has been widened adequately. Further, the Railway and the State Government are investigating the feasibility of diversion of the railway line between New Jalpaiguri and Siliguri Jn. Along the right bank of Mahananda river.

Late Running of Gautami Express (S.C.R.)

8150. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days on which Gautami Express was late on the Secunderabad-Kakinada Sector during last three months;

(b) the reasons for the late running of this train; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure adherence to time schedules by Gautami Express?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) and (b). Gautami Express ran late on 27 days during January, February and March, 1989, mainly as a consequence of North South Bound trains running out of schedule due to on going electrification works, accidents and certain equipment failures.

(c) Punctuality should improve on com-

pletion of electrification works on South Central Railway.

Railway Bridge near Dalkoha Station

8151. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for constructing a railway over bridge near Dalkoha Station on North Frontier Railway in the District of West Dinajpur in West Bengal;

(b) if so, date of acquisition of land with location; and

(c) the reasons for delay in the work?

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

(b) The matter concerns the State Government who have not yet advised the position in this regard?

(c) The State Government has not yet approved the general arrangement plan and paid the requisite charges for the work, which is to be undertaken by the Railways on 'Deposit terms' as per rules.

Ceiling on Income for Dependents of Central Government Employees

8153. SHRI R. M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have raised the ceiling on income for dependents of Central Government Employees for the purpose of Travelling Allowance, LTC and CGHS benefits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Consequent upon the acceptance of the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission by the Government of India, the ceiling on income for dependents of Central Government Employees has been raised to Rs 500/- P.M. for the purposes Travelling Allowance, LTC and CGHS benefits.

Structure of Boards of Directors of Nationalised Banks

8154. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 7 April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 5174 regarding the Boards of Directors of nationalised banks and state;

(a) the present structure of each Board of Directors of the nationalised banks alongwith the terms of Chief Managing Directors (CMDs) and Directors with their respective dates of appointments;

(b) the details of Directors who are not whole time Directors; and

(c) the efforts being made to include some persons having experience in managerial positions in public sector undertakings on the Boards of nationalised banks so as to utilise their services in banking sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The present composition of the Board of Directors of Nationalised Banks inter alia indicating their tenures as also whether they are whole-time or part-time is given in the Statement below:- At present there are no non-official or non workman employee directors in any of the 20 Nationalised Banks.

However, vacancies of workman employee directors exist in 7 Nationalised Banks only.

(c) Appointment of whole-time and part-time directors on the Boards of nationalised

banks is made in consultation with Reserve Bank of India in accordance with the criteria and procedure prescribed in the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes.

STATEMENT

Present composition of the Board of Directors of 20 Nationalised banks

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Director	Designation/interest represented	Whether whole time or part time	Tenure	
					From	To
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Central Bank of India	Shri M.N. Goiporia	Chairman & Managing Director	Whole - time	29-4-85	7.7.92
		Shri N.M. Mistry	Executive Director (ED)	Whole-time	23.6.88	22.6.90
		Shri C.R. Venkatachalam	Workman Director	Part-time	7-5-87	6-5-90
		Shri O.P. Sodhani	RBI Director	Part-time	7-4-1988	During the pleasure of the Central Govt.
		Shri M.N. Buch	Govt. Director	Part-time	26-6-86	—do—
2.	Bank of India	Shri R. Srinivasan	C.M.D.	Whole-time	24-6-87	29-5-91
		Shri G.G. Krishnamurthy	Workman Director	Part-time	31-10-86	30-10-89

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Director	Designation/Interest represented	Whether whole time or part time	Tenure From	To
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Kum I.T. Vaz	RBI Director	Part -time	11.11.88	During the pleasure of the Central Govt.
		Shri M.C. Satyawadi	Govt. Director	Part-time	13-9-85	— do —
3.	Punjab National Bank	Shri J.S. Varshneya	CMD	Whole-time	22-2-85	7.7.89
		Shri Rashid Jilani	ED	Whole-time	2-7-87	1.7.92
		Shri T.P. Ghorai	Workman Director	Part-time	27-1-87	26.1.90
		Shri K.P. Kulkarni	RBI Director	Part-time	11.11.88	During the pleasure Central Govt.

MAY 5, 1989

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Director	Designation/Interest represented	Whether whole time or part time	From	To	Tenure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4.	Bank of Baroda	Shri V.P. Sawhney	Govt. Director	Part-time	8.10.87	—do—	
		Shri Premjit Singh	CMD	Whole-time	29.4.85	31.3.90	
		Dr. A.C. Shah	ED	Whole-time	25.2.86	24.5.89	
		Shri K.I. Talreja	Workman Director	Part-time	1.10.88	30.9.91	
		Kum. V Visvanathan	RBI Director	Part-time	11.11.88	During the pleasure of the Centre Govt.	
5.	UCO Bank	Shri A.K. Agarwal	Govt. Director	Part-time	6.10.86	— do —	
		Shri K. M. Shenoj	CMD	Whole-time	2.8.86	1.8.91	
		Shri Harbhajan Singh	ED	Whole-time	14.12.88	13.12.90	
		Shri A.K. Bose	RBI Director	Part-time	17.9.87	During the pleasure	

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Name of the Director</i>	<i>Designation/interest represented</i>	<i>Whether whole time or part time</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	UCO Bank (Contd.)	Shri A.K. Agarwal	Govt. Director	Part-time	6-10.86	During the Pleasure of Central Govt.
5	Central Bank	Shri N. D. Prabhu	CMD	Whole-time	21.9.88	28.8.91
		Shri U.S. Rao	Workman Director	Part-time	18.8.87	17.8.90
		Shri P.K. Parthasarathy	RBI Director	Part-time	11.11.88	During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri M.C. Satyawadi	Govt. Director	Part-time	13.9.85	—do—
7.	United Bank of India	Shri J.V. Shetty	CMD	Whole-time	12.10.88	11.10.93
		Shri P. Dey	Workman Director	Part-time	20.5.87	19.5.90

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Director	Designation/interest represented	Whether whole time or part time	From	To
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Shri S. A. Hussain	RBI Director	Part-time	6.3.89	During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri M.N. Buch	Govt. Director	Part time	26.6.86	-do-
8.	Dena Bank	Shri G. S. Dahotre	CMD	Whole -time	9.6.88	8.6.93
		Shri S. Doreswamy	ED	Whole-time	9.6.88	8.6.93
		Shri C.A. Pathak	Workman Director	Part-time	22.4.87	21.4.90
		Shri A.P. Kurias	RBI Director	Part-time	22.6.87	During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri Mantreshwar Jha	Govt. Director	Part time	9.9.86	— do —
9.	Syndicate bank	Shri P. S.V. Mallya	CMD	Whole-time	5.9.86	4.9.91
		Shri K. Lakshminarayanan	ED	Whole-time	23.6.88	22.6.90

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Director	Designation/Interest represented	Whether whole time or part time	From	To	Tenure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Shri B.M. Karkera	Work Director	Part-time	26.6.87	25.6.90	
		Shri R.K. Chaudhury	RBI Director	Part Time	11.11.88	During the pleasure of Central Govt.	
		Shri M.N. Buch	Govt. Director	Part-time	3.5.88	— do —	
10.	Union Bank of India	Shri B.D. Dikshit	CMD	Whole-time	29.4.89	14.7.90	
		Shri Yuvraj Karan	ED	Whole-time	6.3.89	22.5.91	
		Shri M.K. Mundal	Workman Director	Part-time	12.11.87	11.11.90	
		Shri K.N. Bhargava	RBI Director	Part-time	3.8.88	During the pleasure of Central Govt.	
		Shri Mantreshwar Jha	Govt. Director	Part-time	29.12.88	— do —	

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Name of the Director</i>	<i>Designation/interest represented</i>	<i>Whether whole time or part time</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
11.	Allahabad Bank	Shri R.L. Wadhwa	CMD	Whole-time	28.4.88	27.4.93
		Shri S.M. Chitnis	ED	Whole Time	6.6.88	5.6.93
		Shri B.K. Basu	RBI Director	Part-time	22.6.87	During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri S.K. Purkayastha	Govt. Director	Part-time	6.1.86	— do —
12.	Indan Bank	Shri M. Gopalakrishnan	CMD	Whole-time	8.12.88	7.12.93
		Shri B. B. Shetty	ED	Whole-time	14.12.88	13.12.90
		Shri V. Subramanyam	RBI Director	Part-time	22.6.87	During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri A.K. Agrawal	Govt. Director	Part-time	2.2.89	— do —

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Name of the Director</i>	<i>Designation/interest represented</i>	<i>Whether whole time or part time</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	Shri N.S. Bhaguji	Workman Director	Part-time	1.7.87	30.6.90
		Shri N.D. Parameshwaran	RBI Director	Part-time	6.3.89	During the Pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri Pradeep Kumar	Govt. Director	Part-time	29.12.88	— do —
14.	Indian Overas Bank	Shri P. S Gopalakrishnan	CMD	Whole-time	5.12.87	4.12.92
		Shri A. Namasivayam	ED	Whole-time	24.6.88	23.6.90
		Shri D.S. Ramachandra	RBI Director	Part time	7.4.88	During the Pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri Mantreshwar Jha	Govt. Director	Part-time	26.6.86	—do—
15.	Andhra Bank	Shri K.R. Nayak	CMD	Whole-time	21.4.88	14.6.90
		Shri A.T. Akolkar	ED	Whole-time	31.5.88	9.3.93

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Director	Designation/Interest represented	Whether whole time or part time	From	To
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Shri V. R. Rao	Workman Director	Part-time	28.2.89	27.2.92
		Shri R. Ramanujam	RBI Director	Part-time	6.3.89	During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri S.K. Purkayastha	Govt. Director	Part-time	26.6.86	-- do --
16.	Corporation Bank	Shri Y.S. Hegde,	CMD	Whole-time	16.2.83	23.6.89
		Shri K. R. Ramamoorthy	ED	Whole-time	24.6.88	23.6.90
		Shri T. R. Venkatraman	RBI Director	Part-time	4.2.87	During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri Y.P. Sethi	Govt. Director	Part-time	17.1.89	-- do --
17.	New Bank of India	Shri R.C. Suneja	CMD	Whole-time	16.3.85	15.3.93
		Shri J. Sethi	ED	Whole-time	13.10.88	12.10.93

<i>Sl No</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Name of the Director</i>	<i>Designation/Interest represented</i>	<i>Whether whole time or part time</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Tenure</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Shri S. S. Ranade	RBI Director	Part-time	16.4.87	During the pleasure of Central Govt.	
		Shri C.W. Mirchandani	Govt. Director	Part-time	19.8.88	— do —	
18.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Shri S.P. Talwar	CMD	Whole-time	7.4.88	6.4.93	
		Shri S.K. Soni	ED	Whole-time	1.6.88	31.5.93	
		Shri R.K. Jalan	RBI Director	Part-time	3.11.87	During the pleasure of Central Govt.	
		Shri Mantreshwar Jha	Govt. Director	Part time	17.1.89	— do —	
19.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Shri M.S. Chahal	CMD	Whole-time	5.1.89	4.1.92	
		Shri R. S. Khera	Workman Director	Part-time	7.2.86	Continuing as Director	

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Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Director	Designation/Interest represented	Whether whole time or part time	From	To
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Shri M.L. T. Fernandez	RBI Director	Part-time	6.4.89	During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri M.N. Buch	Govt. Director	Part-time	29.12.88	— do —
20.	Vijaya Bank	Shri K. Sadananda Shetty	CMD	Whole-time	8.6.84	7.6.92
		Shri K. Shivaram Shetty	ED	Whole-time	3.7.87	21.6.92
		Shri R. Damodaran	Workman Director	Part-time	12.3.87	11.3.90

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Name of the Director	Designation/Interest represented	Whether whole time or part time	From	To	Tenure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
		Shri J. S. Thaker	RBI Director	Part-time	7.4.88		During the pleasure of Central Govt.
		Shri C.N. Mirchandani	Govt. Director	Part-time	1.8.83		— do —

Purchase of Items of CLW

8155. SHRIM. V CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 7 April 1989 to the Unstarred Question No. 5187 regarding Purchase of Items by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and state;

(a) by stages the countries from where imports are being made by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) and the efforts being made to reduce the amount of imports;

(b) the names of the Public Sector Unit enlisted during the last six months and whether any order has been given;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the names of the Public Sector Units which supplied stores items worth Rs. 15.21 crores during 1985-86 to 1987-88 and

(e) the further efforts being made to encourage supplies from public Sector units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) West Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Austria, U.K., U.S.A., Japan, France and Italy. concerted efforts are being made by CLW to reduce the import contents by placement of Developmental Orders on indigenous firms who quote against Advertised/Global Tenders floated by CLW for the procurement of items valued above Rs. 32 lakhs. On successful completion of Developmental order the item is taken off the import list.

(b) M/s., Hindustan Machine Tools, One order valued Rs. 2.15 crores has been placed on M/s. HMT.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) M/s. BHEL IOC, MMTC, NGEF,

BBVL, and ECL .

(e) Purchases valued more than Rs. 2 lakhs are made through Advertised/Global Tenders and price preference upto a maximum of 10% is invariably given to the Public Sector Units wherever they quote subject to the quality of the product offered and delivery terms stipulated being suitable.

Import policy for Potassium Penicillin-V

8156. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy for import of Potassium Penicillin-V;

(b) whether Government propose to give any relief to units not given import licences for potassium penicillin-V; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) It has been decided that no further import of Penicillin-V would be allowed and all the Manufacturers of 6APA should use Penicillin G for the production of 6 APA.

(b) and (c). Such units would be eligible for Penicillin G, on the merits of each case.

Raids Against Economic Offenders

8157. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the raids conducted against economic offenders during the last two years, upto January 1989;

(b) the number of persons arrested;

(c) the number of economic offenders

arrested so far and the minimum and maximum period they were kept in prison without trial and

(d) the number of these offenders in prison as on 1 January, 1989 in each of the States in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA): (a) and (b)., During the period February, 1987 to January, 1989 Income-tax, Anti-smuggling and Central Excise authorities seized unaccounted assets and goods worth about Rs. 805 crores. 5680 persons were arrested during the period.

(c) and (d) . Under COFEPOSA Act, 1974 no persons can be detained for a period longer than three months without obtaining the opinion of the Advisory Board and no person can be detained for a period more than two years in any case.

1056 persons were under actual detention under COFEPOSA as on 31.1. 1989 State-wise figures are not maintained separately.

Visit of CEI To Malaysia

8158. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level industrial mission of the confederation of Engineering Industries (CEI) visited Malaysia; and

(b) if so, its assessment about the potential for export of Indian know how, goods and setting up of joint ventures in Malaysia?

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

(b) In the assessment of the Confederation of Engineering Industry Industrial Mission, there is good potential for Export of India know-how goods and setting up of joint venture.

Reduction in Corporate Taxes

8159. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent study made by Reserve Bank of India has suggested that the country should reduce its statutory corporate tax rates by ten percentage points in respect of all types of companies, phased over a period of two years.

(b) if so, the details of the study and the finding thereof; and

(c) Government reactions thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India in its Occasional Papers of September, 1988 brought out findings of research study conducted by one of its officers on the subject of "Impact of Fiscal Policy on the Private Corporate Sector - 1970-71 to 1987-88." The study *inter alia* points out; the general impression that the Indian corporate sector is overtaxed seems to be unfounded; numerous fiscal incentives and concessions had brought down the effective tax rates on the corporate sector in India to levels which are comparable or lower than those even in some developed economies; industrial development of the country can get a boost by bringing down the corporate income-tax by 10 percentage points and tax reduction measures may be combined with a review and reduction of fiscal concessions and incentives etc.

Finding of all such studies, as and when these become available, are taken into account while formulating Government policy.

US Chamber of Commerce Suggestion on Trade with India

8160. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Chamber of Commerce had asked U.S. Trade Representative to name Indian among some other Asian and Latin American countries as potential targets of an American trade war to force them to change their alleged restrictive trade practices;

(b) if so, its repercussions on India's exports to U.S.A; and

(c) Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) In response to a request for public comments concerning identification of priority trade barriers and distortions under the so called "Super 301" provisions of the US Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (Section 310 of the Trade Act of 1974 as amended), the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has written to the U.S. Trade Representative conveying their views that such practices are especially significant in Brazil, India, Japan and South Korea and warrant initiation of proceedings.

Under the so called "Super 301" section the USTR is required to identify priority practices the elimination of which is likely to have the most significant potential to increase exports from the United States. In addition, the USTR is required to identify priority foreign countries on the basis of the number and provisions of these practices. Under so called "special 301" section of the 1988 Trade Act, the USTR is required to identify

foreign countries that deny adequate and effective protection to intellectual property rights (IPR) or deny fair and equitable market access to US persons that rely on IPR protection. Of these countries USTR must also identify those it determines to be "priority" foreign countries.

(b) The repercussions on India's exports would depend upon the outcome of the investigation by US authorities and on whether in fact they decide to take retaliatory measures.

(c) Government regards the US action as unfair, not in keeping with the multilateral trading system and is violative of GATT obligations. It intends to pursue the matter bilaterally and multilateral in order to protect India's interest.

Assistance by Financial Institutions for Projects in Backward Areas

8161. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects in backward areas for which the Industrial Development Bank of India, the Industrial Finance Corporation of India and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India sanctioned assistance during 1988 together with the amount sanctioned in each case; and

(b) the names of the projects which are awaiting such sanction from these term lending institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Details relating to the assistance sanctioned by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corpo-

ration of India (ICICI) to projects in notified backward districts during the calendar year 1988 are set out below:-

(Rs. in crores)

Institutions	No. of Projects	Amount sanctioned
IDBI	394	1422.82
IFCI	443	856.30
ICICI	279	835.43

Note: Number of Companies may not be added up in view of consortium financing by Financial Institutions.

In accordance with the statues governing public financial institutions and practice and usage customary amongst bankers, details of account os individual constitutions are not to be disclosed.

Simplified Procedure for Assessment of Income

8162. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced any simplified procedure for the assessment of income in certain ranges;

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

(c) the benefit likely to accrue to Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) There has been no recent announcement. However, simplification is a continuing process.

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

Profession Tax

8163. SHRI PURNACHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the States where profession tax was first imposed;

(b) the percentage of the tax in each State;

(c) the number of States where this tax is being collected; and

(d) whether this tax is exempted from Income Tax ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The information is being collected.

(b) The tax is being levied in different States on slab basis.

(c) 14 States

(d) Profession tax being paid by a person carrying on business or profession is admissible as deduction in computing this taxable profits.

Lok Adalats in Punjab

8164. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 2 December, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 3014 regarding Lok Adalats in Punjab and States;

(a) the number of Lok Adalats held in Punjab during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 for expeditious disposal of cases the number of cases disposed of by these Lok Adalats and whether a large number of cases are still pending in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken for disposal of pending cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). As per information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, no Lok Dal Adalat has been held in Punjab during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 and as such neither any case has been disposed of by the Lok Adalat nor any case is pending (before it) It has been represented to CILAS that on account of adverse law and order conditions prevailing in the State, Lok Adalats cannot be arranged

Advance Payment of Duty on Goods

8165. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme regarding advance payment of duty on goods to be brought by the persons going abroad has since been made applicable;

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

(c) whether it would be beneficial to Government exchequer and if so, in what

way; and

(d) whether it is likely to encourage persons going abroad to buy more goods in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No scheme for advance payment of customs duty on goods to be brought by the persons going abroad has been formulated or is contemplated by the Ministry of Finance .

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Residential Premises Taken on Lease by United Bank of India

8166. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of house owners who had leased their premises to the United Bank of India for residential purposes for its officers in the North during the period 1 April, 1982 to 1 April, 1987 have been representing to the Bank authorities to vacate their premises upon expiry of the lease;

(b) whether the United Bank of India have vacated some premises and have refused to vacate some other premises during the same period;

(c) if answers to (a) and (b) above be in affirmative the complete details of the leased premises vacated and those not vacated; and

(d) the reasons for not vacating the premises on expiry of lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The United Bank of India has reported that it had received representations from some owners of the premises hired by the bank in its North Zone seeking vacation of the premises. These representations were examined by the Bank and during the period 1982 to March, 1989 it had vacated 12 premises. The bank has further reported that in other cases the premises have not been vacated so far as the premises are required by the bank for its use.

Competitive Exams for Posts of Clerks in Banks

8167. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of Finance pleased to state:

(a) whether competitive exams for filling the posts of clerks are to be held by the Banking Service Recruitment Board, Jaipur and by the Banking Service Recruitment Board, Delhi;

(b) if so, the dates for these examinations;

(c) if the dates for both the examinations are the same, whether the Boards would be advised to fix different dates so as to enable the candidates to take both the examinations; 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). Banking Service Recruitment Board, Delhi and banking Service Recruitment Board, Jaipur are reported to have fixed 25th June 1989 as the date for holding the clerical grade examinations. The suggestion for holding the tests of these Banking Service Recruitment Boards on different dates is being looked into.

Terms of book stall contracts

8168. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 7 April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 5289 regarding book stall contracts and state:

(a) whether Government propose to remove some variations in the language and terms of book-stall agreements made by the different zonal railways; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Book-stall contracts are allotted by Zonal Railways, and they are competent to decide terms and conditions of bookstall agreements within certain guidelines issued by the Ministry of Railways.

Opening of Banks Branches in Orissa

8169. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the nationalised banks proposed to be opened in Orissa during 1989-90;

(b) the number of branches proposed to be opened in Jajpur sub-division of Cuttack district in Orissa during this period; and

(c) the names of the places under Jajpur sub-division where these branches are proposed to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that on the basis of list of identified centres received from the

State Government of Orissa for rural and semi-urban centres and proposals submitted by banks for urban and metropolitan areas, it has allotted 203 eligible centres to banks upto end of March, 1989 for opening branches in Orissa under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90.

(b) and (c). RBI has reported that under

the current Branch Licensing Policy allotment of centres is made on block-wise and not on Sub-Divisionwise basis. However, under the current Policy RBI has allotted 17 rural and semi-urban centres to banks for opening branches in District Cuttack as per details given below:—

	<i>Name of centre</i>	<i>Name of Block</i>
1.	Darpan	Barchana
2.	Bairi (Byree)	-do-
3.	Biribati	Cuttack Sadar
4.	Baraun	Jajpur
5.	Nathasahi	-do-
6.	Sagara	Narsinghpur
7.	Alara	-do-
8.	Krushna Prasad	Niali
9.	Badapada	Patamundai
10.	Jayanagar	Rajkanika
11.	Baradia	-do-
12.	Sirilo	Raghunathpur
13.	Karadibandh	Baramba
14.	Chandibaunamula	Rajnagar
15.	Karadagola	-do-
16.	Iswarpur	-do-
17.	Sankheswar Hat	Tirtol

Super Fast Train between New Delhi and Bombay VIA Belapur, Ahmednagar and Daund

8170. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of persons in the waiting list from Bombay to New Delhi and vice-versa in Rajdhani Express, Frontier Mail and Deluxe Express during the last two months;

(b) whether there is any proposal to

At Bombay Central		At New Delhi		
151	Rajdhani Express	115	152 Rajdhani Express	47
3	Frontier Mail	191	4 Frontier Mail	31
25	Deluxe Express	198	26 Deluxe Express	55

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Area Submerged in Kalinga Dala Irrigation Project of Orissa

8171. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many villages and large forest area are going to be submerged in Orissa following the execution of Kalinga Dala irrigation project by Andhra Pradesh on the border of both the States; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a large chunk of population is also going to be displaced if the project is implemented;

(c) if so, whether Government are con-

introduce a super fast train between New Delhi and Bombay via Belapur, Ahmednagar and Daund Junction in view of manifold increase in traffic between the two Metropolis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The daily average number of passengers left on the waiting list during February and March, 1989, was as under:

templating to stop the execution of the project; and

(d) the steps take by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d). Minor Irrigation Schemes are planned, funded and implemented by the State Government from their plan resources and are not referred to Central Government for any clearance. Kalingadala minor irrigation surface project under execution since April 1988. according to Government of Andhra Pradesh, would submerge an area of 107 hectares within the State of Andhra Pradesh only and no reserved forest will be submerged. Village Karadalu in Andhra Pradesh would be submerged displacing 30 families and 150 people, whereas the Government of Orissa has intimated that there is a chance of sub-

mergence of about six villages of Orissa. Discussions about the above issues are going on between the two State Governments.

Vacancies of Doctors in Railways

8172. SHRINARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several vacancies of doctors of various categories in the Railways;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies, zonal railwaywise and category-wise;

(c) the number of vacancies at Khar-

agpur hospital post-wise and category-wise;

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

(e) the steps Government propose to take to meet shortage of doctors causing inconvenience to patients?

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

(b) Against a total sanctioned strength of 2478 doctors there are at present 205 clear vacancies on the Indian Railway. The Zone-wise of these vacancies is given below:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Railway</i>	<i>Clear Vacancies of Doctors</i>
1.	Central	22
2.	Eastern	34
3.	Northern	39
4.	North-Eastern	11
5.	Northeast-Frontier	9
6.	Southern	14
7.	South-Central	6
8.	South-Eastern	39
9.	Western	31
Total		205

There is no speciality-wise categorisation of post.

(c) At Kharagpur Hospital, against the

sanctioned strength of 31 doctors there are 6 vacancies. The postwise breakup of these vacancies is given below:

Chief Hospital Superintendent	—	1
Medical Superintendent	—	2
Divisional Medical Officer	—	1
Assistant Divisional Medical Officer	—	2

(d) The vacancies exist because many doctors out of the candidates selected by the Union Public Service Commission do not join service.

(e) Efforts are being made to get more number of candidates from U.P.S.C. and the policy of allotment of candidates to various Zonal Railways has been relaxed so that more candidates are allotted to the Railways of their home states.

Promotion and Transfer Policies in GIC

8173. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the promotion policy for officer cadre in the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) including its four subsidiaries;

(b) whether the promotions in GIC as well as its four subsidiaries are being done according to the policy;

(c) the transfer policy for officer cadre in GIC as well as its four subsidiaries;

(d) the number of superintendents promoted to the officer cadre in GIC and its four subsidiaries in 1972, 1973 and 1974 separately ;

(e) the number of engineers promoted to the officer cadre in GIC and its sub-

sidiaries in 1972, 1973 and 1974 separately;

(f) the number of superintendents and engineers categorised to officer cadre in GIC and its four subsidiaries at the time of nationalisation of the Corporation;

(g) the number of superintendents and engineers left out; and

(h) the reasons for not considering the categorisation of the left out superintendents and engineers to officer cadre?

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

Impact of Strike in SSIs on Exports.

8174. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "Small sector stir to hit exports" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 16 April, 1989;

(b) if so, whether due to stir in the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) the exports has fallen

substantially;

(c) whether Government propose to examine the grievances of the SSIs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir. Exports have not been adversely affected.

(c) and (d). Certain post budget representations were received from various SSI associations. Government had examined these representations and taking into account the increase in the cost of raw materials and inputs over the years, the eligibility limit of value of clearance was increased from Rs. 150 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs for the purpose of availing the exemption under notification No. 175/86, The scheme of notional credit under MODVAT in terms of notification No. 175/86, dated 1.3.1986 read with Rule 57-B of Central Excise Rules, 1944 was also extended for one year, that is, upto 31.3.1990.

Posting of Husband and Wife at same station in State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur

8175. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Government directive to keep both the husband and wife at the same station if both of them are working in Government/departments/public

sector undertakings;

(b) whether these orders are applicable to the associate banks of the State Bank of India as well; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Management of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur have received a number of requests for transfer on the aforesaid ground during 1988-89;

(d) if so, the number of such requests received by the Bank and the number of requests disposed of;

(e) whether there is any delay in disposing of such requests; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken for early disposal of such requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Department of Personnel & Training of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension have issued guidelines to enable the cadre controlling authorities to consider the requests from spouses for posting at the same station. Keeping in view the spirit of these guidelines, public sector banks have been advised to consider the requests for posting of spouses at the same station where both employees happen to be employed in banks subject to administrative convenience, availability of vacancies etc.

(c) to (f). State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur has reported that they have received 36 transfer requests from spouses for posting at the same station during 1988-89, out of which 12 transfers have been effected so far and the remaining cases have been noted for consideration at an appropriate time.

New Railway Lines in Kerala

8176. SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received for new railway lines in Kerala; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to conduct survey for new lines in Kerala in the next two years?

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

(b) There is no such proposal for the present, as far as new lines are concerned

Level of Ground water in Andhra Pradesh

8177. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether ground water level in the State of Andhra Pradesh is going down rapidly due to less rains and excessive exploitation of ground water;

(b) if so, whether any survey by Central Ground Water Board has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Union Government are considering to provide any financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for conducting census of minor irrigation works under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Central Ground Water Board periodically monitors ground water levels throughout the country. The measurements The measurements reveal that the ground water levels throughout the country. The reveal that the ground water level in Andhra Pradesh has generally improved in November, 1988 as compared to November 1987, but isolated falls in localised pockets have been observed in this period in parts of the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Prakasam, Nellore, Mahboobnagar and Khammam.

(d) to (f). Central assistance of Rs. 17.04 lakhs has been released to the State for conducting a Census of Minor Irrigation works.

Major Irrigation Projects of Bihar

8178. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the brief particulars of the major irrigation projects submitted by Government of Bihar to Union Government for inclusion in the Seventh Five Year plan;

(b) the names of projects which have been approved and included;

(c) the names of projects which are still under consideration with the dates of submission; and

(d) the names of the projects which are presently under implementation with the likely date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). 5 major projects namely, Gandak Phase-II, Kosi Eastern Canal Phase-II, Masan Dam, Punasi and Auranga reservoir are included in the VII Five Year Plan. No further projects is under consideration for inclusion.

(d) 17 major projects including 5 new major projects of VII Plan are under con-

struction. One of them is likely to be completed during the VII Plan and the remaining will spill-over to the VIII Plan. Their completion will depend upon the implementation schedule and the resources made available for this purpose by the State Government.

Currency from Nepal to Repay RBI Loans

8179. SHRI H.A. DORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plane load of Indian currency sent by Nepal to repay loans to Reserve Bank of India was returned recently from Patna Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). On the 27th March, 1989, one Royal Nepal Airlines chartered plane arrived at Patna airport with some Indian currency from the Nepal Rastriya Bank for remittance to the Reserve Bank of India, Patna. The documents presented for customs clearance at Patna airport were examined by the customs authorities in consultation with the officials of the Reserve Bank of India, Patna in the context of the expiry of the Indo-Nepal Treaties of Trade and Transit on the 23rd March, 89. Meanwhile, the Royal Nepal airlines plane flew back to Kathmandu. The plane later arrived on 6th April, 89 with the currency notes and the same were allowed clearance through customs at Patna airport.

Team to Switzerland

8180. SHRI SAMBHAJIARI KAKADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the outcome of the visit of CBI team to Switzerland to contact the Swiss Bank Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): According to the letters exchanged between the Governments of India and Switzerland on 20th February, 1989, request for mutual assistance shall be transmitted through diplomatic channels. Therefore, there is no question of CBI team contacting Swiss Bank Corporation in Switzerland direct.

Sale of Obscene Literature at New Delhi Railway Station

8181. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instances of objectionable and obscene literature being sold at New Delhi Railway Station have come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to prevent sale of such literature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No such case has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Checks are conducted from time to time.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Contracts to SC/ST Persons

8182. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has framed policy to allot contracts to Scheduled

Castes/Scheduled Tribes persons on priority basis;

(b) if so, whether the said policy is being strictly adhered to by the Railways if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of trains in Indian Railways where pantry cars are being run on contract basis and the number of contracts awarded to SC/ST, out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) As per existing policy, catering/vending contracts upto 1/2 units are reserved for SC/ST candidates.

(b) This policy is being followed by all the Zonal Railways.

(c) 26 pairs of trains have pantry cars run by licensees. One pair is being managed by Scheduled Caste candidate. Pantry car is considered as one unit.

[English]

Tackling of Environmental Problems by ESCAP Countries

8183. SHRI H.A. DORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) region have agreed to take concrete, regional action to tackle environmental problems and natural disasters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). During the 45th Annual Session of ESCAP, a number of project activities were supported by the member countries to tackle environmental problems and natural disasters which *inter-alia*, include:

i) guidelines for flood mitigation,

urban flood loss prevention and mitigation;

ii) strengthening conservation and management of critical eco-system;

iii) publication of manual and guidelines for comprehensive flood loss prevention and management;

iv) technical assistance for promotion of measures for reduction of water related disasters in Asia and the Pacific and support to ESCAP's Typhoon Committee and the panel of tropical cyclones; and

v) Conference on the environment in Asia and the Pacific.

Export of Basmati Rice to Soviet Union

8184. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a New Delhi firm entered into a contract with M/s. Export Kweb, Moscow for supply of larger quantity of well-milled white Indian Basmati rice during 1984 and 1985;

(b) the total quantity of Basmati rice contracted and its total value;

(c) the contractual specifications of the said Basmati rice;

(d) what were Government notified specifications prevailing at that time; and

(e) which laboratories conducted the inspection of the said Basmati rice on the basis of which export inspection agency Delhi issued the certificate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Contracts for

export of following quantities were entered into during 1984 and 1985 for export of Basmati rice to USSR:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
1984	1,50,000 MT	Rs. 90 crores.
1985	75,000 MT	Rs. 48.75 crores.

(c) and (d). A statement is given below.

i) M/s. Geo-Chem Laboratories.

(e) The following agencies conducted inspection of basmati rice:-

ii) M/s. Therapeutics Chemicals and Research Corporation.

STATEMENT

Quality specifications stipulated in the contract for export of Basmati Rice to USSR vis-a-vis the Grade designations formulated under the Basmati Rice (Export) Grading & Marketing Rules 1980, notified by the Government on 19.4.1980.

Sl.No.	Tests	Characteristics of the Government notification (special Grade) Max % by weight	Characteristics in the contracts Max. % by weight 1984	Characteristics in the contracts Max. % by weight 1985
1	2	3	4	5
				6
1.	Foreign Matter	0.5%	(Foreign Admixture) 0.1%	0.1% (Foreign Admixture including damaged and Paddy Grains)
2.	Broken & Fragments	5.0%	(Broken Grains) 5.0%	5.0% (Part of Kernals of Rice which are less than two third of whole kernals)
3.	Other Rice including Red Grains.	10.0% (Red Grains shall not exceed 2 %).	(Other types of sound rice) 10.0%	10.0% (Other types of sound rice including terriccate rice)
4.	Damaged, Discoloured and Chalky Grains.	1.0%	(Damaged, Discoloured and Chalky Grains) 1.5%	1.5% (Only Discoloured and Chalky Grains)

Sl.No.	Tests	Characteristics of the Government notification (special Grade) Max % by weight	Characteristics in the contracts Max. % by weight 1984	Characteristics in the contracts Max. % by weight 1985
1	2	3	4	5
5.	Moisture	14.0%	10.0%	10.0%
6.,	Paddy, Waxy & Red Stripped Grains.	—	0.2%	0.2%
7.	<i>General Characteristics:</i>			
1.	The Grains shall be long slender of white or Greyish or Creamy white colour and translucent.			
(a)	Rice had to be fumigated and fully degassed at loading, certificate evidencing such fumigation before or after loading at the port of loading must include such data as type of fumigation dose, exposition, fullness of degassing, when and where the fumigation took place, and the maximum percentage of residue of fumigant which the rice may lawfully contain in the country of origin.			
2.	<i>The Rice:</i>			
(a)	Shall be the dried mature kernels of oryza sativa and have uniform			
(b)	The Sellers are to deliver the above Rice of fresh			

Sl.No.	Tests	Characteristics of the Government notification (special Grade) Max % by weight	1984	Max. % by weight 1985
1	2	3	4	5
	size, shape & colour.			crop 1983-1984 fresh production, in good and sound condition, white, non-infested with barn insects, free from foreign smell and foreign
	(b)	shall possess in a marked degree of Natural Fragrance characteristics of Basmati Rice both in raw and cooked state.	taste, free of glass chemicals and any metallic admixture, absolutely free which from guarantee objects mentioned in the list of guarantee objects is an integral part of the present contract.	
	(c)	Shall not have been artificially coloured and shall be free from polishing agents.	(c)	Each ships lot of Rice should be accompanied by recognised Veterinary Surgeon of the country of the goods of origin confirming that Rice in question originated from regions free from such infectious diseases dangerous for cattle and poultry as foot-and-mouth disease, classical type and African type of Swine fever, epidemic pneumonia of cattle, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuro-phenomina, hcg cholera.
	(d)	may contain upto 3% of grains with an appreciable amount of bran thereon.		
	(e)	shall be free from musty obnoxious order and shall carry on sign of mould or containing webs or dead or live weavils.		

Si.No.	Tests	Characteristics of the Government notification (special Grade) Max % by weight	1984	Characteristics in the contracts Max. % by weight 1985
1	2	3	5	6
	(f)	Shall have length 6.0 mm and above and length breath ratio 3 & above.	(d)	It should be confirmed by separate Certificate by independent Surveyors that Rice is not toxic and it does not contain the following substances.
	(g)	shall be in sound merchantable condition.		
8.	<i>Packing & Marking:</i>	Packed in standard new Gunny Bags duly stencilled with following information		Aflatoxin, Eldrin, DDT Heptachlor, Hexachlorochy clohexana Radio active fall-out, as well as from pesticides used at cultivation and /or Storage of Rice, Admixture of heavy metal are their salts such as mercury and lead.

Indian Investment in Joint Ventures Abroad

8185. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of joint ventures operating in other countries in the beginning of respective years 1987, 1988 and 1989;

(b) the estimated capital investment of Indian firms/public undertakings in these joint ventures;

(c) the types of projects in which these joint ventures are engaged; and

(d) the proposals under consideration for establishing more joint ventures abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The number of joint ventures Operating abroad in the beginning of years 1987-1988 were as under:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number</i>
1987	150
1988	158
1989	152

(b) the amount of Indian investment in the equity of operating joint ventures as on 1.1.89 is about Rs. 96.78 crores.

(c) The projects generally are in the areas of light engineering, chemical & pharmaceuticals, textil and allied products, iron & steel, commercial vehicles, pulp & paper,

hotel & restaurants, trading, marketing & consultancy.

(d) As on 30.4.1989, 17 proposals were under various stages of consideration.

Income Tax Payment by Five Star Hotels

8186. SHRI RAJ KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the five star hotels in New Delhi and the income tax paid by them during last three years, year-wise and hotel-wise;

(b) the hotels which have defaulted in payment of income tax and the amount due; and

(c) the number of them who have under assessed the income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The details of income-tax paid for the last three assessment years by hotels (classified as five-star hotels by the Department of Tourism) and assessed at New Delhi are given in the statement below.

(b) None of these hotels has been found to have defaulted in payment of income-tax for the said years.

(c) In the case of two of these hotels proceedings under section 271 (1) (c) of the Income-tax Act have been initiated by the Assessing Officer for concealment of income or furnishing inaccurate particulars of such income.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of the Hotel</i>	<i>Income-tax paid (in rupees)</i>		
	<i>Assessment year 1986-87</i>	<i>Assessment year 1987-88</i>	<i>Assessment year 1988-89</i>
1. Claridges Hotel (P) Ltd.	4,08,826	8,906	1,73,256
2. Hotel Imperial M/s. Rajdev Singh & Co.	18,93,969	26,26,000	28,37,268
3. Hyatt Regency	Nil	Nil	Nil
4. Siddharth Inter-continental (Owned by M/s Jaypee Hotels Ltd.)	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note:

Two of the hotels at New Delhi owned by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation, namely, Hotel Ashok and Hotel Qutab, have been classified by the Department of Tourism as five-star hotels. As income-tax is charged on the total income of an assessee from all sources, separate computation of income-tax is not required to be made in respect of the profits attributable to various business carried on by an assessee. Hence, income-tax attributable to the profits of the hotels owned by the Indian Tourism Development Corporation is not required to be, and has not been, computed separately.

Transfer Policy of Indian Overseas Bank

8187. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Overseas Bank has recently formulated a transfer policy for its officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the All India Indian Overseas Bank SC & ST Employees Welfare Association has protested against the policy;

(d) if so, the main objections raised by the Association and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Indian Overseas Bank has reported that they have formulated a transfer policy keeping in view the bank's requirements and distribution of available officers among different regions and zones. The main features of transfer policy of the bank for officers are as follows:

1. Officers in different scales will be shifted within the Region/Zone periodically according to their scales and based on administrative requirements.
2. Clerical staff on promotion to officer cadre will be transferred to any zone in India depending upon Bank's requirements.
3. Officers on promotion from one scale to another will be transferred as follows:
 - i) In case of officers promoted to MMG Scale-II they will be transferred to another region in the same zone.
 - ii) In the case of officers promoted to MMG Scale-III they will be transferred to another zone.

(c) to (e). The bank has informed that the Indian Overseas Bank Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Employees Welfare Association has represented against the above referred transfer policy as follows:

1. All officers promoted to scale-II and scale-III even before the implementation of the new transfer policy should be transferred according to seniority.
2. Officers who have not completed 3 years in a city/state should not be disturbed.
3. Officers having genuine grounds of infirmity of family or other compelling problems should be retained in the same centre temporarily.
4. Officers who have completed 8 years of service as on 1-4-1989 in the same city/state/

region should be transferred first.

Transfer is an integral part of the service conditions of the officers. There are no instructions which exempt SC/ST officers from transfer policy as applicable to the officers of general category.

Modernisation of Hirakud Dam

8188. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for modernisation of Hirakud Dam was received from Orissa Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme will be cleared and the funding pattern of the scheme?

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

(b) The Scheme envisages modernisation of distribution system of Hirakud Dam Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 32.60 crores.

(c) The Government of Orissa has been requested to submit a modified project report keeping in view the comments of Central Water Commission.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Bank Branches in Rural Areas of Bihar

8189. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of branches of banks proposed to be opened in rural areas of Bihar during 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, 376 rural and 8 semi-urban centres were allotted to commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks for opening branches in Bihar. In addition, RBI has allotted 18 more centres to Public Sector Banks in Palamau District under the Service Area Approach to rural lending.

[*English*]

Manufacture of Ornaments for Export by Cooperative Societies

8190. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to organise co-operative societies under their control for the manufacture of ornaments for export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Plan for Paperless Office Working

8191. SHRI H.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have recently decided to plan for totally paperless office work in future; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the procedure adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The idea of 'paperless office' is in a conceptual stage at present and as such it is too early to give any detail of the procedure to be adopted.

Appointment of SC/ST Advocates

8192. SHRI R.P. SUMAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to appoint Advocates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes on the Panel of Central Law Agency in the Supreme Court and High Court of Delhi;

(b) the strength of lawyers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes in 1970, 1980, 1985 and during last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps for appointment of judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts to fill up the quota of Advocates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint standing counsels for Union of India in all the High Courts and Tribunals in keeping with the policy of reservation?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is now available.

(c) There is no reservation in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

(d) While there is no reservation as such for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in the matter of engagement of Central Government Counsels in the High Courts and Tribunals, due consideration is given to advocates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes who are qualified and are willing to be appointed as Counsels.

[*Translation*]

Running and Maintenance of 207/208 Barmer-Agra Fort Express Train

8193. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 207/208 Barmer-Agra Fort Express Train runs as a passenger train from Jaipur to Agra Fort;

(b) whether this train is not maintained properly;

(c) whether Railways propose to take concrete steps for proper maintenance of this train by making it an express train from Jaipur to Agra too and increase its importance by providing new coaches; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Maintenance of the train is done as per prescribed standard. Conversion of this train into an express train is not feasible as it primarily serves commuters on these sections. Replacement of old coaches by new coaches is an ongoing process depending upon availability of new coaches etc.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Bed Rolls

8194. SHRI NARSING SURYAWAN-SHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are incurring heavy losses in supply of bed rolls in trains;

(b) whether the bed rolls supplied by Railways are uncleaned and causing infec-

tious diseases to the passengers;

(c) whether in view of this Railways propose to discontinue the system of supply of bed rolls; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The existing tariff does not recover the full cost.

(b) to (d). Railways are generally supplying clean bed rolls and no case of causing infectious diseases due to uncleaned bed rolls has come to notice. Bed roll is one of the passenger amenities and there is no proposal to withdraw the same.

Permit System for Entry to Railway Stations

8195. SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT:
PROF. RAMKRISHNA
MORE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided introduction of a permit system for purchase of platform tickets to control crowds at railway stations in Delhi; and

(b) if so, full details thereof and the rationale behind this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). To reduce congestion and overcrowding on platforms, issue of platform tickets at New Delhi Station has been restricted during busy hours.

Efforts are being made to persuade the visitors not to enter the platforms unless absolutely necessary, and to regulate the issue of platform tickets. Checking on the gates has been intensified.

Late Running of Trains in Orissa

8196. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some trains like the Sambalpur Express, the Hirakhand Express, the Utkal Express and Sambalpur Jharsuguda passenger are regularly running late causing a lot of inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) the number of days during the period from 1 January 1989 to 15 April, 1989 these trains had reached their destinations in time;

(c) the reasons of their late running; and

(d) the steps being taken for their punctual running?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Complaints against Officials of State Bank of Indore

8197. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 7th April, 1989 to Starred Question No. 544 regarding the complaints against officials of State Bank of Indore and state:

(a) the year-wise details of complaints received by Government during the last three years;

(b) the name of the agency which enquired into these complaints; and

(c) the details of the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). As per available records, 60 complaints were received against officials of State Bank of Indore during the period 1st January, 1986 to 31st March, 1989. These were looked into by the Bank management. In some cases enquiry/investigation were also made by the CBI. Suitable action against 22 officials has been taken in these cases.

[English]

Survey By CCI&E

8198. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI&E) has recently conducted survey of different centres to get acquainted with the problems of importers and exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain rules have been amended to facilitate the exporters to draw Cash Compensatory Support and duty drawback directly from the banks; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

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

(b) Certain problems faced by exporters have been identified and difficulties of the Regional Offices of CCI&E in terms of staff shortage, etc. have also been ascertained.

(c) and (d). The proposal of payment of CCS and duty drawback to exporters through banks is under examination of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

PM Package to Kerala

8199. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) the total amount allotted under the Prime Minister's package to Kerala announced in January, 1987;

(b) the total amount to be spent by Union Government directly and the amount to be released to the State Government by Union Government and its scheme-wise break-up; and

(c) the actual amount spent so far under each scheme by union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delinking of Associate Banks of SBI

8200. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the reasons for not delinking the Associate Banks from the State Bank of India and to amalgamate all Associate Banks in a single corporate entity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): The Associate Banks of State Bank of India derive several advantages by functioning as members of State Bank of India Group. Government and Reserve Bank of India do not find any distinct advantage in delinking of the associates of the State Bank of India from State Bank of India at this stage.

Train Accidents

8201. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise number of railway accidents took place during last three months; and

(b) the loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI

MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Railway zone-wise break-up of number of accidents to freight and passenger trains, number of persons who lost their lives and cost of damage to railway property during the period January-March 1989 is asunder:-

<i>Railway</i>	<i>No. of accidents</i>	<i>No. of persons who lost their lives</i>	<i>Cost of damage to railway property (Rs. in Lakhs)</i>
Central	18	-	121.55
Eastern	23	6	224.79
Northern	15	7	23.62
North Eastern	7	4	6.60
Northeast Frontier	21	1	16.27
Southern	15	-	35.27
South Central	13	-	11.06
South Eastern	21	27	147.58
Western	12	-	5.78

[*Translation*]

Cancellation of Trains in Bihar

8202. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 14 pairs of Up and Down trains from Patna to North Bihar, Sonapur, Donzipur, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Darbhanga Jainagar, Sahrasa and Purnea have been cancelled recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to cancellation of all the direct trains from Patna to North Bihar, about four crore people of North Bihar have been deprived of rail services and the extent of loss to Government as a result thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to

restore these trains, if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Adequate number of BG and MG services from Patna/Hajipur with suitable connecting services have been provided.

[*English*]

Financial Assistance for Varahi Project of Karnataka

8203. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

the percentage of irrigated area in Karnataka is low;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Varahi Project which will irrigate 36,000 acres of land is not being taken up due to financial constraints by the State Government; and

(c) whether there is any proposal before Government to seek World Bank assistance for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) 59.7% of the ultimate irrigation potential of Karnataka is likely to be created by the end of 1988-89.

(b) Varahi project has already been taken up for construction and anticipated expenditure upto 1988-89 on this project is Rs. 1.73 crores.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Tax Dues against Ministers

8204. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of present and former Central Ministers against whom dues of Income Tax/Wealth Tax are pending realization; and

(b) the dues in each case and since when pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Having regard to the large number of the persons involved and the fact that they relate to assessments spread all over the country and relating to remote past, the information to be collected will involve stupendous time and labour. There is no special cell in the department where such information is collected. However if information is required in respect of

any particular person the same can be furnished.

Litigation cases of Nationalised Bank in Orissa

8205. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of litigation cases in Orissa High Court where the nationalised banks are involved;

(b) the steps taken to settle litigation wherever possible; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a separate body to advise nationalised banks to seek settlement of long pending cases?

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

(b) and (c). The banks try persuasion and other possible methods for recovery of their dues. Recourse to litigation is taken by banks as a last resort to protect their interest. The Reserve Bank of India have also advised banks through Indian Banks' Association to utilise Lok Adalats for recovery of their dues wherever possible.

Vacancies of Judges

8206. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of High Court Judges filled up by various State High Courts so far, State-wise break-up;

(b) the number of vacancies of High Court judges which still exist in various High Courts, State-wise break-up;

(c) when these vacancies are likely to be filled; and

(d) the reasons for delay in appointment of judges?

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

(a) and (b). A statement showing the sanctioned strength, actual strength and vacancies of Judges in the various High Courts as on 1.5.1989 is given below.

(c) and (d). The appointment of Judges involves consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and is a continuous process. Steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies expeditiously.

STATEMENT

Strength and Vacanices in Various High Courts as on 1.5. 1989

Sl.No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Actual Strength			Vacancies		
		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
1.	Allahabad	55	5	60	47	—	47	8	5	13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	2	26	20	—	20	4	2	6
3.	Bombay	42	6	48	40	2	42	2	4	6
4.	Calcutta	44	—	44	42	—	42	2	—	2
5.	Delhi	25	2	27	24	—	24	1	2	3
6.	Gauhati	12	—	12	11	—	11	1	—	1
7	Gujarat	18	3	21	15	—	15	3	3	6

Sl.No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Actual Strength			Vacancies		
		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
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	1	6	4	—	1	1	1	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	—	7	7	—	7	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	25	—	25	19	—	19	6	—	6
11.	Kerala	21	2	23	19	2	21	2	—	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	23	7	30	19	5	24	4	2	6
13.	Madras	25	—	25	21	—	21	4	—	4
14.	Orissa	12	1	13	12	1	13	—	—	—
15.	Patna	35	—	35	28	—	28	7	—	7

Sl.No.	High Court	Sanctioned strength			Actual Strength			Vacancies		
		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
16.	Punjab and Haryana	23	—	23	21	—	21	2	—	2
17.	Rajasthan	22	1	23	20	1	21	2	—	2
18.	Sikkim	3	—	3	1	—	1	2	—	2
	Total	421	30	451	370	11	381	51	19	70

Own your Home Scheme

8207. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has taken any steps to simplify and modify the 'Own Your Home Scheme' during the international year of shelter for the homeless in 1987;

(b) if so, the main modifications made in the Scheme to all areas and approved by the LIC Board;

(c) whether any impact of the modifications has been noticed in the number of loans sanctioned by the Corporation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of loans sanctioned under the Scheme during 1988?

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

(b) As per statement given below.

(c) and (d). The Scheme has become popular among the policy-holders and the number of loans sanctioned during the year 1987-88 showed 114% increase over the number of loans sanctioned during 1986-87.

(e) The number of loans sanctioned during the year 1988-89 is 16608.

STATEMENT

The Main Modifications made to the own Your Home Scheme in the year 1987

1. The graded System of rate of interest is now ranging between 12% and 15% instead of the them existing flat rate of 13%
2. Maximum amount of loan was Rs. 2.5 lakhs irrespective of

population criteria and it is raised to Rs. 3 lakhs in the four Metropolitan Cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi.

3. Divisional Managers throughout the country were empowered to sanction loans straightaway in all centres where basic amenities were available.
4. Policies like Jeevan Mitra and Jeevan Sathi for a term of 20 years were accepted as collateral security for a sum assured to the extent of 50% of the loans as against the earlier provision of sum assured equal to the loan sanctioned.
5. For non Income tax payers, where proof of income was not available for gross income not exceeding Rs. 18,000/- loan facility was made available on the basis of income estimated by LIC's officials.
6. A higher percentage of loans was granted to employees/professionals.
7. The period of Title Investigation was reduced to 15 years at all places.

Opening of Bank Branches

8208. Dr. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of commercial bank branches opened during 1988-89, State wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks have opened 1545 branches during the period from 1.4.1988 to 31.3.1989 and the State-wise details are set out below:-

<i>Name of State/Union Territory</i>	<i>No. of branches opened</i>
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	131
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1
3. Assam	45
4. Bihar	139
5. Goa	1
6. Gujarat	110
7. Haryana	35
8. Himachal Pradesh	38
9. Jammu & Kashmir	6
10. Karnataka	94
11. Kerala	23
12. Madhya Pradesh	155
13. Maharashtra	91
14. Manipur	1
15. Meghalaya	3
16. Mizoram	12
17. Nagaland	-
18. Orissa	54
19. Punjab	18
20. Rajasthan	75
21. Sikkim	7
22. Tamil Nadu	139
23. Tripura	8
24. Uttar Pradesh	165

1	2
25. West Bengal	160
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4
27. Chandigarh	-
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
29. Daman & Diu	—
30. Delhi	24
31. Lakshadweep	1
32. Pondicherry	4
Total	1545

**Scheme of United Bank of India for
Revival of Sick Units**

8209. DR. SUDHIR ROY:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Bank of India has formed "Crack Cell" to mediate in the revival of sick units; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). With a view to facilitate revival and rehabilitation of the sick units as also recovery of Bank's money stuck-up in such units, United Bank of India have set up a Cell. The Cell plays the role of bringing together prospective buyers who have the requisite managerial ability and financial strength and the existing owners who have lost interest in their units. The bank is reported to have undertaken this exercise within the existing guidelines of Reserve Bank of India.xyz

**Special Bench of Allahabad High Court
for Babri Masjid-Ram Janam Bhoomi
Case**

8210. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a special bench of Allahabad High Court for adjudication of the Babri masjid-Ram Janam Bhoomi case; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The Government have offered assistance for the expeditious adjudication of the cases pertaining to the dispute.

Import of Edible Oils

8211. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:
SHRI BEZAWADA PAPI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for importing Palmolion,

Rapeseed oil and Soyabean oil and CIF basis which is contrary to Government laid down policy to import on F.O.B. and export on CIF basis; and

(b) the time by which the Palmolien, Rapeseed oil and Soyabean oil are proposed to be purchased on F.O.B. basis and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Consequent upon the canalisation of import of edible oils through State Corporation (STC) in December, 1978, STC has been arranging imports of edible oils on f.o.b. basis. Subsequently, they had to resort to imports of edible oils on C&F/CIF basis due to non-availability of adequate cargo space by Indian ships, heavy shortages in receipt of oils and the need to arrange timely imports of essential items of human consumption as per the programme given by the Government.

In pursuance of the decision that STC should resume, on trial basis, imports of certain edible oils (RBD Palmoil and neutralised palmoil) from Malaysia/Indonesia on f.o.b. basis, STC had decided in December, 1988 to purchase these oils on f.o.b. basis only. Depending upon the success of imports of edible oil on f.o.b. basis from Malaysia/Indonesia, STC would consider importing Palmolein on f.o.b. basis. As regards import soyabean suitable Indian vessels is restricted.

Performance of Railway Production Units

8212. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to improve the performance of the Production Units of Railways;

(b) if so, the performance of different Units in the last three years;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to export some of the items produced in these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by Government in this regard?

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

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) The export of Railway Rolling Stock is canalised through Projects & Equipment Corporation of India, a Government of India Undertaking. At present no firm commitment has been entered into by them.

(d) During the last three years (1986-88) Railways have exported 61 coaches to Bangladesh Railways valued at Rs. 8.80 crores and supplied 3 locos to NTPC under 'deemed export' valued at Rs. 3.75 crores through Projects and Equipment Corporation.

STATEMENT

(b) The actual production vis-a-vis the targets at the Railway Production Units during the last three years has been as follows:-

Production Unit	Target			Actual Production		
	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chittaranjan	70	81	100	71	75	100
Locomotive Works						
Electric locos						
Diesel locos	40	44	44	40	19	41
Total	110	125	144	111	94	141
Diesel Locomotive Works	140	140	140	146	127	140
Integral Coaches	850	900	900	852	852	900

Production Unit	Target			Actual Production		
	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Coach Factory						
Wheel & Axle Plant	23,000	23,000	19,000	23,153	23,007	19,588
Box"N" Wheelsets						

Cases of Matrimonial disputes

8213. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of matrimonial disputes are pending in trial court of Delhi for several years;

(b) if so, whether Government or Delhi High court have issued any directions to the trial courts to deal with such cases expeditiously and finalise within a time schedule and if so, with what results; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue fresh rules/directions fixing a specific time-limit for disposal of such cases as per recommendations of the Law Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

Preference to Clearance of Freight Trains

8214. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had taken a decision at the beginning of Seventh Plan that preference should be given to the clearance to traffic for long and medium load freight trains over passenger trains;

(b) if so, whether this norm is being observed; 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) Does not arise.

Tapping of Irrigation Potential of On-going projects of Orissa

8215. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have given priority in the Seventh Plan for early completion of on-going irrigation projects yielding maximum irrigation potential in the country;

(b) if so, the details of projects which come under this category in the State of Orissa; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for early completion of those projects during the Seventh Plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The Union Government has given priority in the Seventh Five Year Plan for early completion of on-going irrigation projects yielding maximum benefits. One major and 22 medium on-going projects in Orissa were identified for completion during VII Plan. Outlays in Seventh Plan for these projects equal to their spill—over cost at the beginning of Seventh Plan were provided with a view to their early completion. World Bank assistance was also made available for some projects.

Flyovers at Railway Crossings on Madras-Bangalore Route

8216. SHRI A. JAYAMOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal in the Eighth Plan to construct flyovers on railway crossings at Vanniyambadi and Pachakupam in North Arcot District of Tamil Nadu in view of heavy lorry traffic on Madras-Bangalore highway;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposals for the construction of road-overbridges (i) near Vanniyambadi at Km. 196/14-18 on the bye-pass of NH 46 and (ii) near Pachakuppam at Km. 174/26-28 on NH 46 are being developed jointly with the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

IDBI Assistance to Andhra Pradesh

8217. SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount sanctioned by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to Andhra Pradesh during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount during 1989-90;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the amount sanctioned by IDBI under re-finance scheme to Andhra Pradesh and other States; State-wise and year-wise since 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Details of total assistance sanctioned by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are set out below:-

	<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>
	<i>Amount</i>
1986-87 (July-June)	729.25
1987-88 (July-June)	466.18
1988-89 (July-March 89)	348.00

Note:- Sharp increase in the amount of assistance sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh in 1986-87 was due to sanction of large assistance of Rs. 350 crores to a fertilizer project.

(b) and (c). IDBI supports entrepreneurs for setting up projects in any State under its various schemes of assistance on consideration of financial viability, technical feasibility management capability and other relevant factors. It is not the practice of IDBI to fix any financial or other limits in regard to assistance to any particular State.

(d) Available State-wise details of re-finance assistance sanctioned by the IDBI since 1986 are given in the statement below

STATEMENT

State-wise re-finance assistance sanctioned by IDBI

(Rs. in Lakhs)

<i>Sr.No.</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>July-June 1986-87</i>	<i>July-June 1987-88</i>	<i>July-Dec 1988</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12550	14043	6050
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	161	100	-

1	2	3	4	5
3	Assam	1600	2272	980
4.	Bihar	9062	10053	4970
5.	Goa	1945	2960	1600
6.	Gujarat	15272	17140	10240
7.	Haryana	4487	5772	2120
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3675	4797	1730
9	Jammu & Kashmir	3472	4887	2480
10.	Karnataka	14187	15379	7640
11	Kerala	9337	9855	3400
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11737	15371	5280
13.	Maharashtra	15365	17790	9020
14.	Manipur	521	453	160
15.	Meghalaya	624	377	240
16.	Mizoram	400	793	120
17.	Nagaland	325	367	180
18.	Orissa	5397	6984	2060
19.	Punjab	7891	10326	3610
20.	Rajasthan	8066	11287	4520
21.	Sikkim	308	134	90
22.	Tamil Nadu	17593	21259	10340
23.	Tripura	67	128	70
24.	Uttar Pradesh	25784	29160	8960
25.	West Bengal	6841	7653	3030
26.	Union Territories	5804	7723	3430

Export of Pepper

8218. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for Indian pepper has gone down in the International market during 1988-89;

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

(c) the consequent decline in the price of pepper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) During 1988-89, export earnings from pepper have been less but export of pepper quantity-wise show only a slight decline in demand of Indian pepper abroad.

(b) and (c). The main reason for fall in export earning is the fall international prices for pepper. Fall in international prices affected also the domestic prices of Indian Pepper.

Deposits and Advances in Bank Branches in Kerala

8219. SHRI K. MOHANDAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money deposited in the branches of nationalised banks in Kerala during 1988; and

(b) the amount given as loans these branches during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The aggregate deposits and outstanding advances of Public Sector Banks in the State of Kerala as at the end of December, 1988 were Rs. 4176 crores and Rs. 2617 crores respectively.

Balance of Payments

8220. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest statistics regarding percentage of increase in the volume of exports and imports;

(b) the corresponding balance of payments position;

(c) whether it is a fact that the position is unsatisfactory; and

(d) if so, what concrete steps are taken in regard to import and exports to improve the balance of payments position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The latest figures regarding percentage increase in the volume of exports and imports are not available. However, according to the provisional figures available, India's exports registered an increase of 28.2 percent in Rupee terms and 15.6 percent in dollar terms During April-February 1988-89 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year. During the same period, India's imports registered an increase of 27.6 percent in Rupee terms and 15.0 percent in Dollar terms as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) and (c). The full balance of payments data are available for the fiscal year as a whole upto 1986-87. However, the Foreign Exchange Reserves, which reflect the overall position in balance of payments, stood at Rs. 5537 crores at the end of February, 1989 recording a fall of Rs. 1750 crores since March 31, 1988.

(d) A serie of initiates have been taken to restrict imports and promote exports. Efforts are being made to effect efficient import substitution particularly in the area of bulk imports. It has also been decided not to

encourage imports of non-essential items. Simultaneously the Government has implemented a number of measures to promote exports. These are designed to facilitate increased capacity for export production, to upgrade technology, to make the export sector more competitive through improved access to capital goods and raw materials at or near international prices and by providing fiscal and monetary incentives for exports.

Always Railway Station

8221. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allotted for modernisation of Always railway station during the last three years, year-wise.

(b) the work presently being executed and by when the same is expected to be completed;

(c) out of the allotted funds during the last three years, how much funds were spent year-wise; and

(d) what modern facilities Always Station is being provided with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Funds allotted for modernisation of Always Railway Station during the last 3 years are as under:-

1986-87	-	Nil
1987-88	-	Rs. 9.24 lakhs
1988-89	-	Rs. 13.95 lakhs

(b) The works presently under execution are:-

- i) Construction of new station building;
- ii) Provision of retiring rooms;
- iii) Extension of cover over plat-

form No. 1 by 96 metres.

All the works are expected to be completed in 1989.

(c) The following amounts were spent during the last 3 years:

1986-87	-	Nil
1987-88	-	Rs. 9.24 lakhs
1988-89	-	Rs. 13.95 lakhs. (anticipated)

(d) The following facilities are being provided:

- i) A large concourse with modern booking office;
- ii) A vegetarian lunch room with dining and kitchen facilities;
- iii) Modern waiting rooms for gents and ladies;
- iv) 3 double-bedded retiring rooms and a dormitory;
- v) Cover over platform No. 1 for 96 m long.

Ban on Export of Pepper to us

8222. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Drugs Administration of United States have black-listed Indian pepper for import into U.S.;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) steps taken by the Spices Board and the Ministry of Commerce, and negotiations held if any with FDA to allow free entry of Indian pepper exports to U.S.;

(d) whether it is a fact that the FDA does not recognise the certification of Govern-

ment Export Inspection Agency; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to set right the crisis in the market as a result of this development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The Food and Drugs Administration of US had placed Indian consignments of black pepper under automatic detention in July, 87.

(b) This order had been issued because that FDA had found 20 out of 60 shipments of black pepper that were sampled not upto their quality standard.

(c) and (e). Steps taken to get this order revoked included:

- (1) Visit by a high level delegation to USA in April, 88 to hold discussions with US FDA. During the visit the FDA was assured of quality standards in future.
- (2) Inviting a senior officer of FDA to India to apprise him of the control measures being undertaken in India.
- (3) Authorising Export Inspection Agency to inspect black pepper for export to USA.
- (4) Launching a campaign to improve quality of black pepper. The campaign included inspection of Godown and Processing facilities of packers, meeting with Cochin Port Trust for improving storage facilities, and tightening up of Pre-Shipment procedure.

FDA recognises the certification of Export Inspection Agency.

As a result of the steps taken by the Government, the FDA lifted the automatic detention on Indian Black Pepper w.e.f. 18.1.89.

[*Translation*]

Stoppage of Trains in Rajasthan

8223. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Rajasthan have sent several requests to his Ministry regarding halting of passenger trains at several stations, running through Kota, Jaipur, Ajmer, Bikaner and Jodhpur divisions;

(b) if so, the number of such requests pending with Government at present and station-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered these requests/proposals;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the time by which the arrangements for providing halts of these trains at those stations are likely to be made; and

(e) if not, the details of the alternative arrangements proposed to be made by Government keeping in view the facilities for passengers provided by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (e). Consideration of requests for stoppages is an on-going process. Based on the commercial justification and operational feasibility, stoppage of 209/210 Link Express at Dudhwa Khara and 87/88 Chandigarh Express at Manaksar and Dabli Rathan have been provided with effect from 1.5.1989.

[*English*]

Conversation of Metre-Gauge Tracks

8224. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are certain places

connected through metre-gauge rail link in the country which have not been proposed to be converted into broad gauge since independence;

(b) if so, the names of such sections, zone-wise;

(c) whether Railways propose to bring such areas in their priority programmes for conversion of tracks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). Except for MG sections mentioned in the statement below, there are no other approved projects, at present, for conversion of Metre Gauge sections to Broad Gauge. The MG sections of each Zonal Railway are mentioned in their time tables. gauge Conversions are normally taken up on operational considerations. Besides, due to constraint of resources it is not feasible to consider conversion of all the remaining MG sections to BG.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of the Project</i>	<i>Length (km)</i>	<i>Anticipated cost (Rs. in crores)</i>
<i>N.E. Railway</i>		
1. Varanasi - Bhatni	161	70.75
2. Kashipur - Lalkua	60	15.00
3. Samastipur - Darbhanga	37	12.00
4. Chhapra - Aunrihar	171	85.13
<i>S. Railways</i>		
5. Mysore - Bangalore	138	59.96
<i>S.C. Railway</i>		
6. Manmad - Parbhani - Parli Vajjnath	345	140.00
7. Guntur - Macherla	130	69.03
8. Parbhani - Purna & Medkhed - Adilabad conversion and Purna - Mudkhed Parallel BG line 248		107.42
<i>Western Railway</i>		
9. Nadiad - Kapadvanj	45	11.00

Allotment of Flats and Plots by Sarva Priya Coop. Society to NRIS
8225. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry's attention has been drawn to the allotment of flats and plots by Sarva Priya Coop. House Building Society, New Delhi to non-resident Indians and even emigrants;

(b) if so, what are the names of such allottees and whether such allotments are permissible under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act;

(c) if so whether the said society has taken prior permission of the Reserve Bank of India before receiving payments from NRI's and NRE's and

(d) if not, what action has the Government taken against the society's office bearers for this gross violation under FERA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No such report has been received by this Ministry

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Hindustan Lever Limited

8226. SHRI VJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited is purchasing 51 per cent equity of Stepan Chemicals Limited as reported in 'The Illustrated Weekly of India' for 26 February—4 March, 1989;

(b) whether acquisition of such controlling interest by a FERA company is subject to clearance by Reserve Bank of India/MRTPC; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd. has been permitted to acquire 51% equity of M/s Stepan chemicals Ltd. Rajpura, Punjab subject to certain conditions. Necessary approval under FERA has been given. According to available infor-

mation, the company has also obtained requisite approvals under the MRTP Act.

(c) Does not arise.

Export Obligation by Hindustan Lever Limited

8227. SHRI VJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever Limited has achieved its obligation to export 10 per cent of their total turnover; and

(b) if not, Government's action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited was permitted under section 29 (2) (a) of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 to continue to carry on its business in India with 51% foreign equity subject, *inter-alia*, to the conditions that (i) the annual turnover from its core sector activities would not be less than 60% of its total turnover; and (ii) not less than 10% of its own production during each year would be exported. The company has been fulfilling these stipulations.

(b) Does not arise.

Employees Association in Accountant General Offices

8228. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of employees associations functioning in the office of the Accountant General, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): List of recognised associations in Accountant General Offices, State-wise, is given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

List of Recognised Associations in Accountants General Offices in IA & AD

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Association</i>
1	2	3
1	Accountant General, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.	1. Civil Audit & Accounts Association. 2. SAS Association 3. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officer (A.P. Unit).
2	Accountant General, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram, Shillong.	1. Civil Audit & Accounts Association 2. Audit & Accounts Class IV Union. 3. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officer (Assam Unit).
3	Accountant General, Bihar Ranchi/Patna	1. Bihar civil Audit & Accounts Association 2. SAS Association. 3. Class IV Employees Union. 4. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officer (Bihar Unit). 5. Divisional Accountants Association
4	Accountant General, Gujarat Ahmedabad/Rajkot.	1. Gujarat Audit & Accounts Association Ahmedabad. 2. Class IV Staff Association, Ahmedabad. 3. Civil Audit & Accounts Association, Rajkot. 4. All India Audit & Accounts Officers Association, Rajkot (Gujarat Unit) 5. Divisional Accountants Association.
5.	Accounts General, Haryana, Chandigarh	1. Haryana Civil Audit & Accounts Association.

1	2	3
		2. SAS Association
		3. Class IV Association
		4. All India Audit & Accounts Officers Association (Haryana Unit)
		5. Haryana Divisional Accountants Association.
6. Accountant General, Himachal Pradesh Simla		1. Himachal Pradesh Civil Audit & Accounts Association.
		2. SAS Association.
		3. Himachal Pradesh Civil Audit & Accounts Class IV Association.
		4. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Himachal Pradesh Unit).
		5. Himachal Pradesh Divisional Accountants Association.
7. Accounts General, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar		1. The Civil Audit & Accounts Association, Jammu.
		2. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Jammu & Kashmir Unit).
8. Accountant General, Kerala, Trivandrum		1. Accountants General office NGO Association
		2. SAS Association.
		3. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Kerala Units).
9. Accountant General, Karnataka, Bangalore.		1. Civil Audit & Accounts Association.
		2. SAS Association.
		3. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Karnataka Unit).
10. Accountant General, Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior/Bhopal		1. Civil Audit & Accounts Association, Gwalior.

1	2	3
		2. Class IV employees Union, Gwalior.
		3. Madhya Pradesh Divisional Accountants Association, Gwalior.
		4. Civil Audit & Accounts Association, Bhopal.
		5. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Madhya Pradesh Unit).
11.	Accountant General, Maharashtra, Bombay/Nagpur	1. Civil Audit & Accounts Association, Bombay.
		2. SAS Association, Bombay.
		3. Civil Audit & Accounts Association, Nagpur.
		4. SAS Association, Nagpur.
		5. Divisional Accountants Association, Nagpur.
		6. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Maharashtra, Bombay/Nagpur Unit).
12.	Accountant General, Manipur, Imphal.	1. Civil Audit & Accounts Association.
13.	Accountant General, Orissa, Bhubaneswar.	1. Orissa N.G. Audit & Accounts Association.
		2. Orissa Divisional Accountants Association.
		3. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Orissa Unit).
14.	Accountant General Punjab, Chandigarh.	1. Civil audit & Accounts Association.
		2. Civil Audit & Accounts Class IV Association.
		3. Punjab Divisional Accountants Association.
		4. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Punjab Unit).

1	2	3
15.	Accountant General, Rajasthan Jaipur.	1. Civil Audit & Accounts Association. 2. SAS Association. 3. Divisional Accountants Association. 4. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Rajasthan Unit).
16.	Accountant General, Tamil Nadu, Madras.	1. Madras Civil Audit & Accounts Association. 2. Section Officers Association. 3. Class IV Association. 4. Madras Divisional Accountants Association. 5. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (Madras Unit).
17.	Accountant General, Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad	1. U.P. Divisional Accountants Association. 2. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (U.P. Unit).
18.	Accountant General, West Bengal, Calcutta	1. Civil Audit & Accounts Association. 2. Section Officers Association. 3. West Bengal Divisional Accountants Association. 4. All India Association of Accounts & Audit Officers (West Bengal Unit).

Smuggling Activities

8229. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of emergence of "Carrier Passengers" family in smuggling activities; and
(b) if so, the steps taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) available reports do not indicate that families are emerging as "Carrier Passengers" for smuggling contraband on a significant scale.

(b) The Customs authorities remain alert against smuggling activities including those by "Carrier Passengers". The passengers found involved in such activities are liable for penalty in departmental adjudication and are also liable for prosecution in

Courts of law. They are liable in addition to, detention under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974.

Cases pending in Supreme Court

8230. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a large number of cases pending in the Supreme court and other High Courts for compensation towards acquired land; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for expediting such overdelayed cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Position regarding pendency of such cases is being ascertained.

Opening of Regional Rural Banks in Gujarat

8231. SHRI AMARSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks opened so far in Gujarat;

(b) whether any proposals are pending with Government or the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for the establishment of new Regional Rural Banks in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the number of such proposals pending and since when ; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that there are at present nine regional rural banks in the State of Gujarat and there is no proposal for the present to set up more regional rural banks in the State.

Rehabilitation Programme for Subarnarekha Project of Bihar

8232. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land taken over/to be taken over for the proposed Subarnarekha Project in South-Eastern Bihar;

(b) the total number of persons displaced/to be displaced by this project;

(c) whether any alternative arrangements have been made for the rehabilitation

of the displaced families;

(d) whether Government have any plans to provide land to the affected families;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) About 34 thousand hectares.

(b) About 50 thousand persons.

(c) to (f). Rehabilitation and resettlement programme drawn for the displaced families includes payments of compensation, providing land for agriculture, rehabilitation sites, employment avenues and grant in aid for shifting.

Representation on MPEDA

8233. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA);

(b) whether all the maritime States which are contributing significantly to marine exports are represented on this organisation; and

(c) if not, the guidelines followed in constituting the MPEDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) All the maritime States which are contributing significantly to marine products

are represented on the Marine Products Export Development Authority. (c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Composition of Marine Products Export Development Authority

1.	Shri T.K.A. Nair, Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority Cochin.	Chairman
2.	Dr. M. Sakthivel, Director, Marine Products Export Development Authority, Cochin.	Member-Ex-Officio.
3.	Shri Daulatsinhji Jadeja, Member of Lok Sabha.	Member
4.	Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan Member of Lok Sabha.	Member
5.	Shri P.N./ Sukul, Member of Rajya Sabha	Member
6.	Development Commissioner (Fisheries), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, New Delhi.	Member
7.	Miss Suma Subanna, Director (Finance), Ministry of Commerce.	Member
8.	Shri Jawhar Sircar Deputy Secretary (EP Marine Products), Ministry of Commerce.	Member
9.	Shri A.K. Das, Industrial Adviser (Chemicals), Directorate General of Technical Development.	Member
10.	Shri C.M. Shetye, Deputy Director General of Shipping, Bombay.	Member
11.	Director of Fisheries, Government of Andhra Pradesh.	Member
12.	Secretary, Port, Transport & Fisheries, Government of Gujarat.	Member
13.	Secretary, Fisheries Department, Government of Kerala.	Member
14.	Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Government of Maharashtra.	Member
15.	Director of Fisheries, Government of Karnataka.	Member
16.	Secretary, (Forests and Fisheries) Government of Orissa.	Member
17.	Director of Fisheries, Government of Tamilnadu.	Member
18.	Secretary, Fisheries Department Government of West Bengal.	Member

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19.	Secretary (Fisheries), Government Goa.		Member
20.	Dr. P.S.B.R. James, Director, C.M.F.R.I., Cochin.		Member
21.	Shri T.M. Joseph, M/s. George Maijo, Madras.		Member
22.	Shri C. Cherian, M/s. Chemmeens, Cochin.		Member
23.	Shri N.S.H. Prasad, M/s. Srinivasa Seafoods Ltd., Vizag.		Member
24.	Shri Narendra Bhaskar Patel, M/s. Sonia Fisheries, Bombay.		Member
25.	Shri Arwar Hashim M/s. Abad Fisheries, Cochin.		Member
26.	Shri Ramesh W. Sawant, M/s. Sawant Food Products Ltd., Bombay.		Member
27.	Shri R. Bhattacharya, M/s. Triveni Food Products, Calcutta.		Member
28.	Prof. P.J. Kurien, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha)		Member
29.	Capt. Zahib Sheikh, 9 Mangrol, Junagadh Distt. (Director in the Gujarat State Fisheries Corporation)		Member
30.	Shri V. Vasant Kumar Executive Director Star Marine Foods (P) Ltd.		Member

Stoppage of 21/22 Dhawli Express at Jaleswar

8234. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rail users of Jaleswar railway station on Kharagpur-Bhadrak Section of South-Eastern Railway are demanding for two minute stoppage of 21 and 22 Dhawli Express at Jaleswar railway station;

(b) whether the DRM Kharagpur had recommended to the Railway Board for providing such stoppage of this train at Jaleswar, if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) when this proposal will be implemented?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Presently not feasible.

Restoration of Janata Express, Adina Express and Kanchanjangha Express

8235. DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restore cancellation of Janata Express from New Jalpaiguri to Calcutta in West Bengal and Adina fast passenger from Malda to Katihar and Kanchanjangha Express running to and from Malda station; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). 57/58 Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Kanchanjunga Express, 67/68 New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon Tista Brahmaputra Express and 165/166 Janta Express (Howrah-New Bongaigaon) were rationalised/merged to run a daily Superfast train between Howrah and Guwahati to suit the public demand. 69/70 Malda Town-Katihar Andia Fast Passenger has been restored on its normal route from 1.5.1989.

Railway Public Undertakings in Karnataka

8236. SHRI N DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Public Undertakings of his Ministry of located in Karnataka State;
- (b) the investment made in them;
- (c) their employment potential; and
- (d) their expansion programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There are no public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Railways in the State of Karnataka.

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

NRI Investment for Zoo Project in Tamil Nadu

8237. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Non-resident Indians investments were allowed in construction of Hotel project at the Zoo area in Madras in Tamil Nadu in recent years;

(b) the details of NRI engaged in the investment; and

(c) the grounds on which this NRI investment has been permitted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No such proposal NRI investment has been received by the Government.

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

Auditing of Public Financial Institutions by C & AG

8238. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present financial institutions like the nationalised banks, the Life Insurance Corporation, the Unit Trust of India, the Industrial Development Bank of India and the Industrial Finance Corporation of India have been kept outside the purview of audit by the "constitutionally independent" institution of the comptroller and Auditor-General of India (C & AG);

(b) if so, the reasons why all the aspects of public finances have not been made subject to audit by the C & AG.

(c) whether many of the giant private sector institutions have a large share of public money in them invested through public financial institutions but they are also exempted from audit by the C & A.G; and

(d) if so, whether in view of present mismanagement of public finances Government will consider desirability of extending the audit of the above financial institutions to the C & AG and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the nationalised banks and public financial institutions such as Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Unit Trust of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India, their accounts are to be audited by the auditors who are qualified to act as auditors of a Company under the Companies Act, 1956. These auditors are appointed by the banks/institutions with the approval/consultation of the Government/Reserve Bank of India. Besides, the banks etc. have also set up adequate inspection, audit and vigilance machineries for conducting audit and inspection of their branches. In view of the adequate machinery already existing for auditing the accounts of the public sector banks and other financial institutions, it is not considered necessary to entrust the audit of these institutions to the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

In so far as lending by the term lending institutions is concerned, Industrial Development Bank of India has reported that it extends financial assistance to industrial undertakings in the private sector keeping in view the national priorities, viability of the projects and other relevant considerations. Audit of these undertakings, etc. is governed by the Provisions of the Companies Act 1956

Catering service on Delhi-Gorakhpur route

8239. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether his Ministry has received complaints against some contractors supplying food to passengers on railway sta-

tions between New Delhi and Gorakhpur; and

(b) if so, the nature of the complaints and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Some complaints have been received.

(b) Complaints were regarding quality of food and service. Two contractors were fined and one contractor was warned.

[*Translation*]

Delimitation of constituencies in U.P.

8240. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received a request for delimitation of Assembly constituencies in Uttar Pradesh so as to make Assembly constituencies in hill areas smaller with less area and population;

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the measures being suggested to make Assembly representative more responsive in view of the vastness, inaccessibility and lack of communication facilities in Assembly constituencies in the hill areas of this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Few representations to such an effect have been received.

(b) and (c). The constitutional provisions, as they stand at present, bar the re-adjustment of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each State and the

division of such State into territorial constituencies until the figures of the first census taken after 2000 A.D. have become available.

Further, Article 170 (2) of the Constitution provides that each State shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it shall, as far as practicable, be the same throughout the State. Because of this constitutional requirement, the constituencies comprising of areas which are sparsely populated or having mountainous or hilly areas are bound to be comparatively larger in area than those in the plains or urban areas. Unless the relevant provisions of the Constitution are amended, suitably it will not be possible to undertake any delimitation as suggested. There is also no proposal now to amend the Constitution.

[English]

Narbada Oustees

8241. DR. G. VJAYARAMARAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Times of India' dated March 9, 1989 under the caption 'High death rate of Narbada oustees';

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) whether similar high death rate had been observed in the case of oustees of other Dams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The Government of Gujarat have informed that

the report regarding high death rates in exaggerated and not based on facts.

Procurement of Iron Ore by MMTC

8242. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) have decided to reduce the procurement of iron ore from the non-captive mines for the purpose of export; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) MMTC does not propose to reduce the procurement of iron ore during 1989-90 from the levels of procurement during 1988-89.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Leather Goods to Japan

8243. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scope for further increase in leather goods export to Japan;

(b) if so, details of agreement, if any, signed in this regard; and

(c) whether any study team has also visited Japan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). A team sponsored by the Council for Leather Exports for promotion of exports of leather footwear, among others, to Japan last year has reported that though the Japanese market for leather footwear is small scope exists for further exports of our leather footwear and shoe uppers, particularly with the gradual relaxation of imports being brought about in this Japan. No bilateral agreement has been signed in this regard with Japan. However, the Council has intensified its market promotion measures in Japan for export of footwear and shoe uppers, leather goods and garments.

National Workshop on India's Cooperation with USSR and East European Countries

8244. **SHRI BASAVARAJESWARI:**
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National workshop on Indian cooperation with Soviet Union and other East European countries started on 10 April, 1989;

(b) if so, the main topics discussed;

(c) whether any decisions were taken in this regards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). A National Workshop on India's trade and Economic Cooperation with USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Poland—New Dimensions' was held in New Delhi from 10th to 12th April, '89. The Workshop was organised by the United

Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations and India-USSR Chamber of commerce and Industry. The Opening Plenary Session was inaugurated by the Minister of Commerce Shri Dinesh Singh and the Closing Plenary Session was addressed by the Minister of State for Commerce. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. Representatives of the East European countries also participated through their Ambassador/Trade Representatives/senior officials in the Embassy and from the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of some countries. The main issues discussed in the Workshop included trade and commercial relations between India and the East European countries, possibilities for promoting new Forms of Cooperation including joint ventures, payments and other financing arrangements, etc. The Workshop discussed the various aspects of the changes that are taking place in these East European countries in so far as these would impinge on India's trade with these countries. The main purpose behind organising this Workshop was to disseminate information on changes that were taking place in the economies and foreign trade practices of these countries.

[*Translation*]

Scheme to Earn Foreign Exchange by MMTC

8245. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) to earn foreign exchange by their own means to meet their import; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). One of MMTC's corporate objectives is to maximise the ratio of foreign exchange earnings through its exports to foreign exchange requirements for its imports. Apart from this, there is no scheme of MMTC to earn foreign exchange by their own means to meet their imports.

[English]

World Bank and IMF Loans

8247. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of debt repaid to International Monetary Fund and World Bank and the outstanding debt upto the end of 1988;

(b) how much interest has been paid on those loans and how much is payable;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to secure more loans from IMF and World Bank; and

(d) if so, whether fresh loan has been necessitated for repayment of existing loans or for investment purpose.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The amount of debt repaid to International Monetary Fund and World Bank during 1988-89 and the debt outstanding as on 31st March, 1989 is as follows:

<i>(Rs. Crores)</i>		
	<i>Amounted rapid during 1988-89</i>	<i>Debt Outstanding as on 31.3.89</i>
1	2	3
IMF (EFF)	1471.65	3680.45
IMF (Trust Fund)	205.25	353.18
World Bank	497.34	23818.87

(b) Interest paid on IMF and World Bank loans during 1988-89 and that payable during 1989-90 is as follows:

<i>(Rs. Crores)</i>		
	<i>Interest paid during 1988-89</i>	<i>Interest payable in 1989-90 (BE)</i>
1	2	3
IMF (EFF)	315.45	229.65
IMF (Trust Fund)	2.44	1.55
World Bank	776.41	926.42

(c) and (d). There is no proposal under Government's consideration for any fresh loan from IMF. So far as World Bank is concerned, the likely level of commitments indicated at the Aid India Consortium meeting held in June, 1988 is \$2.7 billion, of which an amount of \$ 1505 million has so far been committed for five projects. The commitments of the remaining balance would depend upon the status of individual projects in the pipeline. Assistance from the World Bank is in the context of specific project investments, and not for repayment of existing loans.

Fast Train between Hyderabad and Parli Vajinath

8248. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run a fast train between Hyderabad and Parli Vajinath in view of public demand; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Presently not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Opening of Bank Branches in Rural Areas of Maharashtra

8249. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the norm set for opening a bank branch in the rural areas in the country;

(b) whether this is being implemented in Maharashtra;

(c) the names of areas in the State

which as per this norm should have had bank branches but have not been provided with the same;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which bank branches will be opened in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The objectives of the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 are:

(i) to achieve a coverage of 17,000 population per bank office in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block; and

(ii) to ensure that a bank branch normally available within a distance of 10 kms. from every village.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allotted centres to banks for opening branches in rural and semi-urban areas as per norms laid down in the Policy, on the basis of lists of identified centres received from the Lead Bank Group/State Governments.

(b) to (e). As per the norms laid down in the current Policy, RBI advised the Lead Bank Group to identify centres for opening bank branches in the rural and semi-urban areas and forward the list of identified centres to RBI through the State Government along with its recommendation for consideration of allotment of eligible centres. The State Government of Maharashtra has forwarded a list of 689 rural and semi-urban centres to RBI. Out of these, RBI has allotted 499 eligible centres to banks. In addition, RBI has allotted 42 more rural centres to banks under the Service Area Approach to rural lending. In all 541 rural and semi-urban centres were allotted to banks so far. Out of

these allotted centres, banks have opened branches at 253 centres. RBI has advised the banks to open the branches at the remaining centres expeditiously by the end of June, 1989 except in rare cases where minimum infrastructural facilities are not available.

Group Insurance Scheme for Factory Workers, Agricultural Labourers and Farmers

8250. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made to cover the factory workers, the agricultural labourers and the farmers in Maharashtra under the

group insurance scheme during the last three years;

(b) the financial help extended under these schemes during the above period; and

(c) the targets, if any, set for 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The progress made by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to cover factory workers, agricultural labourers and farmers in the state of Maharashtra under its Group Insurance Schemes may be persued from the following figures of new schemes introduced during the last 3 years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of new Schemes introduced</i>	<i>No. of lives covered</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1986-87	517	1,33,985
1987-88	777	1,24,282
1988-89	1054	1,74,022

Apart from this, an estimated 2.26 lakhs of beneficiaries under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) have also been covered under the group insurance scheme introduced during the year 1988-89

by the LIC.

(b) The number and amount of death claims paid during the last 3 years under these schemes in the State of Maharashtra are given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of claims paid paid (Rs.)</i>	<i>Amount of claims</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1986-87	2456	3,67,02,693
1987-88	2469	3,96,27,471
1988-89 (upto Dec., 1988)	1643	3,16,72,423

(c) Tentatively, there will be 1500 new schemes covering about 2 lakhs new lives during the year 1989-90 in the State of Maharashtra.

International Coffee Agreement

8251. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-WARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has urged the International Coffee Organisation to extend the existing International Coffee Agreement concluded in 1983 and also negotiate a new one for six years;

(b) if so, whether any agreement reached in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). Presently deliberations are going on in the International Coffee Organisation for the extension/re-negotiation of the International Coffee Agreement, 1983. India is also participating in these discussions.

Action Plan by STC

8252. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESH-WARI:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) has drawn up a three-year action plan for 1989-90 to 1991-92;

(b) if so, the main features of the plan;

(b) the amount involved therein; and

(d) the extent to which the trade will improve thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). The State Trading Corporation is in the process of preparing a detailed Three Year's Plan to achieve an export turnover of about Rs. 1500 crores by 1991-92.

[*Translation*]

Decrease in capacity of storing water due to Silt

8253. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capacity of storing water in reservoirs of certain major irrigation projects in Uttar Pradesh is decreasing rapidly;

(b) if so, the names of such reservoirs;

(c) whether any comprehensive plan has been prepared to desilt these reservoirs;

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

(e) whether any scheme is being prepared to control the silt formation at the catchment area itself; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (b). Silting of reservoirs is a natural phenomenon. Storage capacity of all the reservoirs is reduced by the passage of time. As per the latest hydrographic survey data conducted in respect of various reservoirs in Uttar Pradesh, it was observed that percentage loss of capacity is not alarming.

(c) to (f). In order to reduce the rate of siltation in the reservoirs, Centrally Sponsored schemes of Soil Conservation in the catchment of River Valley Projects is being operated by the Ministry of Agriculture in the Matatila and Ramganga catchments.

[English]

Demands of employees of Delhi Subordinate Courts

8254. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Delhi Subordinate Courts are under services of Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the demands of Class III and IV employees of these courts were considered by a high level committee in 1978-79;

(c) if so, what were the main demands of the employees and whether the demands were accepted by Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons for non-acceptance of these demands?

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

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

[Translation]

Opening of Branches of SBI in Almora and Pithoragarh Districts

8255. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received

any proposal for opening of some more branches of the State Bank of India in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the areas for which such proposals have been received;

(c) whether branches of the Bank will be opened in these areas during 1989-90; and

(d) if not, the time by which these branches will be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, no proposal has been received from State Bank of India (SBI) for opening branches in District Pithoragarh. However, two proposals were received from SBI for opening branches at Chilianaula and Bhikiasen in District Almora. Under the current Policy, the allotment of centres to banks has been made on the basis of list of identified centres received from the State Government and not on the basis of proposals submitted by the individual banks. RBI has allotted the centre Chilianaula to SBI as it was included in the list of identified centres received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The other centre Bhikiasen was not considered for allotment as it was not included in the list of identified centres received from the State Government. Besides, this centre is already being served by a branch of UCO Bank since 1975. As per the information available with RBI, SBI has not opened its branch at Chilianaula so far. RBI has, however, advised the bank to open the branches at all the allotted centres expeditiously by the end of June, 1989 except in rare cases where minimum infrastructural facilities are not available.

[English]

Central Taxation Laws in Sikkim

8256. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central taxation laws have become effective in Sikkim since 1 April, 1989;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have set up an Income tax Department and other offices in that State's headquarters; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) An Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax has been posted at Gangtok. Efforts are being made to set up an income-tax office at Gangtok.

(c) Does not arise.

NRIs Seminar in Dubai

8257. SHRI VAKKOMPURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives from Government attended a Seminar conducted by the Gulf Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in Dubai recently;

(b) if so, whether at the Seminar the NRIs pointed out that procedural hurdles at the various levels of the bureaucracy and campaign by some vested interests in India against NRIs are among several barriers for their investment in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remove these hurdles and to encourage investments by the NRIs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Some officials of Government of India attended the 2nd Gulf NRI Seminar which was held at Dubai from 14th to 16th December, 1988.

(b) the problem of procedural hurdles was raised at the Seminar.

(c) the existing rules and procedures are kept under constant review and suitable changes are made wherever necessary.

Assistance given by Banks in Kerala under 15 Point Programme

8258. SHRI VAKKOMPURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided by the nationalised banks in Kerala under the Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons benefited under the programme during the above period;

(c) the number of women who have been advanced funds for occupational programmes during the period; and

(d) the funds earmarked under the programme for the State for the year 1989-90?

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

Bank, convenor, State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for the State of Kerala has reported that under the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme, the balance outstanding as on December, 1988 in Kerala stood at Rs. 395.03 crores in 703694 accounts in respect of the nationalised banks.

(c) the present data reporting system from banks does not generate information in the manner asked for.

(d) Canara Bank has reported that under this Programme Rs. 500 crores have been earmarked provisionally for the year 1989-90 by the nationalised banks in Kerala.

[Translation]

Express Trains for Howrah and Delhi on Gayakiul Route

8259. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is public demand for introducing express trains between Howrah and Delhi via Gaya-Kiul railway line;

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

(c) if no action is being taken, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c). Not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

Relief to accident victims

8260. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing infrastructure and modus operandi to organise relief to accident victims is adequate and satisfactory; and

(b) if not, the steps taken or proposed to streamline the administration to ensure proper and timely post accident relief to the victims?

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

(b) Does not arise. However, the present system is being continuously upgraded to ensure timely and adequate post accident relief to victims.

Trade Agreement with US

8261. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreement has been reached between India and the US during this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Export to Bulgaria

8262. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items presently being exported to Bulgaria; and

(b) the value of goods/items exported to

that country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The major items of exports to Bulgaria are: soya extractions, coffee, black pepper, finished leather and leather products, knitwear and garments, iron ore, earth-moving equipment and machine tools.

(b) The value of India's exports to Bulgaria during the last three years is given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>(Rs. Crores)</i>
1986-87	45
1987-88	47
1988-89 (April-September)	14

Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta.

Joint Ventures with Australia

8263. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(b) whether Government have established or propose to establish joint ventures with Australia; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Government has not established any joint venture with Australia. However, during the official visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India in February, 9-12, 1989, both the countries have signed Memoranda of Understanding for cooperation in sectors of Railways, Telecommunications, and Concessional Finance, which inter alia, include the establishment of joint ventures.

Plan to Provide Irrigation Facilities in Tribal Area

8264. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have any plan to provide irrigation facilities in the tribal areas in the country on priority basis; and

(b) if so, the projects identified in different tribal areas for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments, and Central assistance is generally given in the form of block loans and grants. Special Central assistance is provided to the States for minor irrigation schemes under the Tribal Sub-Plan. 204 major and medium irrigation projects in 11 States will benefit Tribal Sub-Plan areas.

Supply of Oil at International Prices to Fishing Industry

8265. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for supply of oil at international prices to deep sea fishing industry has been implemented; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken for its speedy implementation?

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

DASMUNSI: (a) and (b). The Scheme of the Marine Products Export Development Authority for the supply of oil at international prices, to deep sea fishing industry has been forwarded to the Concerned Administrative Ministry, viz. Ministry of Food Processing Industries, for finalisation by them in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

Trade Proposal Identified by USSR

8266. **SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:**
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

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

(a) whether around 100 India-oriented proposals for commercial deals, transfer of technology, co-production and joint ventures have been identified by USSR;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the aid proposed to be provided therefor by the USSR;

(c) whether any agreement has been made in this regard; and

(d) the extent which Indian trade will be strengthened thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). As on date, four Indo-Soviet Joint venture proposals have been approved by the Government of India out of which two are in India and two are in the territory of the USSR. The joint ventures approved in the Indian territory are in the fields of freight forwarding and marketing of Soviet technology and in the Soviet territory are in the field of restaurants. Apart from the above, a number of joint venture proposals in various fields such as chemical, textiles, jute, leather, agro-processing, forest-based products, electronics, etc. are in various stages of negotiation between the concerned

Indian and Soviet organisations. The joint venture proposals are on the basis of contribution in the form of equity and they do not involve Soviet aid. Apart from the venture proposals, a number of proposals involving transfer of technology and co-production between the concerned organisations of the two countries are also being negotiated.

Separate Judicial Bench

8267. **SHRI R.P. SUMAN:** Will the Minister of **LAW AND JUSTICE** be pleased to state whether Union Government propose to constitute a separate Judicial Bench within the limits of the Supreme Court to hear the petitions arising under Reservation Policy by appointment of ad-hoc Judges giving preference to retired Judges of the Supreme Court?

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

Survey Re: Availability of water resources in Rajasthan

8268. **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:** Will the Minister of **WATER RESOURCES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey in Rajasthan to find out the water resources available but not tapped so far both for agriculture and drinking purposes;

(b) if so, the details of the survey made; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to exploit these resources in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) While the surface water availability has been assessed river basin wise, the availability of ground

water has been assessed district-wise.

(b) Rajasthan has 16.2 cubic kilometers of ground water potential.

(c) State Governments plan and implement water resources projects to exploit the available water resources.

[*Translation*]

**Catering contracts in long distance
Trains**

8269. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-level committee has been constituted to go into the complaints regarding allotment of catering contracts in long distance trains; 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.

Uniformity in Recruitment and Promotion of Officers in Nationalised Banks

8270. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of various grades in the officers' cadres of nationalised banks with their corresponding scales of pay;

(b) the number of posts in each grade, bank-wise;

(c) the level at which direct recruitment takes places, bank-wise;

(d) the conditions of eligibility for pro-

motion to the next higher grade, grade-wise and bank-wise;

(e) the procedure and method for selection for promotion, grade-wise and bank-wise; and

(f) whether Government propose to bring about uniformity in the grades as well as in the recruitment and promotion rules as well as in the procedure among various nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The grades/ Scales in Officers cadre in nationalised banks are as follows:

Top Executive Grade:

Scale- VII Rs. 4100-125-4600.

Scale-VI Rs. 3850-125-4350.

Senior Management Grade:

Scale-VRs. 3575-110-3685-115-3800.

Scale IV Rs. 2925-105-3450

Middle Management Grade:

Scale-III Rs. 2650-100-3250.

Scale-II Rs. 1825-100-2925

Junior Management:

Scale-I Rs. 1175-60-1475-70-1895.

EB- 95-2275-100-2675.

(b) The strength in various Grades/ Scales of nationalised banks is given in the Statement below.

(c) Direct recruitment in nationalised banks is normally made in JMG Scale-I. However, for specialist officers a bank may recruit in higher grades/scales depending upon their needs.

(d) to (f). Promotion of officers from one

scale/Grade to other is governed by the Officers Service Regulations and guidelines issued thereunder which are uniformly applicable to all banks. Promotion are made on the basis of merit with weightage to seniority, educational qualification et. The eligibility criteria for promotion from one Grade/Scale to another, inter-alia are as follows:

<i>Scale</i>		<i>Eligibility</i>
<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	
1	2	3
I	II	7 years of satisfactory service in scale-I with 2 years service in rural branches.
II	III	5 years of satisfactory service in MMG Scale-II with minimum 3 years service in rural or semi-urban branch.
III	IV	5 years of satisfactory service in scale-III.
IV	V	3 years of satisfactory service in scale-IV.
V	VI	2 years of satisfactory service in scale-V.
VI	VII	3 years of satisfactory service in scale-VI.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Scale VII		Scale VI		Scale V		Scale IV		Scale III		Scale II		Scale I	
		S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Central Bank of India	5	5	11	10	35	31	235	213	621	519	2761	2616	11944	11972
2.	Bank of India	6	5	20	25	54	48	244	164	1026	905	3018	2895	6874	6736
3.	Punjab National Bank	6	2	15	16	20	21	223	184	680	753	2239	2308	10776	10285
4.	Bank of Baroda	5	6	12	11	28	27	182	155	1809	1029	3575	2648	6500	7152
5.	UCO Bank	6	6	11	13	38	35	131	95	577	577	1574	1574	6737	6737
6.	Canara Bank	6	7	18	18	47	47	231	229	1630	1630	2208	2208	7086	7086
7.	United Bank of India	5	3	10	8	25	18	100	93	517	509	1341	1004	3642	3817
8.	Dena Bank	3	3	7	6	20	18	72	67	200	155	931	926	3259	3026

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Scale VII		Scale VI		Scale V		Scale IV		Scale III		Scale II		Scale I	
		S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9.	Syndicate Bank	5	5	13	13	31	31	137	137	1320	1328	3020	3020	4699	4699
10.	Union Bank of India	4	4	11	9	21	17	140	139	410	281	1369	1362	7028	7128
11.	Allahabad Bank	4	2	9	2	10	22	104	76	393	360	1006	773	4279	4232
12.	Indian Bank	4	5	15	19	29	30	134	129	335	317	1174	1156	4864	4879
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	3	3	7	7	19	19	78	78	342	236	915	777	2376	2534
14.	Indian Overseas Bank	4	3	10	11	26	26	122	121	431	431	1564	1564	4900	4900
15.	Andhra Bank	2	2	8	8	22	22	78	72	509	279	1398	906	3889	3889
16.	Punjab & Sind Bank	3	3	8	6	13	12	44	42	123	117	859	756	2729	2729
17.	New Bank of India	4	4	3	3	6	6	22	22	99	99	441	441	2416	2416

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	Scale VII		Scale VI		Scale V		Scale IV		Scale III		Scale II		Scale I	
		S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.	S.	E.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18.	Vijaya Bank	2	2	8	8	17	17	63	62	304	310	883	868	1998	1965
19.	Corporation Bank	2	2	6	6	13	12	33	31	137	137	505	505	1885	1885
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2	2	6	5	16	11	30	31	116	115	503	496	2007	1940

Note: S Stands for Sanctioned and E stands for Existing. (Data Provisional)

Loans Advanced by Financial Institutions to Textile Industry

8271. SHRIM.V.CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of financial institutions which have been giving loans for modernisation programmes of the National Textile Corporation Limited and other textile mills of Union Government are unable to realise both interest and principal amounts of such loans;

(b) whether any Studies have been conducted about the repaying capacities of these mills;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and total amount of loans advanced by IDBI, IFCI, LIC and nationalised banks to the above units during the past three years;

(d) the schedules of repayment; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that repayment schedules are strictly adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). According to available information, the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Industrial finance Corporation of India (IFCI) together have during the period July 1986 to March, 1989 sanctioned Rs. 16.41 crores as loans for modernisation of some textile units under National Textile Corporation (NTC). The LIC has reported that it has not granted any loan for the purpose. The assisted units had not repaid the overdue of instalments of principal/interest in the case of the IDBI. In respect of IFCI, NTC units are in default in the repayment of principal. No formal study as such has been undertaken by the institu-

tions for examining the paying capacity of the mills. However, they have been reviewing the default position of NTC units periodically. The institutions had agreed during March/April, 1988 to revise the repayment schedules of the existing term loans of most units, subject to certain conditions. Further rescheduling of existing loans on merits depending upon cash flows of individual units have also been agreed to by the institutions. Institutions have been in touch with NTC for clearance of their overdues.

[Translation]

Tax Exemption Certificates

8272. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of institutions which have applied for a tax exemption certificate under section 80G to the Commissioner, Income-tax, New Delhi;

(b) the number and details of institutions which have been granted these certificates;

(c) the details of documents required by the Department for issuing this Certificate; and

(d) the reasons for not issuing this certificate to the remaining institutions so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) During the periods 1st April, 1988 to 31st March, 1989, 255 applications were made before the Commissioner of Income-tax, Delhi-VI, for grant of certificates under section 80G of the Income-tax Act relating to exemption of donations to charitable institutions, funds etc. Out of these,

124 applications were made by public charitable trusts and the remaining 131 by societies registered under the Societies Registration Act

(b) Exemption certificates purposes of section 80G of the Act were granted by the Commissioner of Income-tax to 1.68 applicants. They relate to 87 public charitable trusts and 81 societies registered under the aforesaid enactment.

(c) The Commissioner of Income tax ordinarily examines the following documents for purposes of considering such applications:

- (i) Application for registration of the trust or institution under section 12A (a) of the Income-tax Act.
- (ii) Instrument under which the trust was created or the institutions was established.
- (iii) Accounts of the trust or institution for upto a period of three years.

(d) Out of the aforesaid applications, the Commissioner of Income-tax has declined to grant a certificate under section 80G of the Act in six cases on the ground that they did not fulfil the conditions laid down in section 80G of the Act. In the remaining 81 cases, the Commissioner of Income-tax has called for clarification/information from the applicant trusts and institutions.

[English]

Transfer/Promotion of SC/ST Employees In Syndicate Bank

8273. DR. V. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government directives, orders, laws are being followed by the Syn-

dicade Bank Management so far as the transfer, promotion etc. of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees is concerned;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that all Government orders in this regard are implemented by the Syndicate Bank Management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Syndicate Bank has reported that all the Government guidelines in respect of transfer, promotion etc. of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees are being implemented by it.

Upgradation of Metre-Gauge Lines

8274. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of metre-gauge railway lines in the country proposed to be upgraded;

(b) the zone-wise break-up of such lines to be undertaken during 1989-90; and

(c) the time by which the whole network of metre-gauge lines are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Plans for upgradation of Metre Gauge System have not yet been finalised.

(b) and (c). Do not arise at this stage.

Deposit Scheme for Retiring Government Employees

8275. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to extend the deposit scheme retiring Government employees as announced at the time of presentation of Budget for 1989-90 for other categories also;

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

(c) by when a decision in this regard will be taken?

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

(b) The suggestion of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry to extend the coverage of the Deposit Scheme for retiring Government employees as announced at the time of presentation of the Central Budget for the year 1989-90 to other employees has been duly considered and it has not been possible to accept such a request.

(c) Does not arise.

New Rules and Directives for Exporters

8276. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has made new rules

and directives for specific and speedy clearance of all formalities for the reputed exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these directive/rules are alleged to be discriminatory causing insecurities to all exporters; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Regional Offices have been asked to identify "star-exporters" having exports of Rs. 1 crore or more on FOB basis to their credit if they pertain to manufacturer exporters in the small scale sector and Rs. 2 crores or more on FOB basis for other exporters, alongwith a clean track record, with a view to expediting clearance of their applications under Import & Export Policy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Waiver/Reduction of Interest by Indian Overseas Bank

8277. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI ATISH CHANDRA
SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of representations have been received by the Indian Overseas Bank from its various constituents in Calcutta seeking waiver and reduction of interest in some inoperative accounts for final settlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken, proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

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

Coal Siding at Belpahar (Orissa)

8278. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of a Coal siding at Belpahar in Orissa has been entrusted to the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of this programme;

(c) the amount paid so far to the Railways by the Coal India Limited and the date of such payment;

(d) the stipulated date of completion of this work;

(e) the present progress made so far; and

(f) if there is any delay the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The programme has not yet been finalised.

(c) South Eastern Coal Field Limited (SECL) deposited Rs. 100 lakhs on 31.3.84 and further Rs. 500 lakhs on 28.1.85. They withdrew a sum of Rs. 330 lakhs on 27.3.87 leaving a balance of Rs. 270 lakhs with the Railway.

(d) Not yet fixed.

(e) 3%.

(f) The work could not be progressed as the land for the siding, which was to be acquired by SECL, was not handed over to the Railway, except for a small stretch of land for construction of two bridges. The work on these bridges is in progress.

Besides, a new Colliery (Samleshwari Project) has come up in the area, necessitating a fresh survey of the entire complex including the siding at Belpahar. This survey is nearing completion.

Extension of foot overbridge at Brajaraj Nagar

8279. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether there is any public demand for extension of the foot overbridge so as to cover all the rail lines near Brajaraj Nagar railway station on the South Eastern Railway; and

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

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

(b) There are already two foot over bridges across Brajaraj Nagar station-yard, connecting the two sides of the town. In addition, there is one road over bridge and one level crossing on either side of the railway station. As such, there appears to be no justification for extending the station foot over bridge, which is essentially meant for bonafide railway users.

Cadre Review in the office of Comptroller and Auditor General

8280. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the organisation of Comptroller and Auditor General of India there has been any Cadre review in the Administrative Officer/Audit Officer/Accounts Officers Cadre in the last 20 years;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) if not, whether the Government contemplate to have a review;

(d) whether during the periods there has been Cadre review in the IA & AS Officers; and

(e) if so, how many times?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). There has been to cadre review in the case of Administrative Officer/Audit Officer/Accounts Officer in the Indian Audit & Accounts Department during the last twenty years. However, there has been a sizeable growth in the total number of Audit/Accounts Officers based on administrative requirements of the Department.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). During the last 20 years cadre review has been Conducted twice in 1973 and 1985 for IA & AS officers.

[*Translation*]

Malpractices in Associate Banks of State Bank of India

8281. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cases of malpractices in the associated banks of the State Bank of India during the last three years, year-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the names of the Bank in which percentage of such cases is highest; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make improvements and check corruption in these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that the present data maintenance system does not generate separate information about cases of malpractices in the associate banks of the State Bank of India. However, the total number of cases of frauds, and amount involved therein, as reported to RBI by associate banks of the State Bank of India, for the year, 1986 1987 and 1988 is given in the statement below.

(b) State Bank of Mysore has the highest percentage of total number of cases of frauds.

(c) By and large frauds have occurred in banks not on account of any lacunae in the systems and procedures, but owing to non-observance of the prescribed procedures and safeguards. Banks have books of instructions indicating precautions/checks which their staff should observe to prevent occurrence or recurrence of frauds. Banks are also taking steps to strengthen the control mechanisms, including the internal audit/inspection machinery, and to make them effective, so as to eliminate the scope for frauds and malpractices. They have been taking steps to ensure quicker disposal of departmental requires. Banks have reviewed

and revamped their vigilance machinery, taken steps to tone up control and supervision, strengthen management information system, follow-up and inspection/audit arrangements and for clearing the arrears in

balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds in these areas

STATEMENT

Information in Respect of No of Cases of Frauds and Amount Involved Therein in Associate Banks of State Bank of India for the Years 1986, 1987 and 1988

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	1986		1987		1988	
		No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	23	250.44	28	72.92	26	46.69
2.	State Bank of Hyderabad	26	96.68	25	87.34	31	292.84
3.	State Bank of Indore	17	37.35	43	57.56	13	14.20
4.	State Bank of Mysore	27	50.36	35	51.99	42	12.59
5.	State Bank of Patiala	15	15.09	19	423.48	18	4.12

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	1986		1987		1988	
		No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of frauds	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	State Bank of Saurashtra	14	46.06	8	41.62	11	6.31
7.	State Bank of Travancore	15	105.09	25	44.37	16	10.78

(Data Provisional)

[English]

Divisional Office at Purna

8282. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from people Purna (South Central Railway) to establish a Divisional office at this junction; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?

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

(b) There is no proposal to set up a divisional office at Purna.

Scrapping of Tungabhadra Board

8284. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had written to Union Government to scrap the present Tungabhadra Board;

(b) if so, the reasons given by Karnataka Government therefor;

(c) whether there is any Cauvery Board or Krishna Board to regulate waters of Cauvery and Krishna rivers;

(d) if not, the reasons for setting up Tungabhadra Board; and

(e) whether there is any proposal before Government to scrap the Tungabhadra Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main function of construction of the common portion of the project has been completed and that maintenance of the canals on the right bank as well as the dam could be done by the Karnataka Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Board has been set up under Section 66(4) of the Andhra State Act, 1953.

(e) No, Sir.

Summer specials from Bangalore City

8285. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(b) total number of Summer Specials introduced in the country to meet the summer rush;

(b) whether Government have introduced/proposed to introduce summer specials from Bangalore City to other places including Bombay, Ahmedabad, Delhi and Madras;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) It is planned to run 536 Specials in the Summer of 1989.

(b) to (d). Summer Specials from Bangalore to Trivandrum are being run. In addition, Bombay-Trivandrum specials also serve Krishnarajapuram.

Direct Train Service between Bangalore and Nagpur.

8286. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no direct train service between Bangalore-Nagpur; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide a direct train between Bangalore and Nagpur?

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

(b) Not for the present.

Bank Deposits and Advances

8287. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an increase in deposits in the banking system during 1988 as compared to 1987, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the gross bank credit of all scheduled banks during the above two years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The aggregate deposits of all scheduled commercial banks increased from Rs. 119023 crores as at the end of December 1987 to Rs. 141823 crores as at the end of December 1988.

(b) Statewise details of outstanding advances of all scheduled commercial banks as at the end of December 1987 and December 1988 are given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

State-wise details of advances of All Scheduled Commercial Banks as at the end of December, 1987 & December, 1988

(Amount in Rs. crores)

<i>Region/State/ Union Territory</i>	<i>Dec., 1987</i>	<i>Dec., 1988</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
I. Northern Region	13384	16626
Haryana	1435	1719
Himachal Pradesh	305	344
Jammu & Kashmir	470	614
Punjab	2743	3244
Rajasthan	1921	2296

1	2	3
Chandigarh	868	771
Delhi	5642	7738
II. <i>North Eastern Region</i>	978	1220
Assam	714	891
Meghalaya	47	54
Manipur	36	44
Nagaland	51	62
Tripura	94	113
Arunachal Pradesh	15	17
Mizoram	13	16
Sikkim	17	22
III. <i>Eastern Region</i>	9462	11316
Bihar	2143	2616
Orissa	1278	1635
West Bengal	6031	7152
Andaman & N. Islands	11	14
IV. <i>Central Region</i>	7951	9918
Madhya Pradesh	2746	3543
Uttar Pradesh	5206	6375
V. <i>Western Region</i>	20188	23802
Gujarat	4011	4937
Maharashtra	15874	18491
Goa	292	359

1	2	3
Daman & Diu	7	9
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	7
VI <i>Southern Region</i>	20576	24864
Andhra Pradesh	5197	6417
Karnataka	5245	6317
Kerala	3039	3475
Tamil Nadu	6992	8534
Pondicherry	102	120
Lakshadweep	1	1
All - India	72549	87746

Note 1 Total may not add up due to rounding differences 2 Data are provisional

Upgradation of Railway Stations in Orissa

8288 SHRISOMNATH RATH Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether most of the stations in Orissa are out-dated and not capable to cope with the high increase in passenger traffic, and

(b) the steps taken to develop those railway stations so as to avoid stampedes and inconvenience to passengers?

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

(b) A programme for making up deficiencies in basic amenities, like platforms, waiting halls, drinking water, lighting, toilets,

etc at all railway stations has been instituted from 1987-88 and is expected to be completed by 1990 91

Japanese Assistance

8289 SHRISOMNATH RATH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Japan has offered financial assistance to India recently,

(b) whether projects are selected by the Japanese and Indian Government Jointly,

(c) whether only Japanese goods must be bought with Japanese assistance, and

(d) the total extent of such project assistance in 1988-89 from Japan, where only Japanese goods and services were bought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Japan extends financial assistance to India annually on the basis of a shelf of project proposals posed to the Government of Japan. The pledge of assistance is made at the Aid India Consortium Meeting generally held in Paris in June each year.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The assistance from Japan is admissible for procurement not only from Japan but also from developing countries as specifically defined for this purpose.

**Diversification and Specialisation
in Operational Functioning of Bank
Branches in Rural Areas**

8290. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken any steps to introduce the process of diversification and specialisation in the operational functioning of bank branches in the rural areas; and

(b) if so the details thereof and the date with effect from which it has been introduced?

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 not contemplated any steps for diversification or specialisation in the operational functioning of commercial bank branches in rural areas. However, with a view to bringing about a qualitative improvement in the lending operations of rural bank branches, a new approach to rural lending viz. Service Area Approach has been launched from 1.4 1989

Under this approach, on an average, 15-25 villages would be allotted to a rural or semi-urban bank branch with a view to bring about an orderly and planned disbursement of credit. The bank branches will first conduct a survey of the villages allotted to them and prepare village profiles indicating the types of activities carried on in this service areas and having potential for lending. On the basis of village profiles branches will prepare Annual Credit plans for lending for different identified activities, keeping in view the infrastructural and other facilities available and proposed to be created.

**Role of Regional Rural Banks
Under Designated Service Area Approach**

8291. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Rural Banks have also been allotted any role under the Designated Service Area Approach by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the nature and scope thereof and the number of branches proposed to be opened by the Regional Rural Banks in Himachal Pradesh under this approach?

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 in terms of guidelines issued by them, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have also been allotted specified number of villages under the Service Area Approach to rural lending.

(b) Since most of the RRBs have adequate number of branches, it was decided by RBI not to allot any more centres to RRBs except to a few such RRBs which do not have the minimum number of branches to

function effectively. Since both the RRBs functioning in Himachal Pradesh have sufficient number of branches, they were not allotted additional branches under the Service Area Approach.

Family Courts

8292. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have already set up the family courts for speedy disposal of family disputes particularly those relating to divorce etc.;

(b) if so, the number of courts already set up as on 31 March, 1989, State-wise;

(c) whether some more courts are proposed to be set up during the financial year 1989-90; and

(d) if so, the number thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 31st march, 1989, four Family Courts in Uttar Pradesh, three in Rajasthan and one each in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been set up.

(c) and (d). Setting up of family courts in primarily the concern of State Governments.

Incentives for Bringing to Notice Cases of Income Tax Evasion

8293. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether wide publicity has been given by Government to the effect that where

tax evasion under the Income-tax Act is brought to the notice of Government, the informer will be paid incentive;

(b) if so, the number of cases of evasion detected by Government on this basis between January 1988 and 1989 together with the amount recovered; and

(c) the amount that has been paid to the informers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The scheme for rewarding income-tax informers has now been in existence for the last many years. People belonging to different strata of society have been furnishing information about tax evasion to the Income-tax Department in expectation of monetary rewards. This shows that the people are aware of this scheme.

(b) The Income-tax Department employs various method to detect tax evasion. It gathers information from various sources. Useful information furnished by informants are also utilised. However, mere furnishing of information by an informant and the initial action taken by the Income-tax Department does not necessarily establish tax evasion with reference to his information. The initial action is followed up by detailed investigation, through probe and examination and scrutiny of records and evidence. The final position regarding detection and establishment of tax evasion in a case on the basis of an informant's information can be known only after finalisation of all the relevant proceedings.

The Income-tax Department conducted 9627 searches during 1st January, 1988 to 31 March, 1989 and seized prima facie unaccounted assets worth Rs. 209.27 crores.

(c) A final reward can be paid to an

informant only after finalisation of all the relevant proceedings and levy and collection of extra taxes which are directly attributable to the informant's information. Information regarding tax evasion is furnished by informants to the Commissioners of Income-tax and Directors of Income-tax (Investigation), spread all over the country. They are the authorities competent to grant rewards. The efforts and time required for collection and compilation of information from all over the country will not be commensurate with the results sought to be achieved by collection of the information.

Delegation of Powers in Tea Board.

8294. SHRIBHADRESWARTANTI. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tea Board proposes delegation of powers to the Chief Regional Executives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). For the smooth and efficient functioning of Tea Board, powers under certain schemes have been delegated to Deputy Chairman/Chief Regional Executives and the Tea Board has been requested to implement it soon.

Rubber Plantation

8295. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up programme to raise rubber output during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States in which rubber plantation is proposed to be taken up during the above plan period; and

(d) the additional hectares of land proposed to be brought under rubber plantation in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). A working Group on Plantation Crops and Agricultural exports including inter-alia rubber, Coffee, Tea, Cardamom, Tobacco etc. has been constituted to formulate proposals for the VIII Five Plan Period. The tasks assigned to this Working Group including measures to increase production, productivity, assessment of long term requirements and needs of the respective crops and with reference to specific areas as well.

Export of Iron Ore Steel Pipes to Middle East.

8296. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's iron ore, steel pipes and tubes are in great demand in middle east countries;

(b) whether Governmen.. have explored the possibilities of increasing the export of these items to these countries; and

(c) if so, the details of the efforts made in that direction and prospect of export of the above items to the middle east countries in 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) While exports of steel pipes and tubes to Middle East countries have

been steadily growing, the demand for iron ore in these countries is limited.

(b) and (c). Apart from a detailed market survey of steel pipes and tubes conducted by the Engineering Export promotion Council in the Middle East countries, steps taken to increase trade with these countries include discussions at Government to Government level, participation in trade fairs, organising exclusive Indian exhibition, exchange of trade delegations etc.

Subsidy Scheme of Tea Board

8297. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to promote the tea industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether there is a need to review the loan and subsidy schemes of Tea Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Board has been operating various on-going schemes such as Tea Plantation Finance Scheme, Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme, Replanting and Rejuvenation Subsidy Scheme, Subsidy Scheme on Bank Loan, Loan and Subsidy Scheme for non-traditional areas, and scheme for development of small tea growers.

Besides, Govt. have constituted a Standing Committee on Tea Research for suggesting ways and means in the field of Tea Research. A corpus of Rs. 10 crores with matching contribution from NABARD and

Tea Industry is being raised. A committee to formulate long term strategy and plan for tea has also been constituted. All the gardens have been asked to prepare their development plans for the next seven years.

(c) and (d). Govt. have been enhancing the scales of financing under the various continuing schemes from time to time on the basis of the increased cost of developmental activities. Recently the scales of loan under the Tea Plantation Finance Scheme and the New Tea Unit Financing Scheme for non-traditional areas, have been raised substantially in accordance with the NABARD cost analysis.

Appellate Tribunal at Bangalore

8298. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a bench of the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, when?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Amendments to Hindu Marriage Act

8299. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the provisions of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1956 so as to include the provision that in case both the parties want divorce and have been living separately for more than

two years, the court shall pass the decree for divorce without going into the grounds of divorce pressed by either of the party, but on the ground Commission in one of its reports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Steps to Increase Tea production

8300. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the tea producing States in the country and the production of each quality of tea annually;

(b) whether Government have made any experiment to produce tea in other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the result achieved; and

(d) whether special measures are being taken to increase the production of tea to meet the indigenous demand and also to boost the export in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The names of the major tea producing States in the country are Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.

The annual production of tea quality-wise during the last three years is as follows:—

(Qty. in M. Kgs.)

	1986	1987	1999
CTC	456.4	508.4	433.7*
Orthodox	156.4	155.0	87.8*
Others.	8.0	10.9	7.8*

*North India production only.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. In Orissa 170 hectares of land has been brought under Tea Plantation and Commercial Production of tea has been commenced since April, 1987. In Manipur 96 hectares of land has been brought under tea plantation.

(d) Govt. have constituted a National Committee to formulate a long term strategy and plan for tea. Besides, all tea gardens in the country have been asked to prepare their developmental plans for next seven years

commencing from 1988. Fairly good number of gardens have submitted their plans to Tea Board. Tea Board has initiated action to analyse the plans.

Setting up of Permanent Wage Revision Body

8301. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth Pay Commission recommended setting up of a permanent wage revision body to review and revise the pay and allowances and service conditions of the Government employees;

(b) if so, whether the recommendations have been accepted by Government and if so, by when these are likely to be implemented; and

(c) the details of the Commission's recommendations that are yet to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The Commission suggested that Government may set up a body which should be responsible for maintaining and updating the basic data on pay and allowances of Government employees and to review the pay scales and rates of allowances and other related matters.

(b) After due consideration of all aspects, Government has decided to set up a small compact unit in the Ministry of Finance for maintaining and updating the basic data of pay and allowances of Government employees and other related matters. Orders to this effect were issued on 26.5.1988.

(c) Major recommendations of the Fourth Central pay Commission relating to revision of pay scales, dearness allowance, house rent allowance, city compensatory allowance and retirement benefits etc. have already been implemented. However, some of the recommendations are being processed by various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. Some of the important recommendations of the Pay Commission, which are under process are listed below:—

(i) Grant of non-interest bearing ad-

vance equal to half a month's basic pay once a year.

(ii) Creation of pension fund, uniformity in definition of 'Family', new plan for commutation of pension and a medicare scheme for pensioners.

Export of Diamonds

8302. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diamond trade is the country's top foreign exchange earner;

(b) if so, the total foreign exchange earned from export of diamond in last three years;

(c) whether the export of diamond declined in 1988-89;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to increase the export of diamond in 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The total foreign exchange earned from export of cut and polished diamonds during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1986-87	1960
1987-88	2440
1988-89	4230*

* Source: Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to facilitate exports on a sustained basis the Government has notified certain measures for promoting export of cut and polished diamonds which inter-alia include revised rates of replenishments, improvement in bank credit facility, exemption under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act, etc.

**Central Assistance for Irrigation
Projects of Orissa**

8303. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the central assistance provided to Government of Orissa for irrigation projects during the Seventh Plan year-wise along-with names of irrigation projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): The Central
assistance given to Orissa State is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Items for assistance</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
A. Reimbursement of expenditure to State Government				
(i) Protteru Irrigation	4.48	2.49	—	—
(ii) Bhaskal Dam	0.20	0.70	0.10	—
B. Under drought relief for Major & Medium and Minor Irrigation schemes	—	—	5.50	5.00
C. Under Special Foodgrains Production Programme				
Major & Medium Irrigation, Tank Irrigation and CAD Programme	—	—	—	18.78
D. Completion of distribution system under Mahanadi Delta Project	—	—	1.50	—
E. For Command Area Development Programme				
	1.21	2.76	2.90	4.91
Total	5.89	5.95	10.00	28.69

[*Translation*]

**Level crossing at Km. 1317/4-5 on
Farrukhabad-Sikohabad Railway line**

8304. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Railway has received representations for construction of a level crossing for newly constructed bypass at Km. 1317/4-5 on Farrukhabad-Sikohabad line; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) A level crossing already exists at Km. 1317/4-5. However, another level crossing, at km. 1316/12-13 has been proposed by the State PWD.

(b) As per rules, the work is to be undertaken by the Railways on deposit terms. Accordingly, the State PWD has been advised to deposit necessary charges and further action will be taken on depositing of the same.

[*English*]

**Promotional prospects on Grade 'B'
Officers**

8305. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Junior scale grade on Indian Railways is higher than the Assistant Grade meant for Grade 'B' officers

(b) whether level of responsibilities in both the grades is different, and

(c) if not, the reasons for difference in the pay scales?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). The allotment of a lower scale to Assistant officer class II is based on the specific recommendations of Third Pay Commission contained in Chapter 13, Vol. I of their Report. The Higher scale has been allotted to Junior Scale Class I to attract candidates of the right calibre. For a class I Officer the Junior Scale post is essentially for undergoing in-service training and for acquiring experience to enable him to occupy higher posts in the cadre. The duties and responsibilities performed on the working post are the same and the posts are interchangeable. The Fourth Pay Commission after considering this have not recommended parity in scale for these two categories of officers.

**Extension of Railway Line from
Guwahati to Tinsukia**

8306. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Government had requested for extension of board-gauge line from Guwahati to Tinsukia;

(b) if so, whether any survey report was submitted by N.F. Railway to Union Government; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It was decided not to take up execution of the project.

Extension of Railway Line from Saraighat to Guwahati and Noonmati

8307. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the existing Saraighat-Noonmati broad gauge railway line upto Guwahati along the National Highway bypass; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which a final decision will be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Regional Office of Punjab National Bank in Himachal Pradesh

8308. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 3 March, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 1307 regarding opening of regional offices of banks and state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken any decision for the sanction and creation of a regional office of the Punjab National Bank with headquarters at Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh during the financial year 1989-90;

(b) if so, the date on which decision regarding this regional office was taken and the position on date; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which the regional office would be sanctioned and opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has allowed the Punjab National Bank, on 12th April, 1989, to open a Regional Office at Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh. Punjab National Bank is taking further action to open this office.

Conversion of Latur Miraj Railway Line

8309. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert the Latur-Miraj narrow-gauge line into broad-gauge;

(b) if so, by when the conversion work is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). A survey for conversion from NG to BG of Miraj-Latur line and its extension to Latur Road was undertaken in 1975-76. The project was found to be financially unremunerative. There is, therefore, no proposal to take up this conversion.

Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Madras

8310. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce a Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Not for the present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rajdhani group of trains were primarily intended as overnight services. An overnight service from Madras to Delhi is operationally not feasible.

Railway Line between Kopergaon and Shirdi

8311. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to construct a new railway line from Kopergaon to Shirdi to encourage tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources and heavy commitments already on hand for new lines.

Extension of Mankhurd-Belapur Section upto Kasara Ghat

8312. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to extend the proposed Mankhurd-Belapur line upto Kasara Ghat in order to substantially reduce the distance between Bombay and Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the difficulties in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources and heavy commitments already on hand for new lines.

Economic Ties with Cyprus

8313. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish economic ties with Cyprus; and

(b) if so, the areas identified by the Governments of both the countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). Indo-Cyprus official level talks were held during the recent visit of the President of Cyprus. The subjects discussed included trade and commercial co-operation, establishment of joint ventures between enterprises of the two countries, etc. An agreement on economic, trade, scientific, technical and industrial cooperation was signed which inter-alia provided for establishment of a Joint Committee between the two countries.

Housing facilities for Railway Employees

8314. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to provide some better housing facilities to the railway employees;

(b) whether Government have also a proposal to assist the railwaymen in constructing their own houses after retirement;

(c) if so, the plan drawn up in this regard; and

(d) when the above proposals are expected to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Subsidised housing is provided to the Railway employees as a staff welfare measure. The allocation for construction of staff quarters is being progressively increased each year.

(b) to (d). A proposal to set up an independent apex body to assist the serving

and retired railway employees to construct their own houses, on self-financing basis, is under consideration.

Freight performance of Southern Railway

8315. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of different railway zones in carrying freight during the last three years; and

(b) the projection made for carrying freight by Southern Railway in the remaining period of the Seventh Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The loading of originating revenue earning freight traffic during the last three years, zone-wise is as follows:

(In million tonnes)

<i>Railway</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89*</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Central	25.86	27.78	28.71
Eastern	59.87	63.00	67.49
Northern	26.77	27.81	23.35
North-Eastern	4.31	4.35	4.47
Northeast-Frontier	5.09	5.42	5.02
Southern	13.91	14.18	16.80
South-Central	27.75	27.79	30.90
South-Eastern	89.56	95.31	98.67
Western	24.63	24.57	25.65

*Provisional

(b) The projection of revenue earning originating freight traffic for Southern Railway for the year 1989-90 i.e. the remaining year of the 7th Five Year Plan is 17 million tonnes.

Deliberations of Patents Issue at GATT

8316. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has agreed to negotiate substantive norms and standards relating to intellectual property rights under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); and

(b) if so, the reasons for this shift from the earlier stand taken at the Montreal meeting last December, that the issue should be discussed not in GATT but in the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Punta del Este Declaration, which launched the Uruguay Round, provided for negotiations in the area of Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, including trade in counterfeit goods, with the aim of clarifying GATT provisions and to elaborate, as appropriate, new rules and disciplines.

At Montreal, industrialised countries as well as a number of developing countries were in agreement that the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should encompass substantive aspects of intellectual property rights, including norms and standards. However, India and several other developing countries maintained that they could not accept consideration of substantive norms and standards under the GATT. Moreover, it was necessary to balance any consideration of these substantive aspects with consideration of the underlying policy

objectives of public interest and developmental and technological needs of developing countries. The issue remained unresolved at Montreal.

At the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee held in Geneva during 5-8 April, 1989 there was agreement that, without prejudice to the view of the participants concerning institutional aspects of the international implementation and results of the negotiations in this area, the negotiations on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights would include consideration of adequate standards and principles concerning the availability, scope and use of trade related intellectual property rights.

The issue of relationship of the outcome of these negotiations in this area with GATT has been kept open for decision by Ministers at the end of the Uruguay Round. The Trade Negotiations Committee also agreed that in these negotiations consideration will be given to concerns raised by participants related to the underlying public policy objectives of their national systems for the protection of intellectual property including developmental and technological objectives. India's position in these negotiations has thus been fully safeguarded.

In dealing with these negotiations as with other issues in the Uruguay Round, India's effort has been to take the negotiating process forward to strengthen the multilateral system, while not allowing the interests of developing countries to be eroded.

Setting up of Customs House at Attari Near Wagah

8317. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Customs House has been set up at Attari near Wagah border recently to prevent smuggling across this border;

(b) if so, whether terrorist activity including terrorist attacks on officials has increased enormously immediately following the establishment of this Customs House;

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

(d) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Government has recently decided to strengthen the Customs preventive set-up in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir Sectors of the Indo-Pak border.

(b) to (d). As the set-up is yet to be strengthened, the questions do not arise.

Agreement with West Germany

8318. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Financial Cooperation Agreement has recently been signed with the Federal Republic of Germany;

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

(c) the amount of aid expected under the agreement and terms and conditions thereof?

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

(b) The financing agreement provides for a total of DM 375 million (Rs. 312 crores approximately) soft loan assistance.

(c) The loan would carry a rate of interest of 0.75% per annum and would be

repayable over 40 years including 10 years grace.

Irregularities in Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar

8319. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news items captioned "Probe into currency racket delayed" appearing in the 'Statesman', New Delhi of 13 April, 1989;

(b) the modus operandi of the circulation of the soiled currency notes, which are returned to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for destruction;

(c) the reasons for such an inordinate delay in unearthing this fraud and bring to book the culprits, the currency exchange agents, who siphoned the notes back to Bhubaneswar and got them re-issued through their local counterparts;

(d) the action taken to check this racket in the light of the Ramanujam Committee Report which had as far back as 1973 pointed out the inadequacy of the Reserve Bank of India's internal security arrangements; and

(e) whether any foolproof method has been devised to eliminate this soiled currency note racket in the RBI if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As per the prescribed procedure, the soiled currency notes returned to Reserve Bank of India are examined by a set of officials. These are further audited (verified) by another set of officials and finally destroyed by defacing (i.e. punching holes in

the note packets) and destroyed by incineration. It is suspected that some defaced notes were pilfered/stolen from some offices of the Reserve Bank of India after they were defaced by punching and before their incineration. After deliberately altering the punch marks on the notes so as to make them appear as mutilated notes, these were apparently presented to Bhubaneswar Office of the Reserve Bank of India and payment obtained.

(c) In February, 1988, it was suspected by Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar, that some mutilated notes of Rs. 100/- denomination already cancelled at some other offices had been presented to that office and payment fraudulently obtained thereon. All Offices of the Reserve Bank of India were immediately advised that in case they receive similar type of notes, they should obtain from the tenderer the cause of mutilation of the notes and forward the same to Central Office so as to investigate the matter. Subsequently, in July, 1988, Bhubaneswar Office again noticed that several notes of the same denomination with punch marks already on them had been presented over the counter and payment obtained. The matter was investigated immediately (in August, 1988) and Departmental action initiated against the Reserve Bank of India employees suspected of complicity in the fraud. The employees involved were placed under suspension. The case had also been immediately reported to Central Bureau of Investigation for investigation.

(d) The Ramanujam Committee's main recommendation was the introduction of identity cards and security area passes. This recommendation was implemented by the Reserve Bank of India soon after the Committees' report was submitted. Several other measures had also been taken in the past to tighten up security arrangements in the bank. Besides, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.V. Hate, who was Deputy

Governor of RBI, was also constituted to look into the internal security arrangements of the Banks. All the recommendations made by this Committee were also implemented.

(e) The existing procedures are reasonably sound. The above incident has occurred apparently due to complicity of certain persons in circumventing the rules and negligence of a few others in supervising the operations. The Reserve Bank of India has impressed on all its offices to follow the existing checks and precautions meticulously. The Reserve Bank of India has also constituted a special team to go round its offices for surprise checks so that the prescribed procedures are strictly followed.

SEBI's Code to Supervise Stock Markets

8320. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Ministry has reportedly returned the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI's) draft code to supervise the stock markets as unserviceable;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what other steps are proposed to taken to discipline the stock brokers by way of legislation or otherwise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the Rules, Bye-laws and Regulations of the Stock Exchanges contain provisions for the regulation of members of Stock Exchanges and for investor protection.

Arrest of Central Excise Officials

8321. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Customs and Central Excise Officers of various designations, who were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced during the last three years;

(b) the amount in cash and kind recovered from these officers; and

(c) the number of such officers who south voluntary or premature retirement during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) During the last three years that is, 1986, 1987 and 1988-113 Customs and Central Excise Officers of various designations were arrested, 89 were prosecuted and 6 were sentenced.

(b) An amount of Rs. 5.09 lakh in cash, foreign currency of US \$ 850, one CTV, one refrigerator, 26.600 gms of gold, and other goods valued Rs. 18.89 lakhs, were recovered.

(c) Nil.

Proposal for Non-Official Group on Trade Policy

8322. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a small group comprising of representatives of industry to continuously interact with Government on trade policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SBI Branch for Processing Pension pay orders of Central Government Officers

8323. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the branch designated by the State Bank of India in Delhi/New Delhi for processing the Pension Pay Orders (P.P.Os) for payment of pension to the retired Central Government Officers routed through the Pay and Accounts Officer III (Pensions), R.K. Puram, New Delhi by the various Ministeries and Departments in which these officers were employed and who had opted for payment thereof by the various branches of the State Bank of India in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) the average time taken by the Bank in clearing such cases;

(c) whether any time limit has been laid down to clear such cases by the Bank; and

(d) if no time limit has been laid down, whether it is proposed to do so to avoid inconvenience to the affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) State Bank of India, Tis Hazari Branch, Delhi

(b) Average time taken by the Bank normally, in such cases, is 3 days.

(c) Time limit prescribed for transmission of P.P.O. (Pension Payment Order) by designated bank known as Link Branch to the Payment Branch is three days.

(d) Does not arise.

each centres during the last three years;

Exporters from Centres having Duty Exemption

(c) whether such Centres have been set up in each of the Coastal States; and

8324. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which such centres will be set up?

(a) the performance of the Export Processing Zones/Free Trade Zone enjoying duty exemption;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The export performance of the Export Processing Zones has been as follow:

(b) the details of industrial exports from

<i>Performance (Exports) (Rupees crores)</i>			
	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1. Kandla Free Trade Zone, Gandhidham, Kutch.	236.26	185.05	271.59
2. Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone, Bombay.	102.36	110.14	185.19
3. Madras Export Processing Zone, Madras	10.04	16.45	24.04
4. Falta Export Processing Zone, Falta	3.18	1.86	8.11
5. Noida Export Processing Zone, Noida.	7.01	16.05	21.34
6. Cochin Export Processing Zone, Cochin.	0.94	3.94	6.25
7. Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone, Visakhapatnam.	This zone is in the stage of formation.		

(c) and (d). All the Export Processing Zones/Free Trade Zone, except Noida Ex-

port Processing Zone, are located in Coastal states. Locating further Export Processing

Zones can be considered only when it becomes possible for the Government to find additional resources besides finding the necessity of establishing more Export Processing Zones.

Deposits and Advances in Nationalised Banks in Maharashtra

8325. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of deposits in the nationalised banks in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the rate of growth of loan disbursements during the above period; and

(c) how does it compare with the other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The percentage growth in aggregate deposits of Public Sector Banks in Maharashtra during the years ending December 1986, December 1987 and December 1988 was 12.8%, 12.3% and 17.5% respectively.

(b) The rate of growth of outstanding advances of Public Sector Banks in Maharashtra during the years ending December 1986, December 1987 and December 1988 was 7.5%, 2.5% and 14.4% respectively.

(c) In comparison to the growth rate of outstanding credit of Public Sector Banks in Maharashtra during the year ending December, 1988, the growth rate was higher in 22 States and was lower in 3 States. However, the outstanding advances of Maharashtra as at the end of December, 1988 constituted 20.1% of the total advances of Public Sector Banks.

Spices Cultivation

8326. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise production of different spices in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by the Spices Board to bring more area under Spices cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) The Spices Board is providing extension support, rooted cuttings for pepper and general encouragement for production of most of the spices for which the nodal Ministry is Ministry of Agriculture. In the case of Cardamom as the Spices Board has the responsibility for production, it provides all support for development of Cardamom. In the case of Cardamom its efforts are more to increase productivity rather than increase the areas under cardamom

STATEMENT

Estimates of Production of Important Spices State-wise

Black Pepper

<i>State</i>	<i>Production (Thousand Tonnes 1987-88)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Karnataka	0.70
Kerala	48.28
Tamil Nadu	0.24

1	2
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Pondicherry 0 01

All India 49.33

Chillies

State *Production*
(Thousand
Tonnes 1987-88)

Andhra Pradesh 261.4

Arunachal Pradesh 0.7

Assam 6.7

Bihar 9.3

Gujarat 7.1

Haryana 4.8

Himachal Pradesh 0.2

Jammu & Kashmir 0.4

Karnataka 37.4

Kerala 1.0

Madhya Pradesh 10.7

Maharashtra 71.1

Manipur 3.7

Meghalaya 1.1

Mizoram 3.3

Nagaland 0.2

Orissa 58.1

1	2
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Punjab 5.2

Rajasthan 20.9

Tamil Nadu 23.9

Tripura 0.7

Uttar Pradesh 16.0

West Bengal 30.7

Delhi Neg.

Pondicherry Neg.

All India 574.6

Ginger

State *Production*
(Thousand
Tonnes)1987-88

Andhra Pradesh 8.57

Arunachal Pradesh 3.60

Bihar 1.18

Gujarat 0.34

Haryana 0.06

Himachal Pradesh 0.30

Karnataka 3.43

Kerala 42.98

Madhya Pradesh 3.44

Maharashtra 0.59

1	2
Manipur	0.60
Meghalaya	30.10
Mizoram	4.50
Nagaland	0.07
Orissa	7.77
Rajasthan	0.56
Sikkim	12.60
Tamil Nadu	0.81
Tripura	1.19
Uttar Pradesh	5.26
West Bengal	7.46
All India	135.46

Turmeric

<i>State</i>	<i>Production (Thousand Tonnes)1987-88</i>
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Andhra Pradesh	115.2
Arunachal Pradesh	0.5
Assam	5.6
Bihar	5.6
Karnataka	18.4
Kerala	6.2
Madhya Pradesh	0.4

1	2
Maharashtra	7.2
Meghalaya	1.8
Orissa	28.9
Rajasthan	0.2
Tamil Nadu	91.7
Tripura	1.9
Uttar Pradesh	0.6
West Bengal	10.7
All India	294.9

Coriander

<i>State</i>	<i>Production (Thousand Tonnes)1987-88</i>
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Andhra Pradesh	28.2
Bihar	3.6
Haryana	0.2
Karnataka	1.7
Madhya Pradesh	17.8
Orissa	8.3
Rajasthan	166.7
Tamil Nadu	13.4
Uttar Pradesh	3.1
All India	243.0

Garlic

<i>State</i>	<i>Production (Thousand Tonnes) 1987-88</i>
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1.3
Bihar	6.5
Gujarat	4.7
Haryana	23.8
Jammu & Kashmir	0.1
Karnataka	2.1
Madhya Pradesh	123.4
Maharashtra	30.5
Nagaland	0.1
Orissa	54.9
Punjab	11.0
Rajasthan	4.1
Tamil Nadu	4.9
Uttar Pradesh	19.3
All India	286.7

Source:— Directorate of Economic & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture

Small Cardamom

<i>State</i>	<i>Production (Thousand Tonnes) 1987-88</i>
Kerala	2.05

1	2
Karnataka	0.90
Tamil Nadu	0.25
All India	3.20

Large Cardamom

<i>State</i>	<i>Production (Thousand Tonnes) 1987-88</i>
1	2
Sikkim	2.75
West Bengal	0.50
All India	3.25

Source:— Spices Board.

Anti-Erosion funds for West Bengal

8327. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Farakka Barrage is causing a severe land-erosion problem in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether Government of West Bengal is unable to finance the anti-erosion works along the Ganga;

(c) whether State Government has submitted a revised plan to protect the area, railway tracks, national highway No. 34 and even the feeder canal of the Farakka Barrage;

(d) if so, whether State Government has also urged Union Government to share the cost of anti-erosion works on equal basis annually;

(e) if so, whether Union Government have turned down the request of State Government; and

(f) if not, the amount provided to State Government so far and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f). The scheme for protection of vulnerable reaches at Sankopara, Durgapur and Bajitpur Mouza on the right bank of river Ganga estimated to cost about Rs. 17 crores was returned to the Government of West Bengal for modification taking into account the present trend of river erosion. After the techno-economic viability is established, the State Government has to implement the scheme by making suitable provisions in the State Plan.

Co-operative Society for allotment of Book Stalls

8328. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 7th April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 5393 regarding cooperative societies for allotment of contracts on railway stations and state:

(a) the reasons for not consulting the Ministry of Agriculture for fixing the number of minimum membership in case of Co-operative Society of bookstalls after receipt of the recommendation regarding membership for vendors Cooperative Society; and

(b) the criteria adopted for allotment of book-stall to vendor's Cooperative Society?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) It is not necessary to consult the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard, as the study group did not make any recommendations concerning Co-operative societies for book-stalls.

(b) Some of the conditions that Co-operative Societies should fulfil for the award of bookstall contracts are that Societies should be registered with the concerned Registrar of Cooperative Societies, each member of the Society should be a graduate and unemployed, all work connected with the management of the book-stall, including train side vending should be done by members of the Society themselves.

Stationery book-stall contracts on Southern Railway

8329. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 7 April, 1989 to Starred Question No. 532 regarding book-stall agreements and state:

(a) the specific reasons for allowing the book-stall contractors by the Southern Railway to sell stationary items; and

(b) the reasons for variations in terms and conditions of book-stall agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) This has been provided in the agreements for a long time.

(b) Zonal Railways are empowered to settle the terms and conditions of the agreements, and as such, some variations are there.

Book-stall contracts on Delhi Division

8330. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations on Delhi division where applications were invited for allotment of bookstalls during the last 2 years;

(b) the dates of allotments made as per policy to those applicants; and

(c) the names of stations in respect of which the decision is still pending alongwith reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) During the last two years, 1987 and 88, applications were invited for allotment of bookstalls at the following stations:—

Tilak Bridge, Meerut City, Meerut Cantt., Karnal, Modi Nagar, Jakhhal, Narwana, Deoband, Khatauli and Mansa.

(b) The dates of allotment are as under:

Meerut City	22.7.1988
Meerut Cantt.	
Jakhhal	26.7.1988
Modi Nagar	01.7.1988

(c) Applications are yet to be screened by Screening Committee for Karnal, Mansa, Narwana, Deoband and Khatauli stations. In case of Tilak Bridge, applications have been screened but competent authority is yet to approve.

Supply of contaminated water in Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh

8331. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to

answer given on 7 April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 5390 regarding sanitation and drinking water on Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh and state:

(a) whether any surveys have been done during last three years regarding supply of infected and contaminated water in Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, whether Government propose to start surveys and inspections to ensure supply of hygienically pure drinking water?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Regular testing of water for residual chlorine and bacteriological examination is done periodically, apart from surprise inspections by Medical Officers. Mechanism to take remedial action exists if any sample is reported unsatisfactory.

Management of New Delhi Railway Station

8332. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to refer to the reply given on 7 April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 5377 regarding stampede at New Delhi Railway Station and state:

(a) whether the Ministry had received representations in last three years regarding unsatisfactory management of New Delhi Railway Station; and

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

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

(b) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

<i>Problems highlighted and suggestions made in the representation</i>	<i>Action taken by the Railway</i>
(a) Poor Public Address System.	(a) The functioning of the Public Address System is being monitored.
(b) Activities of touts and illegal procurement and sale of reserved tickets.	(b) Regular checks conducted to prevent this menace. Six touts apprehended in April, 1989.
(c) Over-crowding on platforms.	(c) Entry to platforms at New Delhi Railway Station for relatives and friend coming to see off or receive passengers is being dissuaded.
(d) Crowded Booking Counters and waiting halls.	(d) For quicker issue of unreserved tickets, self printing ticket machines have been installed.
(e) Last minutes change in platforms.	(e) Change of platforms is only done when inescapable.

Management of Railway Stations in Delhi

8333. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of the three main railway stations in Delhi/New Delhi has come under severe criticism in the press bringing out various defects like mismanagement, poor address system, exploitation by touts, lack of transport availability particularly public transport etc;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to improve the situation; and

(c) the steps taken to check the exploitation of the passengers at the hands of coolies as escorts are not permitted to see off or receive their relatives at New Delhi Railway Station?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Some articles have been published recently in a newspaper highlighting the problems faced by the passengers at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations.

(b) The following steps are being taken to make further improvements:

(i) Intensification of checks to apprehend touts and unsocial elements indulging in cornering of seats/berths.

(ii) Monitoring the functioning of Public Address System.

(iii) A study is being conducted to reduce congestion on platforms due to stacking of parcels, etc.

(iv) Visitors are being persuaded not to enter the platforms unless absolutely necessary and the

issue of platform tickets is being regulated. Checking at the gates has been intensified.

- (v) The parking space on the second entry of New Delhi Railway Station is being increased.
- (vi) A master plan to develop terminal facilities at other stations in Delhi area has been prepared for development of facilities.

(c) Persons escorting the needy passengers are being permitted to enter the platforms. In addition, checks are also being conducted to ensure proper charging by the licensed porters.

Income Tax Evasion by Big Businessmen

8334. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of big businessman companies which evaded income tax in 1988-89 in different States;

(b) the total amount of income tax outstanding against them as on 31 March, 1989;

(c) the reasons why they have not paid the income tax;

(d) the action taken against them;

(e) the number of cases instituted against those businessmen; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The names of the so called big businessmen companies have not been identified. Each of the big businessmen houses would be having a large number of

companies which may be assessed to tax at different places all over the country and the present data retrieval system is such that the information sought for cannot be obtained easily. The efforts put in to do this exercise may not be commensurate with the result in terms of costs and time.

(b) to (f). In view of reply to part (a) do not arise.

Vacancies in Diesel Loco Shed Kharagpur

8335. SHRINARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are number of vacancies in the newly constructed diesel loco shed at Kharagpur on South Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the category wise number thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to fill up the vacancies; and

(d) whether organised labour have represented this matter to the authority on number of occasions if so, the action taken by Government in the matter so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). There are 182 vacancies, the category wise break up of which is as under:-

Foreman A & B	8
Chargeman Fitter A & B	9
Mechanic Gr. I II & III	74
Khalasi Helper/Khalasi	29

Ancillary	33
Lab. Asstt.	4
Chemist	3
Jr. Draftsman	1
OSG I & II	3
Head Clerk	3
Sr. Clerk	4
Jr. Clerk	1
Pointsman	8
Peon	2
Total	182

(c) Filing up of the vacancies through direct recruitment, promotion and transfer is in process.

(d) No, sir. However, organised labour have raised only the issue of seniority.

Development and Computerised Reservation at Tirupati Railway Station

8336. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of funds allocated for the development of Tirupati railway station in Andhra Pradesh during the past three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIMAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Funds allocated during the past three years for the development of Tirupati railway station are as under:-

Name of District	Name of centre
Adilabad	Thamsi (Mandal Hqrs) Bhimpur

1986-87	Nil
1987-88	9.52 lakhs
1988-89	19.84 lakhs

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Andhra Pradesh

8337. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme under the consideration of Government to open branches of the nationalised banks in backward and tribal areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of the locations where these branches are proposed to be opened; and

(c) the time by which these branches will be opened?

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 under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 the population norms which is 17,000 average population per bank office in the rural and semi urban areas of each development block has been relaxed to 10,000 in respect of development blocks falling in hilly terrain, sparsely populated regions and tribal areas. These norms are applicable to the entire country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The centres allotted by RBI to banks for opening branches in Andhra Pradesh are set out below:-

Name of District	Name of centre
Chittoor	Aremenipenta
Rangareddy	Barwad, Mothukpally, Dadapur
Vizianagaram	Donkinavalasa. Thadipudi, Panchali, Thonam.
Visakhapatnam	Ananthavaram, Mangamaripeta (Hemlet of Kaupla Uppada).
West Godavari	Doramamidi

RBI has advised the banks to open their branches at all the allotted centres expeditiously by the end of June, 1989 except in rare cases where minimum basic infrastructural facilities are not available.

Assistance by Regional Rural Banks in Andhra Pradesh

8338. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of location of the Regional Rural Banks in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the amount of loans and other help rendered by each of these banks to the rural people during the last six months; and

(c) the extent to which such help/finan-

cial assistance to the rural people have been helpful to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Hyderabad has reported that there are 16 Regional Rural Banks at present in Andhra Pradesh. The area of operation and the loans disbursed by each of these banks during the six months period from July to December, 1988 is given in the Statement below.

(c) The loan assistance is reported to have helped the rural people to a considerable extent.

STATEMENT

Sl.No.	Name of Regional Rural Banks	Districts covered	No. of Branches	Amount of loan disbursed. (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nagarjuna Grameena Bank	Khammam Nalgonda	148	N.A.
2.	Rayalseema Grameena Bank	Kurnool Cuddapah Part of Prakasam	142	8917.67
3.	Sri Visakha Grameena Bank	Srikakulam Vizianagaram Visakapatnam	168	3857.99
4.	Sree Anantha Grameena Bank	Anantapur	68	2056.52
5.	Shri Venkateshwara Grameena Bank	Chittoor	71	2319.29
6.	Sangameshwara Grameena Bank	Mahabubnagar	65	529.68
7.	Manjira Grameena Bank	Medak	64	2829.54
8.	Sri Saraswati Grameena Bank	Adilabad	69	364.19

Sl.No.	Name of Regional Rural Banks	Districts covered	No. of Branches	Amount of loan disbursed. (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
9.	Pinakini Grammena Bnak	Nellore & Part of Parakasam	83	3002.22
10.	Kakathiya Grameena Bank	Warangal	43	556.82
11.	Chaitanya Grameena Bank	Guntur	43	690.37
12.	Sri Sathavahana Grameena bank	Karimnagar	42	1097.82
13.	Golconda Grameena Bank	Rangareddy	20	403.40
14.	Srirama Grameena Bank	Nizamabad	24	416.09
15.	Kanakadurga Grameena Bank	Krishna	13	332.00
16.	Godavari Grameena Bank	East & West Godavari	9	87.24

World Bank Loan to Andhra Pradesh

8339. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loan provided to Andhra Pradesh by the World Bank during the last two years, year-wise.

(b) the terms and conditions of the loan so given;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for some relaxation in payment of the instalment of the loan in

view of the prevailing drought situation;

(d) if so, whether Union Government have taken up this matter with World Bank, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The World Bank has committed assistance in the form of IDA credits for the following projects in Andhra Pradesh during the financial years 1987-88 and 1988-89;

	Amount of assistance (Million US \$)
1. National Water Management project (A multi-state project in which Andhra Pradesh is a participating State)	150
2. Third National Seeds Project (A multi-state project in which Andhra Pradesh is a participating state)	114

The IDA assistance is in the form of credits extended to Government of India. IDA credits committed before June 1987 are repayable in 50 years, including a grace period of 10 years. Subsequent credits are repayable in 35 years with a grace period of 10 years. A service charge of 0.75% is levied on the disbursed portion of the credit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enhance the amount of compensation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). The information regarding the compensation paid by other Railways of the world is not available with the Ministry of Railways.

Compensation to Accident Victims

8340. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the compensation paid by the Railways to the accident victims is lowest in the world;

Loans under Self Employment Scheme

8341. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 21 April, 1989 to Starred Question No. 692 regarding loans under self-employment scheme in Uttar Pradesh and state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries who have been sanctioned more than Rs. 15,000 and less than Rs. 25,000 and the number of beneficiaries who have been sanctioned more than Rs. 25,000 and less than Rs. 35,000;

(b) The break-up of the beneficiaries among industrial, service and business ventures;

(c) the total amount of loan actually disbursed to the 1.35 lakh beneficiaries;

(d) the number of units which have been actually set up as on 1 April, 1989 by these 1.35 lakh beneficiaries; and

(e) the corresponding information for Bihar?

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 the present data reporting system from banks does not generate information in the manner asked for.

(e) Reserve Bank of India has further reported that according to the information available, during the period 1983-84 to 1987-88 under the Scheme for providing Self Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEU), loans amounting to Rs. 182.96 crores had been sanctioned to about 90,000 (ninety thousand) beneficiaries in Bihar.

Unearthing of Cash and Jewellery from Unclaimed Lockers of Janpath Hotel

8342. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount of cash and

jewellery was found in the unclaimed lockers of Janpath Hotel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the All India ITDC employees union and employees of Janpath Hotel are demanding investigation in the matter at a high level; and

(e) if so, the action taken on the demand?

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 seized Rs. 2.50 lakhs from a locker at the premises of Janpath Hotel, New Delhi on 3.3.1989. The said locker was in the name of a businessman of Ludhiana. Appropriate follow-up action under the provisions of the Direct Taxes enactments is taken.

(d) and (e). The All India ITDC Employment Union had, in a letter dated 20th February 1989 intimated the Income-tax Department about the alleged misuse of certain lockers situated in the Janpath Hotel, New Delhi, for tax evasion purposes. Necessary action as far as the Income-tax Department is concerned, has been taken as indicated in replies to Parts (a), (b) and (c) above.

Chain Pulling near Waltair Railway Station

8343. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal chain pulling activities halt the Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam Godavari Express and Madras-Howrah Mail every day outside Waltair Railway Station; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to stop this menace?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Some cases of chain pulling have come to notice on Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam Godavari Express and Madras-Howrah Mail outside Waltair Railway Station. To contain this menace, ambush checks are being conducted by the Ticket Checking Squad and these will continue.

Action Plan to Promote Australian Investment in India

8344. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian Division of Indo-Australian Joint Trade Council is implementing an action plan locally to apprise the industry about possibilities of investment in India;

(b) whether it would have an adverse impact on the development of indigenous technology and indigenous production capacity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI): (a) India and Australia have a Joint Business Council under the aegis of which the businessmen of both the countries interact with each other. The Australian side, as per information received from Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), is launching an 'Action Programme' in Australia to create awareness about India's potentials and capabilities for trade as also technology transfer.

(b) and (c). As a matter of policy Government welcomes co-operation with all friendly countries in transfer of appropriate technology to modernise the Indian Industries to improve the productivity and make them internationally competitive provided the terms and conditions offered are within our policy parameters.

Renaming of 7/8 Tinsukia Mail as Dibrugarh Mail

8345. SHRI RAJ KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 25th August, 1983 to Unstarred Question No. 5044 regarding extension of Tinsukia Mail upto Dibrugarh and state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the name of 7/8 Tinsukia Mail as Dibrugarh Mail as originally proposed;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether Government also propose its running via New Delhi station which is a popular demand and highly convenient to large section of users; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The present name is popular one and there is no proposal to change it.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to terminal constraints.

Import of Tyres

8346. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tyres have been imported during 1989;

(b) if so, the number of tyres imported by Government agencies and under OGL ; and

(c) the estimated number to be imported during the remaining part of 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Import data beyond 1986-87 is not presently available.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No target has been fixed for import of tyres.

Revision of Rates for Reserved Carriages, Tourist Cars and Saloons etc. in West Bengal

8347. SHRI R.P. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a memorandum dated 20 February, 1989 from West Bengal Tour Organisers' Association, Calcutta protesting against the revision of rates and other charges for reserved carriages, tourists cars, saloons etc. made by the Railway Board;

(b) the reasons for revision of these rates;

(c) whether the revision would affect tourism ;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider their decision; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) These rates have been revised in view of increase in Railways cost of operation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Funding for Seventh Plan

8348. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated level of resources raised by market borrowings, other capital receipts, borrowings by public sector enterprises and deficit financing for funding the Seventh Five Year Plan as percentage of total outlay;

(b) whether the present estimate of level of borrowed resources and the percentage of expenditure financed thereby has risen by 15 per cent between the 1st and the 4th year of the Plan; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to ensure that the level of funding by borrowed resources during the last year of the current plan declines so as to bring the level closer to the original estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

(c) Central Government has taken a number of measures to improve revenue receipts, and eliminate inessential and low priority expenditure and as a result dependence on borrowings for financing the Plan of Central Government is expected to be less in 1989-90.

STATEMENT

Estimates of Borrowed Resources Seventh Plan, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89

(Rs. Crores)

Sl.No.	Items	Seventh Plan (Original Estimate 1984-85 Prices)	At Current Prices			
			1985-86 (Latest Estimates)	1986-87 (Latest Estimates)	1987-88 (Latest Estimates)	1988-89 (Annual Plan Ests)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Plan Outlay (Central, States & UTs)	180000	34580	40817	44792	49818
2.	Forms of Borrowings					
2.1.	Market Borrowings (Net) @	30562	6691	7090	9124	9500
2.1.1	Issue of Bonds by Public Enterprises		315	1364	2108	2039
2.2.	Small Savings	17916	4800	4900	4200	4600
2.3	Provident Funds	7327	1276	1550	2070	2295

(Rs. Crores)

Sl.No. Items	Seventh Plan (Original Estimate 1984-85 Prices)	At Current Prices				
		1985-86 (Latest Estimates)	1986-87 (Latest Estimates)	1987-88 (Latest Estimates)	1988-89 (Annual Plan Ests)	
	3	4	5	6	7	
2.4. Term-loans from Financial Institutions.	4639	814	887	1029	1151	
2.5. Miscellaneous Capital Receipts (Net)	12618	3750	3095	8471	6824	
2.6. Net Capital inflow from abroad	18000	3271	3580	3762	4351	
2.7. Deficit Financing	14000	4490	8285	6080	7484	
Total: Borrowings	105062	25407	30759	36844	38244	
2.8. % to total Plan Outlay	58.4%	73.5%	75.4%	82.3%	76.8%	

@ Market Borrowings of the Government, Public Enterprises and Local Bodies.

Source: Seventh Plan Document VOL I. & Annual Plan Documents, Planning Commission.

Industrial Sickness in West Bengal

8349. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial sickness in West Bengal, particularly in Calcutta, is increasing day by day;

(b) whether the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has taken any steps in this regard;

(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) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as at the end of June, 1987 there were 18129 SSI sick units in West Bengal against which outstanding amount was Rs. 167.37 crores. The corresponding figures for June, 1986 were 24200 and Rs. 173.99 crores respectively. The number of other sick industrial units enjoying bank credit limit of Rs. 1 crores and above was 150 with outstandings to the banks amounting to Rs. 738.22 crores as at the end of June, 1986. As at the end of June, 1987 the number of non-SSI sick units (as per definition of such units according to Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 was 146 in which the banks outstanding amounted to Rs. 374.91 crores. Data relating to Calcutta only is not collected by RBI.

(b) to (d). Under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, the onus of reporting sickness to BIFR, *inter-alia* rests on the company concerned. BIFR has reported that as at the end of Dec'88 registered cases with them included 82 units of west Bengal. Further, as on 31.3.89,

Board had sanctioned schemes for revival/rehabilitation of 3 industrial units in West Bengal. In addition, the Board had decided in respect of 8 cases pertaining to West Bengal that it is practicable for the companies to make their net worth positive within a reasonable time and accordingly passed orders under Section 17 (2) of the Act.

Palace on Wheels

8350. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of profit earned by the Palace on Wheels during 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) whether the life span of the rakes of this trains are very short and therefore need urgent repair; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) In 1987-88, railway suffered a loss of about Rs. 22.51 lakhs on fully distributed cost. However, on the basis of incremental cost, there was a profit of about Rs. 27.99 lakhs. The results for 1988-89 are not yet available.

(b) and (c). Majority of the coaches are overaged. Necessary repairs are effected from time to time.

Road Overbridge at Ballalpur

8352. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the construction work of the road overbridge at Ballalpur, on the Eastern Railway was started;

(b) the progress achieved so far;

(c) when it is expected to be completed;

(d) the original estimated cost of the scheme;

(e) whether it is a fact that much higher amount has to be spent due to cost escalation;

(f) if so, the revised estimated cost; and

(g) the reasons for delay if any in completing the construction of the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) In September, 1980;

(b) Railway's portion on the bridge proper across the tracks: 60%

State Government's portion on bridge approaches: 85%

(c) The Railway's portion of the work is expected to be completed in a few months' time.

(d) Rs. 18.66 lakhs

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Rs. 33 lakhs (Approx).

(g) Due to unsatisfactory progress of the work by the contractor, the contract had to be terminated and a new agency fixed for completing the balance work.

Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Labourers

8353. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 10 March, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 2083 regarding Group Insurance Scheme for landless labourers and state;

(a) the state-wise break-up of landless labourers who have received benefit from Group Insurance Scheme of the Life Insurance Corporation of India upto December, 1988;

(b) the total benefit and the average benefit per labourer received, State-wise ; and

(c) the total number of labourers whose cases were pending with the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 1 January, 1989, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The statewise break-up of Landless Agricultural Labourers would have received benefit from Group Insurance Scheme of LIC of India upto 31.12.1988 is as follows:-

1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2802
2	Bihar	6
3.	Chandigarh	2
4.	Goa	135
5	Gujarat	2489

1	2	3
6.	Haryana	329
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	13
8.	Karnataka	1394
9.	Kerala	1403
10.	Madhya Pradesh	402
11.	Manipur	10
12.	Orissa	2767
13.	Punjab	359
14.	Pondicherry	70
15.	Rajasthan	480
16.	Tamilnadu	7607
17.	Tripura	34
18.	Uttar Pradesh	698
Total		21000

(b) The total benefit received is Rs. 2.1 crores. The sum assured per laborer is Rs. 1,000/-

(c) The total number of labourers whose cases are pending with the LIC of India as on 1.1.1989 statewise is as follows:-

1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	447
2.	Haryana	59
3.	Karnataka	377
4.	Madhya Pradesh	45
5.	Punjab	28
6.	Rajasthan	24

1	2	3
7.	Tamilnadu	925
8.	Uttar Pradesh	24
9.	Pondicherry	4
Total		1933

Extension of Dhanbad-Patherdih Train to Bhojudih

8354. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the public demand from the backward Bhojudih area Government would reconsider their earlier decision for extending the passenger train running between Patherdih and Dhanbad upto Bhojudih;

(b) if so, the time by which a decision will be taken; and

(c) if not, the hurdles coming in the way in accepting a long pending demand of the public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). Patherdih-Bhojudih section is not fit for running passenger trains.

Electoral Rolls in Delhi

8355 SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether electoral rolls in Delhi have been updated;

(b) the number of voters added to the

rolls due to lowering of voting age from 21 to 18 years; and

(c) the grand total of voters in Delhi as at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) (a) The revision of electoral rolls in the Union territory of Delhi commenced on 1st February, 1989 and is expected to be completed with the final publication of rolls on 22nd May, 1989.

(b) and (c). The number of voters added and the grand total of voters will be known only after the final publication of rolls.

Floating Commercial Paper

8356. SHRI B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is introducing floating commercial paper;

(b) if so, the manner in which the interest rate structure has been evolved;

(c) the manner in which it will provide for a cleaner transparency and greater flexibility in the monetary system; and

(d) the ceiling set by the RBI on the amounts that the commercial banks can

raise through the Certificates of Deposit (CDS)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) With a view to enabling highly rated cooperated borrowers to diversify their sources of short-term borrowing and also to provide an additional instrument to investors, the Reserve Bank of India have recently announced the decision to introduce Commercial Paper (CP).

(b) The CP would be issued at a discount to face value and the discount rate would be freely determined.

(c) The CP would be a short-term instrument with a maturity period which would range from 91 days to 6 months. The discount rate at which the CP would be issued would be freely determined by the market forces. The CP would be freely transferable by endorsement and delivery. The maximum amount that a company would be allowed to raise would be limited to 20 per cent of its maximum permissible bank finance.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the total outstandings of all Certificates of Deposit (CDs) issued by a bank at any point of time should not exceed one per cent of its fortnightly average deposits during the financial year 1988-89.

Indo-Pak Talks on Wular Barrage Tulbal Navigation Project

8357. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) how many rounds of talks has India had with Pakistan on the Wular barrage tulbal navigation project;

(b) when and where was the last round

of Indo-Pak talks held on this issue; and

(c) whether an amicable bilateral settlement has been arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Six rounds of talks at the level of Secretaries has been held so far between the Government of India and Pakistan on the Tulbal Navigation Project.

(b) The last round was held at New Delhi on the 29th and 30th of March, 1989 .

(c) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Pantry Car Contracts

8358. SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision that contracts for pantry car service on 115/116 Up and 933/934 Up trains should be given to SC/ST applicants by Northeastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether the same is being observed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

[*English*]

Criteria for allotment of pantry car contracts to Cooperative Societies

8359. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/criteria for awarding contracts to cooperative societies stating whether area of operation of the society is also given due importance;

(b) whether the prescribed norms/criteria have been followed in awarding contracts and whether the area of operation of any local society of Muzaffarpur (Bihar) is being considered for the entire railway administration of for the operation of works of the society; and

(c) the circumstances under which area of operation of the said society have been expanded and whether Registrar Cooperative Societies, Government of Bihar, or the Law Cell of Railways have been fully consulted; if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The general criterion for allotment of work on Railways is that it should be registered, genuine and bonafide Cooperative Society. Area of operation is also to be verified as provided in the bye-laws of the society.

(b) and (c). Latest position in this regard

Year	production	Consumption
		(In Tonnes)
1986-87	219.520	257,305
1987-88	235.197	287,480
1988-89	260.000 (P)	312,000 (P)

(P) Provisional

(d) The details of country-wise imports of natural rubber during the last three years has

is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Measures to Increase Rubber Production

8360. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production and requirement of rubber in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the quantity of natural rubber imported during last three years, years-wise and country-wise;

(c) the steps taken to increase the production to meet the increasing demand; and

(d) the tangible results achieved there form?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The details of production and consumption of natural rubber during the last 3 years are as under:-

been as under:-

(In Tonnes)

Country	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Malaysia	31950	36734	47468
Thailand	8050	5150	3770
Indonesia	—	100	—
Srilanka	328	—	125
Total	40228	41984	51363 (P)

(c) and (d). For encouraging natural rubber cultivation/production/productivity the measures implemented by the Rubber Board 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 plantation; and
- vii) community marketing and processing.

It is only as a result of these measures that the production of natural rubber has increased from 146,987 tonnes in 1977-78 to 235, 197 tonnes in 1987-88 and the yield per hectare improved from 770 kg. to 944 per hectare.

Evictions In Railway Colony, Dhanbad

8361. SHRI R.P DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of stalls/gumties lying by the side of Road at Old Station Railway Colony, Dhanbad being run by unemployed educated youths since long for maintaining their livelihood, are being demolished by the Railway Authorities, Dhanbad;

(b) whether some licensed shopkeepers are also being evicted without providing any alternate provision; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to provide shelters to these persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIMAHABIR PRASAD): (a) There are 47 gumties constructed unauthorisedly by outsiders on railway land alongside the road in the old Railway Station Colony, Dhanbad. There are required to be evicted since the land is required for execution of certain sanctioned developmental works.

(b) No, Sir. The Railway Administration

is ready to offer alternative sites to the licensed shopkeepers, who are also required to be shifted from the above land.

(c) It has not been the policy of this Ministry to provide alternative accommodation to unauthorised occupants who are evicted from railway lands.

Boundary Wall of Yard and Tikiapara Carshed at Kharagpur

8362. SHRINARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the boundary walls around Kharagpur (South Eastern Railway) yard and Tikiapara Carshed (South Eastern Railway) has broken at several points;

(b) if so, since when and how this wall has broken;

(c) whether pilferage has gone up since then; and

(d) when this wall will be repaired and whether Government would fix responsibility therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The boundary wall around Kharagpur Yard is not a continuous one; but no breakage, as such, has been noticed. The boundary wall of Tikiapara Car Shed is broken at some places.

(b) The breakage in the boundary wall at Tikiapara are reported to have taken place over the past 5 years due to natural causes, combined with vandalism.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The repairs are expected to be completed by Oct. 1989, for which a contract has already been finalised. No responsibility

has been fixed since the breakage of wall was for reasons beyond the control of the Railway administration.

Development of Railways Technology

8363. SHRI S.M. GURADDI:
SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Working Groups drawing experts from centres of learning, research and industry have been set up on specific fields in the Railways to devise ways and means for the development of technology;

(b) if so, the time by which the Group are likely to make their recommendations; and

(c) the details of the new trust to railway technology upgradation to boost the railways?

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

(b) The work of the nine technology development groups is of a continuous nature involving identification of projects and their review periodically till their successful completion.

(c) The Technology Development Plan is integrated to realise five Missions relating to improving the speeds of passenger and freight trains, running of heavy haul freight trains, upgradation of the Metre Gauge System and developing capacity for absorbing identified futuristic technologies.

Trade Talks with Spain

8364. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 15 member high level delegations from Spain visited India to improve trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details and outcome of the talks held;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). A Spanish delegation visited India recently. The subjects discussed during the visit included trade and commercial co-operation, establishment of joint venture between enterprises of the two countries, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Misappropriation on Railways

8365. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Administrative/Divisional Offices of the Railways from which cases of misappropriation of funds and transgression of administrative and financial powers have been reported during 1988-89;

(b) whether any enquiries have been instituted to identify the officers responsible for this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the

Sabha.

Herbal Cure for Baldness

8366. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Times of India dated 5 April, 1989 wherein it is reported that a herbal extract preparation in coconut oil researched in Kerala can cure baldness;

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

(c) whether Government propose to set up a factory and give handsome royalty to the discoverer as an attraction to part with his discovery in view of its internal and export market potential; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d). Government have no proposal to set up a factory to manufacture the herbal product reported to have been developed or to give any royalty to the discoverer in this regard.

Export Potential of Herbal Products

8367. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate Export Promotion Council with funds to set up small scale units is proposed to be set up to handle herbal preparation/products for export and for ensuring local production so that the herbs do not become extinct as has hap-

pened already in several cases; and

Trade with Nepal

(b) if so, the details thereof?

8368. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the trade transacted between India and Nepal during the last three years and that contemplated under the new treaty/treaties?

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Statistics of Bilateral Trade between India and Nepal during the last three years is given below:-

(b) Does not arise.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Exports to Nepal</i>	<i>Imports from Nepal</i>
1986-87	102.83	64.36
1987-88	93.68	44..66
1988-89 (Upto Dec. 88)	75.27	25.03

No new treaty/treaties governing Indo-Nepal Trade have so far ben signed.

Export of Bidis

wise and country-wise?

8369. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the foreign exchange earned from the export of bidis during the last three years, year-

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The export of bidis during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise is as under:-

(Rs./Lakhs)

<i>Country</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89</i>
Australia	0.18	—	0.40
Bahrain	22.15	23.09	10.12
Japan	0.63	0.81	.12
Kuwait	15.37	10.02	5.32
Malaysia	10.45	15.67	6.30
Netherlands	0.49	0.18	0.28
Newzeland	0.08	—	—
Oman	23.20	38.12	22.22

351	<i>Written Answers</i>	MAY 5, 1989	<i>Written Answers</i>	352
	Qatar	35.99	10.33	21.79
	Singapore	5.82	11.23	6.96
	Saudi Arabia	11.49	77.89	76.84
	U.A.E.	33.13	28.54	57.75
	USA	2.47	1.24	0.65
	West Germany	5.25	6.86	7.68
	Hongkong	—	0.27	—
	Srilanka	—	—	0.05
	U.K.	—	—	0.20
	Canada	—	—	0.03
	Afghanistan	—	—	11.06
Total		166.71	224.25	228.77

Opening of Bank Branches in Kerala

8370. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for opening of new bank branches in Kerala pending with the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) the names of the applicant banks and the places at which the branches are proposed to be set up ; and

(c) the new branches in Kerala for opening of which licences have been issued by the Reserve bank of India during the current year?

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 allotment of centres to banks for opening branches under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 is generally made on the basis of lists of identified centres received from the State Governments and not on the basis of individual applications received from banks. No applications for opening new bank branches in Kerala are pending with RBI.

(c) During the year 1989, RBI has so far allotted 22 rural and semi-urban centres to banks for opening branches in Kerala as per details given in the Statement below. In addition, RBI has allowed Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd to upgrade its extension counter at Trichur to a fullfledged branch.

STATEMENT

Districtwise and bankwise names of 22 rural and semi-urban centres allotted to banks during the year 1989 for opening branches in Kerala

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Name of centre</i>	<i>Name of allottee bank</i>
Cannanore	1. Kuttiattur	Syndicate Bank
	2. Parat	Syndicate Bank
Alleppey	3. Anthakaranazhi	State Bank of Travancore
	4. Arattupuzha	Corporation Bank
Wynad	5. Appappara	Canara Bank
Malappuram	6. Pang	Canara Bank
Quilon	7. Clappana	State Bank of Travancore
	8. Bharathipuram	Central Bank of India
Emakulam	9. Pazhangad	State Bank of Travancore
	10. Polpully	Bank of India
Kasargod	11. Kuntar	Syndicate Bank
Trivandrum	12. Vila Voorkal	Indian Overseas Bank
	13. Perumpilavu	Canara Bank
	14. Moorkanikkara	Punjab National Bank
	15. Vaniyampara	Punjab National Bank
	16. Kallarkutty	Union Bank of India
(Satalite Office)	17. Vattavada	Union Bank of India
	18. Mullaringad	State Bank of Travancore
	19. Pasupara	Federal Bank Ltd.
Kozhikode	20. Melady	Canara Bank
	21. Pavangad	State Bank of India
	22. Chelannur	Canara Bank

**Timings of Neelachal Group of
Trains**

8371. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken decision to put Neelachal group of trains on their earlier schedule;

(b) whether the decision taken in that regard will create a great inconvenience to the passengers;

(c) if so, whether Government would finalise some other new timings which will help the Puri-bound passengers and vice-versa; and

(d) If so, the steps taken to restore the present timing till a better timing is decided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. On the pattern May, 1988 schedule.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

**Exploration of Water Resources In
Rajasthan**

8372. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had sent last year many scientists and experts in the Barmer district of Rajasthan to explore water resources; and

(b) if so, the details of the report submitted them in this regard?

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

(b) Experimental studies were carried out by scientists in Barmer to evaluate the use of the geophysical equipment "Hydro-scope", for ground water exploration. It was found that the hydro-scope could be used with high efficiency in soft rocks and with relatively less efficiency in hard rocks.

Scientific source finding under National Drinking Water Mission was also completed in 142 hard core village in Barmer District.

12.00 hrs

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, a few days back when the Janata Party in Karnataka was in power, they made wild charges against us, against the Congress Party...

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shantaramji, this matter should be discussed outside the House and not here.

[*English*]

SHRISHANTARAM NAIK: They brought the charges here. You heard them also.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: This should be done outside.

*(Interruptions)**

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: (Rajapur) Sir, what is it he is saying? He is using vulgar language.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed him.
*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour)
: Ask him to withdraw his remarks.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anything.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He should be asked to withdraw it.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is this. We don't allow anything either derogatory or allegatory.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): He must withdraw, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed it and I will not allow it.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Gholi) He should be asked to withdraw.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed him.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You were kind enough to tell Mr. Tewary to with

draw his remarks, and if he does not withdraw this you should tell him.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anything.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Let him to told, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed anything. If there is anything on record, it will be removed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: You ask him to go out of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me say something

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen. Why don't you let me do what I am doing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me understand first.

[*English*]

Let me ask something.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Everybody has heard, the press has also heard. Your duty is to him to withdraw.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me ask something, let me understand it.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen. When 50 persons speak at a time, how can I hear.

*Not recorded.

Neither I have heard him nor have I allowed him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am talking of myself, let me hear. You don't let me hear and continue to shout. I haven't heard him.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Sir, he has passed indelicate remark.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not listen. You are doing the same thing.

[*English*]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If he has said anything derogatory, he has to withdraw it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not heard.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not heard.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not heard anything.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am doing it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: They are not letting me hear.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not heard it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me first. I am going to propose a resolution. Professor Sahib, if what you have said is on record,

[*English*]

he must withdraw it.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You direct him to withdraw. *(Interruptions)**

He has repeated the same. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Are you asking him to withdraw: ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: If he does not withdraw, send him out of the House. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: You can check up the record. There is no derogatory remark which Mr. Naik has made. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Do not justify what he has said *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me decide the matter.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr Shantaram Naik, have you uttered those words ?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I want to know are the words which I have uttered. What are the words about which they are charging me so that I can listen? *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Does he want me to repeat the vulgar words which he uttered here. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Otherwise, how do I know what they are charging me? *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I will tell you the background...

MR. SPEAKER: No.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: All that I can say is, I have not said anything derogatory. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has said it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: One thing is very clear. Something must be borne in mind that while in Parliament, there is a parliamentary language and you can say something as a way of argument. But it is not consistent with parliamentary tradition or decorum that you should utter something which is obscene. .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Have the courage to admit it.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have said those words, please withdraw those words.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I have not said anything obscene.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever is in the record, if it is on record, he has to withdraw it. That is what I have asked him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you have said it, you withdraw it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Let me know what I have said and what they are charging me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : (Shillong): I heard him. I was sitting next to him.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: It is a political remark. It has : nothing to do with obscenity. It is political alliance.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad) It is political language. He is saying nothing about personal character. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. S. SWELL: I hear him say it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: you make your own judgement. It is not personal character It is political character only. *(Interruptions)*

You kindly verify what he said and then come to your own conclusion.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: (Alleppey): They say that he has stated something objectionable. He denies it. You can go through the record.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You send him out of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shantaram Naik, you withdraw it.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I respect your feelings.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to withdraw it?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Here is the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs who happens to be a lady. Let me know whether she justifies such a remark. I will object to it even if it is said of a Congress Member.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): It is said that it has gone on record. So, we would request you to expunge whatever is unparliamentary.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He has said it.

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked him to withdraw it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It is a question of the dignity of a Member. I would object to such remarks even if they were used by others against a Congress Member. It is a question of the dignity and decorum of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have time and again not only this side but also that side maintained decorum and I try to maintain decorum. Whether this side or that side, whosoever has gone out of the way, I have asked him to withdraw it or even I have asked him to withdraw from the House. So, Mr. Shan-

taram Naik, I ask you to withdraw those words.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I withdraw it. I will make a statement. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No Statement

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not your your job now. Sit down. It is my job now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I will make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not asking you to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: In deference to your wishes, as you have ruled, although my remark is not derogatory, I would like to withdraw it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): Sir, I have given a notice regarding the Court of Inquiry report of the Ahmedabad Air Crash that took place on the 19th August, and the report should be placed before this House. Newspapers have reported about it.

[*Translation*]

It should be presented immediately.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: If you want, I will ask for its presentation.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: Sir, it is regrettable that newspapers have reported

that is the mistaken of the pilot.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow it if you give a notice.

[*English*]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: You must ask them to place the report immediately. In fact, the Press has reported it. We are not having it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given a privilege notice again S. Buta Singh long time back. The hon. Home Minister S. Buta Singh is deliberately misleading the House by saying...

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please give it in writing.

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I have received information. He has again repeated it and reiterated it. The information does not mean consultation. There is a *prime facie* case of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: No. We will see to it. You please write to me again.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I have already written to you. But you have not given your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: It takes time. I will send it to him.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Before the House is adjourned on the 10th, you please give your ruling.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Listen to me also. Let us convey our reply once.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We have also written to you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you make a noise? Please sit down. I am conducting the House.

[*English*]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvathipuram): Sir, it is most unfortunate that the Parliamentary Institution is being devalued every day. All kinds of articles have been appearing the newspapers. Unfortunately, they are very very serious in nature. It is the concern of all of us that Parliament should not function under a cloud. I had raised it two days before. But the hon. Deputy-speaker had expunged those remarks. I had made no allegations against the Chair. But it is our concern that allegations are made against the Chair. We are Members of this House. I think the dignity of Parliament is something about which you are also concerned.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a procedure and some decorum has to be maintained. I do not want to cross the limits nor do I want you to cross them. I am your Speaker.

[*English*]

You are welcome to call any explanation from me, you come to me or the other way, you know. So simple it is. I have told your leaders once and if they are not satisfied, they can come to me again. I shall

explain everything, whatever it is. Facts will be before you. You are my master and you are my judge. I have got nothing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: I have no doubt about it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.S. VIJYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, in Kerala, there are a large number of manipulations made in the voters' list by the CPM Government. This is the documentary evidence. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please write to the Election Commission.

(Interruptions)

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people from Haryana particularly Lok Dal workers are being despatched from there to gherao the Members of Parliament of Haryana here, particularly the congress Members. This is a case of political immorality. This is breach of the House. You have to protect the Members of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: I know it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am replying to something. Let me do it.

[Translation]

Let me do the work, why are you interrupting?

[English]

I had this sometime back also when some Members had raised the question of

demonstration against our other Members of the Upper House. The same thing is happening here now. I condemned that before. I condemned that earlier on the floor of this House. O condemn it right now. These types of tactics are not democratic. I think it could be a case of privilege. I have to look into it. But I think it should be for the benefit of all that no Party should take recourse to this. This is negative approach. It is self-defeating. It is anti-democratic.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Sir, you please instruct the Home Ministry, *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): Sir, in Kerala thousands of bogus voters have been enrolled as voters. Our workers while giving evidence, have been brutally attacked by the Marxist people.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not my job.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: This is a serious matter. The hon. Speaker should alert the Election Commission as well as the Home Minister to make an enquiry through Central observers. Thousands of workers have been prevented from giving evidence. This a serious issue. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told you that it is not my duty.

[English]

This is not my job. How many times I have to say that this is not my job. I cannot.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Proper functioning of the democracy is your concern. This is the concern of this House also. Large number of bogus voters have been enrolled with the support of the State Government and with the connivance of the police.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. I have given my ruling. Overruled.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: This is something which concerns all of us. Why don't you direct the Home Minister to listen to it. You direct him. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot direct him. You approach him. You are a Member of Parliament.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Yesterday, the matter of German Submarines was raised. At that time, you said that you would give your ruling after ascertaining the facts. In the BAC meeting, you said that you were not aware as to what happened. In pursuant to that, I have given you a letter yesterday explaining why the Report could not be adopted by the PAC. I have explained to you how the matter was no longer before the PAC. This should be discussed in the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Datta, please see Rule 285. It says:

"A Committee which is unable to complete its work before the expiration of its term or before the dissolution of the House may report to the House that the Committee has not been able to complete its work. Any preliminary report, memorandum or note that the Committee may have prepared or any evidence that the Committee may have taken shall be made available to the new Committee."

That is the problem. I cannot help it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: The Committee had very much completed its work. But because of the whip issued to the congress Party Members. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Chairman of PAC, Shri Amal Datta has denigrated the office of chairman. There is need to pass strictures against him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Now papers to be laid.

*Not recorded.

12.22 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Rules, 1988

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : On behalf of Shri B. Shankaranand I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 547 in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1989 under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7834/89]

National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue) Rules 1989, Notification under Government Savings Certificate Act, 1959, Post Office Savings Accounts (Second Amendment) Rules, 1989 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue) Rules, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 496 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 1989 under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7835/89]
- (2) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 497 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of

India dated the 1st May, 1989 specifying that provisions of Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959 shall apply to the National Saving Certificates (VIII Issue) issued under the said Act. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7836/89]

- (3) A copy of the Post Office Savings Account (Second Amendment) Rules, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 430 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 1989 under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7837/897]
- (4) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 279 (E) and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1989 notifying the rate of interest for subscriptions made in the Public Provident Fund and balances to the credit of the subscribers during the year 1989-90 issued under section 5 of the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968. [Placed in Library See No. LT-78381/89]

Notification under Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947, Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review in the working of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi for the period for 13.2.86 to 31.3.87 etc

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): On behalf of Shri P.R. Das Munsri: I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 299 (E) (Hindi and English

- versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 1989 making certain amendments in the Open General Licence No. 4/88 dated the 30th March, 1988 issued under section 3 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7939/89]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority, New Delhi, for the period from 13th February, 1986 to 31st March, 1987.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the period from 13th February, 1986 to 31st March, 1987 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the period from 13th February, 1986 to 31st March, 1987. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7940/89]
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, 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 Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1987-88.
- (5) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7941/89]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1987-88.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1987-88 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1987-88.
- (7) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reason for delay in laying the papers men-

tioned at (6) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT-7842/89]

Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

12.23 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

'SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held today, the 4th May, 1989 adopted the following motion in regard to the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987:-

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987 be further extended upto the first day of the third week of the Hundred and fifty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha."

12.23 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(I) Minutes

[English]

SHRIM. THAMBIDURAI (Dharmapuri): I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Fifty-ninth to Sixty-sixth sittings of the Committee on Private

12.24 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Twenty-third Report

[English]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Jangipur): I beg to present the Twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.24 1/2 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 SHIELA DIKSHIT): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the remaining part of the current session, will consist of:-

- (1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (2) Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval of the continuance of President's Rule in Punjab.
- (3) Consideration and passing of:-
 - (a) The Chandigarh Disturbed

Areas (Amendment) Bill, 1989.

(b) The Central Industrial Security force (Amendment) Bill, 1989, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

(c) The Constitution (Sixty-third Amendment) Bill, 1989.

(d) The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

(4) Discussion on the National Housing Policy.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA

(Janjgir): The following may please be included in the next week's agenda:

The unplanned industrial development is resulting in scarcity of water.

Due to industrial development the river waters and air are getting polluted. This causes financial constraints to poor farmers. In Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh particularly in my constituency Jaygir Sirgitti Industrial town which is under development and Kerala which is fully developed industrial town. In Sirgitti water of nearby villages drains to plants and villagers suffer from scarcity of drinking and bathing water. They are not in a position to have proper yields from their fields due to the toxic gases released from the plants.

There should be proper planning and survey before giving the permission for acquisition of land for industry and only unproductive land be marked for industry so that it may not affect the agricultural produce.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Ra-

*Not recorded.

japur): There is a question of breach of privilege in issuing a whip to the members of the Congress Party.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no proof with me that there is a whip or not.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): There is every proof.

MR. SPEAKER: No. there is no proof with me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Mr. Jhikran goes on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[*Translation*]

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to urge that the following may please be included in the next week's list of business:

The problem of drinking water is becoming acute day by day. This problem particularly in hill areas is very serious. Tubewells in these areas generally do not work because the water level is receding fast due to the lack of rainfall. So I would urge to cover these hill areas under the scheme "Technology mission" in order to solve the problem of drinking water.

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following may be included in the next week's list of business.

In order to accelerate the speed of development, to streamline the administration, to remove the regional imbalance and for the all round development of rural areas, the geographical and local factors in a district should be borne in mind. There are 62 districts in a vast state like Uttar Pradesh and

[Sh. R.P. Suman]

there is a continuous demand for the creation of new districts.

I would, therefore, make a demand to the Central Government to issue directions to create a district in every constituency in Uttar Pradesh so that all round development of backward districts may take place.

[English]

SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA (Bolangir): The following may please be included in the next week's agenda:

Devastation flood in the year 1982 and 1985 in Bolangir district, Orissa has caused eight hundred spillcuts on the banks of five rivers flowing in the district. During the monsoons the excess flood water overflows the banks through these spillcuts and deposits sands in nearly fifteen thousand hectares of extremely fertile agricultural land rendering them useless. The farmers who have been virtually ruined by this phenomenon have appealed to the Government time and again to repair the spillcuts to save their land from sand casting. The Central Government should allocate adequate funds from flood relief money to undertake the repairs. (Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): I believe this is an unprecedented situation which has arisen and you have to find some way out. (Interruptions)

I think to my knowledge this is the first time that serious allegations and counter-allegations are being made by on the one hand the former Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and, on the other hand, by some former members of the Public Accounts Committee. There are mutual allegations. I do not go into the merit of these

allegations.

What the former Chairman of the Public Accounts committee is saying is a very very serious matter if it can be established. The former members are making counter-allegations against the former Chairman. To my knowledge on the floor of this House such a situation has never arisen before all these years. I have been here and I do not know about it. This is one of the most prestigious committees of the House. It is no use allowing this matter to be repeated in this form everyday in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not allow it. I have not allowed it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You must find some way out to resolve it. Somebody, some competent man—whoever you think fit—should investigate and make an inquiry into it and find out whether these allegations and counter-allegations can be substantiated.

MR. SPEAKER: That can be done.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But you cannot just allow it to go on everyday. This is bringing down the dignity of the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Privileges Committee can be a good forum.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It must go to some forum which is acceptable to all.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, I would like to understand what Mr. Indrajit Gupta means when he says that Public Accounts Committee's working has to be gone into by another Committee. I would really like to understand. This is totally unprecedented.

MR. SPEAKER: He did not say that.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Sir, allegations are not against the Committee. A group of individuals on the one side say that the Chairman has denigrated the prestige of the Public Accounts Committee (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: I would like to set the records straight. There have been no allegation made by any Member. Members rose in this House only after the hon. Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee raised certain issues and cast aspersions and went to the extent of saying that a whip was issued by the party. It is totally untrue.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: This is a fact.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: This is totally untrue. There is no truth in it. Members of the Committee know how to perform their role. they are intelligent enough. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Ten members jointly signed the note regarding the report.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Nobody functions in these committees on party basis. A committee represents the whole House. If something like this has happened you must think about the matter and give guidance how this matter can be gone into and resolved. What is the use of hurling allegations on the floor of the House?

SHRI M.Y. GHORPADE (Raichur): Mr. Speaker, sir, a big mountain is sought to be made out of a mole hill. Nothing serious has happened. Let me state the facts. The draft report was made available to the Members only on the 18th. There is nothing wrong if

some members get together and applied their mind and made certain suggestions for modification of the report. This is what has happened. (*Interruptions*) Therefore, we gave him our comments and suggestions for modification. On the 21st this report was to be considered. It was postponed in deference to the Chairman's wishes because he said: "Let me have time to consider your suggestions." Thereupon all the Members of the Public Accounts Committee agreed to take up some other reports and it was at his instance that the report was postponed.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): No, no....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.Y. GHORPADE: As you have rightly pointed out if he does not bring the report for its consideration and adoption because he wants to study the specific suggestions made by us, then it is fair enough that the next committee will consider it. The only reason why we put it in writing was to make our suggestions and comments very specific so that there is no waste of time and as per your directions we also brought to his notice that the rules demand that an important report like that is considered para-wise and then if any amendments are to be made they should be made para-wise and then adopted by the committee. Therefore, I most respectfully submit that nothing irregular has happened.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Mr. Ghorpade in the Committee took the responsibility for that.

SHRI G.G. Swell (Shillong): I think, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Indrajit Gupta has made a very sensible suggestion. I do not think he has said that the working of the Public Accounts Committee should be gone into by another Committee. He is only appealing to you to find a solution to this impasse in whatever way you think fit. This is what he has suggested. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will consider his suggestion.

SHRI G.G. SWELL: Sir, we do not want to hear hedre allegations, counter-allegations and recriminations. Please find out some solution. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will do. I will direct.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): The next PAC can go into it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will direct the next PAC.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): What is your ruling about this? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The next PAC will go into it.

12.37 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, will you apply your mind? Deputy Speaker is continuation of the Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. I am the Deputy Speaker. I can apply my mind. But the Speaker has given his ruling already. The Speaker has said that the next PAC will go into it and consider it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, you can apply your mind.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Not now. When the Speaker has given the ruling, the matter is over. The next PAC will go into it. That is the ruling given.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Because of this, I did not contest for the membership of the PAC at all since the new PAC also will have the same fate!

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: It has to be discussed in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, submissions. Shri Raj Kumar Rai.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi): Sir, I request that the following may be included in next week's agenda:

16-17 districts of East Uttar Pradesh are backward in the field of industry, education, transportation and tele-communication. Besides, the negligence of Central and State Government is also increasing there. The recommendations of Patel Commission have not been implemented so far. The population is increasing rapidly. The people have deposited large sums of money in local Banks and some banks at other places as well but the people are not getting loans in proportion to the deposits and development is not taking place there. I, therefore, request the Government that the local people of East Uttar Pradesh should be granted loans for development works in proportion to their deposits in the Banks.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Sir, tomorrow i.e. on May 4, 1989 on the call of Bharatiya Kisan Union the farmers all over the Punjab are observing 'boycott day' by not bringing their produce to the market as a protest against the Procurement policy of the Government. As compared to last year, Government has increased the support price of wheat by Rs. 10 only whereas the prices of oil, fertilizers, pesticides, machines and other agricultural implements have increased considerably.

Besides, everybody is aware that there is steep hike in the prices of consumer items. The only source of income of a farmer is his crops.

I would request the Government to announce remunerative prices and other relief measures for the farmers.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN

(Barmer): My. Deputy Speaker, Sir, three years back sanction was accorded for setting up a radio station at the headquarters of border district Jaisalmer in Rajasthan but the construction work of the said Radio Station is going on at a very slow place.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government that the Radio Station in Jaisalmer should be started in 1989-90 itself so that the people of Jaisalmer district could get radio facility and they could know the national news and other things happenings around the country.

2. Cummin (Zira) is grown in Western Rajasthan and Gujarat. At the time of sowing, the rate of cummin was Rs. 3300/- per quintal which has now fallen to Rs. 1400 to 1600 per quintal and this is causing great loss to the farmers.

Therefore, I request the Government to accord permission for the export of cummin so that farmers could get remunerative price for their produce.

[English]

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH (Bhind): I request that the following may be included in the next week's agenda:-

There is large scale soil erosion and degradation of rich cultivable land into uncultivable denuded ravines annually along the river Chambal and its tributaries in Bhind, Morena and Datia district of M.P. Expanding

ravines every year force the residents to shift to higher places causing immense hardships. Loss of vegetation cover has also severely affected the ecological balance. Government should incorporate in the 8th Plan, an ambitious scheme to control/soil erosion by large scale construction of bunds, afforestation and ravine reclamation in these Districts.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 60 years back a cement factory was set up in Bundi district of my constituency and since then no big or medium industry has been set up there. Bundi district is quite rich in the sphere of mineral and agricultural products. Good quality lime stone is found there in abundance and more cement factories can be set up there for harnessing full potential of lime stone.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to declare Bundi district as 'no industry district' and big and medium industries should be set up there.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): The following may please be included in the next week's agenda:

The high speed cyclonic winds accompanied by heavy rains in Balasore and Mauyrbhanj districts of Orissa State on 28.4.89 have destroyed high yielding paddy and various Rabi crops in millions of hectares. Thousands of houses collapsed, roofs of large number of houses were blown away. 12 people died, thousands of people sustained heavy injuries. Thousands of catties perished and lakhs of people rendered homeless. Government of India should assist the State Government to meet the situation.

[Sh. Chinta mani Jena]

2. Tulsi tree apart from great religious significance, has great medicinal value as it cures gas trouble, cough, intestinal worms, skin diseases, kidney disorders, regulates the flow of urine and subdues inflammation. It keeps insects and mosquitoes at bay for which it is called as 'mosquito plant' in South Africa. This tree is very much suited to our ecology. But unfortunately, such a very useful plant is going to be extinct due to lack of proper attention. A drive to plant more Tulsi trees is the need of the hour.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: The submissions which have been made by the hon. Members will be placed before the Business Advisory Committee for its consideration.

12.44 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[*Translation*]

**Reported shortage and escalating cost
of newsprint and printing paper**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Industry to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement thereon:

"Reported shortage and escalating cost of newsprint and printing paper resulting in hardship to the Press and book publishing industry respectively and the measures taken by the Government in this regard."

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Sir, the requirement of newsprint in the country is met both by indigenous production and imports. The indigenous production during 1988-89 was 2.76 lakh tonnes and is estimated to be about 3.00 lakh tonnes during 1989-90. The gap between the indigenous production and demand for newsprint is made up by imports depending upon the availability of foreign exchange.

The import of newsprint is canalised through S.T.C. The selling price of imported newsprint to be charged by S.T.C. is fixed every quarter on the recommendations of the Newsprint Price Fixation Advisory Committee, with which representatives of newspaper industry are associated. The price of imported standard newsprint for the quarter April, 89-June, 89 has been fixed at Rs. 12715 per tonne exclusive of customs duty.

There is no statutory price control on indigenously manufactured newsprint. However, the maximum ex-mill price to be charged by the indigenous newsprint manufacturers is indicated by the Government from time to time on the basis of the recommendations of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP). The price of indigenous newsprint was last revised in January, 1988, subject to review after a detailed study by BICP. In the meantime, the indigenous manufacturers of newsprint have been representing that the price being allowed to them is totally unremunerative, resulting in heavy losses to them. Unless the price is suitably revised, it will adversely affect the financial viability of the indigenous newsprint manufacturing units thereby leading to shortage in the production of indigenous newsprint and prevention of any further investment for modernisation or creation of additional capacity in the industry.

Regarding Paper and Paper board, the

Seventh Five Year Plan projected a demand of 18.00 lakh tonnes by the year 1989-90. Accordingly, a target of 27.00 lakh tonnes of installed capacity and 18.00 lakh tonnes of production of paper and paper board was fixed for 1989-90. As against this, installed capacity of about 30.00 lakh tonnes and production of 17.20 lakh tonnes of paper and paper board has already been achieved by the end of 1988-89. For 1989-90, the production is estimated at 18.00 lakh tonnes. Thus, indigenous production is adequate to meet the demand and there is no shortage of paper and paper board in the country. Only small quantities of speciality papers are being imported, as the same are not produced indigenously.

There is no statutory control on the price of paper and paper board. The price is charged by the mills from time to time having regard to their cost of production, quality of paper and the prevailing market conditions.

Government are aware of the increase in the price of various varieties of paper that has taken place during the last one year or so. The increase in price is reported to be mainly on account of the substantial increase in the prices of various inputs that go into the production of paper and paper board.

A substantial part of the requirement of paper for the education sector is being met by supplies from Hindustan Paper Corporation, A Central Government Public Sector Undertaking, at a concessional price. The price of paper being supplied to the education sector by Hindustan Paper Corporation has remained unchanged since this scheme was introduced in 1987.

With a view to meeting the growing demand for paper and newsprint, various steps have been taken by Government. These include approval of additional capacities allowing flexibility to existing paper mills to produce newsprint, delicensing the manu-

facture of writing, printing and wrapping paper based on agricultural residues, wastes and bagasse, facility to import pulp, logs, wood chips and waste paper on OGL, and minimum economic scale of operations and broad-banding of paper industry.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, apart from the usual steps that the Government takes we had hoped that the hon. Minister would tell us if any extraordinary steps are sought to be taken considering the shortage of newsprint and the increase in its cost. But I am sad to note that the reply does not clarify this point.

The hon. Minister has said that the Government will take some steps towards installed—capacity utilization. So far as I know, the Government has been harping on this issue for the last six years but to no avail.

We are able to utilize not even 60% of the total installed—capacity. There has hardly been any increase in it in the past 6-7 years. The situation has worsened to such an extent that the Hindustan Paper Corporation, which is the premier organisation in this field is running losses in crores. Just because a matter is discussed in Parliament does not mean that there will be a change in the situation. If the Government really wants to increase indigenous newsprint production it should appoint a separate Committee to study and then solve the problems faced by paper mills in the public and private sectors. Unless the Government formulates a policy in this matter it will become very difficult to find a solution to this problem. A lot of problems are dogging the paper industry today including obsolete machinery and labour unrest. We are spending crores of rupees in importing newsprint. We cannot do away with imports over-night. Imports will certainly have to be reduced in future but the immediate need is to find a remedy for the problems

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

plaguing the paper and book-binding industry in India. The Government has not taken any steps to solve these problems. 35% of paper is imported and 65% is produced indigenously. There is a marked difference in the prices of the two. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what steps will be taken in this direction? The Kelkar Committee has given many recommendations in its Report. These recommendations should be discussed in the House. Outside the House, of course, a lot has been said on this subject and every interested group has tried to present its views. But the Government should take the initiative in presenting the Parliament's and the Legislature's views on this matter. I hope the hon. Industry Ministry will lay the Report of the Kelkar Committee for discussion in this House.

The Government has permitted 5 paper units to increase prices by 10% to 20%. Whereas the hon. Minister and his predecessor had assured the House that price increases in case of indigenous newsprint would be allowed only after discussions with the newspaper and book-binding industry. But the Government has not held any such discussions. That paper used for educational purposes would also be affected was a factor that was not considered by the Government when it granted permission for increasing prices. The only basis was the increase in cost of inputs. Other factors that were not taken into account were the ratio of increase in cost of inputs and the representation of the newspaper industry regarding the price structure followed by mills. Will any independent organisation be asked to go into the price structure followed by newspaper mills to find out whether there is any justification in it? If the Government has already made investigations into this matter, it is requested that the findings be placed before the House. At present the price of newsprint in India is much higher than in

other countries. The newspaper-reader in India pays more for his newspaper than his counterpart in other countries. The current price increase will not affect the major part of the newspaper industry. But small newspapers published from Mofussil towns will definitely be affected. In fact, a number of them will have to close down operations.

The Kelkar Committee suggested that there should be a reduction in the allocation of imported newsprint. Then there is no way they can survive. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are to be taken to protect small newspapers from increase in the price of newsprint?

The Hindustan Paper Corporation supplies paper for books and copies. But the amount of paper that is actually supplied is much less than the stipulated quota. So complicated is the process of acquiring paper that the common man does not benefit at all. The 20-Point Programme promises to supply books and copies at low rates. Today the price of textbooks have increased. What steps are being taken to provide some relief to people engaged in publishing books and copies?

Sir, small printers who work on job-basis have to face many problems. May I know what steps are being taken to solve their problems?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): The Government is well aware of the fact that a very serious crisis has arisen with regard to the supply, availability and pricing of paper; and I am not referring only to newsprint, but no various qualities and types of paper which are used by the publishing and printing industry for various purposes—from publishing newspapers to publishing textbooks for children.

What we were interested in knowing, when we tabled this Motion was that we

would get some clearance, a specific reply from the Government as to what is the basic, underlying cause of this present shortage and this present shooting up of prices. By all accounts, there has been a minimum of a 40% increase in prices in the last few months. What is it due to? What new or extraordinary situation has arisen, which had led to a crisis of this type?

It is true that there is a gap between the estimated demand and the available supply, the indigenous supply—for which the Government says: "Yes; we try to make up the gap by imports. (*Interruptions*) But nowhere in this...

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The gap is only in the newsprint, not in paper and paper-goods.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: All right; but even here, in this statement it does not state clearly what is the quantity that you are importing. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: That is not true.

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): No; he has stated it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am talking about the statement. It does not say what is the quantity of the imports, as against the estimated gap.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We will give it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You have not given it. We are living in a period which has been described as a period of liberalisation of the economic policy of the country; and in respect of so many articles, commodities and things, a liberalised import policy is being followed for the last four-five years. So many hundreds of goods have been put on

the Open General Licence, which we do not think altogether is going to have a beneficial result for the country; but that is a government policy that there should be an open free import of so many commodities on the Open General Licence. So, I want to know, first of all, in the case of import of newsprint, instead of allowing in conformity with the rest of the policy, allowing import under OGL, why is it canalised and strictly controlled through the STC and so on that this distribution is done by the Government. It is really an indirect form of control which is being exercised by the Government not over prices but in the matter of distribution of this newsprint to different newspapers; and obviously that is a factor which is open to abuse in the sense that the Government can use it as a weapon of pressure, as a weapon of favouritism, as a weapon of encouraging some papers and discouraging other paper. I want to know, when the total value, according to me come to less than about one per cent of the total value of the imports that we are making from abroad, not even one per cent, why is it that only in respect of newspapers instead of putting it on OGL and allowing publishers or newspapers to import as they have been allowed to do in other industries the Government should exercise this kind of control unless it wants to use this newsprint availability in order to control as it was the Press to some extent? What is the difficulty in putting it on OGL?

Secondly, is it not a fact that the price of this imported newsprint is higher, is much more than the prices of the domestic product? This pricing is fixed by whom? Who fixes the prices of the imported newsprint? Why is it that these prices are so much higher than the prices of indigenous product, unless the Government wants to use it to prevent the growth of that kind of Press which it does not favour? Is it a question of the indigenous production of newsprint and other papers also where you have also admitted in this statement that a demand has been

[Sh. Indrajit Gupta]

projected in the 7th Plan—this is paper and paperboard—of 18 lakh tonnes by 18.9.1990, that is this current year and a target of 27 lakh tonnes of installed capacity was fixed. But the production is only 17.20 lakh tonnes against the installed capacity of 27 lakh tonnes. Why is there this gap between the installed capacity and the actual production? It means that there is under utilisation of the installed capacity; and this malady is to be found as was to be expected particularly in the private sector industry. If you permit me, some 15,000 tonnes of newsprint are required to be imported at present, though it can only be a short-term remedy. I am not in favour of increasing import and going on depending on import. But at the moment for a short term, at least 50,000 tonnes are required to tide over this crisis which is caused by the fall in the domestic production. What is happening with the domestic production? I want to know about this from the Government because newspapers and other journals are reporting that the paper mills have artificially created a shortage in order to pressurise the Government to increase the prices of indigenous newsprint. I want to know whether this is a fact or not.

I am just quoting from no other paper than the *Indian Express* which is not a champion of the public sector, but rather of the private sector. Even that paper is forced to write in its editorial and I am quoting:

"It is perhaps not just a coincidence that for the past six months the paper mills have been lobbying the Government for a price increase of Rs. 3,000 per tonne on the plea that the current prices fixed by the Government are highly unremunerative. Not content with this, the Tamil Nadu Paper Mill has suddenly switched on to producing printing paper which fetches a much

higher price, on the pretext that there is no demand for its newsprint."

So, what is being stated here is that the paper mills are resorting to pressure tactics and as far as the book industry is concerned, the paper used by the book industry has gone up, as I said, by 40 to 50 per cent in the last few months.

I am reminded of Mr. Vengal Rao's lament which he made in this House on more than one occasion, with regard to prices of automobile tyres in which he had stated in this House so many times that this cartel, a group of private producers, manufacturers of tyres, are getting together and jacking up the prices and there is nothing that the Government could do about it. They also have resorted to some limited import of tyres from another big multi-national company abroad.

In the case of these paper mills also who are pressurising the Government to increase the prices if the Government does not agree and if they cut down their production and cause an artificial shortage, what does the Government propose to do? There are about 70 to 75 paper mills which are lying closed, apart from anything else. They are lying closed! If at least, half of them could be got back into production, then this shortage would be almost completely made up. But no steps are being taken. Very prestigious companies like the Titlagarh Paper Mills and the Raniganj Paper Mills and all these mills are lying closed for years together now. Has the Government any plan, or any scheme to revise these mills?

Sir, paper is an essential commodity. It must be treated as an essential commodity. The education of our younger generation depends on the publication of text-books at prices that are within their reach. The Government is talking so much about literacy

programmes and all kinds of educational programmes and all that. If the children of the less affluent classes are to have access to these books, apart from the fact that the books are not being produced now because of the shortage of paper, then the failure of the Government in this respect means that actually they are taxing the knowledge of our children, and it is a tax on all kinds of education and spreading of knowledge. So, what is the Government's suggestion? We are unable to make out anything from this statement, except that it says that they are allowing the existing paper mills to have some extra capacity and resorting to de-licensing of certain raw materials. That is all.

What I wish to know pointedly from the Government is, what is the total quantity, of what varieties of paper which are being imported from abroad, at what cost and how long they propose to carry on with this kind of import instead of attending to the problem of domestic indigenous manufacture? Why are you not allowing even the limited imports to be put on the OGL instead of using it as a weapon of control and pressure through the STC as far as the distribution is concerned? And have you got any plan for reviving and operating the closed paper mills?

Lastly, has this pressure by the private sector producers on the Government to increase the prices which they say are unremunerative, found a sympathetic echo in the heart of the Government and are they proposing to put up the prices? There is no statutory price control; that I know. But then how do they propose to regulate the prices in the printing and publishing industry?

I am not shedding tears for the big newspapers. Because for them it is possible to put up their prices or the selling prices. They do it also. It is possible for them to put up their advertising rates. The big newspapers can do it. But what about the small papers; what about the small journals; what

about the small local papers which come out from many districts in the country; what will happen to them? So, what do you propose to do about this? How will you regulate the supplies and regulate the price? And how will you see to it that the school children are not deprived of cheap text books which is supposed to be an essential part of the Government's policy?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE
(Panskura): Sir, because you are hungry, I will not take much time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not hungry because you are giving many thoughts to me.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
Hungry, not angry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not hungry as well as not angry.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: It is good news that you are not hungry.

Sir, I shall not repeat the points already covered. I would like to know a few things. Before going into that, I must make a general comment that such a bland self-satisfied statement on such a sensitive subject is really a marvel, which the Minister has achieved. I do not know whether to congratulate or condemn. But that is the situation.

There are several things which have been covered here. I will take one by one. On the question of import, I am not going in for a bigger discussion. But I would just like to know one thing, whether it is also true that the import prices of newsprint have also increased by 213.67 per cent in 1989; and if so, what are the reasons. I would also like to know, in this import whether we are trying only with the traditional countries with which we have been doing it; and whether we are trying to have new avenues, that is like

[Smt. Geeta Mukherjee]

importing from Bangladesh. I agree that newsprint and paper are not luxury items. You can cut out glazed paper, but not the rest. So, import would be necessary. I would like to know what we are doing with other countries. I would also like to know the Government's re-action to Kelkar Committee's recommendation of reduction of import quota from 300 tonnes to 50 tonnes. In my opinion, if this recommendation is accepted, it will hit more the small and medium newspapers and they have already protested against it. What is the re-action of the Government to this recommendations?

With regard to the price of the newsprint, I would like to know whether it is a fact that between December 1986 and April 1989, newsprint prices increased from Rs. 7837 to Rs. 14597—practically doubled.

Paragraph 3 of the statement clearly says this is not the end. All these reasons which have been given here make it very clear that the Government is poised for another increase, giving all these details of financial viability, etc. Is it a fact that they are going to increase even more than what has already been done?

I would like to add some more point in regard to small and medium newspapers. Their difficulty is not only that they have to pay this price, but they have to buy it through an agent. They have to buy it at the rate of Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500 per tonne through the agent. Therefore, this agency cost is added to the price increase. And it becomes very much more. So they are really in trouble. Therefore, their share in this quota distribution must increase. What is the reaction of the Government towards it?

With regard to paper and paper board, I am really astounded to see this paragraph where already Mr. Gupta has asked this

question of capacity utilisation. I am not repeating. I am only supporting it. I am astonished that it is so very sure of itself that indigenous production is adequate to meet the demand and there is no shortage of paper and paper board in the country. I was going through the statement made on the 15th April by Mr. S.N. Mehta, Acting Chairman of the Joint Action Committee of publishers' industry. They say that the present demand is somewhat like 30 lakh tonnes. It seems correct; otherwise, why should the paper prices increase by 40 per cent within the last six months if it was adequate and everything was fine? Therefore, saying that we have enough to meet the demand, I think, is a totally false notion that the Ministry is suffering from. I want him to clarify that.

I would like to comment on another thing. If this is going to be an election year, then there will be even more pressure on the paper. Is it correct or not? If so, where from will it be cut—from the literacy programme or the students' textbooks as it is stated in this paragraph that textbooks are getting enough paper?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Even for election purposes, there is sufficient paper.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: At a very high black-marketing price which the ruling party alone can afford.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: For your party also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Paper is earmarked for the election?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: There is sufficient production.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I would also like to know, without suffering from self-righteousness, whether the Minister will tell straightaway what he is going to

do with regard to price, giving more quota to the small and medium newspapers, opening of the closed mills, supply of ordinary newspaper to publishers so that we can climb a little up. Already our country has slipped into the 17th position in the publishing world.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): First I will answer about the newsprint and afterwards I will answer about the writing paper and paper board.

Our total demand for the newsprint is around 5 lakh tonnes. This indigenous production is 2.75 lakh tonnes and we are importing 2 lakh five thousand and odd tonnes. The international price of the newsprint has recorded a sharp increase in 1988. The selling price of imported standard newsprint which was Rs. 6,195 per tonne during January-March, 1987, has gone up to Rs. 12,715 per tonne plus Rs. 550 per tonne import duty. Now the imported newsprint costs Rs. 13,265. This is STC's price. Our Department has nothing to do with it. STC is an independent body. The distribution of this newsprint is also not within our capacity, it is with the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But this is with the Government.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Yes, it is with the Government of India.

Sir, the three hon. Members are labour leaders. On the one side, they plead for Interim Relief and more wages to the labour, and on the other, they are arguing on behalf of big multinational newspapers. Our indigenous price of newsprint is very low. It is approximately Rs. 10,000 and odd. As per the BICP report, we have to raise it to Rs. 13,000 or so to bring it at par with the imported newsprint, but we have not yet raised it. Except one, all newsprint factories

are in public sector. On the one side, they are criticising the performance of the public sector undertakings by saying that they are incurring losses, and on the other, they want to increase the Interim Relief and wages of the workers. At the same time, they are arguing on behalf of these big newspaper houses.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the small and medium newspapers?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Their share is very small. Sir, these hon. labour leaders are arguing on behalf of capitalists. You see what was the price of a copy of the *Hindu* published from Madras previously and what is its price today. They are not paying it from their pocket; they are charging it from the readers. Now the indigenous factories are incurring losses. These are public sector undertakings and that is why the BIC has submitted its report. We will be considering the report within a short time. We have to increase the price of indigenous newsprint also because, as I mentioned, the international price is very high. About the output also I must mention this. When I was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, we were collecting royalty from the paper mills. At one time it was only Rs. three per tonne.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Is it!

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Yes. For thirty years the Birlas paid at the rate of Rs. 3 per tonne. I increased it from Rs. 30 to Rs. 60. Now the royalty per tonne on bamboo in Andhra Pradesh is Rs. 536 and on hardwood it is Rs. 331. Then, what about the increase in price of coal? Recently there was a hike in coal prices. What about the railway freight? Recently in the Budget, there was an increase in the railway freight. All these will add to the price of the paper. These Members are labour leaders, Sir, and they know it very well.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): But who increased the railway freight?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: So, Sir, it is because of these reasons there is price increase in the paper and the newsprint. I am telling this because all these add to the price. Sir, in the case of writing paper and paper-board, we are in surplus. We have extra capacity also. We gave letters of intent to those paper manufacturing units. Till two years ago, the paper industry incurred heavy loss. Therefore, we de-controlled the paper two year back. Now, there is statutory control on writing paper and paper-board as also on newsprint. Even then these public-sector units, because we are controlling them, are incurring losses. Tomorrow, you will say that all your public sector undertakings are working in heavy loss. Now, you are telling us not to increase the prices. How is it possible? That is why on the newsprint side also, we have to encourage indigenous production first. I must inform Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, Shri Indrajit Gupta and our party Member, Shri Harish Rawat, that we have paid interim relief. He fought for this and he came in a procession to my house and demanded interim relief to the public sector undertaking workers. Where will I get money? To meet all this expenditure, we have to raise the prices and there is no other go.

Sir, recently, we de-controlled cement also. The people of West Bengal now what to import cement from Andhra Pradesh. It is very cheap in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: There is surplus cement in Andhra Pradesh. Why don't you give it to us?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It is because of the cost of raw material, freight charges and the price of chemicals also, the cost has increased. The Government have no power to decontrol all these.

Now, Sir, about the text-books and exercise books for the children, it is the duty of the Human Resources Ministry to look into this matter. I am an industrialist and I must get profit from my industry. If they want to get it at cheaper rate, they must give subsidy to the Hindustan Paper Corporation. We are supplying the paper to them. But they have to pay the money. Their requirement is 1.5 lakh tonnes. They are not in a position to pay the amount for 80,000 tonnes. It is now before the Cabinet. They must pay to the Hindustan Paper Corporation at market rate. Then only we can supply it to them. Sir, I have given the factual position. It is not the fault of the Government. Price rise is there in all the sectors. Likewise paper price has also gone up. We can't help it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 14.30 hours.

13.29 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at Thirty-five Minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[*English*]

**Communal Situation in various parts of
the country—contd**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we are taking up further discussion on the communal situation in various parts of the country, raised by Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia on 24th April, 1989. Shri Arif Mohammad Khan to continue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bah-raich): Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, yesterday I said that the main problem is not of communal riots but of the ideology based on communalism that lies at the root of communalism. An ideology that led to the partition of the country then and leads to murder and mayhem in our cities now. It is this communal-based ideology that should primarily capture our attention. And when we talk of finding a remedy to this malaise we should first try to understand the meaning of communalism. Communal riots are merely a symptom of this disease called communalism. While I was speaking, the hon. Member from Robertsganj got up and accusing Shri Viswanath Pratap Singh in the context of the Allahabad bye-election, tried to define communalism..(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy -Speaker Sir, he has named me. He has explained the true meaning of communalism.

[*English*]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, I am not yielding. I do not have much time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I withdraw my allegation. I agree that the problem of communalism is a serious one. In the last two years there have been plenty of discussions in the House on Communalism and other scandals that have plagued the country. I am not going into the details of who received the kickbacks and so on but if there has been dishonesty the Bofors scandal has

seen the maximum...

[*English*]

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE (Nasik): We are discussing the communal situation. He is talking about Bofors. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You come to the point You restrict yourself to the subject.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I am sure, if I were speaking in English, you would have understood it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Even if you are speaking in Hindi or Urdu, I understand.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Even if you put all these scandals together, the total loss to the nation cannot be more than Rs. 300 crores or Rs 400 crores. On the other hand, in 1985 when there were communal riots in Ahmedabad, they continued for almost three months. The Institute of Management at Ahmedabad appointed a team to conduct a study and the terms of reference or the subject-matter for the study team were to assess the economic loss suffered by Gujarat State as a result of communal riots in Ahmedabad city, which continued for three months. You will be amazed to know that the study team of the Management Institute came to the conclusion that the economy of Gujarat has suffered a loss of more than Rs. 3,000 crores as a result of these communal riots. The point I was trying to make, trying to emphasise that communalism is a looming threat, biggest threat to our polity, to our system.

[*Translation*]

Since we are running short of time, if you allow, I may revert to Hindi...(Interruptions) Thanks a lot for your suggestion but I would prefer to speak in a language which is easily understood.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak in any language you want.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I mean to say that it is a very serious matter and I feel that we should try to arrive at a national consensus in order to be able to face this challenge effectively. Further, we should not use it for levelling allegations and counter-allegations, since Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh has been named here, it becomes necessary for me to clarify that the decision of my not visiting Allahabad was my own and I have no hesitation in saying that it was due to the presence of some persons engaged in the election campaign, with whom I have serious differences on the issue of communalism...*(Interruptions)* Please let me submit my point of view. I had serious differences with them due to which I did not want to align myself with them in the election campaign. These differences were made public and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh publicly expressed his regret for the same not once but twice and declared that no laxity will be shown in the fight against communalism irrespective of the personalities who campaigned for him. Compare this modest and gentlemanly attitude of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh with the other attitude of organising attack on me and my house twice after I resigned from the Government on the question of communalism. Instead of taking any action against those who had a hand in it, they were allowed to go after being made to sit in the police station for only one hour. But I do not want to revive that issue, so I would like to revert to the topic under discussion. I have referred to that in this very context. I had serious difference of opinion with the communal elements in the Government and its policy regarding communalism. Therefore, I was the first to resign. However, I am not one of those who say that the

Government has spread communalism. Nor do I have a misconception that if this Government is changed...

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): One question.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I am not yielding. I am not making any controversial statement and the hon. Minister seems to be in agreement with the...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Sir, I was saying that:

[English]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: I am on a point of order.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: In the midst of speech, there is no pint of order.

[Translation]

The real problem is not one of riots but...*(Interruptions)*... sir, I may kindly be allowed to speak.

[English]

The Minister has said:

"I am proud to be fundamentalist." It is on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: The hon. Member has said that he did not go there as some communal elements were campaigning for Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh. May I conclude from this that people carrying communal propaganda were also there.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: This has been said in this very House.

[English]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, I may be allowed to speak. I have repeatedly said that I am not favour of trained charges and counter-charges.

[English]

He represents a party which has a Minister who has said that "I am proud to be a fundamentalist." You refer to the records and you will find who is the Minister who said it.

[Translation]

Sir, as I submitted earlier, the real problem is not one of communal riots. Communal riots only denote symptoms of the deep rooted disease. What gives birth to communalism? what is the hypothesis of communalism? I feel that the hypothesis of communalism is the unfounded assumption that the persons of a particular religion have in common not only the religious beliefs but also the worldly and material interests.

[English]

"Not only that their secular interests are alike but their secular interests are different and distinct from other religious communities. And they are not merely distinct and different but they are opposed to each other."

[Translation]

The whole problem arises from this presumption, this supposition. My submission is that I have heard speeches in which a number of hon. Members have expressed concern and given a number of suggestions including the one pleading for giving representation in the police force to different communities. With due respect, I would like to submit that when we advocate mixed forces, it implies that at present our forces do not have mixed representation. This makes me feel that it is an extremely serious matter.

Sir, I am basically against providing for recruitment in any service on the basis of community. However, if a person is not recruited in a service merely because he belongs to a particular community, it should not only be opposed but should also be deprecated. If there is a positive need to create a special force to deal with a peculiar situation and such a representation is confined to that particular force only, it would mean that we have compromised to a situation where they may be no representation of minorities at all in the general force. There may be bonafide suggestions. It is just like subjective thermometer to hydrotherapy to bring down the mercury in for the treatment of fever. It would not help, you have to cure the illness.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: I would request you to give me some more time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please be brief. You have already taken 15 minutes. Yesterday, you took 5 minutes. So, totally you have taken 20 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: The present situation as reflected by daily reports of communal riots and tensions appearing in the newspapers, makes us feel as if we are not one nation but a confederation of different groups wherein each fragment is vying with the other to secure special privileges which may be denied to others. Our Constitution guarantees equality before law and equal opportunities at all. Discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and sex is prohibited. Besides, freedom of religion has also been granted and special provisions have been made for protection of minorities in the spheres of religion, education and culture. The Constituent Assembly has hoped that with the provision of judicial enforceable rights, which may be amended through the process of legislation, the interests of the minority communities would be protected and the distinction of minority and majority communities at the political and Government level will end with the passage of time. Therefore, the colonialistic provisions like separate electorate, separate election process etc. which encouraged communalism were left out of our Constitution. It is our misfortune that the expectation made at that time did not materialise. I am certainly not one of those who say that the situation has gone from bad to worse since then. We have definitely improved upon the situation that prevailed during the days of our subjugation. But the menacing way, in which this danger raises its ugly head from time to time, makes one apprehend that it may threaten or destroy the entire set up. The hon. Members have said a totally different thing. Now the question arises as to what is at the root of this communal thinking. What is the cause of this thinking that the interests of Muslims are different from those of Hindus, Sikhs or Christians or that the interest of each community are different? Is religion the dividing force? This question was raised by other hon. Members also. I hold the view that there

is no co-relation between religion and communalism. Religion aims at making every person a human being, whereas communalism makes a man 'Saitan.' Religion instills a sense of respect for others and mercy, while communalism incites hatred and violence. The aim of religion has been well explained in the following Urdu couplet:

"Drade dil ke vaste paida kiya insaan ko,
Varna ta-at ke liye kuch kum na they
karon banya."

There is another couplet having a similar connotation:

"Kabira soi peer hei, jo jane par peer
Jo par peer na janeye, so kafir be peer."

It is inscribed on one of the walls of the Parliament House:

"Vaishnav jan te tene kahiye, jo peer
parai jane re."

I think that this is the sole aim of religion and that is why Swami Vivekananda, while defining religion, had said that religion by itself implies development and arousal of divine elements and feelings in human beings which are inherent in him. In this context, I would like to quote another couplet: The famous sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya was once presented a pair of scissors by one of his disciples. He returned the pair of scissors and said that he had come down on earth to unite and not to divide, so if at all he was to be offered any things, he should be offered a needle which could be used for joining the separate parts. Then he recited the following couplet:

"Ma baraye wasal gardan aam den
Na baraye wasal gardan aam den."

Amir Khusro, who is known as 'Tutiye Hind', was his disciple and a great saint. Once he

was passing through Mehrauli near Delhi. He saw a procession of villagers proceedings towards the temple of a deity with a band and drums, singing and dancing in deep devotion. He was moved by the spirit of devotion displayed by them and could not control himself and he too joined them. The people accompanying him tried to dissuade him by saying that they were idolators and were going to the temple of a deity. Hazrat Khusro silenced them by saying "Har kaum raste trahe, har dil kibla gahe," which means that the person, who acts according to tenets of his religious faith, is on the right path. This very thing is echoed in the following sentence from the ancient scriptures of India:

"Ekam satyam viprah babudha vadanti.",

which means,

[English]

Truth is one, sages call it by different names.

[Translation]

I mean to say that religion does not preach hatred. Religion is misused to incite among people with a view to achieve political ends and realise political aspirations. When attempts are made to cover up political designs by giving religious colour, it is communalism...(Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Let me speak, Sir, I do not speak very often.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already taken 25 minutes. There are so many Members to speak. At 3.30 P.M., we are going to take up Private Members' Business.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: You can ask them...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not their business. At 3.30 P.M., we have to take up Private Member's Business.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: All right, Sir. I will just take five minutes and complete the speech.

[Translation]

As I have said earlier, there is a communal line of thinking and it should be clearly understood that no thinking can be changed by use of force. It can only be curbed by a better saner line of thinking. That is why the founding fathers of our constitution adopted the concept of secularism to ward off the threat of communalism. In this connection, I would like to point out that the struggle against communalism is different from other struggles. In a class war, the struggle is against another class and no relatives or friends are involved, so it does not cause any stress or strain on the mind. But when we fight communalism, we have not only to fight against our own kith and kin, friends, etc. but we will have also to fight against our own thinking which may be influenced by certain incidents witnessed in the society, however, secular one may be. This is of utmost importance in this context and it should be kept in mind that the slightest laxity on our part may be taken undue advantage by communal elements. Sometimes feeling too much harassed by their agitations, we in an effort to buy temporary peace, we enter into some sort of accord with them. But the communal elements misuse it to enhance their credibility and reputation. I do not want to go into recent events. Go back into our history, in 1916, a pact was signed in Lucknow, after which a person of the standing of Tilak said.....

[Sh. Arif Mohammad Khan]

15.00 hrs.

In 1916, all the demands of the Muslim League were conceded and it was said that the communal problem in India had been solved for ever but the future developments proved that the Lucknow Pact was not a permanent solution at all, instead, it had sowed the seeds of partition on that day of 1916. That pact was a fore-warning of the impending partition of our country. Therefore, accords sometimes prove to be very disastrous.

In this context, lastly I would like to submit that during the course of this discussion on this dispute about Ram Janam-Bhoomi and Babri Masjid many things have been said; Shri Indrajit Gupta made a very impressive speech and said that one party in this country was saying that it would not accept the court verdict. I am totally at a loss to understand as to how it is imperative for the Government to take the consent of the accused in enforcing the court's verdict. In case of a dispute between two parties, they have the option to settle it through mutual discussion but if they fail to do so, it is the duty of the Government to get it settled through court. It is the responsibility of the Government to implement the court's order and it cannot escape it. Sir, I am not aware if question of incarnation of God is involved in Ram-Janam-Bhoomi, but if it relates to Lord Ram, son of Dasarath, or Lord Ram, who was the hero of the epics written by Tulsidas and Valmiki or the Ram hailed by Kabir and Gandhi, I would like to very humbly submit that Lord Ram, who was an ideal human being, had even gone into exile from Ayodhya, to uphold the dignity of the word given by his father, what to talk of giving up his rights. But from the drama being enacted in Ayodhya now, it seems that all norms of dignity set up in our country are going to be violated. On the other hand, there are persons who dis-

play eloquence for secularism in this House but sometimes give a call for boycotting the Independence day, sometimes give a call for a march to Ayodhya. Sir, the most surprising aspect of it is that they withdraw the call a day before the schedule date. Their call is withdrawn but the tension and hatred generated thereby persist. You cannot cite even a single instance where such calls had not been followed by riots in some city or the other irrespective of whether it was a call to boycott the Independence day or some other call. I do concede that both the calls were withdrawn but large-scale riots broke out in different towns and cities on account of them. Sir, what troubles me the most is that if it is a religious issue, which has led to communal flare-up in towns like Barabanki, Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh, Faizabad etc. where numerous people have lost their lives, how is it that not even a single leader of the action committees for the Ram Janam Bhoomi or the Babri-Masjid has been reported to have lost his life so far? Are the lives of rickshaw-pullers, tonga drivers, the poor and the labourers alone are meant to be sacrificed? If it is a religious issue, the leaders of both the parties should come forward to sacrifice their lives. They should not remain in the background. Why the poor and the weak people are being killed... *(Interruptions)* When the dispute started, I was in the Government. Therefore, all these things should not be said, as otherwise I will expose the reality as to how it started and who has profited from it.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Are you not going to tell as to who opened the lock and why?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Who opened the lock, Sir, I would like to take a few minutes. In 1949 or 1950, for the first time the Masjid was locked up on the day which followed the night when some idols were found there at the disputed place. The

Commissioner of that division was suspended within 24 hours by the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. He was, probably, dismissed from the service within one and half months. This time the lock was opened on the court orders and the court issued such order because the District Magistrate and the police authorities furnished an affidavit to the effect that there is no danger to peace and the law and order situation after the lock is opened. I would like to know only one thing. Who were these officers who furnished this affidavit? Has it ever been asked as to why they did furnish such and affidavit. If this thing is known, the whole mystery will be solved. (*Interruptions*)

My first suggestions is that, I am humbly submitting not alleging, Sir, the constitution makers of the country had realised the danger of communalism in 1946 itself. The Constituent Assembly in February 1946 passed a resolution which sought the religion to be separated from politics. When I talk of religion, I mean the religion which is misused to gain political motives. I think it is needed today. The Government should take an initiative and invite a discussion on this subject, not only in the House, but at the national level as well we go to South Africa to oppose apartheid and to mobilise public opinion in the world in support to our stand. When we are opposing apartheid, we should take steps in our country also against the discrimination being practised in the name of religion. It should not be allowed that innocent people are killed, women are widowed and children are rendered orphans in the name of religion. If we are making a condemnation of apartheid and propagating for imposing economic sanctions there, we should impose political and administrative restrictions against the communal powers here also. I am saying this because the Hon. Prime Minister has also stated that religion should be separated from politics. If you are really interested in it then invite a nation wide discussion on the subject and I assure you

that you will get the support of entire nation.

My second suggestion is that there should be a ban on the political parties, particularly when you have made an amendment in the Representation of People's Act, which are operating in the name of religion or caste. Certainly, the judges in Bombay should be congratulated who gave the decision that such parties should be banned. My suggestion is that until such a ban is imposed, there should be no electoral adjustment or political understanding between any one of the national political party and the communal political party. This is a long term suggestion..... (*Interruptions*) My last suggestion is that some measures should be taken to provide relief to people who suffered loss of life and property. This is a crime not just against the people, but against the country also. The loss suffered by the people should be compensated by the Government either from its funds or by the imposing punitive tax in riot his areas. With these words, I thank Mr. Deputy Speaker.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the communal situation in the country particularly, at a time when the country is celebrating the birth century of two great personalities of the country, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the builder of the nation and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, the symbol of unity and harmony. It is of great importance to held a discussion on a serious national issue at such a time in the House.

With the achievement of independence our nation builders and builders of modern India laid the foundation stone of democracy based on the ideals of secularism and socialism which are the strength of secular India today. 41 years ago, while discussing the communal situation in this House, Pt. Nehru clearly stated that it is very necessary for our country to keep religion separate from politics. When religion is linked with the politics

[Sh. Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

for political motives, it create an explosive situation which endangers the unity and integrity of the country. Even after 41 years, we find that his views and farsightedness are very much relevant in present day circumstances and the House is discussing today the communal situation prevailing in the country. Secularism means equal respect to all religions. Keeping this ideal in view, our constitution makers and the builders of modern India enshrined the principle of secularism in our constitution. This ideal is being cherished in India from centuries and the followers of different religions with devotion and regard to their respective religions try to maintain the unity and integrity of the country.

But, their and some powers, some parties which try to serve their political interests by creating a dirty atmosphere of communal hatred under the guise of religion. Such forces should be put under control. Our country has faced a lot of difficulty. There have been riots and thousands of people have suffered heavy loss of life and property because of such forces. Unsuccessful attempts have been made time and again to damage the communal harmony which the Indian National Congress has established during these 41 years.

We are proud to say that Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Shrimati Indira Gandhi have warned he nation time and again against the dangers of communal powers. They have made all out efforts to eliminate such elements. The unity of our country has been endangered whenever there have been communal riots in any of the area in the country, some communal forces have tried to fulfil their political ambitions under the garb of communalism. Those people who

make long and loud speeches in the House do not accept themselves as the communalists. They are active to achieve their political motives under the banners of Hindu Mahasabha, Vishwa Hindu Parishad or Shiv Sena. It will not be an exaggeration if Bharatiya Janata Party is called Bharatiya Janasangha. It is ridiculous to entertain suggestions from them against communalism. They, who were behind the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and now talk of communal harmony and give suggestions to strengthen the country, are stabbing in the back of communal harmony. They are in collusion with communal forces and have always tried their best to harm the unity and integrity of the country. Now to hear from their mouth..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): I say these things outside, why do you say it in the House. You have been a party to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: How can you talk of the nation? You only talk of setting up a Hindu nation.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDI: Why do you say such wrong things. It is improper to say such thing seven after 40 years of independence.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: There is wide difference between you profession and practice. You incite Hindu feelings to serve your vested political ends and create explosive situation in the country. People of the country have disowned the ideology of persons like Shri Janga Reddy. The people of India have come to the conclusion that only a secular India can emerge as a strong nation and only secular country can become a strong nation. The people belonging to minority communities can live with dignity and honour in such an India and can feel proud of themselves. Today there is need to beware of vested political alliances. (*Interruptions*)

This is an organisation which has a hand in the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. They are committing a blunder in supporting such a party. We demand that such communal political parties, whether it is Jamait-e-Islami or R.S.S. or B.J.P. or any other communal party, should be banned. There is no place for them in the national politics and they should not be allowed to gain any significance to enter the national politics.

We also observe that our esteemed leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi has devoted himself to the task of uniting and integrating the country during the last four and four and a half years and he also worked for taking the country forward on the road to progress. The objectives and ideologies set out by the founding fathers of our nation for the reconstruction of India, have been hundred percent visualised by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Today we can claim with pride that no word of praise is enough for the efforts made by our leader for strengthening the unity and integrity of the country as also the communal harmony and for the plans and scheme given by him. On the one side, there are people with a dismal record of performance during the last four and four and a half years, who did not care to identify themselves with the sufferings of the people and extended no cooperation in strengthening and integrating the country. Now they are found to be engaged in inciting religious feelings in the name of 'Hindu Sammelans' or Babri Masjid or Ram Janam Bhoomi. We should beware of such elements. I want to draw your attention that these communal forces have revived the non-issue of Ram Janam Bhoomi. Entire India is the birth place of Lord Rama and great men like Mahatma Gandhi, Guru Nanak Dev, Lord Mahavir and Mahatma Buddha were born in India, who gave a new philosophy to other religions and a new direction to the society. India is a land of such great personalities.

In the end, I would like to draw the

attention of the Home Minister to the burning issue that there have been 200 major disturbances since independence which have been termed or recognised as communal incidents by the Home Ministry. The Government of India and various administrative authorities had to work very hard to assuage the hurt feelings, to give relief to the victims, pacify the people and to restore communal harmony in the areas so affected. I will like that the situation prevailing in these places should be studied in depth and a high level committee should be constituted at the national level to go into the causes for the outbreak of these disturbances. It should not be the function of the Government just to extinguish fire during riots or just to discharge the role of fire brigade, our administrative authorities should not confine themselves to this action but should study, identify and analyse the causes for these riots, whether they are social, economic, religious or vested political interests, and then a national policy should be formulated which may ensure that these disturbances do not recur in these sensitive areas and the local administration, statesmen and social workers may be vested with powers necessary for checking firmly the recurrence of these incidents and an atmosphere of communal harmony may prevail there.

In the end, I will like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister towards the great sense of wisdom displayed by our Hon. Prime Minister in taking the initiative to convene a meeting of the National Integration Council at an early date. It should be welcomed whole-heartedly. National Integration Council is a very strong national forum capable of bringing unity in diversity of our country, whose message will be carried to every nook and corner of the country, every section and state. India is a land of many religions, diverse cultures owing their origin to different religions and unity in diversity is a unique feature of India and we can unite the entire nation into one force through the

[Sh. Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

Indian National Congress under the leadership of Hon. Rajiv Gandhi, Hon. Shri Gupta of C.P.I. put forward very good ideas, we appreciate his line of thinking and we hope that all secular forces in the country will extend support to us on national, secular, social issues, communal harmony and national integration and cooperate with our Prime Minister, Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the topic under discussion is communal situation. Only a few minutes back Shri Arif Mohd. was speaking but now he has left. I want to read out an Urdu couplet for the attention of his leader:

"Libase Rahbari me yon chalegi
Rahjani kab tak,
Daga deti rahegi dosti ko dushmani
kab tak."

I will now read out a Hindi couplet carrying the similar meaning for the benefit of his leader. It is a couplet by Shri Dinkar:

"Anan saral vachan Madhumay hai,
tan par shubrah basan hai,
Bacho Yudhishtar, is Nagin ka vish se
bhara badan hai."

The people who are postmaster in intrigue..... (*Interruptions*) They start speaking at very high pitch. They want to drown the voice of truth in the din of their ear piercing voice. No amount of manoeuvring can subdue truth. Mahatma Gandhi said:

[English]

"If the world goes against the truth, I will go against the world."

[Translation]

I would like to refer to the case of Jamia Milia

University, which is an example of patriotism, Hindu students used to study there earlier too. I would like to make a reference about Anand Shanker Madyon who is now settled in Bihar and is running an educational institution there. He narrated an anecdote to me that when he was a student, he went to Mahatma Gandhi, who enquired from him the feelings of Muslim students about Hindu students since students belonging to both the communities studied there. He replied that Babu, some Muslims were highly critical of him. Gandhiji asked him about his reaction to his criticism by them. He said that he felt really bad. Then Gandhiji told him that it was communalism. Everybody had a right to express his views and sentiments and why should he feel bad about it; he felt hurt since he was a Hindu and it signified communalism. He advised him not to be swayed by such communal feelings. Perhaps nobody studied communalism so minutely as Gandhiji did with a view to establish human values. Just now, Shri Arif Mohd. was indulging in tall talk. Only yesterday, our leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi said something which perhaps no other leader of any country would dare to say. He said:

[English]

"An Indian who is a communal has no right to survive."

"If it is communal, India has no right to continue as a country."

Now that time is gone when there were more chances of India becoming communal. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now there is no communal tension in the country. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians, all are living here. They are not prepared to take to riots under any circumstances at any stage. Mentality of the people have improved a lot, but the political complexes and manipulations make the defeated forces restive to take revenge. This is fascism which is related to the feelings of revenge. When they

become restive on account of their success or failure, they take recourse to communalism, fundamentalism, regionalism and linguistic bitterness. Communalism had raised its head on the eve of independence due to the British Government who had poisoned the minds of people. Communal riots took place at that time and the result was that India was divided. Thereafter, communal riots took place in India thousand times, the Hindus and the Muslims fought against each other, but nowhere communal feelings gained ground. What were the reasons for this? Because, nobody was prepared for communalism. Today, the Hindus and the Muslims have risen above the narrow feelings of communalism. I would like to remind the people who make tall claims that Babar had written to Humayun that the latter had got the highest Throne in India, the country of the Hindus by the grace of God. As such he should ensure that none of his acts hurt the feelings of the people. In the Mughal Kingdom there were many people with very liberal outlook. If any dispute is raised over the Babari Masjid and Ram Janam Bhoomi it will be a sort of betrayal. No national issues were involved in the riots that took place in Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad. No riot was engineered on a national issue, but the Babri Masjid and Ram Janambhoomi issue is being made a national issue. Riots and communalism are vitiating the circle which needs to be rooted out. At no time it should be treated lightly. I would like to appraise the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that if a riot takes place in any part of India, the local police, the Hindus and the Muslims could jointly suppress it, but the Babari Masjid and Ram Janam Bhoomi issue is going to take a serious turn.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue your speech on Monday. Now, we are taking up Private Members' Bill.

15.30 1/2 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS—CONTD

(II) Sixty-Sixth Report

[Translation]

SHRI RAM AWADH PRASAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 3rd May, 1989."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 3rd May, 1989."

The motion was adopted.

15.31 hrs.

OLD AGE PENSION BILL*

[English]

SHRI S.M. GURADDI (Bijapur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of other facilities to old persons.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of other facilities to old persons."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: I introduce the Bill.

15.31 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

(Amendment of Article 340)

SHRI. SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

(Amendment of Article 51A)

SHRI. SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI. SHANTARAM NAIK: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

(Insertion of new Article 347A)

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

NATIONAL PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

(Amendment of Section 323)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 1/2 hrs.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS (REGULATION)
BILL —*CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri G. S. Basavaraju on the 21st April, 1989, namely:-

"That the Bill to regulate the functioning of fair price shops and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Shri Syed Shahabuddin.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill before us proposes a system for the regulation of the functioning of the public Distribution System.

15.34 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

Sir, the Public Distribution System even today is controlled and regulated by the Government, by the Department of Civil Supplies. The basic difference here is that the Bill postulates the creation or the establishment of a Central Board to which the State Boards shall be affiliated not only for the purpose of procurement of grains but also for regulating the distribution, for fixing their prices, etc. I fully appreciate the reason for this Bill. There is dissatisfaction throughout the country with the working of the Public Distribution System.

The supplies are sometimes scanty and

inadequate; sometimes their quality leaves much to be desired; sometimes the supply is irregular. Things are available; at other times, they are not available. These difficulties are there. But, frankly, I do not quite understand how these difficulties will disappear if the Government department was replaced merely by the creation of a Board at the Central level, or at the State level. That supervision is always available. After all, there is the Central Government which can go into the grievances of the consumers, and the difficulties in terms of supply, or in terms of pricing policy; and I presume that they do not ignore the public complaints when they get them, that they go through them and try to rectify the situation to the best possible extent.

Therefore, I do not quite understand the purpose that will be served by the creation of a top-heavy structure. I would have rather liked the system to be decentralised and I will place that idea before the Government for its kind consideration—that we ought to decentralize the system of distribution, that the local fair price shop must come under some sort of local, social control. There should perhaps be some linkage with the Gram Panchayat, a functional linkage between Panchayat and the fair-price shop. In fact, it should become a statutory responsibility of every Gram Panchayat to run, wherever necessary, a fair price shop, or more. Similarly in the towns, in the urban areas, there should be some relationship with the Ward Committees or the Ward Commissioners; and they could have some authority to supervise the system of distribution. I think it is only by bringing the fair price shops closer to the people directly under their inspection, under their supervision, under their control that we can expect to introduce such improvement as is necessary—and not by creating a new Board in Delhi or a new Board in the State capitals like Patna.

This is my basic criticism. I am not questioning the fact about the difficulties in the system, as they exist. I am sure they are before the Government, and I hope that the hon. Minister shall tell us how he is trying to

[Sh. Syed Shahabuddin]

combat this deficiency and how he is trying to improve the distribution system. But the deficiencies, as I see them, cannot be improved by centralizing the system. They can only be improved by decentralizing the system. In fact, I would request the hon. Member who has introduced this Bill the to reconsider this basic idea—how to decentralize the system and how to bring the public distribution system under local, social control.

The other aspect to be kept in view is this: after all, the entire public distribution system today contributes only to the extent of 10%, to the meeting of the consumption needs of the people, even in terms of foodgrains. The percentage in terms of cloth, the percentage in terms of other articles of mass consumption will be still less. But let us think of foodgrains. It is 10% Ninety per cent of the foodgrains sold and bought in this country are still through the private retailer. Sometimes I am tempted to question the very philosophy, as to why we pit the Government against the retailer. The retailer is a small guy. The retailer has no capacity to exploit the people. He does not have the capacity to hoard the goods. He does not have the infrastructure. He lives on a small margin of profit. He is very happy if he can make just ten paise out of a rupee. Nothing more. He is not a profiteer. He is not a harder. He is not an enemy of the people; he is not an enemy whom we should fight and conquer and vanquish. The real enemy of the people is the hoarder, the profiteer, the wholesaler. It is the wholesaler who has got the money and resources behind him, who has got the organization behind him, who has got the power behind him, and who has got the linkages behind him, who can, sensing a scarcity to come, make arrangements in advance, and invest a lot of money in buying foodgrains or buying articles of mass consumption cheaply, hoard them, keep them for the time when there is a scarcity, even create an artificial scarcity and then exploit the people. It is indeed a surprising political

phenomenon that all the political parties in our country seem to lable the retailer as the enemy, and not point their accusing finger at the wholesaler.

This I simply fail to understand. Unless we can somehow short-circuit the wholesaler, unless we can somehow establish a parallel circuit so that every time/the wholesaler tries to capture the market, tries to push the prices up, tries to hoard, then a social agency should come in, a government agency should come in, in order to short-circuit him and create a second source of supply to the retailer and thus bring the prices down. After-all, if the wholesale prices go up, if the wholesaler sells to the retailer at a very high price, how can we accuse the retailer?

Let us look at it from the larger point of view. After all, we are a country suffering from unemployment. Here retail trade gives maximum possible self-employment. After-all, these are petty shops, these retail shops we should not disregard them, paly an important part in the life of the people; they contribute to self-employment in the society. Every shop has one owner. He himself is a worker; he works with his own hands; he does not exploit any one else. I think a retailer fits perfectly into a socialist concept of a society; he is not living on anyone else's labour; at best, he is employing his own son in his business along with him. I am sure, even in a socialist system, this much of private freedom will be given. Therefore, if we try theoretically under this Bill, to maximise the public distribution system, to completely eliminate the retailer and to supply the people by fair price shops, organised, licensed and regulated by this Board, the State Board or the Central Board, well, it is another matter whether we can succeed or we do not succeed, assuming we succeed, what have we achieved? We have merely tried to somehow defeat the private enterprise and I do not see why we should do that. Therefore, from these three points of view, firstly the fair public distribution system today is concerned only with a very small part of our distribution system for the extent of only about 10 per cent, it is not supposed to

be a substitute for the private distribution system; it is only supposed to control and regulate the private distribution system as it exists. Secondly, that decentralisation and social control, immediate social control can curb all the wrongful tendencies that might exist in the system—but not centralisation Controlled at a distance; that will merely mean bureaucratisation—that will merely mean more Inspectors and more Inspectors will mean more bribery, more corruption and perhaps more cheating and more diversion of the supply from the open market to the black market in order to make up for the bribe that is paid to the inspection system. Thirdly the Government should apply its mind about how to control the wholesale trade. I am not yet convinced whether a complete nationalisation of the wholesale trade will be the practicable answer. But just as in the case of retail trade you try to control the possibility of misuse by creating a parallel system of public distribution through fair price shops, similarly, if the Government were to create a system whereby keeping the retailer where he is, it creates a wholesale depot in every district; and these wholesale depots directly supply to the market, immediately intervene in the market, as soon as the prices show a tendency of rising, come into the market to buy if there is a surplus, so that the prices do not fall but the moment the wholesaler tries to hoard and tries to raise the prices, jacks the prices, the Government machinery comes in and intervenes, and tries to bring the prices down through the intervention at the wholesale level.

Therefore, while conceding that the hon. member has drawn our attention to the difficulties that we are all witness to in the present management of the public distribution system and for which we all plead with the Government to look into the public grievances at every level and try to improve the system. Think that this Bill, as it is, not going to provide a remedy for the problems that we are facing.

I think some more basic re-arrangement is called for, a new concept is called for,

in order that in this country of ours, where we have got 800 million people spread over more than 450,000 villages—perhaps more, 500,000 villages now, we can have a system whereby every individual citizen is assured of a ready supply of all articles of mass consumption, whether it is foodgrains or whether it is coarse cloth or whether it is essential articles of domestic use like match sticks or candles or whether it is ordinary common drugs which are needed by every household. Where all these articles of mass consumption are available through a network of, shall we say, private outlets which are scattered all over the country, and they are supplied through a system which the state can control, where the Government can regulate the knobs, where the Government can control the supply heads, and leave the retailer alone, who works with a small margin and who is known to the people can serve the people.

In my experience, I have seen in my own Mohalla in my own village that when a supply is made to the local retailer it is not hidden. The fact immediately gets known. He might not tell the truth to the others, he cannot conceal it from the people he lives with, he cannot conceal it from the society of which he forms a part. The facts get known. If he gives somebody more than his due share, that also is known; if he denies somebody his share that also gets known. There is already some primitive system of social control which is working. What is needed is, as I said, to look at the source of supply, the wholesale trade and the Government should have the courage to go in for regulating it.

I fully realise the difficulties and I am not talking as a member of the Opposition, to the Government but I think there is some politics. Why for the last 40 years we have been completely silent to the machinations, to the exploitation, to the profiteering and to the hoarding by the wholesale trade, has a political reason. That political reason I do not have to explain in this House. The fact remains that it is not the retailer who can give us contributions at the time of elections. He has hardly any surplus which he can contrib-

[Sh. Syed Shahabuddin]

ute. It is the wholesaler on whom the political parties depend finally to get a hefty contribution at the time of elections and therefore, we are very very touchy, we are very reluctant to touch the source of our supply, lest we get famished and starved at the time of election. But, in the national interest, in the larger interests of the society, we have to do it. We cannot possibly nationalise production. It is impossible in a country of the size and diversity of India. We cannot possibly nationalise the entire system of retail distribution. But if we apply social controls at the point at which they can be most effective, the wholesale level, I think we can assure a ready, regulated system of supply of articles of mass consumption to the mass of the people, and eliminate this element of profit earning, eliminate this element of hoarding, eliminate this element of occasional scarcity and interrupted supply.

I agree in spirit with the purpose of the Bill, I somehow do not find myself inclined to support this idea of creation of a new top heavy structure, as envisaged in this Bill. With these words, I thank you very much and I oppose this Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the spirit behind the Bill.

To control the price rise it is needed to encourage the resistance of the consumers, and to strengthen the public distribution system. In a developing country it is but natural there will be rise in prices.

By giving Dearness Allowance to Government employees often, more money is pumped into the market, with the result, there is a price rise. So, if we can control the price, we can control the inflation also.

This Bill envisages that the distribution system should be managed by the Government through Boards at the Centre and State levels and through fair price shops in the States and Union Territories and to fix the

price of each commodity to be distributed and to Now, also we have got fair price shops. They are run through individuals or through some other agencies, such as Cooperatives and even Gram Panchayats. The Central Government gives a huge amount by way of subsidy to the Cooperatives besides soft loans so also assists the Gram Panchayats to participate in Public distribution system. But it is found in many States, the subsidy or the amount given by the Central Government to the State Government to be utilised for the distribution of essential commodities is in fact not utilised through the cooperatives, and on the other hand, this amount is adjusted to the loss otherwise sustained by the Cooperative Societies. There is no monitoring system. By permutation and combination and by adjustment, the States just satisfy the Centre and the amount given to the States to serve the consumers is misutilised. There is no effective supervision by the Cooperative Department at the State level also and it is mismanaged.

Sir, the Government wants that almost all the commodities as far as possible should be supplied through fair price shops. At present only selected commodities are supplied through fair price shops. The Central Government has undertaken the responsibility of procurement and distribution of seven essential commodities—rice, wheat, levy sugar, kerosene, imported edible oil, soft coke and controlled cloth at a reasonable rate to the consumers. We find that in one part of the country, some commodities are sold at lower rates and in some other parts of the country they are sold at higher rates. The reason being, there is no free movement of commodities from one part of the country to the other part of the country.

The Wholesale Price Index given by the Department for four cities reveals the same features and how the Wholesale Price Index differs from place to place. That is what the statistics provided to us says.

It is also the wish of the Government that the public distribution system should be

strengthened and the implementation of Essential Commodities Act and other legislations should be strictly adhered to so that the blackmarketeers and hoarders cannot take undue advantage of the situation. Besides strengthening the public distribution system, Government has supplied foodgrains at subsidised rates to the common man under special schemes to ameliorate the lot of the weaker sections. In 1988-89 more than 4000 fair price shops were opened. As on 30-9-99, the number of fair price shops stood at 3.5 lakhs. But I am very sorry to say that the enforcement of provisions of Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations against hoarders, blackmarketeers and anti-social elements, is not as satisfactory as it ought to be.

The intention of the Government, as has been stated more than once, is to have the vigilance committees at district and fair price shop levels to oversee the functioning of the public distribution system. I would like to know from the hon. Minister in how many States these district level vigilance committees are functioning. In my State, Orissa, there is one such Vigilance committee to oversee the utilisation of foodgrains under RLEGP, NREP and other schemes where in MP is the Chairman an MLA, one Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti and two engineers are the members, and the Chief Project Officer is the convenor. The job of the Committee is to oversee the distribution of foodgrains under RLEGP and NREP. In fact, I am one of the Chairmen of such committees. We found that a particular BDO had not given even a single grain to the beneficiaries for the construction of 'Indira Awas' and there is misappropriation. The Committee, after getting evidence both documentary and oral, suggested that suitable action should be taken against him and suspend him at the outset. It was brought to the notice of the Collector of Ganjam District and also the State Government. But no action has been taken against the BDO since. The BDO is continuing to remain there for more than six years. So mere forming the vigilance committee is not enough. The committee must be given sufficient teeth. Also the sugges-

tions given by the committee should be implemented by the officers concerned and the State Government. On the other hand, what is happening is that the officer concerned who is to take actions tries to protect the other officers who have committed the fraud and deprived the public of getting the benefits of different schemes and programmes. If that is the case, then creating some vigilance committee or some such agency will not serve the purpose. It is the sincerity of the efforts that is necessary, and that too from the grass-root level.

As stated by the Central Government, it is for the State Governments to monitor the price and availability of essential commodities. But have any steps been taken to supervise whether the State Governments are functioning as per the desire of the Central Government? Is there an agency to oversee their functioning? To meet the demands of the people in respect of essential commodities, it is necessary to increase the production of various essential commodities, which are part of life. The Government is also importing some commodities for domestic supply to maintain the price level, and supply the commodities to the public at lesser rate than the rate at which the Government purchases them from outside the country.

In reply to a question, the Minister has stated that "the Federation of All India Foodgrains Dealers Associations has agreed to bring down the price voluntarily". I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in fact this Federation of All India Foodgrains Dealers Associations has acted as per their promise. On the other hand, I am told that this Association wants that some of the commodities should be deleted from the Food Adulteration Act. So, what is needed is how best we can involve the people at the grass-root level. Public participation should be encouraged in keeping vigil on the public distribution system at the local level.

Supplying commodities at the doorstep of the Fair Price Shops is most important for the reason that the transport cost is so heavy that a retail dealer is bound to sell some of

[Sh. Somnath Rath]

the commodities in black market. The profit margin of these Fair Price Shops should be looked into since it is alleged it is very meagre.

The Consumer Protection Act, that we had passed in 1986 for having State Councils and district forms, has not been implemented as yet by some states. The Standards of Weight and Measures (Enforcement) Act is also not implemented in its right perspective.

The King-pin of the public distribution system is the Food Corporation of India which was set up on 1-1-1985. It was made responsible for the procurement and distribution of food grains. This public distribution system was made an important part of the 20-Point Programme also. The policy is to increase the number of Fair Price Shops.

The heavy expenditure of the FCI, which is costing crores of rupees, is being subsidised. This is a loss to the exchequer.

The difference between the issue price and the procurement price is Rs. 40 per quintal and the cost of transportation works out to Rs. 35 per quintal and add to that cost of storage, credit, distribution, etc. comes to roughly Rs. 100 per quintal, that is, Rs. 1000 per tonne. It is said that for every tonne handled by the F.C., distributed through the Fair Price Shops, the loss is Rs. 600 to the exchequer. The F.C.I. is nothing but a public sector Trading Corporation. There is no reason why the Government should subsidise a public sector Trading Corporation. So, it is high time that Government should think of putting an end to this wasteful expenditure by the F.C.I. and see that the expenditure is also brought down by way of not giving subsidy even for storage purposes. Steps should be taken to see that free movement of the commodities is made possible throughout the country so that the essential commodity can reach every nook and corner without any difficulty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the time allot-

ted for this subject is over. Can we extend the time for discussion of this subject by two hours?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Sir, people have got high hope in the implementation of the scheme. It is desirable to strengthen the distribution system and it should be done at all levels for its implementation in right earnest. Action should be taken against those persons who fail to implement this scheme in its right perspective.

Sir, in this House, we have discussed that at the time of harvest, the farmers is forced to distress sale of their produce. The Middlemen and the profiteers go to them and purchase their produce at very less price and store it. They have the capacity to store and later by hoarding they create artificial scarcity and sell it at much higher price. So, Sir, to check the undue advantage taken by the hoarders for their personal benefit and also to check them from exploiting the farmers, Government should come forward to purchase their produce, at a very reasonable price, right from the time of harvest. Since we are now going to decentralise our administration at Panchayat level and our Prime Minister had also stated that stress should be given to involve the Gram Panchayat, in the public distribution system, more so to run the fair price shops. The policy of the Government being to have at least one fair-price shop for each Village, Panchayat the Gram Panchayats should be given the responsibility of running fair price shops. The Gram Panchayats must be funded by the Government as it is now done in the case of Cooperative Societies. If it is implemented, in right earnest, the fair-price shops can run well in the villages and the public distribution system can work very effectively.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on the Fair Price Shops Regulation Bill, 1989 which has been presented in the House.

While I agree to the objectives of this Bill, I totally disagree to the suggestions contained in the Bill about the central and State Boards.

The public distribution system has been in operation in our country since the country attained independence and this system is necessary. Had this system not been there, the people in famine pruned areas especially in my constituency would have been facing lots of difficulties. The public distribution system is beneficial to people in many ways. People get wheat and rice at subsidised rates through it. At a time when we confront famine, this system comes to our aid. I want that just as wheat and rice is supplied to tribal areas at subsidised rates, these commodities should also be supplied to my area which has been affected by famine this year also. The people living below the poverty line and selected families should in this regard should be distributed wheat and rice at subsidised rates. Similarly, these items should also be made available to famine affected areas at subsidised rates. I would like to make a submission to the Government that it should be considerate about this proposal so that the people could be provided great relief. The Government has launched the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. The poor people will be benefited by this scheme. The selected families living below the poverty line, especially those living in desert areas and have been affected by famine, could be provided foodgrains at subsidised rates. It will be a relief and great justice to these people if they are provided foodgrains at subsidised rates as in the cases of tribals.

Secondly, my constituency is a widely spread area. The area of only my constituency is 70,000 square kilometers which is equal to the area of Punjab and twice the area of Kerala. The Government of Rajasthan has opened fair price shops in a desert area like ours. Fair Price Shops have also been opened at Panchayat Headquarters. I would like to express my thanks to the Government of Rajasthan for their efforts. At the same time I would like to request them to

evolve a system in which mobile fair price shops could be run in inaccessible and desert areas under the public distribution system. If arrangement is not made to run fair price shops in inaccessible and far flung areas, people of these areas cannot avail of the benefits of this system. The foodgrains are sold at high prices in these areas. As such immediate steps should be taken to run fair price shops in these areas. In my area villages are sparsely situated. One village is found in an area of 50 to 100 square kilometers. If fair price shops are opened in these villages, the villagers will be greatly benefited. The Government should also take some concrete steps in this regard. The problem is that though the fair price shops run co-operative societies want to function honestly, they cannot do so for the following reasons. The transportation charges allowed to fair price shops are very low whereas the real transportation charges have increased much. Only 75 to 50 per cent transportation charges are given to fair price shops. Not only that they are not given commission at the reasonable rates. In this way there is little scope of profit to them. When there is little scope of profit and they want to work honestly, it is not possible that they will work dishonestly. The Civil Supplies Department should see that the fair price shops get real transportation charges. The collector should certify that the real transportation charges of their respective areas come to such and such. These shops must get Profit. The prices have gone up. As such people working in fair price shops should be given double commission as compared to the present rate. The Government should evolve a system under which it will be ensured that the fair price shops get good profit.

So far as the Food Corporation of India is concerned, there is a difference of Rs. 60 between the issue price and procurement price per quintal. There should not be so much of difference. If this job is entrusted to any business man he can make storing arrangements within 50 per cent charges including carrying out procurement and also distribution of the goods by transporting the same to various places.

[Sh. Virdhi Chander Jain]

But the food Corporation of India can not make such arrangement and there is a corruption involved in it. I am still of the view that they should get the subsidy and that should be properly used. We can have benefit of subsidy only when the prices at the Fair Price Shops are reduced. The Government gives Rs. 2 thousand crores as subsidy but even then we do not get foodgrains like wheat and rice etc. at a lower price. Palm oil and kerosene are still not supplied in these areas. I have been witnessing this situation since about last 6 months. As regards the distribution of wheat and rice made by the Central Government and the State Governments, I would like to say that the supply has been reduced by 50 per cent as the people in rural area are getting 5 kg wheat instead of 10 kg. per unit. The Government does not pay attention to the drought affected areas. They are demanding foodgrains @ of 10 kg. per unit and therefore, it would not at all be appropriate to distribute only 5 kg. per unit. Since foodgrain reserve with the Food Corporation of India is very short, we should import foodgrain if required. The present requirement is of 2 crore metric tonnes and if the reserve is strong then alone can the Government control the prices. If the position of our reserve stock is not sound then the wholesalers are likely to exploit the situation by increasing the prices. The State Governments do not take action against the hoarders and profiteers as required under the Essential Commodities Act. This is so because the district supply officers and collectors are in collusion with them. Therefore, Steps should be taken against such district supply officers and collectors. I would like to know as to what action has been taken against such District Supply Officers and Collectors who have encouraged hoarding by not taking any strong action against the hoarders? The hon. Minister may kindly give this information so that the situation may be clear to us. In Rajasthan no step has been taken against the district supply officers and collectors who are busy in corrupt practises. Therefore, besides monitoring the situation, solid steps are also needed in this regard.

The Vigilance Committees are functioning at district level in our country which do have some impact. Besides the Pradhans of Panchayat samities and Zila Pramukh, MLAs, and M.Ps are also the members of the committee. Such vigilance committees should be there at the block level as well. Vigilance Committees are functioning in the states also but still no good results are achieved and the masses do not get the benefit which the Government wants to give them such a situation should not be allowed to continue.

So far as cloth is concerned, I have seen that cheap cloth is not available at the Fair Price shops. The Government gives a subsidy worth crores of rupees, even then cheap cloth is not available in any of the Fair Price Shops. This point should also be paid attention to. Either the Central Government allots very inadequate quota of cloth to the states or the State Governments are supplying cheap cloth to the district administration in a very inadequate quantity. Therefore, the need is to make adequate supply of cloth so that the poor people may be benefitted. Today the Indian masses are not getting the benefits of this scheme. I have not seen this benefit being given in my constituency. Arrangements, are also needed in this regard.

In the end I would only like to submit that the Government should pay attention to the points presented by me and there is no need of constituting a Central Board and a State Board. The present system needs to be improved and the District Supply Officers as well as the Collectors should work honestly. Further the Cooperative Societies which are instrumental in the distribution should get adequate profit and expenditure incurred on transport should be compensated. They should act in a way so that benefit, reach to the masses.

[English]

SHRI. ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling):
Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

The spirit of the Bill is to ensure proper and regular supply of essential commodities to the consumers at a reasonable price through public distribution system all over the country. I appreciate it. We have been demanding for a long time distribution of essential commodities at a uniform and reasonable price through public distribution system throughout the country. We have also been demanding that apart from rice, wheat, sugar edible oils, kerosine oil, other essential items like cloth, saree, soaps, matches, salt, exercise book, etc., should also be distributed through public distribution system so that the public would be benefited.

In West Bengal, most of these items are covered by the Public Distribution system like fair price shops, ration shops and consumer cooperative stores. The supply position of these items from Central agencies like FCI and others is very very poor and deplorable.

Not only West Bengal but, almost all the States ruled by the Opposition as well as some of the States ruled by the Congress, have also, similarly complained. If the Public Distribution System is to be a success, the Central Government must ensure uninterrupted and regular supply of the essential commodities to the States. Otherwise, the Public Distribution System will break down.

Apart from the need of uninterrupted supply of essential commodities, the provision of buffer stock in different States should be strengthened so that the common people may not suffer at the time of natural calamities like floods, drought, landslides etc. It is very essential.

In many of the fair price shops, we find that very bad quality of rice, wheat and other commodities are supplied. No amount of complaints from the consumers has improved the situation. The Government should take it very seriously and look into the matter for improving the situation.

We find that no price boards are exhib-

ited in many of the shops and the consumers are cheated and exploited. So, stringent measures should be taken against those who violate this rule.

We find another method of exploitation, on the plea of local tax. We cannot understand what is that local tax. The consumers are subjected to 5 to 15% extra charges which is never specified. What is the basis, what is the percentage and under which rules they levy these extra charges, nobody knows. Therefore, some mechanism should be found-out to check this sort of undue exploitation of the consumers.

The provisions, of Essential Commodities Act should strictly be implemented and hoarders, racketeers and blackmarketeers should be sternly dealt with. Otherwise, the very purpose of the Public Distribution System would be defeated.

I also support the suggestions made by some of our hon. Members to have a Committee at different levels to monitor and to ensure that the Public distribution System works properly. I propose that such Committee are constituted and MLAs and MPs and panchayat bodies are involved in these committees so that the purpose of the Public distribution system may be served well.

With these words, I thank you once again and I conclude my speech.

SHRI. VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol): Mr. Chairman, Shri G. S. Basavaraju has come forward with a Bill for creation of Central level Boards and State level Boards for the Public Distribution System and proper monitoring and efficient working of this system. Going into the spirit of the Bill, we find that it is concerned with the efficient working of the system which has got lot of importance nowadays. Immediately after independence, there were only a few thousand fair price shops in this country.

But now the number has increased to 3,50,000 shops. If you see the increase over the last 10 years, it has increased by one

[Sh. Vijay N. Patil]

lakh. In the year 1979, there were only 2,39,000 shops and now 3,50,000 shops are scattered all over the country. The quantity of commodities distributed through these shops to the needy people, to the common public and to the poor people living even in the remotest corner of the country has also increased. It will be clear if we can judge this from the quantities that are being distributed through these fair price shops. In the year 1985, if you take the supply of foodgrains, 107 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were distributed through the fair price shops. In the year 1988, this figure has increased to 181 lakh tonnes. If you consider the other essential commodity i.e. kerosene, the figure for 1985 was 57 lakh tonnes while it was 74 lakh tonnes for the year 1988. That means there was a steep increase in the supply of commodities through the Public Distribution system. That is why there is a great awareness among the public, among the Government bodies and among the people dealing with the Public Distribution system and also at the Central Level.

Sir, as far back as 1955, we had enacted the Essential commodities Act. As many as 70 commodities have been covered under this Act. To see that these essential commodities are not mis-utilised, mis-used for profiteering, for blackmarketing when they are in scarcity, when they are not available in sufficient quantity, we enacted the other Act in the year 1988. This was enacted after till another Act, enacted in 1981. So, this shows the Central Government's concern for the Public Distribution System.

Sir, we are distributing a large amount of subsidy to this Department to see that commodities are supplied at a proper and reasonable rate to the common people, to the needy people. We has also enacted the Consumer Protection Act in the year 1986. After the enactment of this Act, the Central Government has notified the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission which has started deciding the various cases. So, in the light of this, it is not necessary to

establish separate Boards at the Central level and also at the State level because even at the State level, we see that as many as seven States have started the Consumer Protection Councils. We see that many of the States are having the Food and Civil Supplies Department under their control for this purpose. So, it is not necessary to think of establishing these Boards. But at the same time, we must consider ways and means to increase the efficiency of the Public Distribution System. How can we increase the efficiency? My friend Shri Vyas has already said about the Cooperative Societies. I would like to lay emphasis on that. At present 28 per cent of the work is handled through the Cooperatives. Other workers relating to the distribution system are handled by private shop-keepers or through the Village Panchayats or through other agencies. If we try to encourage more and more Cooperatives, there will be more direct participation of the people through these Cooperatives. Unfortunately, the Apex Body of this Public Distribution System is being handled through Cooperatives. The National Consumer Cooperative Federation is at present having some problems. It is not running properly. It has some arrears. Some dues are there with the State Consumer Cooperative Federation. Also, there are other problems. If we can give some amount by way of advance or by way of loan to the national unit of the Consumers' Cooperative Society, then we may be able to monitor it more efficiently and we can revive this apex body for the benefit of all.

We are more concerned about hoarding, blackmarketing and diversion of commodities. That is why, a number of raids have been increasing every year. We are acting under the provisions of the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act which we enacted in 1980 and also in 1981 and which is extended up to 1992. Under the provisions of this Act, we see that as many as 7,635 persons were arrested during the last year. Out of this, 5,195 were prosecuted. But actual conviction was only to 426 persons. That means, there are still loopholes, there are still ways and means avail-

able for the culprits to avoid the clutches of these law, to avoid punishment. That is why, not even ten per cent of the people arrested or prosecuted are finally convicted. We should see that these loopholes are plugged and culprits do not go scot-free. Otherwise, our Acts will not be that effective and public distribution system will suffer.

We find that there are some deficit States which require more supply of commodities like the States of Maharashtra, Kerala and Rajasthan. For these States, if godowns are constructed for the storage of foodgrains and other commodities, then the transport problem which is there at the time of scarcity will not be created. There will not be acute transport problem. Of course, transportation will be required right from Punjab to Maharashtra or to other places. Transport will be required from the place where commodities are available to the place where it is required. But if these godowns are constructed with sufficient capacity, then this problem will be reduced. We congratulate the policy of the Central Government for maintaining proper stocks. Whenever there is drought or scarcity, we do not feel the burden or the scarcity much. That is why, in spite of the two severe droughts during the last two years, people could get the required essential commodities at their door-steps, in their villages, in sufficient quantities because of our buffer stocks and proper public distribution system and also because of the subsidy component which was borne by the Central Government. We would like to thank the Central Government for providing mobile vans in remote areas. We see as many as 99 mobile vans which have been purchased for catering to the needs of the people residing in remote and hilly areas.

All said and done, again, in the end, I would like to emphasise that more and more cooperatives should be encouraged. They should be given more incentives as was said by Mr. Vyas. If you purchase some commodities from the private industrialists and also from the public sector undertakings, you should give some concessions to the public sector undertakings if they are supply-

ing the same type of commodities.

You give priority to small scale industries if they are supplying some items to the Government over the medium or large scale units. You may purchase the items from the small scale industries at 10% more prices. That means you are giving encouragement to some type of industries, some type of undertakings—that is public sector undertakings. For These cooperative societies also if you give more incentives and a little bit of more percentage of commission, then there will be more encouragement and participation of people who actually consume the goods and for whom these goods are meant. Ultimately there will be more efficiency in the public distribution system.

With these words I thank you for giving me the time.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support certain provisions of the Bill presented by Shri Basavaraju. This is right that the Public Distribution System was introduced in our country after the second World War and it continued after independence but the extent of corruption in this system knows no parallel. The working system of Food Corporation of India has been discussed in the House a number of times. It is on record that during his tenure in the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, Shri Shiv Shankar had admitted in the House and has expressed concern over the corruption prevailing in the F.C.I. I feel no hesitation in submitting that the heavy expenditure on transportation, shortage and on storage is simply because of bungling. Corruption is rampant from top to bottom in the Corporation. I do not know when will this corruption end. Whenever we talk of the Public Distribution System, we get the picture of the Fair Price Shops where people get neither sugar, nor coarse grain and coarse cloth. Leave aside small towns, even in Delhi these items are not available on Fair Price Shops. In smaller towns they refuse supply on some pretext or the other. They say that sugar

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

stock has been consumed or has not been received. How can you help? So, let us forget the situation prevailing in smaller towns. In states like the Bihar, the Fair price Shops are a den of corruption. There the District Supply Officer and the District Magistrate act in collusion. All the shopkeepers there pay them regular commission. Nobody is worried about the masses. Therefore we feel very uncomfortable when we talk of Fair Price Shops.

My state faced a deluge in 1986 and a devastating earthquake in 1988 but the people could not get any relief from the Fair Price Shops. Our agony is aggravated when we realise that the agriculturists are not getting remunerative price for their produce. Agriculture is not profitable these days. The output of agriculture never exceeds the cost of inputs viz irrigation, fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, agricultural labour, wages, land revenue etc. If the people are engaged in agriculture it is simply because they have no alternative. The procurement price paid by the Government is very low and the poor agriculturist has to suffer. But when the Sale Price is announced by the F.C.I. it is so high that the consumer has to bear a heavy burden. If the Government purchases it at a low price, it should make the management efficient and provide foodgrains at a low price so that people may not have any complaint in this regard. However, if the Government purchases from the agriculturist at a less price but sells it to the consumer at a high price, how can justice be made? The Public Distribution System was introduced only in order to save the people from black marketeers and hoarders, but there is no remedy for the irregularities being practised in public distribution system. These irregularities are on such a large scale that it does not seem possible to pin point them know.

It is said that rats destroy thousands of tonnes of foodgrains in F.C.I. godowns, but not a single rat is spotted. Lakhs of rupees are spent on transportation whereas there is

virtually no transfer of foodgrains from one godown to another. Therefore, there is a need to root out the corruption prevailing in the Distribution System.

Sir, I don't whether the Bill presented by Shri Basavaraju would be effective to check the corruption or not, but I would like to submit that there is no harm to take it up on an experiment basis. However, if the public distribution system does not improve even after the provision of subsidy, there would be no harm to have some other alternative. For this purpose, the Government should constitute State Boards and Central Boards which would exercise a strict vigilance over the entire system which has been hitherto lacking in it. My submission is that even if the hon. Minister does not accept the proposal or the Bill, he should gear up denove the entire administration to check corruption in this department. It would prove beneficial to the people, particularly to those from the lower classes, and the poor people and the middle class people living in the cities who have to suffer due to soaring prices. Those who live in village also suffer equally on that account and they go to fair price shops with high hopes but these places are also the centres of unfair dealings. Hence it is my submission that the whole problem should be taken up seriously and cases of bungling and corruption should be detected and the Government should not hesitate to give most stringent punishment to the persons who are found responsible for it.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Fair Price Shops Bill which has been introduced here in the House by Shri Basavaraju. Public distribution system is no doubt the best way to provide items of the basic necessities to the people living in rural and urban areas. But as it has been pointed out by one of the hon. Member in his speech, the system has been so deficient that we have not been able to achieve the objective for which it was introduced. Our aim was to avoid hoarders, check price rise and to make the essential commodities available to each and every individual. But the fact is that we

have utterly failed in it.

I hail from a village. Though public distribution outlets are there even in rural areas which are supposed to provide the things of basic necessities like food-grains, sugar, kerosene etc. to the poor people but only influential people in the rural areas manage to get power connections or adopt other means to lit up their houses even in villages, but the poor people are deprived of these facilities. There are many other factors which are responsible for this. The most important thing is the corruption which has devoured everything.

The most evil thing is corruption. When it reaches the highest echelons it does not spare anybody at the lower levels. Hence, the question arises where from to start to eradicate it from the highest level or the lowest level. But it is evident that unless it is checked at the highest level, it wouldn't be removed at the other end.

You must be aware that in Public distribution system the officer incharge, decides various things like transportation charges. But the amount so decided is so small that it encourages corruption. Due transportation charges are not paid to him for carrying the produce from the wholesaler to the shop. When he is deprived of what he deserves, he would naturally resort to corrupt practices. After all how should he manage to bear the expenses of transportation. All the officials, right from supply inspector to the gazetted officers like DSO etc. are involved in it. You should consider the matter. I am reminded of an old saying that there was an opium addict who was always in the state of intoxication. He employed a servant to bring butter for him. Somebody told him that the servant was in the habit of stealing butter. Thus he employed another servant to check the stealing habit of the former one. In this manner he employed servants one after the other. In the end the servants would place sugar candy on his lips in place of butter. When he woke up, he would say that the butter was very sweet and the servant was very good. And thus ultimately, in a few days, he died.

When there was only one servant, small quantity of material was stolen but as their number increased, all of them developed the habit of stealing and thus all was lost. Same is the situation with public distribution system.

So far as FCI is concerned, it supplies the commodities to the wholesaler. Every sugar bag is short of 2-5 kg. of sugar, and this quantity is further diminished by the wholesaler himself before it is supplied to the public distribution shops. In these circumstances, what is left for the poor people. This process not only increase the prices but also deprives the people of these commodities.

So far as cheap cloth is concerned, that cloth does not reach the poor. Even the supply of this cloth to the shops is reduced. The Government should take effective measures in order to solve this problem. It should give a serious thought to find out a way to provide cheap cloth to the poor people, farmers and labourers. Today, the public distribution system has proved complete failure in rural areas. The Government should give top priority to the cleansing of the entire system. I do not say that the system should be done away with, but I want that it should be strengthened. Wheat and rice supplied by the FCI is so inferior that it is not fit even for cattle consumption. It will lead to the indisposition of the cattle. And the same foodgrains are forcibly supplied to the poor. Everything which is required to apprehend the culprits, is available in Delhi. In spite of the availability of the required instruments, high officials and the Hon. Prime Minister who administers the country, public distribution system in Delhi is not working satisfactorily. One day I had gone to Kidwai Nagar with my party workers. The local residents showed the sample of rice which was being supplied to them and it was not fit even for animal consumption. Moreover inspector himself was forcing the residents to buy that rice. At that time I assured the people to bring the matter to the notice of the Government whenever I got an opportunity. And now today I have got the opportunity to bring the matter to the notice of the Government. I

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad Singh]

would like to inform you that the rice was supplied from the Mayapuri Godown. Such inferior foodgrains are being supplied to the poor people. The Government should conduct a thorough inquiry into it so as to find it out as to from where and how these commodities were received and why these things were not rejected.

I would like to submit that Public distribution system is a very good system. So, measures should be taken to strengthen it. Evil practices like corruption which is further spreading, should be checked. An Enquiry Committee should be set up to investigate into the cases of those officials who are indulged in spinning money through corrupt practices, and the committee should examine the sources from where the officials accumulated huge wealth. If the Government takes effective measures, the culprits would be apprehended soon.

In the end, I would like to say that public distribution system should be strengthened to the possible extent so that maximum of the commodities are provided to the poor people, farmers and labourers. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill presented in the House by Shri Basavaraju.

I think that the Ministry of food and civil supplies in the Government of India has done a commendable job.

17.00 hrs.

by opening fair price shops and giving assistance to the poor. During the recent drought, had there been no fair price shops all over the country, the nation would have faced terrible hardships, but the situation was remedied by opening more fair price shops by the Government. I want to state that the grinding of foodgrains supplied by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies of the Government of India to the State Govern-

ments is done by the mills, consequently the poor men owning grinding mills in the villages suffer because they do not get foodgrains to grind.

17.01 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Licences are issued to big mills for grinding, which take out maida, suji bran etc. from the flour then supply residue to the poor, and the state Governments supervise the whole thing. In some States, it is misused. The rice supplied by the Government of India is being sold at Rs. 2 per kg. in Andhra Pradesh but now the question of credit and discredit has arisen and some States have taken undue advantage of it any many people have not been able to get their ration. Some State Governments in the country, misuse the foodgrains supplied by the Government of India as is being done in Bengal, where all the supplies are distributed among their own cardholders. Some Governments are indulging in such type of activities in the country.

The licence policy has been changed and now the requirement of a licence to set up big flour mills has been waived. Now anybody can instal a flour mill. Similarly in the issuance of licences for setting up vanaspati manufacturing units, there is corruption on large scale. People ready to spend lakhs of rupees approach us for getting a licence issued for them to set up vanaspati producing units. Other hon. Members might have also been approached for this purpose, but the question is who are the people working for money and where is the money going? The Government should look into this matter. The Government should issue licences to the cooperative societies, so that everyone is benefited.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: There should be fair price shops for distribution of apple juice also.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Anxiety also has been expressed by our colleagues on two-three points raised by you. At three

stages corruption takes place in the distribution of ration, first in the freight charges while booking goods by the railways, second in godowns and third when the goods are actually sent for sale. Due to the collusion of all, non-verification of godowns and ineffective monitoring of coal, vanaspati and foodgrains, the State Governments remain totally in want ignorant of the actual stock position of various commodities. The House will be surprised to know that only small quantity of left over foodgrains after blackmarketing reach the farflung areas like Kinnaur and hilly areas of Gharwal. I would suggest the hon. Minister that godowns should be constructed in the tribal areas, foodgrains should be stored therein and should be distributed properly among the poor for their welfare. Shri Sukhrum, the hon. Minister hailing from my State is not present in the House and you are Shri Baitha, so I believe that you will also serve the States properly, without partiality. There is shortage of foodgrains in Himachal Pradesh. To take undue advantage of the shortage of foodgrains in Himachal Pradesh, the opposition is playing a dirty game through the neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Opposition is exhorting the public to vote them to power if they want wheat flour at Rs. 1.50, salt at Rs. 0.25 and rice at Rs. 2 per kg. I ask, why does not the Janta Dal experiment this thing in Haryana, where they are in the power instead of misleading the people living in the hilly areas. They are making promises because they know that they will never come in power. It is a wishful thinking. They do not have any constructive programme to offer, that's why such misleading promises are being made. They make empty promises of writing off the loans and making the foodgrains cheaper but how and from where? We have the bitter experience of Janta Party days when sugarcane fields were burnt down and potatoes thrown on the roads. However, the Congress Government works for the welfare of the farmers and the opposition only misleads the public. Therefore, I request the Government to keep a watch on their activities.

As stated the rodents eat away the

foodgrains. But I say it is not only the rodents also, some persons also squander away the foodgrains. The situation can be improved through better management and monitoring. The question of salesmen at the shops is also highlighted. Shopowners run both their own shops as well as the fair price shops. When fair price shops are allotted to such unscrupulous persons who indulge in blackmarketing and squander away the ration of the poor, then good results cannot be expected. So I request the Government, to issue instructions to the State Governments not to allot fair price shops to the person who run an other shop side by side, and allot the shops to other persons for the general welfare. I also request the Government to issue atleast 25 percent of the licences for setting up mills and vanaspati units to the harijans for their upliftment. The Government must do something for the weaker sections of hilly areas as almost every commodity is being sold in black market. The people engaged in transport need petrol and quality spare parts, but even they are diverted to blackmarket. So there is need for monitoring by civil supplies personnel. They should examine the difference between the ex-factory prices and the market selling prices. If the cost of imputed labour is included in the cost of production of farmers then little is left for him. What he earns, is consumed by fertiliser, tractor and water charges. The rates of commodities being sold in Delhi become double than what is received by the farmers the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should set up a Marketing Committee to ensure remunerative prices of various commodities to the farmer and put an end to their exploitation in order to improve their lot.

Restrictions should be imposed on quantity of foodgrains to be stored. Let there be 100 quintals in case of godowns and 10 quintals in the case of individuals. No one should be allowed by the Government to store more than the requisite quantity only then general public will be benefited. The traders purchase things at cheaper rates and store them and sell them when prices rose. Therefore, Government should take appropriate steps for this purpose.

[Sh. K.D. Sultanpuri]

If the essential commodities are not made available to the poor in the villages then they feel that policy of the Government is good, but the benefits are cornered by the middlemen who are represented here by hon. Members of Opposition. Both the petrol pumps as well as fair price shops are allotted in their names. Everywhere they are allotted to the people who exploit the poor whether it is Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh or any other State. Therefore, they should be reserved for the workers of the party who can directly help the villagers. These things should be allotted to the honest persons whether through the panchayats or through the cooperative societies without fear or favour I suggest that efforts should be made to allot depots to the poor and the black marketeers should be debarred.

I feel that the Bill as such is good but the provision of the Board does not appear to be of any use. The representatives should have been elected from the poor but there is no such provision. Formation of the board is a welcome step, but a comprehensive Bill should be brought forward to help the poor, labourers, farmers and sections of the society.

With these words I thank you for giving me the time to speak.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to Shri Basavaraju for moving such an important Bill in the House. I request the hon. Minister to accept the spirit of the Bill. There are many points on which one can speak on this important Bill, but I won't take much time as maximum number of hon. Members should be able to participate in the discussion.

First of all, I want to state, that the purpose of setting up fair price shops was to make available essential commodities at cheaper rates to the public but the public distribution system is not functioning properly and fair price shops have now become unfair price shops. 14 essential commodities

proposed to be made available at these shops are not available there. I requested earlier to Shri Eduardo Faleiro in the House and again request you to pay surprise visits to the fair price shops without even informing the department. On these surprise visits the hon. Minister can himself find out the shortage of essential commodities like sugar, sarees, soap etc. and their quality, which are diverted to the black market. The Government must review the situation as bungling is going on due to connivance of F.C.I. and supply agencies of the State Governments. The total number of fair price shops in the country, at present, is about two lakhs. The Government should sort out the number of those which are working well and the number of those which are not working well. Surprise visits should be made in order to separate those shops which provide essential commodities from those which do not provide and thus a list should be prepared. At present fair price shops are not supplying essential commodities and it has made the life of a poor man very pitiable. Owing to price rise, people in private sector, public sector and the salaried classes or people of fixed income group are finding it great difficult to meet the necessities of life. In spite of all this, the prices of same commodities vary from state to state. So much so that in Delhi the price of one commodity in one market is different from that in the other. Government does not exercise any control over prices. It should pay attention towards this matter and a monitoring cell should be set up to monitor the trend of prices of various commodities. A cell should be formed under the Ministry of Food and Civil supplies to take care of these things.

Moreover, the number of fair price shops should be further increased particularly in rural areas in view of the increased population of the country. Mobile vans should be pressed into service.

Besides, my submission is that in our State, the licence for fair price shop is issued only to a CPI (M) worker and none else. I would request you to give special attention towards women, ex-servicemen, handi-

capped and disabled persons and reserve some percentage of shops for them while issuing licenses.

Though there is consumer Act and Essential Commodities Act already in operation in our country but I would like to know as to how many black-marketeers have been arrested. There are Fair-price shops in my constituency which sold adulterated rapeseed oil which caused paralysis to about 500 people. The Government should have given compensation to the affected persons but it has not done so. I do not know the reasons therefor. It should not be a matter of Government's discretion. If a person gets adulterated commodity from a Government shop and is paralysed, he deserves compensation.

I request you to go to the shops and see the adulterated things which are sold to the people. The things like Baby Food, rapeseed oil, mustard oil, medicines, glucose everything is adulterated. Why is the Enforcement Department so inactive that no action is taken to check the adulteration? The Government should be vigilant and the concerned department should take strict action against the adulterators. How can a person who got adulterated things, remain healthy.

I would like to say something about ration-cards also. In our State, ration cards meant for fair price shops are not being issued properly. People in large number from Bangladesh are infiltrating into our State. The number of such people is in lakhs, the local panchayats or local cadre of CPM in the border districts in our state are involved in this. The commodities meant to be supplied to the people from fair price shops are diverted to Bangla Desh. The Government should pay attention towards this. Local panchayat issues the ration-cards. The people from Bangla Desh come there with red flags in their hands and sit there. The names of the infiltrators from Bangla Desh are registered and ration cards are issued to them. My submission is that the Government should conduct an enquiry into the whole

affair and a commission should be constituted for this purpose. I would submit that the Government should fix the responsibility of public representatives to recommend the names for issuance of Ration cards. If the prevailing practice of including the name of the infiltrators from Bangla Desh in the voters' list continues and if they continue to get ration cards in the same way, our economy would suffer a severe set back. Public distribution system should cater to the necessities of a common man. With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): I welcome the spirit of the Bill but I do not think whether we shall be able to achieve our objectives with the help of provisions made in the Bill. It is evident from the history that in each and every era whether the ruler was an emperor, a king or a dictator or there had been democracy, whatever ideology would have dominated the scene the main objective had always been to do more and more work for public welfare. Then we see that with the passage of time people talked of public welfare in the name of socialism, as Shri C.M. Joad has said.

[English]

"Socialism is like a hat which has lost its shape because everybody wears it."

[Translation]

When we study the historical background of socialism, we find that from the ancient times whether it was chauvinism, Syndicalism, Guild socialism, Christian socialism or socialism of the chair, whether it was new concept of socialism after Marx had treated it scientifically, all of them followed a separate path to achieve their aim. But the primary motive of the ideology in every socialistic order has been the same.

[English]

All the means of production should be owned,

[Sh. Aziz Qureshi]

controlled and regulated by the State.

[*Translation*]

No ideology aims at a separate objective in socialism. The Bill which has been moved in the House reminds me of Sir Thomas More's Eutopia:

Sir Thomas More created a heaven of his imaginations and showed how a ship moves after a storm where the people enjoy the life with all comforts at their disposal. Even if the Government adopt the provisions of this Bill and enact a law, or constitute Central Boards through which the allotment of commodities are made to the fair price shops even then whether the Boards would have any powers to implement the actual spirit of the Bill or to penalise those who violate it. My submission is that the entire exercise would be futile. In fact the Government will have to take certain stringent measures in this regard. It will have to take certain unpleasant but firm decisions in order to identify the persons who indulge in hoarding, black-marketing, resort to under weighing and adulterating the commodities and unless provisions to award them deterrent punishment are made and unless the Government take strict action against those Government employees who show any sluggishness in implementing the provisions properly, it cannot achieve its objective. Bhopal is a living example in this regard. It is the city where people died like mosquitoes and flies after the tragedy of Union Carbide. Those who are alive, also lead worthless lives. The Government and the Hon. Prime Minister obliged the people in Bhopal by providing free ration to the victims which included-wheat, milk, oils, sugar etc. And the source for distributing these things were the fair price shops which have been mentioned in the Bill. But I am sorry to say that not even one percent of the total fair price shops in the State have accomplished the task earnestly. About 50 percent bogus ration cards were submitted almost in every shops and the Government employees indulged in corrupt

practices while distributing the commodities. It was due to this that the owners of the fair price shops became millionaire within one year, they accumulated wealth by taking undue advantages of even dead bodies. I do not find appropriate words to relate the tragic incidents. I would submit that the Government should take stringent measures to enact strict laws and provisions should be made to award death penalty at least to those who sell life-saving drugs in black markets or over charge the customers. Unless the Government take such effective measures to heal the wounds of society, the problem would not be solved. So the Government should undertake a major operation. The Members have talked about the poor people. It is the duty of the Government to ensure that all the people who live in our country get basic necessities of life. The Government which fails to provide guarantee in this regard, will be regarded as criminals by the future generations. So I would urge the hon. Minister and the Government that in the perspective of the spirit of Bill, they should make some provision for the areas inhabited by majority of those people who live below the poverty line, Harijans, Adivasis and backward classes to enable them to make their both ends meet. The Government should issue identity cards and ration cards in order to provide commodities at reasonable rates, and the Government should provide things of basic necessity free of cost to those who do not afford to pay at all, otherwise all the claims and resolutions would prove worthless. The Government as well as we people will be accountable to history. It is also the moral obligation of the Government to provide milk for the children and two square meals for the old who are not capable of earning their livelihood for which Government may make a provision under the present system or any other system evolved by them for the purpose. That is their duty. In this context I would like to discuss about my constituency Satna which is a backward area and where most of the people are labourers, poor, harijans and Adivasis and where even today thousands of people are engaged in lime-kilns and cement-stone-quarries and are toiling hard. But even today they are not

being given even minimum wages in this country. The Government should make arrangements to open maximum number of fair price shops in hilly areas and places such as Maier, Nagod, Rahgaon, Vijayrahogarth, Chitrakoot, Badvara and Amarpatan in Satna which is predominantly inhabitedly Harijans and Adivasis so that the labourers who had been exploited earlier under the feudal system and now under the capitalist stricture, may get in adequate quantities the essential commodities such as pulses, soap and fertilizer etc. to enable them to make their both ends meet.

Here discussions were held on co-operatives. Leave aside everything else and see the condition of no other branch of the Super bazar but one situated at the Parliament House Annexe which I visited a number of times and I have the experience that in spite of my frequent and repeated personal visits, I found that neither Pamolein nor butter-oil was available there. Therefore what to talk of other things. Even after written complaints no action was taken in this regard and things continued as they used to be earlier. Therefore, first of all the Government should improve the condition of Parliament House Annexe Branch of the Super Bazar and then the condition of the main branch of Super bazar in Delhi. Having seen the conditions of the super bazar branch one can easily imagine the difficulties, problems and the circumstances which an ordinary citizen of the country has to face.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that time is the best judge of all of us. Therefore, the Government should make such arrangements so that we as well as the Government may not be blamed by the time. We should not waste time only in speeches and in presentation of bills at the cost of our country and its poor people who may be otherwise ruined and continue to be exploited and we may be rendered incapable of coming to their rescue. If it so happens, even the history itself will not forgive us. Hence, I would like to urge upon the Government to consider all these points right from this moment and enact some law

to that effect to mitigate the sufferings of the aggrieved and thus give them some relief.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to congratulate Mr. Basavaraju for presenting this Bill in the House on which we have been given an opportunity of discussions. There is no doubt that in the last four years and particularly during the last one year when our country was reeling under the most severe drought of the century, there has been a continuous expansion of our public Distribution System which has worked very efficiently in those critical moments and words fall short to appreciate it. The department played a very effective and active role in organising relief measures every where throughout the country right from Kashmir to Kerala and from seven sister states to Gujarat. We cannot deny this fact that the Department has a commendable performance to its credit in organising relief works not only at the time of drought but also at the time of floods. Had this department not worked so actively, it was almost certain that a large number of people would have died. Therefore, I appreciate the performance of the department of food and Civil Supplies but the points raised here by our hon. Members cannot be ignored. Even today ration cards have not been issued to all the people living in remote, tribal, desert and hilly areas of our country. Therefore, the first thing I would like to urge upon the centre is to send clear instructions to all the State Governments to issue ration-cards to each and every family by 1st June. Secondly, our late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had announced to set up a ration-shop for every 2000 unit to make the Public Distribution System a more useful proposition. Although the Government have accepted that three and half lakh of Fair price shops will be opened in the country but this number appears to be quite inadequate in view of the total population of 80 crores in the entire country. Hence, it is the need of time that there should be one ration-shop on every 2000 units.

The Government had introduced a mobile system which has been proved very

[Sh. Ram Pyare Panika]

beneficial particularly in the tribal, remote, desert and hilly areas. But the mobile vans provided for the urban suburbs have been operating only in the cities. These mobile vans do not visit hilly, tribal and cyclone affected areas or the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, what is urgently required is the provision of these mobile vans essentially in all the tribal, drought-affected and desert areas of the country even if the Central Government had to provide some subsidy for the purpose. I think it will be in the interest of the people.

Sir, besides this, as regards the Bill regarding fair price shops, I rise to congratulate the department. Consumers Protection Act was passed in 1986. But till now the State Governments have not been implementing the provisions of this Bill despite the all out efforts of the centre. Committees on the district and State-level have not been yet constituted. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to constitute these committees, only then my colleague will withdraw this Bill. The Government should take measures in this regard as early as possible.

Sir, I as well as my several colleagues have been making this demand for a long period that subsidized fair price shops under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. are being provided only for the tribal areas under the tribal sub-plan but these have been confined only to 194 tribal blocks which is quite insufficient. That would not do. Now, a new scheme called Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been introduced in place of these two schemes. I hope that ration will be provided under this scheme at subsidized rates. But I would like to urge upon the Government to extend the facility of subsidized ration to all the harijans, Adivasis and bonded labourers of the country. Moreover the monitoring committees which have been constituted to monitor the ration-shops have not been functioning properly. Therefore, the State Governments should be instructed to allot ration-shops to the persons of our ideology on block level. Sir, we feel ashamed when we hear that

C.P.M. Government is allotting ration-shops only to its cadre-workers. R.S.S. workers should not be allotted these ration-shops. We have seen everywhere in the country that these R.S.S. workers are communal minded people and while running these ration shops they work with narrow mindedness and shallow outlook.

Sir, we have seen that in 1977, several members of the R.S.S. had got Fair Price Shops allotted in their name. Hence I would like to request the Government to get a survey conducted in this regard and to dispense with their services. Otherwise, these people will distribute the commodities of ration only to the members of their own party instead of the general public to strengthen their party.

Sir, whatever have been results of the co-operative movement in Maharashtra and Gujarat, the Government is well aware of it but in U.P. the results have not been good. We are not satisfied with the performance of the co-operative movement. A co-operative society with good credentials is welcome. But there are some societies which consist of anti-social elements who swindle away all the ration commodities. Hence such elements should not be allotted fair Price Shops.

Sir, besides this, essential commodities like Janata cloth etc. is not made available to the poor. A survey should be got conducted so as to find out the shops in the country which had distributed this cloth. Palmolein and other edible oil is also not available to the poor. Other essential commodities are also not available at least in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra. Since last year that area has been affected by famine. For the last two months, there is no rice, wheat and sugar available at the local fair-price shops. I cannot understand how the local population will celebrate Id. Tomorrow, I am taking hon. Shri Sathe and hon. Shri Kalpanath over there. The people will definitely ask me as to how they are to celebrate Id. In these hot days of summer, people do not have even sugar for "Shikanji" and they are also short of water because of drought. For the past one

month, I have been demanding help for them from the U.P. Government but ration items have not been supplied till now. The Food Secretary over there is a lady as is the case over here. Hence, we thought that they would be kind enough to send rations and civil supplies to Mirzapur and Sonbhadra in a week's time but that was not sent there. The Government should send a telex message to the U.P. Government to send these commodities within a week, preferably by the 7th so that Id can be celebrated on the 8th. The situation in the hills as well as the plains is the same.

I give credit to this Department as there were no starvation deaths in the last drought. Even today, the three meteorological divisions of Bundelkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Varanasi have not had rains. There are other areas also where there have been no rains and which need your attention. Hence the Central Government should set up a monitoring cell to monitor the functioning of this department. Many State Governments to not pick up their share of ration commodities such as sugar in time. The Centre should have a monitoring cell to ensure that there is no corruption and that there is timely distribution of these commodities. There is abundance of kerosene oil, diesel and other commodities in the country but these are not being distributed to the people. Hence the Government should lay down a policy for this purpose and get it strictly implemented. Where State Governments are incapable, the Centre should set up its own cell to ensure the proper distribution of these commodities.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be wrong to say that the public distribution system has not been successful in our country. To a large extent the public distribution system has achieved the objective for which it was introduced.

The P.D.S. has made their utmost contribution towards price control. Fair-price shops are spread all over the country, even in farflung areas. Considering the size of our country it is difficult to keep an eye on all of

them. It cannot be claimed that the commodities distributed through these shops ultimately reach only those people for whom they are meant. But for the fair-price shops we all would have been at the mercy of the traders in the open market, and the prices would have sky-rocketed and no Government would have been able to exercise control over prices. Hence I would like to urge upon the Government to remove the deficiencies as pointed out by the public and those within the knowledge of the Government, on the basis of their experience and take measures for maximum expansion of the system.

Presently 14 items are being distributed through fair-price shops. I would like to suggest that another 10-12 items should be added to the list of such items, so that we may make the maximum number of commodities available to the public through this system.

Potatoes are one of the most important items demanded by everyone. These days vegetables are very highly priced in the market. On one hand, potatoes are purchased from the farmers at the rate of 0.50 paise per kilo while on the other hand they are not available in the market even at the rate of Rs. 3.00 per kilo. Essential commodities like potatoes, oil and soap should be made available through fair-price shops. Unless we adopt a dual-price system in our country we cannot ensure welfare of the masses. The general public and the people with limited income in particular will continue to be fleeced in the open market.

The Consumer Movement should be made more effective. The House had also passed a Bill to that effect. Consumer Committees have been set up at the national level and also at the district level. But at the district level their functioning has become so bureaucratic that the very purpose for which they were set up has been defeated. A look at reports of districts will reveal that there is hardly any district where the consumer society has been functioning properly. Most of the items available there are adulterated

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

whereas all these things are supplied by reputed mills. But there is no system to check them at the point of manufacture. These items are checked only when they are with the retailers. And it is the retailer who is punished instead of the mill-owner who is really at fault. It needs a change in the existing system. There should be a system like the one followed by the Customs Department to check each and every item. Quality control tests should be conducted on commodities at the point of manufacture and in case the commodities are found to be adulterated or in any other way sub-standard, these should be rejected then and there.

I would like to make 2-3 suggestions. Maximum number of godowns should be opened in the hilly areas. As at present transportation charges of various items upto godowns are born by the State Governments. Problems are encountered as the system is spread out in the hilly areas where villages are located at a distance of 10-11 kilometres from each other. In Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and my constituency, people have to pay an amount equivalent to the price of wheat fixed by the Government, as transportation charges. If one godown is set up for every 4-5 fairprice shops, the transportation expenses will have to be borne by the Government itself and public will get a lot of relief as they will get commodities at fixed rates. At this point, I would like to urge upon the Central Government to bear the transportation expenses on essential commodities in hilly areas. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has also requested the Central Government to bear the transportation charges but it has refused to do so. The Central Government should come forward to bear these charges.

Previously, there was a scheme of distributing subsidised foodgrains in the tribal areas but it has since been discontinued. I do not have full information whether this action has been taken only in respect of Uttar Pradesh or other States as well. I would like to request you that this scheme of supplying

foodgrains at cheap rates in the tribal areas should be revived. In addition, the village should not be taken as the unit in the tribal areas but the block should be taken as a unit. In those tribal blocks, where non-tribal also reside, the latter should also be given this benefit, as otherwise it will create misunderstanding between the tribals and the non-tribals. Such instructions have not been issued so far. In the tribal areas of my constituency such as Mushairi and Joshimath etc., you have said that the non-tribal residents of a tribal dominated village will be extended the same facilities but the block will not be accepted as the basis. The Government should clarify the position in this matter.

I would like to level one charge against the Central Government. Uttar Pradesh is a vast State but wheat, rice, sugar, palmolein etc. are being supplied in inadequate quantities with the result that the entire public distribution system has failed. I have urged time and again to ensure that foodgrains and other essential items should be supplied to Uttar Pradesh as per its requirements but no attention is being paid in this direction. Our States has been given a step-motherly treatment by the F.C.I. There is still time to rectify the situation otherwise our position will deteriorate further. Our friends in the Opposition are not present here at the moment and, therefore, I would like to inform you that the people of Uttar Pradesh are complaining that the Congress Government is not supplying subsidised foodgrains to their State. The Central Government should take steps to remove this shortcoming.

Finally, I would like to submit one point more. The Central Government purchases inferior quality rice and wheat under the pressure of Punjab or some other States and these stocks are either left to rot in the godowns or they are distributed through the fair price shops. As a result, the Central Government has to incur much discredit. I have seen that the rice and wheat distributed by the fair price shops are unfit for human consumption. The Government should get these matters investigated and the F.C.I. godowns should be checked at random and

it should be ensured that such inferior quality of foodgrains do not reach the Public Distribution System outlets any more.

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on this Bill on Fair Price Shops in our country. There are two types of shortages in the country created by nature by the businessmen. One is natural shortage due to drought and flood and the other is artificial shortage when the prices go up. Generally fair price shops go to those places where the prices are very high to help the people from the soaring prices. When the Janata Government came to power in the year 1977, they wanted to de-control all the essential commodities and they de-controlled them. For a few days, there was very good movement of foodgrains and other essential commodities. After six months the prices began to touch the sky. Then the Home Minister came and asked: "What to do now? We have de-controlled rice, we have de-controlled sugar, we have de-controlled kerosene" and the officer said "After de-controlling" these essential commodities Act will not apply; we cannot do anything." Again they introduced the Essential Commodities Act and controlled these essential commodities. Sir, what I wanted to tell is that the Essential Commodities Act is there to punish those people who indulge in hoarding and black-marketing. But we seldom fine or punish our corrupt businessmen or officers or anybody indulging in these offences. Therefore, it is my earnest request to the Government that they should direct the State Government who are responsible for the distribution of the foodgrains, to punish them often and see that things are set right. Since I have got a short time, I want to give some points only.

Sir, I have suggested once in AICC—of course it may be a heavy burden on the exchequer—that we should introduce two types of ration cards in this country. One should be 'Green Card' and the other should be 'Yellow Card'. I mean that 'Green Card' should be for the people those who live below the poverty line. We can give subsidi-

sed rice through this 'Green Card' and through the 'Yellow Card' we can give rice at a reasonable price and those commodities which are not available generally in the public market. That is why this 'Yellow Card' should be available. At present our Government is kind enough to supply subsidised rice in tribal areas and mobile vans have been provided. They are doing excellent service for the tribal people. They are moving essential commodities to the weekly market and are selling to the tribal people every 15 days. One thing which prevails there is that these business people and black-marketeers catch hold of the ration cards of the tribals who do not have sufficient money to purchase these commodities. They take it in a bundle and purchase to sell at a higher price somewhere. The Government should see that this kind of misuse of these cards does not take place. Then there are transportation difficulties for these fair price shops. Now-a-days, the private retail shops are always corrupt and that is why in Orissa, the State Government was kind enough to suspend the private retailers and give them (commodities) to the co-operatives. But cooperatives also are handicapped because transport charge given to them is too low. Suppose one has to move one bag of rice from one place to another, say a distance of 20 to 30 kms., he has to incur Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per bag. He cannot bear the charge. There is no margin of profit. Somebody should be engaged by them to sell rice or wheat. But there is no sufficient margin of profit in this dealing. That is why, anybody who deals in essential commodities will be bound to make some underground, blackmarketing business. That is why, it is the duty of the Government to provide some little margin or profit to the businessmen, retail shopkeepers who deal in essential commodities.

The other day, while replying, our hon. Minister, Shri Sukh Ram, promise in the House that if the State Government wants more mobile vans, he would consider and provide more vans. If there is any shortage of vans, he has committed already to provide more vans. I once again remind the hon. Minister to see that more mobile vans are

[Sh. K. Pradhani]

provided to Orissa so that the vans move to market every week, once in 7 days and supply essential commodities to the tribals who are very poor and who do not have the sufficient capacity to purchase essential commodities together twice a month and that they can purchase easily once a week, that is 4 times a month.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Fair Price Shops (Regulation) Bill, presented by Shri G.S. Basavaraju is well intentioned. The intention behind this bill is to ensure regular and proper supply of essential commodities at reasonable prices, especially during difficult times. But often people are not able to get the essential supplies. It has been provided in the Bill that the public distribution system should be rectified through the Fair Price Shops in different states. It has been suggested that some Boards should be set up for this purpose.

So far as the setting up of these Boards are concerned, the Central Government may set up any number of boards, appoint any number of commissions etc. but all of them will prove to be fruitless until the State Governments take necessary interest in implementing the scheme. The success of the Public Distribution System depends on the attitude of the State Governments. Therefore, the most important question is whether the Centre has any information regarding the State Government's unwillingness to render full cooperation in this regard. If they are not willing to cooperate, then what are the reasons behind it? Either they may be having some difficulties in this regard or they may be having some intention behind such

non-cooperation. As has been pointed out by Shri Harish Rawat, the hill areas have some peculiar problems and it is essential to solve them. Their foremost requirement is that of storage facilities. There are several areas in the hill regions where the roads remain blocked for 6 months and there are certain such areas also where roads get damaged due to excessive snow-fall resulting in the traffic coming to a standstill. Besides, on account of thick forests some areas become inaccessible. In this context, the most important point which strikes us is that storage facilities should be provided on a priority basis in the hill and tribal areas and also in those States which have been declared as special category States by the Planning Commission so that the regular supply of foodgrains and other essential commodities could be maintained throughout the year. Even if it is not accepted as the criteria for other States, still in those rural areas which are not connected by railway lines, or national highways etc. or where transportation facilities are not available, arrangements should be made for ensuring regular supply of essential commodities. Such areas should be identified and arrangements made accordingly by providing transport subsidy and similar other measures.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Narain Chand Parashar, you can continue next time. The House stands adjourned to reassemble on Monday, the 8th May, 1989 at 11 A.M.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 8, 1989/
Vaisakha 18, 1911 (Saka)*

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