

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 3, 1999/Agrahayana 12, 1921 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Condition of Craftsmen

*81. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable condition of craftsmen in the country;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been formulated or is proposed to be formulated by the Government to ameliorate their condition;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government provide low interest loans to craftsmen to promote handicrafts related to Indian culture; and

(e) if so, the number of persons benefited therefrom during the last three years, State-wise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e). While there is a need to improve the condition of craftsmen in the country, as per available information, the *per capita* income of craftsmen has not declined during the past few years. To improve the condition of craftsmen, Government is implementing a number of welfare schemes. These include workshed-cum-housing, health package insurance, group insurance scheme, pension to indigent National Award Winning Master Craftsmen.

Apart from the welfare schemes, there are a number of other schemes to improve skills, design and technology, support for market development, common facility centres and providing opportunities for direct marketing. Government provides grant under these schemes. A Statement indicating State-wise release of funds under various schemes during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 is at Annexure-I.

While some schemes provide direct benefits to the craftsmen, other schemes provide indirect benefits to the artisans. For the individual craftsmen oriented schemes, the number of craftsmen benefitted State-wise during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 is at Annexure-II.

Loans are provided by various Banks to craftsmen. Figures of credit given directly by the Banks are not readily available. The Banks can avail of refinance facilities against this credit from Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), though Banks, depending upon their fund availability etc. do not always seek refinance. Refinance facilities to the Banks facilitates charging of lower interest rate not exceeding Prime Lending Rates by the Banks from artisans/units availing loans upto Rs. 2.00 lacs. The number of handicrafts units provided refinance during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99 is at Annexure-III.

Annexure I

State-wise Fund Released by the Government during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99

Name of the State	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	168.18
A & N Islands	3.64
Arunachal Pradesh	7.52
Assam	336.98
Bihar	59.73
Delhi	418.68
Goa	59.51

Annexure II

Number of Craftsmen benefited State-wise during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99

1	2
Gujarat	194.05
Haryana	163.15
Himachal Pradesh	181.14
Jammu & Kashmir	106.30
Karnataka	135.48
Kerala	106.84
Madhya Pradesh	186.26
Maharashtra	136.28
Manipur	81.43
Meghalaya	5.79
Mizoram	22.82
Nagaland	60.99
Orissa	318.13
Punjab	47.62
Pondicherry	9.49
Rajasthan	79.32
Sikkim	3.18
Tamil Nadu	177.42
Tripura	80.73
Uttar Pradesh	718.31
West Bengal	200.00
Total	4068.97

Name of State/UT	No. of Craftsperson benefited
1	2
Assam	5636
Andhra Pradesh	2677
Arunachal Pradesh	330
A & N Island	35
Bihar	3059
Delhi	3026
Gujarat	2267
Goa	394
Haryana	1280
Himachal Pradesh	1022
Jammu & Kashmir	6629
Kerala	1656
Karnataka	1680
Madhya Pradesh	2928
Maharashtra	1919
Manipur	1440
Meghalaya	219
Mizoram	127
Nagaland	707
Orissa	4557

1	2
Punjab	804
Pondicherry	654
Rajasthan	11869
Sikkim	371
Tamil Nadu	3511
Tripura	743
Uttar Pradesh	48492
West Bengal	2178
Grand Total	110210

Annexure III

Refinance Provided by NABARD & SIDBI during the period 1996-97 to 1998-99

State	Amount Rs in Lacs
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	565.01
A&N Island	1.00
Arunachal Pradesh	26.40
Assam	100.63
Bihar	205.32
Delhi	31.57
Goa	32.61
Gujarat	1005.58
Haryana	640.60

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	368.95
Jammu & Kashmir	81.08
Karnataka	568.59
Kerala	648.89
Madhya Pradesh	130.31
Maharashtra	1007.95
Manipur	41.42
Meghalaya	14.43
Mizoram	2.67
Nagaland	1.66
Orissa	332.76
Punjab	366.74
Pondicherry	8.11
Rajasthan	2111.09
Sikkim	10.76
Tamil Nadu	969.82
Tripura	24.32
Uttar Pradesh	1154.55
West Bengal	398.61
Grand total	10851.43

MR. SPEAKER: Every day, the strength is decreasing in the House during Question Hour. I do not know the reason for this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Proper answer is not coming from the Ministers, particularly the Health Minister!

SHRI A.C. JOS: There is no proper answer which is coming from the Government side. That may be the reason. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think there are no problems. Okay, Shri Shaheen.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has been realistic in accepting that the economic conditions of the craftsmen of the country need to be improved. But a revelation has been made in the answer which says that the *per capita* income of craftsmen has not decreased. I do not know what are the agencies which have ascertained this fact that the income of the craftsmen has not decreased. I would like to know - in order to oversee the implementation of the schemes which have been indicated in the programmes like Marketing, Exhibitions, Training and other things—whether it is possible to form area-wise committees which can include the public representatives or their nominees, so that they can supervise and recommend necessary steps to be taken for ameliorating the conditions of the craftsmen in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question please?

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: In our State, we have many things to say. But first I would like to know the answer to this question.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I firmly say that the *per capita* income of artisans has certainly increased and not decreased. In 1991-92, the *per capita* income of artisans was Rs. 3739 and at the constant price of 1991-92, it was Rs. 5671 in the year 1995-96. This survey was done by the NCAER; it is not our survey. NCAER survey report says that the *per capita* income of artisans has increased.

So far as the second part of the question is concerned, the hon. Member says that area-wise committees be formed; it is a suggestion for action. I will keep it in mind.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: I am very thankful for the assurance given by the hon. Minister. I would like to say that immediate action in certain matters is needed. There are a lot of complaints about implementation of the programmes and the behaviour of responsible officers in this regard. I will send in writing to the hon. Minister many things about this.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I also thank the hon. Member. I will look into the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to know that the Government have realised the need to improve the condition of craftsmen engaged in handloom industry, but as far as the question of allocation of funds is concerned, the figures of last three years show that less funds have been allocated to the States which are having more than 5 lakh craftsmen and more funds have been allocated to the States having 1.5 to 2 lakh craftsmen. I would like to cite an example before you—The states of Maharashtra and Rajasthan are having approximately 5 lakh craftsmen, Rs. 136 lakh were allocated to Maharashtra and Rs. 79 lakh to Rajasthan, but at the same time Rs. 418 lakh were allocated to Delhi and Rs. 136 lakh to Assam whereas these states are having only 1.5 to 2 lakh craftsmen. I would like to know whether the Government will pay attention in this regard to ensure that more funds are allocated to the states of Maharashtra and Rajasthan which are having more craftsmen?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as told by the hon'ble Member, less funds have been allocated to the state of Maharashtra. If there is any imbalance, the Ministry of Textiles will try to remove it. As far as the question of allocation of funds to the state of Assam is concerned, I would like to tell you that the entire employment system of Assam is based on handicraft and handloom. And in the schemes run by the Ministry of Textiles, more consideration is given to state, because the entire employment system of this state is based on it. I would like to assure the hon'ble Member that the Ministry is not ignoring any state. Efforts are made to meet their demands, as per their requirements. Full attention is paid towards every state. As said by the hon'ble Member, we will pay full attention towards it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I had sent a proposal and also had a meeting with the hon. Minister regarding the setting up of a CAT centre for Balucheri craftsmen of Vishnupur, Bankura district of West Bengal. The project has been sanctioned but no funds has been released for the project. If the project is approved, fund released and started then a large number of Balucheri craftsmen would be benefited. As a result, their skills would also improve and the time taken for preparing the design could be reduced to a very great extent.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would release funds for the project which has been sanctioned by his Ministry?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the scheme for the Balucheri project has been sanctioned. So, I think, the funds would be released as soon as possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether crafts Development Centres are set up to encourage craftsmen in the country, if so, what is their number and whether health and insurance services are available in these centres and whether the Government have covered rural areas under this programme in the current financial year?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is running many schemes for the craftsmen and I am glad to inform you that we have spent approximately Rs. 13 crore—20 lakh in the year 1996-97 on different schemes, like design, training, marketing, marketing development support, welfare marketing development centres etc. for these schemes, we had allocated Rs. 13 crore 20 lakh in 1996-97, whereas in the year 1997-98, we had allocated Rs. 14 crore, 4 lakh. Similarly we have spent Rs. 14 crore in the year 1998-99. Secondly, he said that the number of artisans is increasing. In view of this, we are trying that all our schemes should reach the artisans and they should get benefit out of them. It will be our endeavour to see that the benefits of the schemes reach the artisans.

[*English*]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: I would like to know from the Minister whether any survey has been made regarding the number of craftsmen that are there in the country. I would also like to know the rate of interest being charged by various banks.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as interest rate is concerned, artisans get the bank loan at the rate of 12 per cent to 13.5 per cent. I may, however, add that up to a loan of Rs. 25,000 the NABARD is giving the loan to commercial banks at 8.5 per cent to cooperatives and regional rural banks at 6.5 per cent and for a loan above Rs. 25,000 the rate is 10 per cent for the Commercial banks and 9 per cent for the cooperatives and regional rural banks. For a loan above Rs. 2 lakh, the rate of interest for both commercial banks as well as others is 11 per cent. As compared to this, SIDBI is giving loan at the interest rate of 10.5 per cent for a loan of Rs. 2 lakh and for over Rs. 2 lakh, the rate is 12 per cent. It is true that the money released by NABARD and SIDBI does not go straight to the artisans at the rate fixed. So, we have decided to take up the matter with

the Finance Ministry. Though NABARD is giving loan at the rate of 8.5 per cent, the artisans are getting it at the rate of 12 per cent to 13.5 per cent. This will be resolved as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after independence, the craftsmen and weavers have contributed to strengthen textile industry, but they have been neglected. Today, they are living in miserable condition. The figures given by the hon'ble Minister in his reply are not correct. The census of craftsmen and weavers has not been done properly. I would like to tell that 20 lakh craftsmen and weavers in Nagpur and Vidarbha are engaged in this industry, but due to lack of proper aid they have migrated from their villages to Ahmedabad, Surat and other places. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether Government is considering any scheme to conduct proper census in this regard?

Secondly, S.R. Satyam Committee was constituted to deal with issues related to the Textile industry. What are its recommendations and how many of these recommendations Government have accepted and by when the proper benefit of these recommendations will be available?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as stated by the hon'ble Member, many people of Maharashtra, particularly of Vidarbha migrated to Gujarat and other places for employment I would like to tell him that they do not migrate because of non-availability of aid or finance from the Government, but many of them are agricultural labourers, they migrate to get labour work.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is their traditional occupation and due to non-availability of employment and aid from the Government, they migrate from their villages.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: As far as census is concerned, it might be possible that the number of artisans is more than the figure given in the census, because many artisans reside in remote areas and forest areas. It might be possible that they are shown less in number in census. But we will try to get their exact number. As far as the question of Satyam Committee is concerned, the Government has not taken any final decision in this regard. The Government have received the report of Satyam Committee and we are holding separate

discussions with concerned Ministries. Therefore, any obligation in this regard or misunderstanding about it is not appropriate. So far the Government have not reached any final stage.

[English]

Phase II of the Economic Reforms

+
*82. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch phase II of the Economic Reforms;

(b) if so, the precise objects and goals of the phase of the reforms;

(c) the steps taken/being taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps contemplated to protect the interests of the weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The goal of economic reforms is "faster growth with employment and equity". To achieve this, rapid and broad-based growth of 7 to 8 per cent is required which will help eradicate poverty and unemployment. This is possible only by pursuing a bold strategy of economic reforms.

(c) and (d) The steps being contemplated include the setting up of an Expenditure Commission, tax reforms, formulation of a fiscal responsibility Act, reforms of banks and financial institutions, a programme for rural conductivity, a National health policy, a water policy, renewed thrust on information Technology and promoting efficiency of investments in the infrastructure sectors. The Government is committed to promote the interests of labour, especially those in the unorganized sector and has decided to give top most priority to social sector development.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a country which is following the policy of the socialism. Here, poverty was increasing day by day and that was the reason due to which the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had visualised 21st century and accepted the middle path for the progress of this country. I remember that in 1989-90 and 1991, there was no capital and foreign exchange in the country. At that time the congress Government formulated a policy and carried

economic reforms. I do not want to remind hon'ble Minister about it, because he would say, India has formulated its policy of socialism, keeping in view the reforms carried out by Comrade Deng in China, in the year 1978. He will say this in his reply. I would not like to enquire about it present. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had visualised it, and in 1991, the Congress had started the economic reforms. The growth rate of it was more than 6 per cent. This Government have made investment in infrastructure on the same line as Congress did in its programme of 'Garabi Hatao'. But the successive Government adopted different policies. I am glad that you want to make many changes in the infrastructure. After taking the office, the hon'ble Minister of Finance had told the nation that the Government will present white paper about the second economic reforms in the Parliament. I would like to know from the Minister, when he is going to present the white paper?

On 5th of this month the Prime Minister will attend the three day seminar of Economic Summit. CII and WEC are very important. Confederation of Indian Industries and World Economic Forum. After coming in power of the new Government, the Prime Minister may talk about new economic reforms over there to acquaint the world with the policy being followed by the country. The Parliament is in session, I would like to request the Prime Minister, that the country want to know what you are going to do for the poor, what decision the Government have taken, and what type of white paper do you want to present? Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given new direction to the country in the programme 'Garabi Hatao'....(Interruptions) You would understand this is for you. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the Question Hour, please understand.

[Translation]

This is not a debate

[English]

Please ask your question.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Yesterday, while discussing new Insurance Regulatory Authority you said that you want to bring new technology. Whenever, the new technology is discussed, it becomes necessary to talk about poor. I would like to ask when you will present white paper and what will be the stand of the Prime Minister over there? Please tell this in the House. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the programme of economic reforms is a continuous process. It is not proper to say on anybody's part that economic reforms were started from a particular date and ended on a definite date. It is a continuous process when we had accepted socialism, it was according to the economic philosophy of that time. In 1991, when the Congress Government had started the programme of new economic policy and economic reforms, an effort was made to make circumstances of that time favourable and today we are trying to make our policies and principles favourable according to the circumstances prevailing in and outside the country. Keeping this in view, we are trying to make progress.

I would like to say that the programme of economic reform started in 1991, was in a series. Under that series many good measures were taken and after that when we came to power, we felt that we have to divide the programme of economic reforms in three parts. First of all, we should try to strengthen the returns and gains of first phase of economic reforms. Some economic reforms which were started in 1991 or after that should continue, and initiatives should be taken to introduce new economic reforms also. Therefore I had made a mention of it in this year's budget I would like to quote. I said.

[English]

"It is time to seriously debate and decide on the second generation reforms that we must put in place to make India economically strong and fully capable of completing successfully in the evolving world order. To further this process, I plan to bring a discussion paper before Parliament before the end of this Budget Session."

[Translation]

We all know that circumstances took such shape that the budget session could not be completed. The promise made by me was also not possibly fulfilled. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Member towards the President's address of this year, in which we have given a blueprint, of the phase II of the economic reforms. I do not want to go into the detail of it, but the outline of this programme has been described in the President's address. Quoting this, I have said that the aim of our economic reforms is

[English]

Growth with Employment and Equity.

[Translation]

Keeping this and social sector as our target, we will run the programme of our economic reforms.

Yesterday, the three bills passed in this House are an important link in the series of phase two of economic reforms. We did not wait and begin the phase two of economic reforms.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shinde, please put a very brief and pointed supplementary.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, I will be very brief. This is a very important question. The entire country's economic policy is involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Since it is an important question, many hon. Members want to ask questions. Please be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, whenever economic reforms have been carried out in any country of the world, the attention has been paid towards the public undertakings. You have rightly said, that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru set up public sector undertakings in this country following the ideology of socialism. But whenever the question of disinvestment arises, first of all sword hangs over PSUs. We welcome what you said in your budget speech. You said, that you will do Zero-base budgeting. It is very good for the country. The country is having nothing and it do not want to beg. India want to become self-reliant. We welcome it and yesterday you said a new era has begin. Yesterday, in a written reply you had said, that you want to do something about banks. Yesterday, our colleagues of CPI and CPI (M) had said that you should be called Denationalisation Minister. I am not saying so. In the second report of Narsimhan Committee, the recommendation in regard to denationalisation of banks has been made. You said as nationalisation of banks took place, similarly with regard to Insurance Regulatory Authority there will be no fraud in economic sector, I would like to know from the Government whether you are fully going to accept the second report of Narsimhan Committee or going to consider the recommendation of denationalisation of banks?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, further there is a question on this point related to banks, but as hon'ble Member has asked the question, I will reply. Last year, the Narsimhan Committee had submitted its second

report to the Government. At the time of submission of first report, Congress party was in power. On the basis of the first report, the Congress Government took many steps for the financial sector and banking sector. Earlier the Government stake in public sector banks was 100 per cent, the measure was taken to reduce it to 51 percent. As far as the question of State Bank is concerned, it has been agreed to reduce it to 55 per cent. In the second report of Narsimhan Committee it was said that bank requires more capital and in view of the prudential norms of the day, more capital is required. I remember, in my budget speech. I had made a mention of 9% according to prudential norms, and Reserve Bank had made a mention of 10%. But in view of this every bank will be requiring more capital. Now the question is, from where will this capital come? The Government should fulfil the demand of capital in its budget or should we give freedom to the banks, to adopt the policy which was followed by the Government of Congress Party. Under this policy, we will ask them to go to the market and generate capital. All these points need to be considered. On some issues of the second report of Narsimhan Committee, the Reserve Bank had taken further action, and on some issues no action has been taken. When we will consider about reforms in banking sector, then these recommendations, recommendations of other Committees and circumstances will work as input. We will consider all these things while thinking about reforms in banking sector.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, recently I had gone to Bihar and the local people there have expressed their concern that whether there is any scheme of denationalisation of coal mines. My colleague, Shri Shinde has presented the context of it in much detail, therefore I would like to ask a pointed question. whether Government have reached any decision with regard to denationalisation of coal mines? If the Government have taken any decision, then what are your plans for safeguarding the interests of the workers of coal mines, particularly of CIL?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the main reply of the question, I have told that the Government will give full attention to the worker's class, particularly of unorganised sector in its series of economic reforms. As far as the question of coal mines is concerned, at present, I can only say that Government is considering to bring some amendments in the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act. When these amendments will be ready, we will bring them and present them before the Parliament. But, I would like to make one thing very clear that the interests of the workers will be fully protected under the programmes of economic reforms and we can not keep their interests on stake under any circumstances.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given a general reply. As far as coal mines are concerned, some issues related to it are under the consideration of Government, You can at least apprise the House about these points.

[English]

What are the points on which this consideration is taking place? Could you just give us some indications on that?

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Scindiaji will at least admit that this matter is not directly related with my Ministry.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The involvement of the Ministry of Finance is everywhere, Shri Yashwant Sinha, you are fully aware of it

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I need a separate notice in regard to discussion on amendment of Coal Mines Nationalisation Act. I have informed the House, about the general thing, which was in my knowledge.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We are trying to get liberated for the last 52 years, but the Ministry of Finance has not yet been liberated. The Ministry of Railway is free in a way.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister, in his reply to part 'C' and 'D' of the question, has given a very formidable and impressive list of steps that the Government intended to take with regard to Part II of the economic reforms. Now, some things have been mentioned here. He has only a small list which includes Expenditure Commission, Fiscal Responsibility Act, rural connectivity, etc. In this regard, I want to know three things from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask three-in-one.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: There are three parts. Firstly, has the Government applied its mind to any prioritisation of the various steps that have been listed out or the Government wishes to take? Are all of them going to be taken together or is there any priority?

Secondly, has any timeframe been fixed for various steps? I would like to know specifically about the Expenditure Commission.

Thirdly, while dealing with each of the steps, has the Government thought of any guidelines or criteria which these steps would involve when they are referred to any Committee or Commission?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, we have mentioned some of the steps that the Government has in mind. But I must hasten to add that at no point of time can the Government say that we have come out with an exhaustive list of the economic reforms programme because, as I mentioned in the beginning, this is a continuing process and new additions will be made to the programme as we go along.

Now, the hon. Member has raised three points. In regard to priorities, I would only like to respond by saying that we have to move simultaneously along a wide front. So, all these points that I have mentioned are points on which we propose to move simultaneously. For instance, if we are setting up the Expenditure Commission, simultaneously, we are going ahead with the Fiscal Responsibility Act. We are also going ahead with the rural roads. So, we are not waiting for the one to be over in order to take up the second.

The second is timeframe. Wherever we are putting specific programmes, we are putting them in a timeframe and timeframe will be different for different kinds of programmes.

As far as the question of Expenditure Commission is concerned, I would only like to assure the hon. Member through you that we will do it very soon.

As far as guidelines are concerned, under the various programmes of economic reforms, we concretise it in terms of policy. Guidelines are issued in the various sectors. For instance, we have issued guidelines about zero-based budgeting. We have issued guidelines about unbundling of the State Electricity Boards. So, in every sector, we have issued guidelines as and when the programmes are being concretised.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has stated in the course of his reply that the Government is committed to protect the interests of the labourers, especially those who are employed in the unorganised sector and that the Government has decided to give top priority to development of the social sector. The second phase of economic reforms has commenced. During the first phase from 1991 till date, it has been the view of the Government to provide employment to all. Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated time and again. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know as to what extent there has been a rise in unemployment during first phase of economic reforms. The Government keeps on reiterating commitment towards labour force. What are the future plans of the Government for ensuring employment for all and proper utilisation of labour force. Sir, a demand is being raised from all quarters that the right to work should be made as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution. Whether the Government plans to amend the Constitution to make the right to work as a Fundamental right?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the social sector is concerned, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Member towards para 12 of the President's Address wherein social sector has been mentioned in the context of economic reforms and the nation has been informed that basic minimum facilities could not be provided to our countrymen despite the economic programmes undertaken in all these years and economic progress made so far. The issues of potable drinking water, reasonable shelter, primary education, health services, unemployment and roads were also mentioned therein. Hon'ble Prime Minister has also drawn the attention of the nation towards these issues time and again in his speeches and has promised to resolve on priority basis the problems faced by the people. This will be the priority area for the Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the issue of employment is concerned, we do admit that on the basis of the studies conducted for the first phase of economic reforms, we are compelled to conclude that there has not been much rise in employment opportunities and this is a fact. That is why our Government has accorded priority to creating avenues of employment and has set it as a primary objective to be achieved as a part of our economic development and I would like to inform you that we are giving utmost importance to self employment. An ambitious plan has been formulated at the behest of the Prime Minister to connect North and South, the East and the West and all the four metros through network of roads. Besides, the Government has strived to promote housing sector. Facilities have been provided for knowledge based industries. Service sector has been given a boost. avenues of employment will be created in all these sectors. Hence, I can say with full confidence that we will be able to achieve the target set by Hon'ble President regarding creation of one crore jobs every year.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Finance expressed his views regarding liberalisation. Just now Hon'ble Shindeji was saying that we followed socialist pattern in the beginning. The delivery system plays a crucial role in achieving the objectives. However, our delivery system has been inefficient. Now we have changed our objectives and are ushering in economic reforms. How will the Government be able to achieve the objectives through the same delivery system? The main problem is that the talent, and the capital generated in the rural areas is shifting to the cities. Please elucidate as to how will the Government be able to deal with the vacuum created in the rural areas in terms of capital and talent and how will the delivery system be able to manage properly the initiatives taken as a part of economic reforms.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has raised an issue of utmost importance. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member towards my budget speech. I had stated in my budget speech this year, that the Government intends to give more powers to the Panchayati Raj institutions and the local level democratic institutions through 73rd and 74th Constitutional amendments. The Government intends to bring changes in the delivery system through Parliament, State legislature and district level, local level and Panchayat level bodies, and empower the democratic institutions to take up the development work. The policy of the Government is that the movement for development should not be movement initiated solely by the Government officials. The Government wants the participation of the people therein. We want it to be a movement of the people. The Government officials will also play a vital role. We wish to proceed in this manner. This is the policy of the Government. The Government is in favour of democratisation of the delivery system so that more and more people may participate therein. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: They are not being allowed to function only because people from B.J.P. have not been elected in those bodies. Just opposite is happening there. ...*(Interruptions)* Since your party Members have not won, that is why those are not being Constituted? ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the position there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This is totally wrong. I had stated in my budget speech that election should be

held for democratic institutions and they should be granted powers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: But this is not being done.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I suggest that we are discussing important issues. Let us not bring politics into this. The economic reforms are not an issue of politics. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, what is this? Let him complete his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: They make tall claims but the position is just opposite. Wherever they have lost, they are not allowing others to function.

[English]

Promotion of Export

*83. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out a package of incentives to industries for promotion of export to off-set the effect of sanctions by some developed countries;

(b) if so, the new strategy of the Government to give further impetus to boost export alongwith the projections for the current financial year;

(c) Whether the Government propose to introduce suitable changes in the legal framework of the country to bring it at international standards to facilitate promotion of international trade; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) There have been no sanctions against Indian exports by developed countries. There has, therefore, been no need to workout a package of incentives to the industries to offset the effect of sanctions. Nevertheless, it is essential to increase our exports, and efforts are constantly made by the Government in that direction. For the current year the Government has fixed a growth target of 11.34% for our exports and the results of the first half of the current financial year have been quite encouraging. In the annual Export-Import Policy announced on 31.3.1999 Government had introduced various measures to increase the competitiveness of the Indian exports and to reduce the transaction cost and time of the exporters. These measures include strengthening of the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme for improving production infrastructure and introduction of annual advance licensing scheme, issuance of Advance Licences on the basis of self-declaration and rationalisation of the EOU/EPZ scheme with a view to improving availability of duty free raw materials and reducing transactional costs. These changes aim to provide the facilities available to exporters internationally.

For boosting exports there is no requirement as such to bring about any changes in the legal framework of the country.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have received a reply from the hon. Minister but the reply is not complete. The reply is most bureaucratic. They have not mentioned about the impact of sanctions. I have mentioned that sanctions have made an all-around impact on our economy. Due to sanctions, there is a requirement to generate additional revenue through exports. Due to these sanctions, some of the on-going projects especially in my constituency, which is a desert, such as safe drinking water, desert development, afforestation are badly affected.

Therefore, my first question is, whether the Government of India is considering giving a special package in the form of funds and for exports on other heads to off-set the effect of sanctions on our vital on-going projects especially in under-developed and desert regions.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, I think, there is some confusion on the part of the hon. Member regarding his question. He mentioned about sanctions affecting exports but the projects that he mentioned were to do with safe drinking water and developmental activities. These are not concerned with the Ministry of Commerce.

As my answer has categorically stated, sanctions may have been imposed after the Pokhran nuclear tests on aid and on other developmental activities but there have been no sanctions imposed against the Indian goods in the export field.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: You may not have sanctions on exports. But what about the impact of these sanctions?

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your second supplementary.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: My second supplementary is regarding EXIM policy, 1997-2002. You have mentioned here that the growth target for this year would be increased to 11.34 per cent.

My first part of my second supplementary is regarding the target of export in dollar terms. For the year 1998-99, it was 14 billion dollars. What is the target for 1999-2000? Are you going to achieve that target?

My second part of my supplementary is regarding some complaints.

Whereas some exporters are taking undue advantage under Export Promotion Scheme of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPP). If so, that steps the Government is taking to plug the loopholes?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: As far as export targets are concerned, it is a matter of pride for me to be able to state in the House that the growth rate figure for the month of October this year was 22 per cent higher than last year. I think that itself shows that we are heading in the right direction. We have set ourselves, as the hon. Member rightly pointed out, a target figure of 11.34 per cent growth rate for this year. I can state categorically that we have already shown a growth rate of 10.2 per cent cumulative up till this month and we have still five more months for completion of this financial year. As far as loopholes are concerned, I think you all know. *...(Interruptions)*

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: My first question is this. What is the target in terms of million dollar? Last year it was 14 billion dollars. How much is this year? I asked a pointed question.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: In terms of figures, exports during September 1999 were valued at 2087.96 million dollars. This is a growth of 12.01 per cent; and in rupees terms, it was Rs. 13,443 crore.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Can you give us in dollar term?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: I have given the figures in terms of both dollars and rupees just now. So, there is no confusion. Now, Sir, he mentioned about certain exporters are taking advantages of loopholes. Unfortunately, you cannot penalize everybody because of one bad apple in the lot. Our schemes are set up to facilitate exporters. Unfortunately, where you facilitate exporters, there will be people who will try and take advantage of this scheme. We are constantly reviewing the performance of all our export promotion schemes. As and when we find that there are loopholes that are being exploited by exporters, these are promptly dealt with.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Shri Omar Abdullah comes from an area which is rich with apples. I am sure he knows the effect that one bad apple can have on the entire population.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Will the Minister be pleased to state whether the export processing zones are mainly based to promote our export policies? There is an EPZ, Falta, in West Bengal whose performance is the worst in India. Keeping in mind the infrastructure, the road condition, no business house is interested to make use of the facilities which are provided to the business houses at this EPZ. I would like to know whether the Minister is aware of the performances of EPZ in Falta. I would also like to know whether he has ever enquired about the fall of standard of EPZ in the Falta zone nearby Calcutta. How is this EPZ rated in comparison to other zones of the country?

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: This is the good management of the comrades.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Regarding the performance of the EPZ, it has been my personal endeavour to visit each and every one. Up till now, I have visited three EPZs so that I do not rely on information that is handed over to me in the form of a file. I prefer to actually visit the site and ascertain myself. The EPZ that you have mentioned in West Bengal, in fact, is on my programme. As soon as the Winter Session of Parliament is completed, I can go there, see for myself as to what condition the EPZ is in. Whatever measures need to be taken on the part of the Commerce Ministry to give a boost to this Export Processing Zone, we will take and I welcome any suggestion that the hon. Member might have in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I am coming to you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good why do you stand up time and again? This is not proper.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: My question also partly relates to the EPZ's functioning in India. My question also partly relates to what Shri Bandyopadhyay has asked. There is an EPZ in Vizag also. I do not think it has occupied more than 10 per cent capacity of the EPZ in Vizag. The recent super cyclone has affected the trawlers and the boats of the fishermen. It has caused heavy damage to the property and it has led to the loss of many lives also. All these boats are involved in the export of prawns and shrimps from Vizag port base. So, because of this loss, naturally the MPEDA activity will be affected.

What steps the Government is going to take for rehabilitation of these fishermen involved in 100 per cent export promotion and also how are we going to resolve and compensate the losses occurred to the boats? This is a pointed question. I would like to know the answer.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: I think, the Government has, time and again, stated that whatever steps are necessary to compensate the loss of lives and property in whatever way is possible will be taken by the State Government and the Central Government together.

Regarding the loss that has been suffered pointedly by those involved in the shrimp and fishing trade, this is, as I said, another one of the EPZs that I have not yet had the opportunity to study. You will appreciate that I have only been a Minister now for a month and it has not been possible for me to visit everywhere. But as I have said, this is another area that is on my programme. After the completion of the Winter Session of Parliament with a point of view to see what we can do with marine and fishery exports, whatever steps we feel are necessary will be taken by us.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: In our country how many export promotion industrial parks have been set up? I would like to know whether your Ministry is having any plan to set up any more export promotion industrial parks.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, setting up of export promotion industrial parks is a constant process. The only thing that impedes us is that the Planning Commission has issued a directive whereby a fresh EPIP is not sanctioned to a State unless the existing EPIP has been completed and is shown to be performing. As and when a State shows that the EPIP that has been sanctioned to it is completed and the work in the EPIP is on-going, fresh EIPs are sanctioned to the State.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The question is regarding promotion of exports. I quite understand that this time we have achieved the target and even exceeded the target, which is very good. But many more things can be exported from this country especially rubber. We have got excess rubber in our State as also in our whole country. About 50,000 tonnes of rubber can be exported. The Government of India is doing pretty little for exporting rubber.

Will the Government be pleased to explore the possibility of exporting rubber and taking steps to export rubber in order to earn foreign exchange as well as save the rubber growers of Kerala?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: I was wondering whether the question of rubber would come into this because it is a very active issue in the Ministry of Commerce. As far as steps to export rubber are concerned, we have given directives to S.T.C. to explore as much as possible about the export of rubber. I think, one fact the hon. Member will have to appreciate is that as a result, particularly, of the South-East Asian financial crisis and the devaluation of currencies in those countries, we find that the rubber that is naturally grown in India, is uncompetitive as compared to the rubber that is coming from Malaysia and from Thailand. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI A.C. JOS: That is synthetic. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This is not correct. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: That is a wrong information. We have the highest quality of rubber. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete his reply. What is this? You are not supposed to obstruct the Minister. Let him complete.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: I am not talking about the quality of our rubber. The quality of our rubber is very high. But comparatively the price of our rubber is also high, which is why we find that on the request of the Government of Kerala, S.T.C. was asked to procure rubber from our rubber growers which have actually caused the loss which the Government has compensated to STC to the tune of Rs. 44 crore. We are now off-loading this rubber. In fact, to save the domestic rubber industry, we have even banned the import of natural rubber even against Advance Licences.

SHRI A.C. JOS: But you are permitting to import tyres. Used tyres are coming into our country. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not the way to ask the question. I have called another hon. Member.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has imposed a ban on export of onions. What steps Government proposes to lift the ban? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

AN HON. MEMBER: Question Hour is over, Sir...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I know very well. You need not dictate the Chair. I know the time of the Question Hour.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: The Government has imposed a ban on export of onions...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jos, if you have any doubts, you can contact the Minister. Please take your seat now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Minister is ready for Half-an-Hour discussion, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you going to say anything?

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, the hon. Member has asked the question about onion export...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jos, please take your seat now. The Minister is going to reply to the hon. Member.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, why don't you ask the Minister whether he is ready for the discussion?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, regarding the export of onions, if we find that the production of onions in the country has reached a sufficient level whereby we can allow the quota of onion for export, we will explore the possibility of a quota to allow the export of onions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Kisan Credit Cards

*84. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed in regard to Kisan Credit Cards for the year 1999-2000, State-wise and Bank-wise;

(b) whether the Government are facing difficulties in achieving the target of the said scheme;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken adequate steps to remove the difficulties being faced in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As announced in the Budget Speech for 1999-2000, coverage under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme is to be extended to 20 lakh farmers. The target allocated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to public sector banks is in the attached statement. No State-wise targets have been fixed. To further expand the coverage, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has advised the cooperative banks/regional rural banks (RRBs) to ensure coverage of not less than 10% of their existing crop loans under the KCC Scheme.

(b) to (d) Banks have not indicated any difficulty in implementing this scheme. Already, upto September, 1999 about 4.8 lakh farmers have been given Kisan Credit Cards in the current year by public sector banks.

S.No.	Name of Bank	Targets
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	625000
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	20000
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	75000
4.	State Bank of Indore	20000
5.	State Bank of Mysore	30000
6.	State Bank of Patiala	45000
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	74000
8.	State Bank of Travancore	22000
9.	Allahabad Bank	20000
10.	Andhra Bank	100000
11.	Bank of Baroda	56000
12.	Bank of India	72000
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	33000
14.	Canara Bank	254000
15.	Central Bank of India	28000
16.	Corporation Bank	30000
17.	Dena Bank	20000
18.	Indian Bank	70000
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	92000

1	2	3
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	20000
21.	Punjab National Bank	52000
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	21000
23.	Syndicate Bank	64000
24.	Union Bank of India	64000
25.	United Bank of India	42000
26.	UCO Bank	20000
27.	Vijaya Bank	31000
Total		2000000

[English]

Outstanding Income-Tax against Banks

*85. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount of income-tax towards each nationalised/private bank and the financial institutions in the country, as on March 31, 1999;

(b) the reasons for accumulation of outstanding amount; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government, as on date, to recover the outstanding amount of income-tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The outstanding amount of income-tax towards each nationalised/private bank and financial institutions as on 31.3.99, as compiled from various Chief Commissioner Regions, is attached as statement.

(b) The reasons for accumulations of the outstanding demands include, inter-alia, the following:

(i) Disputed demand leading to appeals and the time taken in their disposal.

- (ii) Stay granted by Courts/appellate authorities;
- (iii) Adjustment of disputed claims in the process of recovery;
- (iv) Verification of payments claimed to have been made towards the demand before credits in respect thereof can be given.

(c) The recovery of taxes is a continuous process which involves various statutory and other procedures. These include charging of interest for late payment of taxes; levy of penalty; attachment of movable and immovable assets etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving arrears are made by the higher authorities from time to time.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the assessee	Amount of tax outstanding as on 31.3.99
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of Saurashtra	60.04 cr.
2.	Rajkot Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	10.46 cr.
3.	UTI Bank Ltd.	2.46 cr.
4.	Gujarat Industrial Investment Corp. Ltd.	0.83 cr.
5.	The Mehsana Dist. Central Co.-OP. Bank Ltd.	5.09 cr.
6.	Sarvodaya Commercial Co.OP. Bank Ltd.	0.28 cr.
7.	The Kheratu Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	0.13 cr.
8.	The Becharaji Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	0.01 cr.
9.	The Mehsana Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	0.17 cr.
10.	The Gozaria Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	0.13 cr.
11.	Sabarkantha Dist. Central Co.OP. Bank Ltd.	0.28 cr.
12.	The Ahmedabad Dist. Co.OP. Bank Ltd.	3.53 cr.
13.	Manekchowk Co.OP. Bank Ltd.	1.63 cr.
14.	The Kalupur Co.OP. Bank Ltd.	4.06 cr.

1	2	3	1	2	3
15.	General Co. OP. Bank Ltd.	0.85 cr.	38.	Punjab National Bank Arya Nagar	441086
16.	Sarangpur Co. OP. Bank Ltd.	0.40 cr.	39.	Punjab National Bank Krishna Nagar	511851
17.	Nutan Co. OP. Bank Ltd.	2.09 cr.	40.	Punjab National Bank Shastri Nagar	1327352
18.	The Mahila Co. OP. Bank Ltd.	0.08 cr.	41.	Punjab National Bank Halsey Road	336150
19.	Julia Sahakari Kendriya Bank	7421451	42.	State Bank of India Canal Road	29300
20.	Jilia Sahakari Kendriya Bank Ltd.	478775	43.	The Dy. G.M. SBI Main Br.	115244
21.	Jilia Sahakari Kendriya Bank	500500	44.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	94888
22.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	32.82 cr.	45.	EBF Fin & Leasing Ltd.	16767 lacs
23.	Punjab & Sind Bank	7.41 cr.	46.	Global Trust Bank Ltd.	353.69 lacs
24.	Delhi Nagarik Sahakari Bank	0.08 cr.	47.	Laxmi Fin & Inv. Corpn. Ltd.	185.37 lacs
25.	Industrial Finance Corporation of Ind. Ltd.	112.88 cr.	48.	Xedd Fin & Inv. Corp. Ltd.	119.99 lacs
26.	HUDCO	31.12 cr.	49.	Haripriya Fin. Corporation	12.44 lacs
27.	Bank of Tokyo & Mitsubishi	12.07 cr.	50.	Shilpa Fin. & Inv. Ltd.	23.40 lacs
28.	Union Bank of India Elamau	110340	51.	Vijaya Credit Corpn.	51.43 lacs
29.	Union Bank of India Kidwai Nagar	90327	52.	APSFC Ltd.	706.57 lacs
30.	Union Bank of India Moolganj	79030	53.	The AP Mahesh Co. OP. Urban Bank (P) Ltd.	88.16 lacs
31.	Canara Bank (Overseas Bank)	47520	54.	AP Co. OP. Bank	2.52 lacs
32.	Canara Bank The Mall	232876	55.	The Latur Dist. Central Co. OP. Bank Ltd.	1.45 lacs
33.	Central Bank of India	80000	56.	Nivena Estate Finance (P) Ltd.	6.21 lacs
34.	Punjab National Bank Swacop Nagar	33257	57.	The Thane Distt. Co. OP Bank Ltd.	309.92 lacs
35.	Punjab National Bank Prem Nagar	33616	58.	The Thane Janata Sah. Bank Ltd.	1.73 lacs
36.	Punjab National Bank Reuna	371981	59.	Shree Mahaveer Nagari Sah Pat Sanstha Ltd.	1283 lacs
37.	Punjab National Bank Jageshwar Mandir	271731	60.	Peerless General Finance & Investment	10002 lacs

1	2	3	1	2	3
61.	Bangur Finance Ltd.	40 lacs	84.	Bara Banki Gramin Bank	27.00 lacs
62.	Memorial Financial & Investment (I) Ltd.	6 lacs	85.	Pradeshia Industrial Investment Corpn. U.P. Ltd.	119.00 lacs
63.	M/s Canbank Financial Services Ltd. Bangalore	3610.69 lacs	86.	Prathma Bank Ltd.	
64.	M/s Canara Bank Bangalore	181.97 lacs	87.	Indusind Bank	2615.83 lacs
65.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	46.05 lacs	88.	HDFC Ltd.	5572.97 lacs
66.	Vysya Bank Leasing Ltd. Bangalore	131.14 lacs	89.	ICICI Banking Corpn.	717.99 lacs
67.	State Bank of Mysore	5953.38 lacs	90.	Export Credit Guarantee Corpn. of India Ltd.	1766.87 lacs
68.	Karnataka Bank Mangalore	969.29 lacs	91.	IDEI	20686.96 lacs
69.	Manipal Housing Finance Syndicate, Mangalore	8.79 lacs	92.	SBI Fund Management Ltd.	142.00 lacs
70.	Manipal Finance Corpn. Ltd., Mangalore	193.55 lacs	93.	ICICI/SCICI/ITC Classic Fin. Ltd.	30141.90 lacs
71.	Manipal Soubhagya Nidhi Ltd. Mangalore	1.91 lacs	94.	Certurian Bank Ltd.	605.43 lacs
72.	Maharashtra Apex Corpn. Ltd., Mangalore	132.64 lacs	95.	HDFC Bank	555.62 lacs
73.	The Haveri Urban Co. OP. Bank Ltd. Haveri	1.24 lacs	96.	Bombay Mercantile Co-OP. Bank	129.89 lacs
74.	The Hanagal Urban Co. OP. Bank Ltd.	0.51 lacs	97.	SBI Capital Markets	1674.09 lacs
75.	Merchants Co. OP. Bank Ltd., Chitradurga	5.06 lacs	98.	Metropolitan Co. Op. Bank Ltd.	9463.98 lacs
76.	The Devanger Urban Co. OP. Ltd., Devangera	1.00 lacs	99.	Fair Growth Financial Services Ltd.	7738.46 cr.
77.	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	11.54 lacs	100.	Andhra Bank Financial Services Ltd.	18.19 cr.
78.	Punjab Financial Corpn.	56.4 lacs	101.	The Federal Bank Ltd.	43.32 cr.
79.	Punjab State Indl. Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	1.64 Cr.	102.	The Nedungadi Bank	1.72 cr.
80.	State Bank of Patiala	665.35 lacs	103.	The Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	54.26 lacs
81.	Rajasthan Financial Corpn.	241 lacs	104.	The South Indian Bank Ltd.	6.00 cr.
82.	RIICO	20 lacs	105.	The Catholic Syrian Bank	3.03 cr.
83.	Rajdhani Sahkari Bank	0.42 lacs	106.	Kerala State Industrial Dev. Corpn.	39.63 lacs

1	2	3
107.	Kerala Financial Corpn.	67.62 lacs
108.	Bihar State Fin.	Rs. 6,36,44,453
109.	Orissa State Co. Op. Bank	Rs. 2,60,73,785
110.	Industrial Co. Op. Bank, Guwahati	Rs. 8,85,000
111.	Karur Vysya Bank	3320.67
112.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank	1760.30
113.	City Urban Bank Ltd.	621.65
114.	The Kumbakonam Cent. Coop. Bank Ltd.	124.96
115.	Trichy District Cent. Coop. Bank Ltd.	40.33
116.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	543.46
117.	Bank of Ceylon	27.57
118.	Bank of Madurai	4.51
119.	Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank	609.58
120.	Abirami Fin. Services	28.03
121.	Amrutanjan Leasing & Fin. Ltd.	26.27
122.	Dharani Finance	26.27
123.	Enco Re. Growth Fin. Ltd.	18.70
124.	Kodaikanal Fin. Ltd.	32.45
125.	Kothari Orient Fin.	13.25
126.	New Deal Fin. & Inv.	38.34
127.	PL Finance	46.68
128.	RTC Finance	17.30
129.	Sri Aurobindo Fib. & HP Ltd.	100.00

1	2	3
130.	Sr. Bhuvaneswari Consultancy	99.14
131.	Zen Global Finance	28.84
132.	Haritha Finance	205.02
133.	City Union & Fin. Ltd.	374.00
134.	Finance	102.00
135.	PL Finance & Inv.	432.82
136.	Shopping Inv. Fin. Co.	855.13
137.	Indbank Mer. Banking Per. Ltd.	96.78
138.	Benefit Fund Ltd.	1.77
139.	Madras Purasawalkam Janopakara Saswatha Nidhi Ltd.	0.65
140.	Bank of Madura Ltd.	4.51
141.	Tamilnadu small Industries Development Corpn. Ltd.	10.55
142.	Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corpn.	1745.96
143.	Fidelity Finance Ltd.	16.60
144.	M/s Industries Promotion Corpn. of Tamil Nadu	270.00

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Handlooms

*86. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented for the development and promotion of Handloom Industry in the country and the financial provisions made thereunder;

(b) the achievements made in each State under these schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan indicating the estimated number of Handlooms functioning thereunder;

(c) the problems being faced by the handloom weavers and action taken by the Government to solve their problems;

(d) the details of the Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies functioning, State-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to boost the performance of handloom sector under the New Textile Policy?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development and promotion of handloom industry implemented through State Governments along with financial provisions during 8th Five Year Plan are given in attached Statement-I.

Apart from the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, there are some Central Sector Schemes for the development of Handloom Sector which are as follows:

- (i) Handloom Expos, District Fairs, Melas, Haats, etc.,
- (ii) Development of Marketing Complexes through National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.,
- (iii) Health Package Scheme.

(b) The details of funds released to each State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the 8th Plan period are given in the attached Statement-II. The number of handlooms functioning in different States, is not monitored by the Central Government on a regular basis. The number of looms functioning according to the available information is given in the attached Statement-III.

(c) The problems faced by handloom weavers differ from State to State and mostly pertain to availability of quality raw-material at reasonable price product development. Marketing and credit facilities, etc. In order to solve these problems, the Central Government has implemented the following:

1. Project Package Scheme.
2. Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit.
3. Workshed-cum-Housing
4. Development of Exportable Products.
5. Handloom Reservation Act.
6. Mill Gate Price Scheme.

7. Hank Yarn obligation.

8. Market Development Assistance.

9. Welfare Schemes.

(d) According to the available information, approximately 23115 Cooperative Societies were functioning in different States, as per the details given in Statement-IV enclosed. However, the Central Government does not monitor the functioning of these societies at any point of time.

(e) While framing the new Textile Policy the issues concerning the promotion of the Handloom Sector will be suitably addressed.

Statement I

Details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes through State Governments with Financial Provision

1. **Project Package Scheme:** The Scheme was introduced in the year 1991-92 with an objective to provide the requisite input in an integrated and coordinated manner to the handloom weavers. The funding pattern under the scheme both Grant and Loan component) is on the basis of equal sharing of contribution by Central/State Government/Implementing Agencies. The financial provision under the Scheme during the 8th Plan was Rs. 8,215 lakhs.
2. **Handloom Development Centre (HDC)/Quality Dyeing Units (QDU):** The scheme was introduced in the year 1993-94 with the objective of bringing 30 lakhs weavers with 7.5 lakhs looms in the Cooperative fold so that the benefits of various schemes accruing to the Handloom Cooperative are available to them. Under the QDU scheme, setting up of micro yarn dyeing unit at the village level were provided for with a view to improve the dyeing practices of the Handloom Sector. The financial provisions under the scheme during the 8th Plan was Rs. 8215 lakhs.
3. **Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme:** The Scheme was introduced with the objective to provide a dwelling unit and suitable work place to weavers to improve their productivity and earnings. The assistance under the Scheme for Rural Workshed is Rs. 7000/- and for Urban Rs. 10,000/-. For Rural Workshed-cum-Housing the assistance is Rs. 18,000/- and for Urban Rs. 20,000/-. The financial provision under this scheme during the 8th Five Year Plan was Rs. 4,844/- lakhs.

4. **Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme:** In order to give substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country, scheme for Development of exportable Products and their Marketing has been introduced in 1995-96. During the 8th Five Year Plan financial provision of Rs. 750 lakhs was made for the scheme.
5. **Market Development Assistance (MDA):** With the view to ensure continuous production and employment in the handloom sector and to avoid periodic accumulation of stocks with the aid of rebated sale the scheme of MDA was introduced. The rebate which is limited to 20% is borne equally by the Central and State Governments. During the 8th Five Year Plan financial provision of Rs. 28,124 lakhs was made for the scheme.
6. **Group Insurance Scheme:** Group Insurance Scheme was introduced in order to meet the Socio-economic obligation of weavers towards his family and the uncertainty of his working capacity in old age. The financial provision under the Scheme during the 8th Five Year Plan was for Rs. 677.40 lakhs.

Statement II

Statement showing achievement made under Centrally Sponsored Scheme during 8th Five Year Plan

(Figures in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Project Package Scheme	Handloom Development Centre & Quality Dyeing Unit	Market Development Assistance	Scheme for Handloom Export	Workshed cum-Housing Scheme	Group Insurance Scheme	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	87.00	—	—	—	—	—	87.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1259.28	1550.53	3255.72	—	941.71	71.61	7078.85
3.	Assam	1415.78	673.73	513.25	17.50	332.00	—	2952.26
4.	Bihar	133.84	192.89	178.73	—	269.00	5.28	779.74
5.	Gujarat	116.77	28.82	524.59	—	—	4.13	674.31
6.	Haryana	78.26	4.00	285.21	14.00	—	—	381.47
7.	Himachal Pradesh	198.79	82.54	167.16	—	119.41	—	568.08
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	80.30	9.12	473.22	2.59	26.59	10.00	601.82
9.	Karnataka	232.19	141.40	1072.41	—	501.06	30.00	1977.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	Kerala	688.00	493.35	1757.56	6.50	294.44	—	3239.85
11.	Madhya Pradesh	247.59	133.94	434.40	7.00	170.79	1.80	995.52
12.	Maharashtra	212.81	85.87	680.11	—	60.08	—	1038.87
13.	Manipur	234.67	853.27	34.28	—	155.60	0.72	1278.54
14.	Mizoram	16.00	—	—	—	14.00	—	30.00
15.	Nagaland	514.79	247.91	—	—	164.78	—	927.48
16.	Orissa	711.66	694.85	1878.61	—	255.64	38.80	3579.56
17.	Pondicherry	—	18.50	116.30	—	—	—	134.80
18.	Punjab	63.52	—	104.55	—	—	—	168.07
19.	Rajasthan	429.16	5.28	331.33	—	76.96	—	837.53
20.	Tamil Nadu	539.33	1493.99	9230.11	—	541.50	137.87	11942.80
21.	Tripura	325.10	68.26	87.20	17.50	96.50	—	594.56
22.	Uttar Pradesh	437.55	649.85	2148.80	10.00	574.50	32.00	3852.70
23.	West Bengal	116.74	663.78	1728.72	—	153.97	7.06	2670.27
24.	Delhi	—	—	323.46	—	—	—	323.46
25.	Meghalaya	6.37	—	0.46	—	2.60	—	9.43
26.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		8145.68	8091.88	25326.18	75.09	4745.93	339.27	46724.03

Statement III*State-wise Number of Functioning Looms
in the Country*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Looms
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	183093
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	35626
3.	Assam	1199878
4.	Bihar	40532
5.	Gujarat	17387
6.	Haryana	17398
7.	Himachal Pradesh	46876
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	16595
9.	Karnataka	60344
10.	Kerala	38060
11.	Madhya Pradesh	17788
12.	Maharashtra	35542
13.	Manipur	267470
14.	Meghalaya	7783*
15.	Mizoram	94388*
16.	Nagaland	83305
17.	Orissa	78667
18.	Punjab	5460
19.	Rajasthan	30336
20.	Tamil Nadu	360474
21.	Tripura	116078

1	2	3
22.	Uttar Pradesh	157666
23.	West Bengal	319807
24.	Goa	14
25.	Delhi	5818
26.	Pondicherry	2924
Total		3239309

* Figures pertain to 1987-88 Census.

All other figures pertain to 1995-96 Census

Statement IV*State-wise Number of Handloom Weavers
Co-operative Societies*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Handloom Coop. Societies (Provisional)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	871
2.	Assam	2931
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
4.	Bihar	1492
5.	Gujarat	1314
6.	Haryana	454
7.	Himachal Pradesh	188
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	327
9.	Karnataka	534
10.	Kerala	682
11.	Madhya Pradesh	828

1	2	3
12.	Maharashtra	828
13.	Meghalaya	38
14.	Manipur	1057
15.	Mizoram	172
16.	Nagaland	200
17.	Punjab	755
18.	Orissa	838
19.	Rajasthan	636
20.	Tamil Nadu	1521
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4817
22.	West Bengal	2001
23.	Delhi	437
24.	Pondicherry	14
25.	Goa	3
26.	Tripura	174
27.	Sikkim	3
Total		23115

Privatisation of Public Sector Banks

*87. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to privatise and reduce its stake in public sector banks to below 51 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of the public sector banks identified for this purpose;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to make amendments in Debt Recovery Tribunal Act and to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of nationalised banks to reduce manpower; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) In view of increasing requirement of capital of public sector banks in order to attain the prescribed higher standards of capital adequacy, the infeasibility of the Central Government continuing to indefinitely meet the requirement of additional capital of the banks in the context of competing claims for budgetary support from the physical and social infrastructure sectors and social services and the need for raising capital from the market, the need for promoting competition, efficiency and providing more autonomy and in accordance with the policy of progressive economic reforms, it has been recommended by Narasimham Committee to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 to provide for an enabling provision for the banks to shareholding going below 51%.

(c) and (d) Some amendments are proposed to be carried out in the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, which, inter-alia, include provisions for empowering the Tribunal to consider the counter claims/set offs, to appoint more Recovery Officers in a Tribunal, to transfer cases from one Tribunal to another Tribunal and to appoint receiver during pendency of proceedings. As regards the policy on voluntary retirement scheme in public sector banks, Regulation 29 of the Bank (Employees) Pension Regulations, 1995 provides for grant of pensionary benefits to those who voluntarily retire from banks' service on or after 1st November, 1993 after completing 20 years of service. While Government has not framed a new Voluntary Retirement Scheme, views of the chief executives of public sector banks have been sought on the desirability of introducing a Voluntary Retirement Scheme, similar to the one in operation in public sector undertakings, with or without modifications.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

*88. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Public Sector Undertakings identified for disinvestment;

(b) the target fixed for the disinvestment of PSUs, year-wise since the policy was started;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to mobilise funds through accelerated privatisation and public sector disinvestment using unconventional and innovative approaches to cross the target;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the quantum of disinvestment done so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Disinvestment of a part of the Government shareholding in a number of PSUs, viz., VSNL, GAIL, MTNL, HTL, IPCL, BALCO, IOC, Modern Food Industries Ltd. etc. have been proposed to be undertaken during the current year.

(b) The estimated proceeds from disinvestment in annual budgets since 1991-92 are as follows:

Year	Estimated proceeds from disinvestment (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	2500
1992-93	2500
1993-94	3500
1994-95	4000
1995-96	7000
1996-97	5000
1997-98	4800
1998-99	5000
1999-2000	10000

(c) and (d) The modalities and approaches to disinvestment have evolved over time and can be expected to evolve further.

(e) An amount of about Rs. 18,288 crores has been raised through disinvestment in PSUs so far since 1991-92.

Privatisation of Insurance Sector

*89. DR. C. SUGUNA KUMARI:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open insurance sector for private and co-operative sector;

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

(c) the likely impact of such privatisation on the potential domestic insurance companies; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the LIC and GIC to compete with private sector in the event of opening of insurance sector for private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill 1999 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 28th October, 1999 and was passed on 2.12.1999. This provides for opening up of the insurance sector to Indian insurance companies. The reasons have been given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill. The opening up of the sector will enlarge the size of insurance market. This will increase the premia of the public sector companies as they will continue to grow and expand their activities and market share will also expand Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) have taken adequate measure including appointment of consultants, adoption of Citizen Charter computerize and new business plans to meet the challenge effectively.

Export of Textiles

*91 SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textiles export is showing tardy progress;

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

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) While there had been considerable slow down in growth of textile exports during 1998-99, during the current financial year so far, textile exports have registered an improved growth rate of about 3% in dollar terms as compared to the decline of 0.7% during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) and (d) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to promote exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:

- (i) The Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- (ii) The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) Policy for the period 2000-2004 announced recently to prove stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.
- (iii) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. one crore.
- (iv) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.
- (v) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings & embellishments.

(e) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Capital Investment

*92. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken any policy decision to promote foreign capital investment in indigenous industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether the foreign capital investment in these industries has been less than the proposals for foreign investment approved;

(d) if so, the proposals of total foreign investment approved, as on September, 1999 and the details of actual investment made;

(e) whether the Government have identified those industries where foreign capital investment is to be given priority; and

(f) if so, the names of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (f) With a view to attracting more foreign direct investment (FDI), the FDI policy has been formulated and is continually reviewed so as to make it investor-friendly and to boost inflow of foreign technology and foreign direct investment in the country, particularly in infrastructure/core sector, keeping in mind national priorities. The Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) has been set up to facilitate speedy implementation of approved FDI projects.

During the period from August, 1991 to Sept., 1999, 9854 proposals involving foreign direct investment of Rs. 203612.85 crores have been approved. Actual inflow of foreign direct investment during the above period has been of the order of Rs. 63,710.90 crores.

All proposals for Foreign Direct Investment are entertained in accordance with the sectoral policies and sectoral caps fixed by the concerned Administrative Ministries. Sectors like power (generation, transmission and distribution); construction and maintenance of roads, highways, toll roads, vehicular bridges, tunnels, ports and harbours are eligible for foreign equity participation upto 100% under the automatic route subject to foreign equity cap of Rs. 1500 crores. In basic and value added telecom services, FDI is permitted upto 49% subject to obtaining of licence from Department of Telecom (no cap on foreign equity in the manufacturing sector). FDI is permitted upto 49% in petroleum refining; upto 51% in petroleum product & pipeline sector and upto 74% in infrastructure related marketing of petroleum products.

Details of FDI proposals approved including sector-wise break up etc. are incorporated, from time to time, in the Monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion which is widely circulated including to the Library of the Hon'ble House.

[*English*]

Loss making Public Sector Units

*93. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Public Sector Units (PSUs) in various States are incurring huge losses;

(b) if so, the losses sustained by those units during the last three years, PSU-wise;

(c) the reasons for incurring losses; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the performance of these loss making PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Consolidated financial data is maintained with regard to Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Out of 236 operating PSUs as on 31.3.1998, the period upto which the latest information is available, 134 PSUs earned a profit of Rs. 20,266 crores, 100 PSUs incurred loss amounting to Rs. 6,541 crores and 2 enterprises neither earned profits nor incurred losses. Thus, the PSUs, as a whole, earned a net profit of Rs. 13,725 crores during 1997-98.

(b) The PSU-wise details of losses are available at Statement 7B, Volume I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1997-98, which was laid in the Parliament on 26.2.1999 and is a published document.

(c) The reasons for losses are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons are obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilisation, excess manpower, increase in input costs, resource crunch, heavy interest burden, etc.

(d) Enterprise specific measures are taken by the Government to improve the performance of the PSUs. Some of these include periodical review of performance of PSUs by the administrative Ministries, technology upgradation, diversification and change in product mix, financial and business restructuring, rationalisation of manpower, modernisation of plants, inventory and cost control, improved marketing strategies, etc.

Review Committee on Revival of Public Sector Undertakings

*94. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Review Committee was constituted with regard to revival of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited, Braithwaite, Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited, Instrumentation Limited, Cycle Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its Report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) An Expert Group was constituted to explore the possibility of revival of some of the sick PSUs which include:

Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. (MAMC)

Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL)

Tannery and Footwear Corporation Ltd. (TAFCO)

Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL)

Cases of Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (ILK), Braithwaite & Co. Ltd. (BCL) and Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) were not referred to the expert Group. Revival Plans of Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (ILK) and Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. (BCL), have already been approved by BIFR/ Government and are under implementation. In the case of Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL), a revival plan is separately under the consideration of BIFR.

(b) and (c) The Expert Group has submitted its report in respect of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. (MAMC), Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL), Tannery and Footwear Corporation Ltd. (TAFCO) and Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL). Government is to take a decision on these recommendations and communicate these to BIFR/High Court as the case may be.

[Translation]

Foreign Direct Investment

*95. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infrastructure development is not a thrust area for the foreign investors;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to obviate this lopsided approach;

(c) the details of foreign investment proposals received by the Government during each of the last three years, till date;

(d) the details of proposals approved during the said period, sector-wise;

(e) the amount of foreign investments involved therein;

(f) the number of cases pending with Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for approval; and

(g) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (g) The existing guidelines provide for a liberalised regime for foreign investment in the infrastructure sector namely, power, telecom, roads and ports. Sectors like power (generation, transmission and distribution), and construction and maintenance of roads, highways, toll roads, vehicular bridges, tunnels, ports and harbours are eligible for foreign equity participation upto 100% under the automatic route subject to a foreign equity cap of Rs. 1500 crores; in basic and value added telecom services, FDI is permitted up to 49% subject to obtaining licence from the Department of Telecom. (no limit on foreign equity in the manufacturing sector).

Government have taken the following major policy initiatives to promote FDI in the core/infrastructure sector.

- Coal/lignite and petroleum sectors have been de-licensed from the purview of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.
- Licensing period for mobile/cellular services has been extended from 10 years to 15 years.
- Power transmission as an independent activity has been permitted and infrastructure status has been granted to transmission.
- A Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been set up.
- The Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) has been set up to facilitate speedy implementation of FDI projects approved especially in the infrastructure sector and also to make recommendations to the competent authority for necessary policy intervention to remove bottlenecks in implementation of FDI projects.
- A Project Monitoring Unit has been set up within the Department to monitor and facilitate smooth implementation of large FDI projects having foreign equity of Rs. 100 crore and above.

During the last three years the number of FDI proposals approved and amount involved is as under:

	No. of FDI proposals approved	Amount of FDI approved (Rs. crores)
1997	1665	54891.35
1998	1191	30813.50
1999 (upto Sept.)	1256	22221.30

The details of FDI proposals approved including sector-wise break-up, are incorporated from time to time, in Monthly SIA Newsletters brought out by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which are widely circulated including the Library of the Hon'ble House.

As on date, 29 proposals for foreign direct investment are pending with the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

As per the guidelines, FIPB endeavours to finalise recommendations to Government based on consultations with concerned Ministries/Departments within the stipulated time frame of 30 days.

[English]

Applications Received by IDBI from Entrepreneurs

*96. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from the entrepreneurs during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications out of these sanctioned/rejected during the said period;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided during the said period;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities committed in sanctioning financial assistance to entrepreneurs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As reported by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the State-wise details of applications received from entrepreneurs from various States, sanctioned and rejected by IDBI under its direct finance scheme during each of the last three years and April-September 1999 (latest available) are given in attached Statement I

(c) The State-wise details of financial assistance provided by IDBI under Direct Finance Schemes during each of the last three years and April-September 1999 (latest available) are given in attached Statement II.

(d) and (e) Financial institutions extend financial assistance based on their considered commercial judgement, prudential norms on exposure and asset classification and RBI guidelines on the subject after consideration of cases at prescribed appropriate levels. No irregularities in sanctioning of loans to entrepreneurs, whether as a broad category or generic nature of irregularities, have been reported to the Government.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

No. of Applications Received by IDBI from various States—State-wise

S.No.	States	1996-97			1997-98			1998-99			1999-2000 (Apr. Sept)		
		Recd.	Sanc.	Rej.	Recd.	Sanc.	Rej.	Recd.	Sanc.	Rej.	Recd.	Sanc.	Rej.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	128	99	4	164	126	1	131	32	1	74	21	3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	7	6	—	6	6	—	10	3	—	5	1	—
4.	Bihar	20	14	1	14	8	—	17	8	—	4	3	—
5.	Goa	12	9	—	6	4	—	12	6	—	5	1	—
6.	Gujarat	140	104	6	179	140	3	128	48	0	85	27	2
7.	Haryana	45	28	1	67	34	—	51	10	—	23	9	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13	9	—	20	12	—	16	3	—	6	5	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	4	—	—	—	—	1	0	—	1	0	—
10.	Karnataka	56	35	—	94	62	2	67	31	2	36	17	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11. Kerala		15	12	—	17	14	1	28	12	—	7	5	—
12. Madhya Pradesh		52	37	3	80	62	2	61	18	3	29	10	—
13. Maharashtra		231	165	8	306	235	10	277	100	4	150	59	4
14. Meghalaya		1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Orissa		10	8	—	21	16	1	10	2	—	12	3	—
16. Punjab		34	19	2	58	40	1	45	14	1	27	11	2
17. Rajasthan		57	41	3	93	62	8	79	28	1	44	27	1
18. Sikkim		1	1	—	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Tamil Nadu		128	87	9	182	122	4	130	50	1	4	32	1
20. Uttar Pradesh		80	45	6	102	68	5	86	25	1	38	8	1
21. West Bengal		86	49	1	100	69	3	59	11	—	45	7	—
Union Territories													
1. Chandigarh		2	1	—	3	2	—	3	1	—	2	1	—
2. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		18	16	—	17	15	—	19	5	—	5	1	1
3. Delhi		30	16	1	46	24	2	30	15	—	9	4	—
4. Diu & Daman		5	5	—	7	6	—	8	2	—	2	1	—
5. Pondicherry		4	4	—	3	2	—	7	3	—	2	2	—
6. Andaman/Nicobar		0	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Statement II**State-wise Assistance Sanctioned and Disbursed by IDBI**

(Rs. Crores)

S.No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Apr. Sept)	
		Sanctioned	Disbursed	Sanctioned	Disbursed	Sanctioned	Disbursed	Sanctioned	Disbursed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	998.76	846.20	3014.81	1763.65	1770.66	1204.06	2116.10	556.30
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	15.35	24.22	14.56	14.71	46.02	22.58	21.90	10.90
4.	Bihar	98.41	41.50	370.55	329.28	674.30	134.85	163.60	194.90
5.	Goa	64.19	7.90	65.85	27.06	180.39	106.08	57.00	40.40
6.	Gujarat	2847.43	1878.55	3920.77	3100.03	3201.37	2342.10	3119.80	1017.10
7.	Haryana	377.17	22.05	407.40	350.49	470.14	272.12	163.60	120.60
8.	Himachal Pradesh	35.89	170.32	241.05	194.00	82.20	95.83	355.40	292.40
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10.72	8.11	3.78	1.09	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.20
10.	Karnataka	1003.61	593.71	1357.92	1048.91	2457.90	1233.94	581.30	428.80
11.	Kerala	37.99	73.66	98.10	57.21	269.76	112.03	60.60	25.40
12.	Madhya Pradesh	329.76	551.17	2447.81	697.26	635.43	670.19	615.90	161.80
13.	Maharashtra	1996.76	1756.30	4386.76	2641.10	5472.41	2621.13	1400.80	1000.00
14.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Orissa	1072.03	168.23	295.43	128.25	131.50	234.28	26.90	133.80
16.	Punjab	227.06	177.20	271.21	283.25	564.42	461.98	349.60	168.10
17.	Rajasthan	931.04	622.71	760.06	518.68	1012.66	808.24	361.80	196.10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	1242.45	842.51	2957.30	928.90	2610.96	1375.47	2019.10	607.60
20.	Uttar Pradesh	899.85	1166.95	686.72	676.10	1965.50	766.90	306.90	468.60
21.	West Bengal	504.81	291.00	954.04	795.81	651.65	642.58	288.40	218.60
Union Territories									
1.	Chandigarh	21.35	20.49	2.90	9.09	62.70	17.60	32.50	21.50
2.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	78.97	62.99	136.73	93.72	105.50	106.94	35.80	15.00
3.	Delhi	628.43	260.99	308.07	376.72	2268.23	453.83	645.20	374.10
4.	Diu & Daman	27.30	11.69	42.75	35.73	56.78	51.31	16.00	2.00
5.	Pondicherry	20.40	22.77	12.50	11.94	28.00	20.64	5.00	13.40
6.	Andaman/Nicobar	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Smuggling of Opium

*97. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Opium pours out via porous UP border" appearing in the 'Indian Express' Dated October 29, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been alleged in the news item that smugglers buy opium from cultivators in UP and smuggle it out through the Indo-Nepal border to sell it in the international market. No facts or concrete evidence of excess production, illegal sale or smuggling have been brought out in the news item.

(c) Government are alive to the danger of illicit or excess production of opium and its illegal diversion. However, the allegation contained in the news item of large scale and systematic diversion and smuggling is not borne out by the intelligence gathered and seizures made in the year. Cultivation of opium is permitted under Government's strict licencing, supervision and control. Strict vigil is also maintained by the Indo-Nepal Border police, Central Bureau of Narcotics, Customs, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Narcotics Control Bureau and other State Enforcement Agencies to check the illicit diversion/smuggling of opium. Stringent action is taken under narcotics law in all cases of embezzlement of opium by cultivators and drug traffickers.

Import of Rubber

*98 SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have procured Natural Rubber through S.T.C. and other institutions;

(b) if so, the quantity procured during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is a demand from farmers and Rubber Board to procure more rubber;

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

(e) whether the Government have declared the price of natural rubber at Rs. 34.05 per kilo;

(f) if so, whether the Government have taken any action to ensure the implementation of this price for farmers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government of India have procured Natural Rubber only through STC. During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (till October 1999), 9596 MTs, 11439 MTs and 8392 MTs of Natural Rubber respectively have been procured.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala have requested for procurement of 20,000 tonnes of Natural Rubber. As imports of Natural Rubber were banned in February 1999 even against Advance Licences, the procurement of Natural Rubber by STC for supplying against Advance Licence is continuing.

(e) to (g) No Sir. Government has fixed the Benchmark Price for Natural Rubber after a detailed field study by the Ministry of Finance in September 1998 and the Benchmark Price for RSS-IV Grade was fixed at Rs. 34.05 per kg. The Benchmark Price is only an indicative price of Rubber.

Revitalisation of Jute Industry

*99. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick Jute Mills and how many of them have been closed down in the country;

(b) the steps the Government have taken to revitalise the industry;

(c) whether certain jute mills of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd. (NJMC) are closed due to shortage of raw jute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Out of the 73 jute mills in the country two jute mills are lying closed for over twelve years. These

are the Kanpur and Katihar jute mills. Four mills are incorporated outside the country & turned into sick units. Out of the balance mills, 34 jute mills are sick and stand referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to examine the possibility of their revival.

(b) The Government has taken the following steps for revitalisation of the Jute Industry:

(i) Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme/Special Jute Development Fund/Country Cooperation Framework-I.

(ii) Demand stimulation by enacting Jute Packing Materials (compulsory use of packing commodities) Act 1987.

(iii) Placement of DGS&D order for purchase of B T will Jute Bags on BICP cost plus basis.

(iv) Continuation of Export Marketing Assistance on selected export items.

(v) Development of value added diversified jute product under the UNDP assisted jute programme.

(c) Some jute mills of NJMC have temporarily stopped operation due to non availability of raw jute.

(d) (i) After being declared a sick company by BIFR, the Ministry has prepared Turn Around Plans from time to time for making the units viable. A revised Turn Around Plan prepared by the operating agency, based on BIFR norms, is being examined.

(ii) Although the mills have been incurring losses, the Government has been giving financial support to the company to meet its expenses towards salary & wages. Funds for VRS has also been provided. Steps are also being taken to resume operation at the earliest in the mills where operation stopped.

[Translation]

Export of Jewellery

*100. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any special package scheme to promote export of jewellery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is proposed to be implemented; and

(d) the details of incentives available for export of jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) The exporters of jewellery have been ensured uninterrupted and easy access to duty free import of raw materials under the various export promotion schemes as envisaged under chapter 8 of the Exim Policy/ Handbook of Procedures (1997-2002). The Exim Policy/ Handbook of Procedures are continuously amended/fine-tuned on the basis of suggestions received from the trade and the difficulties experienced by the exporters. Some of the important incentives announced in the Exim Policy/ Handbook of Procedures w.e.f. 1st April 1999 include: (i) Permission to Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/Export Processing Zone units (EPZs) to import plain gold, platinum and silver jewellery for repairs/remake and export subject to a minimum NFEP of 7.5%. In such cases of export, wastage of 2% may be permitted, (ii) Permission to foreign buyers for personal carriage of gems & jewellery from all EOUs and EPZ units and also from units located in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai, (iii) Permission for duty free import of consumables upto 1% of the Free on Board (FOB) value of the export of the preceding year under the replenishment licences, (iv) Permission for export by Courier through Custom Houses at Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad upto FOB value of Rs. 20 lacs per consignment, (v) Permission to EOUs/EPZ units to send scrap/dust sweepings of gold to Private Mints also, apart from Government of India Mint, for refining and subsequent conversion into standard gold bars. Besides, such scrap/dust/sweepings of gold can be sold in the DTA on the payment of applicable Customs duty on the basis of gold content, as may be notified by the Customs, (vi) Permission for export of samples made in wax models, silver models and rubber moulds. Such exports are to be made under intimation to the Development Commissioner. The value of such exports shall not exceed Rs. 1,00,000/ in a year, and (vii) Inclusion of the item "Mangalasutra" under the category of plain gold/platinum/silver jewellery with a value addition of 10%. Similarly the item "Bangles" manufactured by fully mechanised process has been brought at par with gold/platinum/silver unstudded chains with a value addition of 3%.

Statement

Exporters of Jewellery have been provided a special package of Export Promotion Schemes under Chapter 8 of the Exim Policy (1997-2002)

Salient features of these scheme are:

(a) Export against supply by Foreign Buyer

Under the scheme export orders can be placed by the foreign buyer on the nominated agencies. In such cases gold, silver, platinum, alloys, findings and mountings of silver and gold of 18 carats and below are supplied in advance to the nominated agencies free of charge by the foreign buyers. The exports may be made by the nominated agencies directly or through their associates.

(b) Export through Exhibitions/Export promotion tours/branded jewellery

The nominated agencies and their associates with the approval of Ministry of Commerce and others with the approval of Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) may export gold/silver/platinum jewellery and articles thereof for exhibitions abroad. Personal carriage of gold/silver/platinum jewellery as samples upto US\$ 100,000 for export promotion tours and temporary display abroad is also permitted with the approval of Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council subject to the condition that the promoter would bring back the jewellery/goods within 45 days from the date of departure. Export of branded jewellery is also permitted with the approval of GJEPC for display/sale in the permitted shops set up abroad. An EOU/EPZ unit may also participate in exhibitions in India/abroad. The procedure for movement of the jewellery from these units and back shall be as prescribed by the customs authorities.

(c) Export against supply by nominated agencies

An exporter may obtain the gold/silver/platinum as an input for export products from nominated agencies on (i) Replenishment basis after completion of exports; (ii) Outright purchase basis in advance; and (iii) Loan basis.

Export Obligation under all the above three options shall be completed within a period of 120 days.

(d) Export against Advance Licence

This is a Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) Scheme. Under this scheme a quantity based Advance Licence may be granted for direct and duty free import of platinum/gold/silver. The exporters are also permitted to import platinum/gold/silver mountings, sockets, frames and findings. Besides the exporter can also obtain gold/silver/platinum from the

nominated agencies. The advance licence holder may also import gold as replenishment after completion of exports. The export obligation will be required to be fulfilled within 120 days from the date of import of first consignment against the licence.

Exports from Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/ Export Processing Zone Units (EPZs)

A unit holder in EOUs/EPZs may obtain the gold/silver/platinum and other essential inputs for export production. The exporters will be required to fulfil export obligation within the stipulated period as prescribed. A gem & jewellery unit holders can also import directly from abroad. These units have the facility to sell 10% of the value of exports of the preceding year in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) on payment of a concessional rate of duty as applicable on the purchase of gold/silver/platinum from the nominated agencies for plain jewellery and a uniform duty of 5% for studded jewellery. Such supply shall however be subject to the achievement of prescribed Value Addition. Besides, units in EOUs/EPZs are allowed to receive machine made gold/silver/platinum jewellery and chains from DTA against exchange of gold/silver/platinum of the same purity and quantity in weight. *w.e.f.* 1.4.99. EOU/EPZ units have been permitted to import plain gold/silver/platinum jewellery for repairs/re-make and export subject to a minimum NFEP of 7.5%. In such cases of export, wastage of 2% may be permitted. Moreover, personal carriage of gems & jewellery parcels by foreign buyers from all EOUs and EPZ units and also from the DTA units located in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Jaipur has been permitted.

Replenishment Licence

This is a value based Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) Scheme. Under this scheme no wastage or manufacturing loss is permitted. An exporter is eligible of freely transferable Replenishment licence at the rate of 87% of the FOB value of export of plain gold/platinum jewellery and articles thereof, and 80% of the FOB value of export of studded gold/platinum jewellery and articles thereof. Besides, the exporters will be eligible for freely transferable Replenishment (REP) Licence at the rate of 70% of the FOB value of exports of plain silver jewellery and articles thereof, and 75% of the FOB value of export of studded silver jewellery and articles thereof. These Replenishment licences are valid for import of gold/silver/Platinum; gold/silver/platinum findings, mountings, solders; rough diamonds; rough coloured gemstones and pearls within the overall value of licence. The period of validity of the Replenishment licence is 12 months from the date of issue licence.

(g) Gem Replenishment Licence

Gem Replenishment licences are also issued against the export of gold/silver/platinum jewellery & articles. In the case of plain gold/silver/platinum jewellery and articles, the value of such licences shall be determined with reference to the realisation in excess of the prescribed minimum value addition. In the case of studded gold/silver/platinum jewellery and articles thereof, the value of Gem Replenishment Licence shall be determined by taking into account the value of studdings used in items exported, after accounting for the value addition on gold/silver/platinum including admissible wastages. Such Gem Rep Licences are freely transferable.

Obstacles in working of Public Sector Undertakings

768. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any comprehensive scheme for removing the obstacles in the working of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are required to function in accordance with the provisions in their Memorandum and Articles of Association. Government continuously facilitates the PSUs in their working, providing input support and by enhanced delegation of powers where called for.

[English]

Sick Public Sector Enterprises in Andhra Pradesh

769. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sick Public Sector Enterprises in Andhra Pradesh, along with their present status; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to revive them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) There are 3 central PSEs with registered offices in the State of Andhra Pradesh which are sick and are registered with the BIFR as on 30.6.99. These are, Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd., (HFL), Southern Pesticides Corpon. Ltd., (SPCL) and Praga Tools Ltd., (PTL).

(b) The measures taken are as hereunder:

BIFR has sanctioned revival schemes for HFL and SPCL. The schemes are at different stages of implementation. HFL has been earning profits for the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98. SPCL has earned profits during 1995-96 and 1996-97. Praga Tools Ltd., (PTL) which was referred to BIFR in 1998, is at enquiry stage. However, Government have approved a restructuring plan for PTL and the same is with BIFR for decision.

Further details about the functioning, financial and physical performance are available in Volume-II and III of Public Enterprises Survey 1997-98, which has laid in Parliament on 26.2.1999 and is a published document.

[*Translation*]

Revamping of Closed Textile Mills in Maharashtra

770. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the public and private sector textile mills working in Maharashtra;

(b) the number of mills out of these are lying closed at present;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to revamp the closed textile mills;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the cases regarding salaries and other emoluments of workers of these mills are lying pending; and

(f) if so, the action being taken by the Government to dispose of their pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of textiles mills working in Maharashtra as on 30.9.99 are as under:

	Spg. Mills	Com. Mills	Total
NTC/STC	3	37	40
Co-operative	65	—	65
Private	57	40	97
Total	125	77	202

(b) Out of 202 mills, 33 mills are lying closed as on 30.9.99.

(c) and (d) Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, (SICA) 1985 and established the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. Out of the 33 closed textile mills in Maharashtra, 11 textile mills were registered with BIFR as on 9.9.99. As far as PSUs are concerned there are two subsidiaries of NTC in Maharashtra and none of the mills under subsidiaries has been closed down. On the basis of a unit-wise viability study Government is considering a Revised Turn Around Plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC and the viable mills under them taking into account the BIFR norms of net worth turning positive within stipulated period.

(e) and (f) Government is providing funds to NTC for meeting the shortfall in payment of salaries and wages to its employees. Regarding rest of the textile mills, Government of India has no such information.

[*English*]

Shifting of Patent Office

771. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to shift the Patent Head Office from Calcutta to Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a National Patent Office by upgrading the existing office in Delhi and strengthening branch offices at Mumbai and Chennai;

(d) whether more than 29000 applications are awaiting examination in various Patent Offices as on April, 1998; and

(e) if so, the steps the Government are planning to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Government has sanctioned a project for modernisation of Patent Office at a cost of Rs. 75.59 crores. The major components of the project include setting up of a National Patent Office by upgrading the existing office in New

Delhi, strengthening branch offices, providing trained and qualified personnel, in the existing and emerging fields of technologies, computerisation and infrastructural support, financial and operational autonomy, creation of awareness by organising training programmes/awareness seminars; and clearance of backlog of unexamined patent applications. However, a petition was filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta against the setting up of National Patent Office as the concept of National Patent Office is alien to the Patents Act and the Patents Rules. The Court has ruled against the setting up of National Patent Office. An appeal has been filed against this judgement.

(d) and (e) Government intends to prioritise the clearance of backlog of over 20,000 patent applications in a time bound manner.

NABARD Assistance

772. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the Government of Tripura is pending with the NABARD under RIDF-III Scheme for financial assistance to build up infrastructure in rural markets alongwith cold storage facilities for the farmers;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in taking decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that a proposal from the State Government of Tripura was received in NABARD for construction of rural markets and cold storage for financial assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The proposal was scrutinised and considered by the Projects Sanctioning Committee in its meeting held in July 1999. The Committee decided to collect more information on the technical and policy aspects of development of market yards and advised to reappraise the project in the light of the information gathered. The outcome of the discussions had been communicated to the State Government. The State Government has to initiate further study on aspects pertaining to the scope of development of market yards, design, planning and implementation of these projects.

Decline in production of Cotton Yarn in South India

773. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cotton yarn in the textile mills in South India witnessed a decline of 8.5 percent during 1998-99, as compared to the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to the Southern India Mills Association, out of 157 reporting member mills as many as 97 mills reported lower production during 1998-99 as compared to 1997-98;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the decrease in production of yarn and cloth was attributed to acute liquidity crunch faced by the mills due to the increase in input costs and uneconomic realisation of products; and

(f) if so, the details of help/assistance being provided to the textile mills in the south?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir. The production of cotton yarn in the textile mills in South India has declined about 8.9% during 1998-99 as compared to the previous year.

(b) Details are as follows:

(i) Andhra Pradesh	—	5.0%
(ii) Karnataka	—	12.8%
(iii) Kerala	—	10.9%
(iv) Tamil nadu	—	8.7%
(v) Pondicherry	—	18.4%

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Details are as follows:

(i) Cotton yarn	—	8.5%
(ii) 100% Non-Cotton	—	11.6%

(e) and (f) The decrease in production of yarn and cloth during 1998-99 can be attributed to varied reasons such as the non-availability of good quality cotton, damage of cotton crop due to certain diseases and unseasonal rains, demand recession in the domestic and international market and the South-East Asian crisis.

However, the Government has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textile and jute industries *w.e.f.* 1st April, 1999, which provides for reimbursement of 5 percentage points of the interest charged by the lending agencies on the loans availed of by the textile units.

Hotel Leela Ventures Ltd.

774. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Question Nos. 2239 and 2531 dated December, 11, 1998 and March 12, 1999 regarding use of bank loans and Hotel Leela Ventures Ltd. respectively and state:

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The implementation Statements in fulfilment of Assurances given with regard to unstarred question No. 2239 and 2531 for 11th December 1998 and 12th March 1999 respectively have been laid on the Table of the House on 28.10.1999.

[*Translation*]

Profits of Foreign Banks

775. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to check the flow of large share of profits to foreign banks and companies due to liberalisation;
- (b) the schemes of the Government to strengthen the financial position of the Country and to minimise the deficit and also to pay the external debt; and
- (c) the extent of control of Government on foreign banks and companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The total assets of foreign banks at the end of March 1999 constituted 8.1 per cent as against 8.2 per cent of the total assets in the banking sector during 1997-98. The operating profits of foreign banks group declined by 23.8 per cent in 1998-99. Hence, there has been no increased flow of share of profits to the foreign banks operating in India.

(b) The current account deficit was contained at 1.0 per cent of GDP in 1998-99 and net capital in flows were more than adequate to meet the current account deficit. India's external debt declined from the peak level of U.S. \$ 99,008 million at end-March 1995 to U.S. \$ 98,231 million at end-March 1999. Although the proportion of concessional debt to total debt declined from 45.9 per cent at end-March 1991 to 37.9 per cent at end-March 1999, there was a significant improvement in key indicators of debt sustainability. While the external debt-GDP ratio declined from 37.7 per cent at end-March 1992 to 23.7 per cent at end-March 1999, the debt service ratio fell from 35.3 per cent in 1990-91 to 18.0 per cent in 1998-99.

(c) While the Government have no direct control on foreign banks, the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 are applicable in the case of both Indian banks and foreign banks. Foreign banks are also subject to annual inspection by RBI and are supervised through various returns and statements, as in the case of Indian Banks. As India is convertible on Current Account, there are no restrictions on remittances of profits of the branches of foreign companies/banks and remittance of dividend by Indian Companies to their foreign investors. Authorised dealers have been permitted to make these remittances net of taxes and subject to submission of certain documents.

[*English*]

Modernisation of Jute Mills

776. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Jute cultivators face grim future as markets continue to shrink"
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the observations made in the news report; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government for modernisation of Jute Mills with permission for duty free import of required machinery and equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government through different legislative and protective measures have always protected the interests of the jute growers and the jute workers.

(c) Various steps for modernisation of Indian jute mills including the technological upgradation fund scheme have been taken by the Government. This is in addition to the following schemes which had been launched earlier: (1) Special Jute Development Fund Programme. (2) Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme (3) UNDP Aided Jute Development Projects (4) Market Assistance Scheme through JMDC (5) Constitution of National Centre for Jute Diversification. The Government is also formulating a Jute Technology Mission on the lines of Cotton Technology Mission for addressing the problems of the jute sector. Duty free import of jute machinery is permitted under the EPCG scheme subject to the norms prescribed under the scheme.

[Translation]

Expansion of Devas Bank Currency Note Press

777. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action plan formulated for expansion of Devas Bank Currency Note Press, Madhya Pradesh and providing drinking water in this Press;

(b) the time by which the Government propose to start complete the expansion work there;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to manufacture the printing ink for currency notes at Devas Bank Currency Note Press; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No action plan has been formulated by the Government for expansion of Bank Note Press, Dewas. However, modernisation of the Press has been undertaken for increasing its capacity. For the augmentation of existing water supply to Bank Note Press, Dewas, the Government has already approved "in principle", a Scheme for bringing water from Lakhundar Dam (in M.P.), to be executed through PHE Department of MP State Government, on deposit work basis. The PHE Department of the MP State Government has also promised to submit the requisite Detailed Project Report, in respect of the above Scheme on urgent basis, for further consideration by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Except one type of ink, *i.e.*, Intaglio Quickset ink, the ink factory at Dewas is already meeting full requirement of all other types of printing inks of the two note printing presses under Government control, *i.e.*, Bank Note Press, Dewas and Currency Note Press, Nasik. We do not have the technology for manufacture of Quickset Intaglio ink.

[English]

MSCCF Dues against NTC

778. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Textiles Corporation has to pay outstanding dues to the tune of Rs. 174.97 crores to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation (MSCCF) for the purchase of cotton from time to time;

(b) if so, whether eight out of nine NTC subsidiaries have been sick or under reference to BIFR and outstanding dues would be available only when these mills start earning some income after rehabilitation;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Ministry that NTC needs repayment with the Cotton Marketing Federation of Maharashtra without any further delay; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to take decision for clearing the dues to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton federation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) NTC mills have an outstanding of Rs. 167.41 crores towards the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Federation (MSCCF) as on 31.8.99 which includes interest and carrying charges.

(b) to (d) Cotton is purchased by the NTC on credit terms. Therefore, certain outstanding dues remain to be paid at any given point of time. While the Government of Maharashtra have requested for early payment of the cotton dues, due to acute shortage of working capital and losses suffered by the NTC, the payment of cotton dues to the Federation has fallen into arrears. A decision on the payment of dues will be taken by NTC once the rehabilitation package is approved by BIFR. The cases of 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC are presently under reference to the BIFR.

Big Corporates to Float Banks

779. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI propose to allow big corporates to float banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions laid down for this purpose;

(c) whether the capital base for such banks has been doubled from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 200 crore; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the main benefits to public and allowing these industrial houses to open banks and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) An Inhouse Working Group set up by the Reserve Bank of India has suggested revised guidelines relating to the licencing of new banks in the private sector. The revised guidelines are under the consideration of the Reserve Bank of India in consultation with the Government.

[*Translation*]

NTC Mills in Mumbai

780. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of mills under National Textile corporation in Mumbai;

(b) the number of sick and closed mills out of them;

(c) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to strengthen the sick mills economically and technically and to resume the closed mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) NTC has 25 mills in Mumbai which are working under the administrative control of NTC (MN) Ltd. and NTC (SM) Ltd. None of the mills in Mumbai under NTC have been closed. Most of these mills are working partially on job work.

On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth turning positive within the stipulated period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[*English*]

LIC and GIC

781. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of premium collected annually by the LIC and GIC during the last three years;

(b) the amount of this fund collected through premium invested in Government and Government approved securities and earnings made therefrom; and

(c) the amount thus invested in Government securities channelled to infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trading of Shares

782. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trading of shares relating to the Companies such as Jayanti Business Machines Ltd., Mumbai, Nova Pumech Ltd., Baroda, Uniliv Foods Ltd., Baroda, Druckgrafen India Ltd., Chandigarh, Tosha International Ltd., Noida is not taking place in any Stock Exchange;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of present financial position of these companies; and

(d) the action taken by SEBI against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, (SEBI) scrips of these companies, except for Tosha International Ltd., are not being traded in any of the stock exchanges in the recent past. Whether a stock is traded or not is determined by market conditions of supply and demand.

(c) Information on the financial position of these companies, furnished by the Department of Company Affairs, is provided in the attached Statement.

(d) SEBI as a regulatory body, is not expected to take action against companies to ensure that their stock is traded on the market.

Statement

The details of present financial position of the companies is summarised below:

Sl.No.	Company	Share Capital (In Rupees Crores)	Total Liabilities	Total Assets	Remarks
1.	Jayanti Business Machines Ltd. (as per balance sheet dated 31.3.96)	9.48	82.69	82.69	Co. has not filed B/S as at 31.3.97 and 31.3.98 for which prosecution has been launched under Section 220 of the Companies Act on 18.6.99
2.	Nova Pumech Ltd. (as per financial statement as on 30.9.95)	3.74	3.74	3.74	Co. has not filed A/R & B/S since 1997-98 Default notice has been issued to the Co.
3.	Uniliv Foods Ltd. (as per financial statement as on 31.3.95)	5.36	9.53	9.53	Co. has not filed A/R & B/S since 1995-96. Default notice has been issued to the Co.
4.	Druckgrafen India Ltd. (as per balance sheet dated 31.3.98)	1.53	10.34	4.23	The Co. has been declared sick vide BIFR order dated 29.12.1998.
5.	Tosha International Ltd. (as per balance sheet dated 31.3.98)	11.45	65.39	65.39	The unit has remained closed since August 1996. BIFR has passed the order for winding up of the Company

Subsidy on Tractors

783. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- whether subsidy is given on all sizes of tractors;
- if so, the amount of subsidy per tractor and total amount disbursed during the last three years, year-wise;
- the manner in which financing of tractor is being done;
- whether any study has been made on use of tractors v/s Draught Animal Power; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Subsidy is available only on tractors upto 30 H.P. under a Centrally Sponsored

Scheme 'Promotion of agricultural mechanisation among Small Farmers'. Under this scheme, subsidy @30% limited to Rs. 30,000 is available to the farmers individually or in groups, Registered Cooperative Societies, Agricultural Credit Societies, Multi-purpose Agricultural Farming Societies, etc. for the purchase of eligible size of tractors alongwith matching implements, not exceeding three in number (optional). This scheme is available in all the States, since 1992-93.

The amount of subsidy released to the States during the last three years is as under:

Year	Amount of subsidy released (Rs. in lakh)
1996-97	1673.00
1997-98	1669.30
1998-99	1636.94

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It was observed that the yield of paddy, maize and wheat crops were higher on tractor farms than on bullock farms due to better tillage and timely field operations. The use of tractor enhanced agricultural productivity due to better seed bed preparation, timelines of operation and better placement of seed and fertilizer with the use of seed-cum fertilizer drills/planters. Tractors also, enhanced cropping intensity by enabling precision and timely sowing taking advantage of the receding soil moisture in rain fed areas.

Overdrafts to States

784 SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days each of the States depended on Ways and Means Advances Overdrafts during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(b) the interest paid on Ways and Means Advances Overdrafts by each of the States during each of the above Financial Years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Transactions between a State and the RBI are conducted as per agreement between the two. Since, it is a matter of relationship between the banker and the client (RBI and State Government) the information about the State's overdrafts on their accounts with the RBI is not published/made public by the Government of India. A statement showing the position of interest on Ways and Means Advances paid by the State Government and also indicating the number of days for availing Ways & Means Advances during the financial years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is enclosed.

Statement

(Amount in lakh)

Sl.No.	States	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Interest on WMA	No. of days WMA	Interest on WMA	No. of days WMA	Interest on WMA	No. of days WMA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	372.19	77	1042.07	84	806.84	220
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.01	3	8.63	26
3.	Assam	687.66	310	632.32	339	793.09	360
4.	Bihar	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Goa	33.75	140	27.18	118	1.74	16
6.	Gujarat	0.00	0	0.00	0	5.60	6
7.	Haryana	11.26	13	23.72	29	165.07	131
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.00	21	23.78	58	74.61	153
9.	J & K

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Karnataka	222.77	117	107.00	48	4.13	10
11.	Kerala	12.78	7	30.34	41	282.45	207
12.	Madhya Pradesh	388.85	195	419.29	189	861.98	273
13.	Maharashtra	19.28	6	0.00	0	0.00	0
14.	Manipur	41.50	149	119.48	312	121.50	262
15.	Meghalaya	2.79	14	0.00	0	0.00	0
16.	Mizoram	89.96	280	115.08	319	86.02	260
17.	Nagaland	0.37	10	35.20	157	31.53	63
18.	Orissa	573.17	275	595.70	265	435.91	250
19.	Punjab	346.24	171	2888.32	243	950.46	354
20.	Rajasthan	1123.09	339	605.90	235	583.43	214
21.	Sikkim	*	*	*	*	*	*
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0	0.00	0	83.83	47
23.	Tripura	0.00	0	1.95	14	20.46	81
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.91	1	148.23	31	1915.60	233
25.	West Bengal	1217.99	258	518.67	165	282.97	82

* Do not Bank with RBI.

Merger of Insurance Companies

785. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased be state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge National Insurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company Limited with The Oriental Insurance Company Limited and the New India Assurance Company Limited, respectively and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL):
(a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Mines to SCs/STs

786. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to SCs/STs have been allotted floor lime-stone mines on priority basis, in Madhya Pradesh, particularly in Raipur district and the minimum wages fixed to protect the interest of labourers;

(b) the effective steps taken to protect the interests of the labourers working in the floor-stone mines;

(c) whether the Government have provided any assistance to the labourers who have been died during loading and unloading of floor stones at the mines in the State; and

(d) if so, the details of financial assistance provided to the families of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) Floor limestone is reckoned to be a minor mineral under Section 3(e) of the MM(R&D) Act, 1957 and consequently, the Central Govt. is not concerned with the grant of Mining Lease for this minor mineral. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that in Raipur District, mineral concessions for lime-stone (flooring) have been granted to 23 persons and 7 co-operative societies belonging to SCs/STs. The implementation of the labour laws is ensured by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The regulation of mineral concessions etc. of minor minerals is entirely under the domain of the State Governments and therefore the Central Governments in the Department of Mines do not monitor and maintain such information in respect of minor mineral mines.

[*English*]

Introduction of One Thousand Rupee Notes

787. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce Rs. 1000/- notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All activities relating to the printing of Rs. 1000/- notes are nearing completion and the note is expected to be released for circulation in January, 2000.

Negative Export Growth in Automobiles

788. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether auto industry has registered a negative export growth during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether leading names in the Indian auto sector such as Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL), Telco, Bajaj Auto, LML Ltd. and Hero Honda performed badly on the exports and global sales have declined during the period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of Automobile Sector during the current fiscal year (upto September, 1999) as compared to corresponding period of last year is as under:

Sub Sector	1998-99 (Apr-Sept '98)	1999-2000 (Apr-Sept '99)	% Growth
Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicles	1412	2281	61.5
Light Commercial Vehicles	2719	1377	-49.4
Cars	10,700	9095	-15.0
Multi Utility Vehicles	1413	2105	49.0
3-wheelers	10,707	10,168	-5.0
2-wheelers	51,340	36,309	-29.3
Total	78,291	61,335	-21.7

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Export performance of these companies during the current fiscal year (upto September, 99) as compared to corresponding period of the last year is as under:

(Export in Numbers)

Company	1998-99 (Apr-Sept '98)	1999-2000 (Apr-Sept., '99)
Commercial Vehicles		
TELCO	2729	2349
Passenger Car		
TELCO	788	56
Maruti Udyog Limited	9788	8248
Multi Utility Vehicles		
TELCO	306	1798
Maruti Udyog Limited	395	199
Three Wheelers		
Bajaj Auto Limited	10,629	9,891
Two Wheelers		
(i) Bajaj Auto Limited	11,116	6,613
(ii) LML Limited	5,999	2,734
(iii) Hero Honda	6,686	4,191

Cyclone in Orissa and West Bengal

789. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of damages relating to his Ministry made by the recent cyclone in Orissa and West Bengal; and

(b) the details of the steps which are being taken by his Ministry/Departments/Subordinate offices under his Ministry and help being extended for immediate restroation of facilities to the survived people of the affected areas in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The recent cyclone in Orissa and West Bengal has damaged 88 salt works (44 salt works in each State), covering an area of 4833 acres. Besides, a quantity of 4800 tonnes of salt has been washed away.

(b) Salt Department has taken the following initiatives to extend assistance to the damaged salt works both in the States of Orissa and West Bengal:

- (i) A sum of Rs. 19.314 lakh by way of ex-gratia relief has been disbursed upto now to the affected salt manufacturers in Orissa for rehabilitation of their damaged salt works.
- (ii) Based on the request of the Salt Commissioner, a programme for movement of six additional rakes of iodised salt (by rail) to the affected districts of Orissa from Rajasthan has been approved by the Railway Board, New Delhi.
- (iii) Salt Department has approved a proposal for construction of a bridge-cum-sluice gate over Chilka canal in Goka Salt Factory at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.31 lakh with 70% assistance from salt cess proceeds. This is to benefit the salt workers and their families residing at the opposite side of the canal. This is in addition to several other labour welfare works sanctioned by the Salt Department in various salt factories.
- (iv) As per the preliminary report of the damages, an amount of Rs. 13.40 lakh will be paid to the affected salt works in West Bengal, as ex-gratia relief. This is in addition to other labour welfare works sanctioned by the Salt Department for various salt works in West Bengal.

Privatisation of Hindustan Copper Limited

790. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the Hindustan Copper Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure the interests of workers employed in the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided the following disinvestment strategy for Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL):

Phase I: The Khetri unit of HCL along with Taloja plant will be formed into a separate company. The assets of these units will be valued and will form 49% contribution from HCL in a new company in which 51% equity will be injected by a strategic partner.

Phase II: The remaining portion of HCL comprising the Indian Copper Complex and the Malanjkhanda Copper Project will be restructured by closure of unviable mines in a phased manner with consequent separation of surplus manpower under Voluntary Retirement Scheme. HCL will then look for one more strategic partner for 51% disinvestment in the remainder of HCL.

While approving capital restructuring proposal for HCL in December, 1998 the Government has sanctioned a non-plan loan of Rs. 414 crore for separation of surplus employees of HCL under Voluntary Retirement Scheme in a phased manner during 1998-99 to 2001-2002. Infusion of fresh resources by the strategic partner is expected to result in sustained employment for the remaining work force.

Closure of Mines of HCL

791. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the Members of Parliament requesting to initiate steps to save the Indian Copper Complex (ICC) located at Ghatsila in the Vananchal region of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to review the decision of the Hindustan Copper Limited to close down two of the mines at Pathargore and Kendadih and save 1100 employees from retrenchment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The mining operations at Pathargora and Kendadih mines are highly uneconomical and as Hindustan Copper Limited is incurring heavy losses in operating these mines, the Board of Directors of HCL has in principle approved the proposal for closure of these mines and the Company has sought permission from the Government for closure of these mines under section 25 (o) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. On the recommendations of Hindustan Copper Limited and looking to the fact that these mines are highly uneconomical and there is no scope for their revival, the Department of Mines has sought the permission of the Government in the Labour Ministry to close down these mines. Ministry of Labour had convened a joint meeting of the representatives of the Management and the concerned registered trade unions on 22.11.99 in connection with the proposed closure of these two mines.

Autonomy to Financial Institutions

792. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has demanded that financial institutions be given free hand to offload their holding in poorly managed companies to the highest bidder without any Government interference;

(b) if so, the views of other industrial federations in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to uplift companies in distress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. By and large the other apex associations also hold the same view.

(c) Government have initiated several measures to revive the industrial units in distress. Some of these are: (i) 'The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985' has been enacted under which a quasijudicial body designated as the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has been set up to deal with the problems of sick industrial companies. (ii) The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of sick but potentially viable units; and (iii) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is administering a Refinancing Scheme for Rehabilitation (RSR) for revival of potentially viable sick small scale industrial units.

Decline in Industrial Growth Rate

793. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a negative industrial growth during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the sectors where the growth has been very poor or stagnant;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the industrial growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No Sir, the overall growth rates of Industrial Production during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 were 5.6%, 6.6% and 4.0% respectively.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) the steps taken to improve industrial production, *inter alia*, are:

1. special package announced for revival of growth in exports;
2. repeal of ULCRA and incentive to house ownership;
3. the Government has allowed buy back of shares and inter-corporate loans to boost investment and revive the capital market;
4. a new power policy announced;
5. excise duties rationalized;
6. income tax rate and custom duties on infrastructure projects reduced;
7. liberalization of inflow of FDI/NRI/OCB investment and the guidelines for foreign equity investment in NBFC have further been modified;
8. setting up of Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) to provide single point interface between foreign investors and Government machinery;
9. setting up of National Accreditation Boards including a National Patent Office and a National benchmarking Patent House to promote integration of best practices in the Indian Industry;
10. restoration of 100% MODVAT credit;
11. reduction in CRR;
12. withdrawal of interest rate surcharge on import finance.

Bank Branches Manning by Female Staff

794. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAOTALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalized and scheduled banks in the country having only female staff, state-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more such branches of banks; and

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof, particularly in Haryana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have reported that the following banks' branches are managed only by female staff as per information available with them:

Name of the bank	Location of branch
1. State Bank of Travancore	Secretariat View Branch, Trivandrum, Kerala
2. Syndicate Bank	Karol Bagh, New Delhi
3. Syndicate Bank	Seshadripuram, Bangalore
4. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	Anna Nagar, Chennai

(b) and (c) RBI do not have any proposal currently from any scheduled bank for opening branches having only female staff.

Grant to Orissa to Meet the Cyclone Havoc

795. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cyclone politics begins with Centre's money" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated November 5, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Union Government have not released any grant to Orissa to meet the cyclone havoc but have given only advance for the purpose;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether this practice has been followed in similar cases in other States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (g) Considering the fact that the cyclone which hit Orissa was a calamity of rare severity, a sum of Rs. 500 crores has already been released to the State Government of Orissa as a grant from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) to enable the State Government to undertake relief measures. Also, with a view to ensuring that non availability of funds does not hamper relief measures, the Central Government have released in advance plan and non-plan assistance amounting to about Rs. 460 crores to the State Government of Orissa. The Central Government have also deferred loan repayment liability of the State Government to the extent of about Rs. 105 crores. These steps taken by the Central Government together with assistance from other Ministry of Central Government including Defence Ministry are all intended to come to the aid of the State Government in undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures.

[*Translation*]

Posts Reserved for SCs/STs

796. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to issue an order to fill the backlog of vacant reserved posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in banks and Financial Institutions through some special recruitment drive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to fill the backlog of these reserved posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The Supreme Court in the case of *Indira Sawhney Versus Union of India*, has inter-alia held that the number of vacancies that can be filled on the basis of reservation including carried forward reserved vacancies should in no case exceed 50% of the total vacancies filled during a year. In view of this limitation imposed by the court orders, the Government have discontinued Special Recruitment Drives.

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

(c) Instructions have been issued by the Government to ensure timely filling up of reserved posts to avoid accumulation of backlog. The need to follow the procedure prescribed in this regard has also been emphasized. The recruitment and representation position of the SCs and STs in the nationalised banks is reviewed through a comprehensive proforma by the Boards of Directors of each of the nationalised banks every six months and the position is being reported to the Government. Pre-recruitment training is being imparted by banks to the candidates appearing for the competitive examinations conducted by Banking Service Recruitment Boards/Central Recruitment Board. Centres for examination are established nearest to the areas of concentration of the ST population. Banks have been advised to hold training workshops for the personnel working in their SC/ST Cells to make them fully aware of the need for implementation of the reservation policy.

Setting up of Heavy Industries

797. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any heavy industry in Public or Private Sector in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal by the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises to establish any heavy industry in the public sector. The Industrial Sector stands largely delicensed and private sector is free to establish heavy industry anywhere in the country including in U.P.

[*English*]

Non-Official Directors of Local Boards of SBI

798. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently terminated the services of non-official Directors of Local Boards of the State Bank of India (SBI);

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

(c) whether the Government propose to take similar steps for other nationalised banks/financial institutions and appoint new non-official Directors; and

(d) if so, by when this process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Section 13 of the Banking, Public Financial Institutions and Negotiable Instruments Laws (Amendment) Act, 1988, amended section 21 A of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 dealing with the term of office of the Members of the Local Boards of State Bank of India and provided that Members shall hold office for such term not exceeding 3 years, as the Central Government may specify in this behalf and thereafter until his successor has been duly nominated and shall be eligible for re-nomination, provided that no such Member shall hold office continuously for a period exceeding six years. This amendment was brought into force with effect from 25th October, 1999. As a result the Members of Local Boards of State Bank of India who had continuously held office for more than six years ceased to be Members.

(c) and (d) In terms of the existing similar provisions of the statutes Governing the term of office of the part-time non-official directors on the Boards of the Nationalised Banks/Financial Institutions, each such director shall hold office for such term not exceeding 3 years as the Central Government may specify at the time of his nomination and thereafter until his successor has been nominated and shall be eligible for re-nomination, provided that no such director shall hold office continuously for a period exceeding six years. Action has been initiated to fill up existing vacancies and also to replace the existing part-time non-official directors on the Boards of the public sector banks and financial institutions, whose tenure has already expired and are continuing pending appointment of their successors.

[Translation]

Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.

799. DR M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the value of goods sold by Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd., Ranchi, during the last three years;

(b) the names of the Departments to whom these goods were sold alongwith the quantity thereof;

(c) whether the Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. has not executed the work orders received from various departments in time;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not executing these work orders in time;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) There have been delays in excuting orders. The percentage in value terms of orders delayed was 92% in 1997-98, 60% in 1998-99 and 29% in 1999-2000 (upto Sept '99). The main reasons for delay are non-lifting of finished products by customers, delay in establishment of technology, working capital problem, etc. In some cases the officials have also been found responsible.

(e) and (f) Wherever delays occur in execution of orders, a detailed analysis of delays is carried out. During the last three years, officials have been held responsible for delays and action taken against them in 105 cases.

Statement

(a) The value of goods sold by HEC in the last three years is given below:

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1997-98	247.53
1998-99	260.93
1999-2000 (upto October, 1999)	149.86

(b) Department-wise value of goods are as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto October '99)
Steel	57.40	48.82	29.18
Mining	85.46	79.80	57.20
Defence	14.18	20.39	7.23
Railways	5.46	12.48	8.57
Others including Pvt. Sector	85.03	99.44	47.68
Total:	247.53	260.93	149.86

*[English]***Disinvestment Commission**

800. SHRI ADHIR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tenure of Disinvestment Commission was to expire in August, 1999;

(b) whether the Chairman and few Members of the Disinvestment Commission have resigned;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have extended the tenure of the Disinvestment Commission;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the number of reports submitted by the Commission so far;

(g) the extent to which its recommendations have been implemented;

(h) whether the Government propose to provide additional powers to the Disinvestment Commission for its smooth functioning; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) The tenure of Disinvestment Commission had been extended upto 30.11.99 and has since ended. The Commission as constituted has ceased to exist *suo motto*.

(f) and (g) The Commission submitted 12 Reports to the Government covering 58 PSUs. The recommendations of the Commission on disinvestment through offer of shares has been largely implemented in respect of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL); action has been initiated in 11 PSUs concerning strategic alliance/restructuring/trade sale in respect of 11 PSUs; Disinvestment has been deferred in 11 PSUs; In regard to 1 (one) unit it has been decided not to disinvest.

(h) and (i) There is no proposal with the Government.

*[Translation]***Pending Cases of Customs/Excise**

801. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several disputed cases relating to customs and excise are lying pending in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases by the end of September, 1999.

(c) the total amount involved in these cases;

(d) the amount relating to customs and excise departments, out of it, separately; and

(e) the measures the Government have taken or proposed to take to settle all pending cases under adjudication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Total number of disputed cases and the amount involved in respect of Central Excise & Customs cases pending on 30.9.99 is as under:

	No. of cases	Amount involved (in crores)
Central Excise	80520	17371.35
Customs	11840	1493.62
Total	92360	18864.97

(e) Special efforts are being made to get the stay vacated by filing urgent petitions in High Courts, Appellate Tribunal for either vacation of stay or deciding the cases on priority basis, creating of compact and smaller commissionerates for effective supervision, posting of exclusive commissioners (adjudication) for speedy adjudication, setting up of a settlement commission for settlements of pending disputes. Wherever necessary, bank guarantees are enforced, Efforts are also being made to realize the dues by taking persuasive/coercive action.

*[English]***Technology Upgradation Fund**

802. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted a Technology Upgradation Fund to modernise the textile industry technology;

(b) if so, the total amount deposited in this fund;

(c) whether certain institutions have been provided financial assistance from this fund; and

(d) if so, the amount paid from this fund by the end of September, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries which is in operation since 01.04.1999 for a period of 5 years, *i.e.*, up to 31.03.2004. There is no cap on funding under the scheme. It is an open-ended scheme depending on the capacity of the industry to absorb funds in bankable and technoeconomically feasible proposals. Loans under the scheme are extended by the nodal agencies/coopted institutions to the identified segments of the industry for the projects in conformity with the scheme for their own resources. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme.

Approximately Rs. 1117 crore have been sanctioned to 84 mills of different textile sectors by the Nodal Agencies under TUFS. Out of which Rs. 156.41 crore approximately have been disbursed till September 30, 1999.

Expert Committee on Textile Policy

803. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee on textile policy, headed by Shri S. Sathyam was constituted by the Government;

(b) if so, the composition and the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam to, inter-alia, review the impact of the existing Textile Policy and suggest policy measures for the industry to focus on changes resulting from over-all trade policy reforms.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Committee mostly focus on measures to secure progressive increase in production and exportable surplus, removal of technological obsolescence, strengthen the competitive framework of all segments of the textile industry, removal of avoidable regulations and facilitation for orderly transition of the industry to that of a market oriented forward looking industry. The Expert Committee report will be taken into consideration while framing the New Textile Policy.

Statement*Expert Committee on Textile Policy*

I. The composition of the Expert Committee constituted vide Resolution No. 8/7/98-TPC dated 24.7.98 is as follows:

1.	Sh. S.R. Sathyam, Retired Secretary, Ministry of Textiles	—	Chairman
2.	Chairman, Industrial Development Bank of India, Mumbai	—	Member
3.	Dr. T.V. Ratnam, Adviser, SITRA, Coimbatore	—	Member
4.	Shri A.N. Jariwala	—	Member
5.	Shri Sanjay S. Lalbhai, M/s Arvind Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad	—	Member
6.	Dr. Omkar Goswami, Editor Business India, Mumbai	—	Member

7.	Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director General, NCAER, New Delhi	—	Member
8.	Development Commissioner (Handlooms)	—	Member
9.	Shri B.D. Jethra, Adviser, Planning Commission	—	Member
10.	Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Director, National Institute of Public Finance & Policy, New Delhi	—	Member
11.	Shri Ajay G. Piramal, Chairman, Morarjee Goculdas Spg. & Wvg. Co Ltd. Mumbai	—	Member
12.	Textile Commissioner, Mumbai	—	Member Secretary

II. Terms of Reference

- To review and evaluate the impact of the existing Textile Policy and identify the changes that are necessary, particularly in terms of the new imperatives of international competition.
- To evolve a new set of policy guidelines with a view to obtaining the best productivity from each sector and from each segment of the textile industry after taking a holistic view of the textile sector covering: (i) All products (all fibres and value-added products resulting therefrom); (ii) All activities (spinning, weaving, processing finishing and packaging); and (iii) All sectors (organised mills, powerlooms and handlooms).
- To suggest policy measures for the textile industry to focus on the changes resulting from overall trade policy reform and specifically the dismantling of the Multi-fibre Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (MFA) and the associated non-tariff barriers. Such policy measures would, inter-alia, include measures for upgradation of: (a) Products including facilitation for establishing branded products, (b) Technology, (c) Financial arrangements, (d) Market development including brand promotion and (e) Human Resource development in the textile industry.
- To examine the competitiveness of the various segments of the textile industry with respect to their international counter-parts and to suggest policy prescriptions to improve the competitive edge of each segment and to suggest measures

for strengthening the fundamentals of each of the economic spheres of the textile industry. This would include a study of the specific role to be assigned for different fibres.

- To suggest policy measures to aid the restructuring of the textile industry with a view to attaining international competitiveness by the year 2005.
- To examine the existing industrial policy including foreign direct investment policies, as well as fiscal and trade policies with reference to the textile industry and suggest necessary changes for modernisation and growth in the industry.
- To review the existing system of control and regulation in the textile sector and suggest changes, wherever necessary, for promoting productivity and encouraging growth in all the sectors of the textile industry.
- To evolve a comprehensive policy and strategy for developing human resources in all activities in the textile sector including production technologies, designs, marketing skills and information technology. This should also include an examination of the present scenario of the policy measures required in the area for the attainment of international competitiveness in the textile industry.
- To review the measures taken so far for tackling sickness in the textile industry and to make suggestions for improving the economic viability of the textile industry as also to identify steps which would be necessary to prevent and tackle sickness in the industry, including the need for structural adjustments through re-deployment of labour and capital.
- To examine the desirability of establishing dedicated financing arrangements to cater specifically to the needs of the textile industry.

[Translation]

Industrial Growth Centres

804. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Growth Centres functioning in the country so far, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish some more Industrial Growth Centres in the country, particularly in Bihar and whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the progress made in this regard and the time by which these Industrial Growth Centres are likely to be established; and

(e) the details of the amount released by the Government for these Centres during 1998-99, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Under the Growth Centre Scheme 1998, 68 centres have so far been approved by the Government of India for implementation by the respective State Governments. State-wise and location-wise list of these 68 centres is in the attached statement. Implementation of the scheme by the State Governments has been carried over into the 9th Five Year Plan period. These growth centres are at various stages of implementation and creation of industrial infrastructure. Creation of industrial infrastructure is an ongoing process. Full amount of Central assistance has been released in respect of 14 centres.

(b) and (c) Industrial growth centres under the schemes have already been earmarked and allotted to various States. Government of India do not have any pending proposal for any additional growth centre from Government of Bihar. Proposals of Government of Goa & Karnataka for additional growth centre were not acceded.

(d) and (e) In view of (b) and (c), does not arise.

Statement

List of Approved Growth Centres

Sl.No.	Name of the Growth Centre	District
1	2	3
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1.	Hindpur	Anantapur
2.	Khammam	Khammam
3.	Ongole	Prakasam
4.	Vizianagaram-Bobbili	Vizianagaram

1	2	3
ARUNACHAL PRADESH		
5.	Niklok Ngorlung	East Siang
ASSAM		
6.	Chariduar	Sonitpur
7.	Matia	Goalpara
BIHAR		
8.	Begusarai	Begusarai
9.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur
10.	Chhapra	Chhapra
11.	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh
12.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga
13.	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur
GOA		
14.	Electronic City	Verma-Plateau
GUJARAT		
15.	Gandhidham	Kutch
16.	Palanpur	Banaskantha
17.	Vagra	Bharuch
HARYANA		
18.	Bawal	Rewari
19.	Saha	Ambala
HIMACHAL PRADESH		
20.	Kangra	Kangra
JAMMU AND KASHMIR		
21.	Samba	Jammu
22.	Ompura-Lassipora	Budgam-Pulwama

1	2	3
KARNATAKA		
23.	Dharwad	Dharwad
24.	Raichur	Raichur
25.	Hassan	Hassan
KERALA		
26.	Alappuzha-Malapuram	Alappuzha-Malapuram
27.	Kannur-Kozhikode	Kannur_Kozhikode
MADHYA PRADESH		
28.	Borai	Durg
29.	Chainpura	Guna
30.	Ghirongi	Bhind
31.	Kheda	Dhar
32.	Satlapur	Raisen
33.	Siltara	Raipur
MAHARASHTRA		
34.	Akola	Akola
35.	Chandrapur	Chandrapur
36.	Dhule	Dhule
37.	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri
38.	Nanded	Nanded
MEGHALAYA		
39.	Mendipathar	East Garo Hills
MIZORAM		
40.	Luangmual	Aizwal
MANIPUR		
41.	Lamlai-Napet	Imphal East

1	2	3
NAGALAND		
42.	Ganeshnagar	Dimapur
ORISSA		
43.	Chatrapur	Chatrapur
44.	Duburi	Cuttack
45.	Jharsuguda	Jharsuguda
46.	Kesinga	Kalahandi
PONDICHERY		
47.	Polagam	Karaikal
PUNJAB		
48.	Bhatinda	Bhatinda
49.	Pathankot	Gurdaspur
RAJASTHAN		
50.	Abu-Road	Sirohi
51.	Bikaner	Bikaner
52.	Jhalawar	Jhalawar
53.	Dholpur	Dholpur
54.	Bhilwara	Bhilwara
TAMIL NADU		
55.	Erode	Periyar
56.	Oragadam	Kancheepuram
57.	Tirunelveli (Gangai Kondan Nanur Block)	Tirunelveli- Kattabommam
TRIPURA		
58.	Bodhjung Nagar	Tripura-West
UTTAR PRADESH		
59.	Bachouli-Buzurg	Jhansi
60.	Banthara	Shajahnpur
61.	Chaudharpur	Moradabad

1	2	3
62.	Dibiapur	Etawah
63.	Khurja	Bulandshahr
64.	Mungra Satharia	Jaunpur
65.	Sahjanwa	Gorakhpur
WEST BENGAL		
66.	Bolpur	Birbhum
67.	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri
68.	Malda	Malda

[English]

NTC Mills

805. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of textiles mills under National Textiles Corporation at present;
- (b) the number of N.T.C. mills running in loss;
- (c) steps taken by the Government to make them viable;
- (d) whether certain mills among them have been handed over to State Governments;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether Government propose to have them run through cooperative societies of employees working in the mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) NTC has 119 textile mills under its control. All NTC mills have reported losses during 1998-99.

On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the Revival Plan.

(d) and (e) An offer was made to all State Governments where NTC mills are located, for take over of these mills by them. However, no positive response has been received from any of the State Government.

(f) The option of running these mills through Cooperative Societies of employees will be kept in view by the Government while finalising the revival plan.

Floor Price of Rubber

806. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to fix floor price of rubber;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reason therefor; and
- (d) the details of the schemes to help the rubber farmers introduced recently?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The price of rubber, an industrial raw material is basically determined by demand and supply factors. Hence, fixation of floor price of rubber has not been considered necessary.

(d) Government of India through Rubber Board has been implementing various ongoing schemes such as Rubber Plantation Development Scheme, Promotion of Irrigation, Construction of Somke House, Assistance for Hand Operated Rollers, Supply of Plantation Requisites including free supply of boundary protection materials etc. for providing financial and extension support to the growers directly. In addition, free training is also imparted to needy growers on all aspects of rubber cultivation.

[Translation]

Lifting of Ban on Import of Agricultural Products

807. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the ban on the import of foreign agricultural products in the near future as India is a signatory to the World Trade Organisation.

(b) if so, the main items of agricultural products on which the ban is likely to be lifted;

(c) whether the Government have prepared to safeguard the interests of the Indian farmers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) As a member of the World Trade Organisation, India is obliged to lift quantitative restrictions on all agricultural, textiles and industrial products over a period of time. After these quantitative restrictions are lifted, protection to domestic industry and agriculture will be available through tariffs.

However, even while fulfilling its international commitments the Government is fully committed to protecting the interest of the farmers. Thus, apart from using tariffs as a means of providing adequate protection to agriculture, stringent action can be taken against those seeking to dump agricultural products into the country through anti-dumping and anti-subsidy mechanisms. In case of any surge in imports of any commodity, safeguard duties can also be imposed.

A list of agricultural items presently restricted for imports is attached as Statement.

Statement

9.	020422.00	Other cuts with bone in, as meat of sheep, fresh or chilled.
10.	020423.00	Boneless meat of sheep, fresh or chilled.
11.	020430.00	Carcasses and half carcasses, as meat of lamb, frozen.
12.	020441.00	Carcasses and half carcasses, as meat of sheep, frozen.
13.	020442.00	Other cuts with bone in, as meat of sheep, frozen.
14.	020443.00	Boneless meat of sheep, frozen.
15.	020450.00	Meat of goats, fresh, chilled or frozen.
16.	020630.00	Edible offal of swine, fresh or chilled.
17.	020641.00	Livers, as edible offal of swine, frozen.
18.	020649.00	Other edible offal of swine, frozen.
19.	020680.01	Edible offal of sheep or goats, fresh or chilled.
20.	020690.01	Edible offal of sheep or goats, frozen.
21.	020711.00	Meat and edible offal, of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> , not cut in pieces, fresh or chilled.
22.	020712.00	Meat and edible offal, of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> , not cut in pieces, frozen.
23.	020713.00	Cuts and edible offal, of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> , fresh or chilled.
24.	020714.00	Cuts and edible offal, of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> , frozen.
1.	020311.00	Carcasses and half carcasses, as meat of swine, fresh or chilled.
2.	020312.00	Hams, shoulders and cuts with bone in, as meat of swine, fresh or chilled.
3.	020319.00	Other meat of swine, fresh or chilled.
4.	020321.00	Carcasses and half carcasses, as meat of swine, frozen.
5.	020322.00	Hams, shoulders and cuts with bone in, as meat of swine, frozen.
6.	020329.00	Other meat of swine, frozen.
7.	020410.00	Carcasses and half carcasses, as meat of lamb, fresh or chilled.
8.	020421.00	Carcasses and half carcasses, as meat of sheep, fresh or chilled.

25.	020724.00	Meat and edible offal, of turkeys, not cut in pieces, fresh or chilled.	139.	040130.00	Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, of a fat content by weight, exceeding 6%.
26.	020725.00	Meat and edible offal, of turkeys, not cut in pieces, frozen.			
27.	020726.00	Cuts and edible offal, of turkeys, fresh or chilled.	140.	040210.03	Milk food for babies, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, in powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content by weight not exceeding 1.5%.
28.	020727.00	Cuts and edible offal, of turkeys, frozen.			
29.	020732.00	Meat and edible offal, not cut in pieces, of ducks, geese and guinea fowls, fresh or chilled.	141.	040210.09	Other milks and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, in powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content by weight, not exceeding 1.5%.
30.	020733.00	Meat and edible offal, not cut in pieces, of ducks, geese and guinea fowls, frozen.			
31.	020734.00	Fatty livers, as meat of ducks, geese and guinea fowls, fresh or chilled.			
32.	020735.00	Other cuts and edible offal, of poultry, fresh or chilled.	142.	040221.00	Milk and cream, concentrated, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, in powder, granules or other solid form of a fat content, by weight exceeding 1.5%.
33.	020736.00	Other cuts and edible offal, of poultry, frozen.			
34.	020810.00	Meat and edible meat offal, of rabbits or hares, fresh, chilled or frozen			
35.	Ex 020890.00	Other meat or edible meat offal, fresh, chilled or frozen, other than of protected species.	144.	040229.03	Milk for babies, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, in powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content, by weight, exceeding 1.5%.
36.	021011.00	Hams, shoulders and cuts, with bone, in, as meat of swine, salted, in brine, dried or smoked.	145.	040229.09	Other milk and cream, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, in powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content, by weight, exceeding 1.5%.
37.	021012.00	Bellies (streaky) and cuts, as meat of swine, salted, in brine, dried or smoked.			
38.	021019.00	Other meat and edible meat offal, of swine, salted, in brine, dried or smoked.	146.	040291.00	Milk and cream, not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, other.
39.	Ex 021090.09	Other meat and edible meat offal, salted, in brine, dried or smoked; edible flours and meals of meat or meat offal, other than of protected species.	147.	040299.02	Whole milk, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, other.

148.	040299.03	Condensed milk, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, other.	267.	080940.00	Plums and sloes, fresh
			279.	081090.07	Lichi, fresh
149.	040299.09	Other milk and cream, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, other.	298.	090111.01	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica plantation A.
			299.	090111.02	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica plantation B.
155.	040490.00	Other products consisting of natural milk constituents, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter, n.e.s.	300.	090111.03	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica plantation C.
156.	040510.00	Buttar. derived from milk.	301.	090111.09	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica plantation, other grades.
157.	040520.00	Dairy spreads.	302.	090111.11	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica cherry A.B.
158.	040590.02	Melted butter (ghee).	303.	090111.12	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica cherry PB.
159.	040610.00	Fresh cheese, including whey cheese and curd.	304.	090111.13	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica cherry C.
163.	040690.00	Other cheese.	305.	090111.14	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica cherry B/B.B.
189	070700.00	Cucumbers and gherkins, fresh or chilled.	306.	090111.19	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, arabica cherry other grades.
208.	071010.00	Potatoes, uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen.	307.	090111.21	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob parchment AB.
232.	071290.06	Potatoes, whether or not cut or sliced, but not further prepared.	308.	090111.22	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob parchment PB.
235.	071420.00	Sweet potatoes.	309.	090111.23	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob parchment C.
237.	071490.09	Other edible roots and tubers with high starch or inulin content, fresh or dried.	310.	090111.29	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob parchment other grades.
238.	080111.00	Coconuts, dessicated.			
239.	080119.01	Coconuts, fresh.			
240.	080119.02	Coconuts, dried.			
243.	080290.01	Betel nut, whole.			
244.	080290.02	Betel nut, split and ground.			
245.	080290.03	Nuts, areca.			
259.	080610.00	Grapes, fresh.			

311.	090111.31	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob cherry A.B.	327.	090220.04	Tea green waste.
312.	090111.32	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob cherry PB.	328.	090230.01	Tea black in packets not exceeding 25 g.
313.	090111.33	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob cherry C.	329.	090230.02	Tea black in packets exceeding 25 g. but not exceeding 1 kg.
314.	090111.34	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob cherry B/B/B.	330.	090230.03	Tea black in packets exceeding 1 kg. but not exceeding 3 kg.
315.	090111.35	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob cherry bulk.	331.	90240.01	Tea black in packets exceeding 3 kg. but not exceeding 20 kg.
316.	090111.39	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated, rob cherry other grades.	332.	090240.02	Tea black, leaf in bulk.
317.	090112.00	Coffee, not roasted, decaffeinated.	333.	090240.03	Tea black, dust in bulk.
318.	Ex 090121.00	Coffee, roasted, not decaffeinated, other than in bulk packaging.	334.	090240.04	Tea bags.
319.	Ex 090122.00	Coffee, roasted, decaffeinated, other than in bulk packaging.	335.	090240.05	Tea black (ball, brick, tablets, etc).
320.	090190.00	Coffee husks and skins; Coffee substitutes containing coffee in any proportion.	336.	090240.06	Tea black waste.
321.	090210.01	Tea green in packets not exceeding 25 g.	351.	090420.09	Jamaica pepper, dried, crushed or ground.
322.	090210.02	Tea green in packets exceeding 25 g. but not exceeding 1 kg.	360.	090830.01	Cardamoms, large.
323.	090210.03	Tea green in packets exceeding 1 kg. but not exceeding 3 kg.	363.	090830.04	Cardamoms, small bleached, half-bleached, or bleachable.
324.	090220.01	Tea green in packets exceeding 3 kg. but not exceeding 20 kg.	364.	090830.06	Cardamoms, small, mixed.
325.	090220.02	Tea green in bulk.	365.	090830.07	Cardamom powder.
326.	090220.03	Tea green (ball, brick, tablet etc).	401.	091099.31	Cardamom husk.
			423.	110100.00	Wheat or meslin flour.
			425.	110220.00	Maize flour.
			426.	110230.00	Rice flour
			427.	110290.00	Flour of other cereals.
			434.	110321.00	Pellets of wheat.
			435.	110329.00	Pellets of other cereals.

443.	110430.00	Germ of cereals, whole, rolled, flaked, or ground.	587.	160414.01	Tunas, whole or in piece but not minced.
448.	110620.02	Flour and meal, of manioc.	588.	160414.09	Skipjack and Atlantic bonito, whole or in pieces, but not minced.
477.	121190.18	Sandal wood chips and dust.			
478.	121190.27	Sandalwood chips	589.	160415.00	Mackerel, whole or in pieces, but not minced.
483.	121190.38	Neem seed.	590.	160416.00	Anchovies, whole or in pieces, but not minced.
488.	Ex 121210.00	Locust beans, including locust bean seeds, other than seed quality.	591.	160419.00	Other fish, whole or in pieces, but not minced.
489.	121230.09	Apricot stones, peach or plump stones and kernels.	592.	160420.00	Other prepared or preserved fish.
503.	130219.06	Extracts, neem.	593.	160430.00	Caviar and caviar substitutes.
506.	140420.00	Cotton linters.	600.	Ex 170211.00	Lactose and lactose syrup, containing by weight 99% or more lactose, other than in solid form.
507.	140490.01	Bidi wrapper leaves.			
509.	140490.05	Betel leaves.	601.	Ex 170219.00	Other lactose and lactose syrup, other than in solid form.
511.	140490.07	Indian katha.	602.	Ex 170220.00	Maple sugar and maple syrup, other than in solid form.
512.	Ex 140490.19	Other crude vegetable materials, inedible, n.e.s., other than specified crude drugs.			
571.	160100.00	Sausages and similar products of meat, meat offal or blood; food preparations based on these products.	612.	190110.01	Malted milk (including powder for infant use, put up for retail sale).
575.	160232.00	Preparations of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> .	613.	190110.09	Malt extract for infants, for retail sale.
576.	160239.00	Preparations of other poultry.	642.	200410.01	Potato chips, fried, frozen.
577.	160241.00	Hams and cuts thereof.	691.	Ex 210111.02	Coffee aroma, other than instant coffee.
578.	160242.00	Shoulders and cuts of swince.	692.	Ex 210111.09	Other extracts, essences and concentrates of coffee, and preparations with a basis thereof, other than instant coffee.
579.	160249.00	Other preparations of swine.			
585.	160413.01	Sardines, sardinella and bristling, whole or in pieces, but not minced.	693.	Ex 210112.00	Preparations with a basis of extracts, essences or concentrates or with a basis of coffee, other than instant coffee.
586.	160413.02	Sprats, whole or in pieces, but not minced.			

694.	210120.01	Instant tea.	729.	220600.00	Other fermented beverages (cider, perry, mead).
695.	210120.02	Quick brewing black tea.	730.	220710.01	Rectified spirit.
696.	210120.03	Tea aroma.	731.	220710.09	Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% vol. or higher, other.
697.	210120.09	Other extracts, essences and concentrates of tea or mate, and preparations with a basis thereof.	732.	220820.00	Spirits obtained by distilling grape wine or grape marc.
699.	210130.09	Other roasted coffee substitutes, extracts, essences and concentrates thereof.	733.	220830.00	Whiskeys.
718.	220300.00	Beer made from malt.	734.	220840.00	Rum and Tafia.
719.	220410.00	Sparkling wine.	735.	220850.00	Gin and Geneva.
720.	220421.01	Port and other still red wines, in containers holding 21 or less.	736.	220860.00	Vodka.
721.	220421.02	Sherry and other still white wines in containers holding 21 or less.	737.	220870.00	Liqueurs and cordials.
722.	220421.09	Other wine, including grape must in containers holding 2.1 or less.	738.	220890.00	Other undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol., and other spirituous beverages.
723.	220429.01	Port and other still red wines, other.	785.	230890.00	Other vegetable materials and vegetable wastes, vegetable residues and by the products, of a kind used in animal feeding, n.e.s.
724.	220429.02	Sherry and other still white wine, other.	786.	230910.00	Dog or cat food, for retail sale.
725.	220429.09	Other wine including grape must, other.	789.	230990.09	Other preparations used in animal feeding.
726.	220430.00	Other grape must, otherwise than with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol.	790.	240210.01	Bidis.
727.	220510.00	Vermouth and other wine of fresh grapes, flavoured with plants or aromatic substances, in containers holding 21 or less.	792.	240210.09	Cigarillos containing tobacco.
728.	220590.00	Vermouth and other wine of fresh grapes, flavoured with plants or aromatic substances, other.	793.	240220.00	Cigarettes containing tobacco.
			794.	240290.00	Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes of tobacco substitutes.
			795.	240310.01	Hukka or Gudku tobacco
			796.	240310.09	Others, tobacco used in Bidis and cigarettes

797.	240391.00	Homogenised or reconstituted tobacco	60.	030269.03	Pomfret excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled.
798.	240399.01	Chewing tobacco	61.	030269.09	All other fish excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled.
799.	240399.02	Jarda Fragrant tobacco	62.	030270.00	Fish livers and roes, fresh or chilled.
800.	240399.03	Snuff	64.	030321.00	Trout, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
801.	240399.04	Scented tobacco extract	67.	030331.00	Halibut, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
802.	240399.09	Tobacco made, NEs	68.	030332.00	Plaice, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
40.	030211.00	Trout, fresh or chilled.	69.	030333.00	Sole, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
43.	030221.00	Halibut, fresh or chilled.	70.	030339.00	Other flat fish, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
44.	030222.00	Plaice, fresh or chilled.	71.	030341.00	Albacore and longfinned tunas, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
45.	030223.00	Sole, fresh or chilled.	72.	030342.00	Yellowfin tunas, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
46.	030229.00	Other flat fish, excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled.	73.	030343.00	Skipjack or stripe-bellied bonito, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
47.	030231.00	Albacore or longfinned tunas, fresh or chilled.	74.	030349.00	Other tunas, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
48.	030232.00	Yellowfin tunas, fresh or chilled.	75.	030350.00	Herrings, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
49.	030233.00	Skipjack or strip-bellied bonito, fresh or chilled.	76.	030360.00	Cod, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
50.	030239.00	Other tunas, excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled.	77.	030371.00	Sardines, sardinella, brisling or sprats, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
51.	030240.00	Herrings, excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled.	78.	030372.00	Haddock, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
52.	030250.00	Cod, excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled.	79.	030373.00	Coalfish, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
53.	030261.00	Sardines, sardinella, brisling or sprats, fresh or chilled.	80.	030374.00	Mackerel, excluding livers and roes, frozen.
54.	030262.00	Haddock, fresh or chilled.			
55.	030263.00	Coalfish, fresh or chilled.			
56.	030264.00	Mackerel, fresh or chilled.			
59.	030269.02	Dara excluding livers and roes, fresh or chilled.			

83.	030377.00	Sea bass, excluding livers and roes, frozen.	108.	030549.00	Other smoked fish, including fillet.
85.	030379.02	Dara, excluding livers and roes, frozen.	109.	030561.00	Herrings, salted but not dried or smoked and fish in brine.
86.	030379.03	Ribbon fish, excluding livers and roes, frozen.	110.	030562.00	Cod, salted but not dried or smoked and fish in brine.
87.	030379.04	Seer, excluding livers and roes, frozen.	111.	030563.00	Anchovies, salted but not dried or smoked and fish in brine.
88.	030379.05	Promfret, white or silver, excluding livers and roes, frozen.	112.	030569.01	Bombay duck, salted but not dried or smoked.
89.	030379.07	Pomfret, black, excluding livers and roes, frozen.	113.	030569.02	Seer without head, salted but not dried or smoked.
90.	030379.08	Ghole, excluding livers and roes, frozen	114.	030569.03	Sprats, salted but not dried or smoked.
91.	030379.11	Thread fin, excluding livers and roes, frozen.	115.	030569.09	Other fish, salted but not dried or smoked.
93.	030379.19	Other frozen fish, excluding livers and roes.	161.	040630.00	Processed cheese, not grated or powdered.
94.	030380.00	Fish livers and roes, frozen.	164.	040811.00	Dried egg yolks.
95.	030410.00	Fish fillet and other fish meat, fresh or chilled.	165.	040819.00	Egg yolks, other.
96.	030420.01	Hilsa, frozen fillet.	166.	040891.00	Other birds' eggs, not in shell, dried.
98.	030420.05	Seer, frozen fillet.	167.	040899.00	Other birds' eggs, not in shell, other.
99.	030420.06	Tuna, frozen fillet.	175.	070310.02	Shallots, fresh or chilled.
101.	030420.09	Other frozen fish fillet, n.e.s.	176.	070390.00	Leeks and other alliaceous vegetables, fresh or chilled.
102.	030490.00	Other frozen fish meat.	177.	070410.00	Cauliflowers and headed Broccoli, fresh or chilled.
103.	030510.00	Flours, meals and pellets, of fish, fit for human consumption.	179.	070490.00	Other cabbages and edible brassicas, fresh or chilled.
104.	030520.00	Fish livers and roes, dried, smoked, salted or in brine.	254.	080510.00	Oranges, fresh or dried.
105.	030530.00	Fish fillet, dried, salted or in brine, but not smoked.	273.	081090.01	Pomegranates, fresh.
107.	030542.00	Herrings, smoked, including fillet.	370.	Ex 090930.02	Cumin, other than black, other than for sowing and planting.

376.	091010.03	Ginger, bleached.	447.	110620.01	Flour and meal, of sago
377.	091010.04	Ginger, powder	450.	110630.01	Flour, mango
378.	091010.09	Other ginger, including dried.	451.	110630.02	Flour, meal and powder of tamarind
388.	091091.02	Mixtures of spices.			
389.	091091.09	Other mixtures of products of heading no 09.10	479.	121190.34	Basil, hyasop, rosemary, sage, savory
393.	091099.13	Cumin powder	480.	121190.35	Carboge fruit rind.
394.	091099.14	Cellery powder.	481.	121190.36	Lovage
395.	091099.15	CFenugreek powder	482.	121190.37	Star anise
424.	110210.00	Rye flour.	565.	151790.01	Sal fat (processed or refined)
428.	110311.01	Groats of wheat including semolia	580.	160290.00	Other preparations of meat, including preparations of blood of any animal.
429.	110311.02	Meal of wheat.			
430.	110312.00	Groats and meal of oats	581.	160300.01	Meat extracts and meat juices.
431.	110313.00	Groats and meal of maize	583.	160411.00	Salmon, whole or in pieces, but not minced
432.	110314.00	Groats and meals of rice.			
433.	110319.00	Groats and meal of other cereals	584.	160412.00	Herrings, whole or in pieces, but not minced.
436.	110411.00	Rolled or flaked grains of barley	603.	170230.01	Glucose liquid, not containing fructose or containing in the dry state less than 20% by weight of fructose.
437.	110412.00	Rolled or flaked grains of oats	604.	Ex 170230.03	Dextrose, other than in solid form.
438.	110419.00	Rolled or flaked grains of other cereals.	605.	170240.01	Glucose liquid, containing in the dry state at least 20% but less than 50% by weight of fructose.
439.	110421.00	Other worked grains of barley.			
440.	110422.00	Other worked grains of oats	606.	Ex 170240.03	Dextrose, containing in the dry state at least 20% but less than 50% by weight of fructose, other than in solid form.
441.	110423.00	Other worked grains of maize.			
442.	110429.00	Other worked grains of other cereals			
446.	110610.00	Flour, meal and powder of dried leguminous vegetables.	607.	Ex 170250.00	Chemically pure fructose, other than in solid form.

608.	Ex 170280.00	Other fructose and fructose syrup, containing in the dry state more than 50% by weight of fructose, other than in solid form.	639.	200190.07	Tamarind paste, concentrate, puree
609.	Ex 170290.09	Other sugars, including invert sugar, other than in solid form.	640.	200190.09	Other vegetables, fruits, nuts, and the edible parts of plants, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid.
614.	190120.00	Mixes and doughs for the preparations of bakers' wares of heading No. 19.05	641.	200310.00	Mushrooms, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid.
621.	190300.00	Tapioca and substitutes therefor, prepared from starch, in the form of flakes, grains, pearls, siftings or in similar forms.	644.	200490.00	Other vegetables and mixtures of vegetables, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, frozen.
623.	190410.03	Bulgar wheat.	645.	200510.00	Homogenised vegetables, not frozen.
624.	190410.09	Other prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereals or cereal products.	651.	200570.00	Olives, not frozen.
625.	190420.00	Prepared foods obtained from unroasted cereal flakes or from mixtures of unroasted cereal flakes and roasted cereal flakes or swelled cereals.	655.	200710.00	Homogenised preparations of fruit or nut puree and fruit or nut paste, being cooked preparations.
631.	200110.00	Cucumbers and gherkins, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid.	663.	200819.01	Cashewnuts, roasted, and/or salted.
632.	200120.00	Onions, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid.	675.	200899.01	Mango squash.
633.	200190.01	Chilli pickles.	676.	200899.02	Lemon squash.
634.	200190.02	Green pickles.	677.	200899.03	Orange squash.
635.	200190.03	Mango pickles.	678.	200899.04	Pineapple squash.
636.	200190.04	Mango chutnies.	700.	210230.00	Prepared baking powders
637.	200190.05	Tomato chutnies and paste.	705.	210420.00	Homogenised composite food preparations.
638.	200190.06	Lemon chutnies	706.	210690.01	Soft drink concentrates
			740.	220900.02	Synthetic vinegar
			791.	240210.02	Cigars and cheroots.
			353.	090610.01	Cassia, neither crushed nor ground.
			354.	090610.02	Cinammon bark, neither crushed nor ground.

355.	090610.03	Cinammon tree flowers, neither crushed nor ground.	419.	Ex 100820.03	Bajra, other than seed quality.
356.	090700.00	Cinammon and cinammon tree flowers, crushed or ground.	420.	Ex 100820.04	Ragi, other than seed quality.
357.	090700.01	Cloves, extracted.	421.	Ex 100830.00	Canary seed, other than seed quality.
358.	090700.02	Cloves, not extracted.	422.	Ex 100890.00	Other cereals, other than seed quality.
359.	090700.03	Cloves stems.	458.	120300.00	Copra.
383.	091040.01	Tejpat.	528.	151311.00	Coconut oil crude.
403.	Ex 100110.00	Durum wheat, other than seed quality.	529.	151319.00	Coconut oil, refined.
404.	100190.92	Wheat (not seed) for human consumption.	763.	230640.02	Oil cake and oil cake meal solvent extracted (defatted) variety of rape or colza seeds.
405.	Ex 100190.03	Meslin, other than seed quality.	764.	230650.01	Oil cake and oil cake meal expeller variety of coconut or copra.
406.	Ex 100200.00	Rye, other than seed quality.			
407.	Ex 100300.00	Barley, other than seed quality			
408.	EX 100400.00	Oats, other than seed quality.			
409.	Ex 100590.00	Maize, other, other than feed grade maize fit only for use as poultry or animal feed.			
410.	Ex 100610.00	Rice in the husk, other than seed quality.			
411.	100620.00	Husk (brown) rice.			
412.	100630.01	Rice, parboiled.			
413.	100630.02	Basmati rice.			
414.	100630.03	Other rice			
415.	100640.00	Broken rice.			
416.	Ex 100700.00	Grains sorgum, other than seed quality.			
417.	Ex 100810.00	Buckwheat, other than seed quality.			
418.	Ex 100820.01	Jawar, other than seed quality.			

[English]

Patent of Various Products

808. DR. S. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of patents being obtained by foreign countries in relation to various traditional and ancient Indian products such as Neem, turmeric and various vegetables, herbals and plants available only in the country and other Indian system of Medicines;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect indigenous items from being patented by other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Patents are granted by respective Governments under their patent laws. Whenever information is received about the patents being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged.

NRI's Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

809. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to draw up a plan to attract Non-Resident Indians (NRI's) for investment in Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The extant NRI investment policy applies uniformly to public sector and private sector entities conforming to the overall Foreign Direct Investment policy.

[Translation]

Saving Rate

810. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the saving rate in the country is declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for bringing improvements in the saving schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) As per the latest data available with the Central Statistical Organisation, the savings rate measured in terms of Gross Domestic Savings as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product at current market prices as per the new series (Base 1993-94) was 21.8 per cent in 1993-94, 24.4 per cent in 1996-97 and declined to 23.1 per cent in 1997-98. The measured saving rate during 1997-98 has declined largely because of a decline in the household savings in the form of physical assets. In general, the aggregate level of savings is determined by a number of factors such as, rate of growth of the economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital markets and confidence in the economy etc. The various economic reforms undertaken by the Government since 1991 are expected to have a favourable impact on the level of aggregate savings.

[English]

Import from Sri Lanka

811. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala had sent a request for excluding coir and coir products from the list of freely importable items from Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Coir and coir products are freely importable from SAARC countries with effect from 1.8.1998 on payment of applicable duties. Representations have been received from the Government of Kerala to include coir and coir products in the Negative List of the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement so that tariff concessions on import of these products are not available. While the Negative Lists of items for which no tariff concessions will be granted by the two sides are yet to be finalised, coir and coir products are proposed to be retained in India's Negative List.

[Translation]

Anti-Dumping Duty on Indian Textile

812. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union has imposed anti-dumping duty on various varieties of Indian textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of textiles exported to the countries of European Union during the first half of current year and the corresponding period of the last year and the amount thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to resolve this issue?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) European Union have imposed anti-dumping duties against various varieties of Indian textile exports as per the details shown against them.

Commodity	Details
1. Polyester yarn	Definitive duties ranging from 2% to 7.8% were imposed in April 1992 which was withdrawn after a review in December 1994

Commodity	Details	Commodity	Details
2. Synthetic fibres of polyester	Definitive duty of 7.2% was imposed in January 1993, which lapsed on January, 15, 1998 after completion of five years.		and April, 1998. On both the occasions the European Commission's proposals for imposing definitive duties were rejected by the European Council.
3. Unbleached cotton fabric	Provisional duties ranging from 4.9% to 17.2% were imposed in December, 1996	4. Cotton type bed linen	Definitive duties ranging from 2.6% to 24.7% were imposed in December, 1997.

(c)

Sl. No.	Product	Period	Quantity (In thousand pieces)	Value	
				US\$ Thousand	Rupees In thousand
1.	Apparel items	April.-Sept. 1998	2533	7416	310359
		April.-Sept. 1999	2581	7651	330716
Product		Period	Quantity In Tonnes	Value	
				In million US\$	In million rupees
2.	Other textile items	Apr.-Sept. 1998	80315.80	445.19	18573.31
		Apr.-Sept 1999	71793.99	357.77	15441.27

(d) Defending anti-dumping cases is basically the responsibility of the targetted Indian companies. Government of India is not a party to anti-dumping proceedings. However, Government of India extends the necessary assistance to the domestic industry through the Export Promotion Councils and also through its Missions in various European Countries in contesting their cases in the European Commission.

[English]

Cement Corporation of India

813. DR. JAYANT RONGPI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the units of Cement Corporation of India which are making profit;

(b) whether the Government are planning to privatise the units of CCI; and

(c) if so, the policy of the Government in regard to the privatisation of CCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Bokajan unit of Cement Corporation of India Ltd., situated in the state of Assam, has been making net profit regularly during the past three years.

(b) Since Cement Corporation of India (CCI) had been continuously incurring losses, various remedial measures were considered by the Government, including the feasibility of selling individual units.

Accordingly, on unit, viz., Yerraguntla (with expansion) was sold to a private bidder during 1997 on open tender basis. Further, global bids for the sale of three unviable units, viz., Akaltara, Mandhar and Charkhi Dadri have been invited.

(c) CCI Stands referred to BIFR since April, 1996 under the provisions of SICA and, therefore, privatisation of units is now dependent on BIFR's orders regarding revival of the company. The sale of Yerraguntla Unit and the proposed sale of three unviable units is with the concurrence of BIFR.

[Translation]

NABARD

814. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides loan to the farmers at the interest rate of 2 to 3 per cent;

(b) whether the farmers get short term crop loan only at the interest rate of 12 to 14 per cent;

(c) if so, the reasons for such a big difference between the interest charged by the NABARD and the interest paid on the loans taken by the farmers; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of short-term loans to the farmers at the low interest rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance assistance to co-operative banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and commercial banks for short-term, medium-term and long term activities for agriculture and allied activities including non-farm sector. The lowest rate of interest on refinance to banks for investment credit is 6.5% and for crop loans the interest rate varies between 5.5% to 8% based on the level of dependence of banks on NABARD's refinance support.

However, refinance to co-operative banks functioning in the North-Eastern Region and Sikkim and to all Co-operative banks for their financing of tribals under Development of Tribal Population (DTP) limit is charged

at a lower rate of 5.5% irrespective of their dependence level. The rate of interest on NABARD refinance to RRBs for Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) is 7%.

(b) to (d) The rates of interest rates to be charged by cooperative credit institutions on loans to ultimate borrowers have been de-regulated with effect from 2nd November, 1994, subject to a minimum of 12% p.a. for all loan slabs. The rate of interest to be charged by RRBs has also been fully deregulated with effect from 26th August, 1996.

In the deregulated interest regime, the rate of interest charged on loans is determined by the banks themselves and is contingent upon a number of factors including, inter-alia, the average cost of mobilization of resources, level of dependence on NABARD refinance assistance, efficiency of lending operations and the margins to be retained at various levels in order to meet the administrative costs and servicing of loans. Refinance available from NABARD at lower rates helps the lending institutions in bringing down their average cost of resources. However, a substantial portion of crop loans advanced by rural credit institutions comes from resources mobilized by such institutions at costs much higher than NABARD's refinance rates. The banks have to keep their rates of interest at reasonable levels in order to maintain their profitability.

[English]

Sick Jute Mills

815. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a majority of the jute mills in the country has become chronically sick with huge outstandings to the banks, financial institutions and affecting nearly two lakh workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to save the jute industry and interests of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Out of the 73 jute mills in the country, two jute mills are lying closed i.e. Kanpur and Kathihar jute mills. Four mills are incorporated outside the country and turn into sick unit. Out of the balance 67 jute mills, 34 jute mills are sick. The sick jute mills are referred to Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as per the existing statute except the units incorporated out side country.

(c) The Government has taken various steps for modernisation of Indian jute mills and has recently launched the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme. This is in addition to the following schemes which have been launched earlier: (1) Special Jute Development Fund Programme (2) Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme (3) UNDP Aided Jute Development Projects (4) Market Assistance Scheme through JMDC (5) Constitution of National Centre for Jute Diversification. Government is also formulating a Jute Technology Mission on the lines of Cotton Technology Mission for addressing the problems of the jute sector.

Loan Portfolio of Financial Institutions Locked

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

(a) whether over Rs. 2500 crore of the combined loan portfolio of Financial Institutions IDBI, ICICI and IFCI is locked in legal suits as on 31st March, 1999;

(b) if so, the names of the top loan defaulters having outstanding balance of Rs. 50 crore or more for repayment to these three Financial Institutions as on March 31, 1999; and

(c) the steps being taken to tackle such huge Non-performing Assets (NPAs) problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that there are six companies in the portfolio of three financial institutions viz. IDBI, IFCI, ICICI having outstanding assistance of Rs. 50 crores or more in respect of which suits have been filed for recovery of dues. Names of individual constituents, however, cannot be divulged in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983.

(c) In order to tackle the problems of NPAs, financial institutions have formulated long term and short term plans which inter-alia include close monitoring of NPAs, regular review, discussion with borrowers, periodical visits to units, financial restructuring, one time settlement of dues, working out rehabilitation packages for potentially viable units, cautious approach in lending, resorting to take-over/merger of sick units/problem units by stronger companies and asking nominee directors to pursue the matters at board level. If the defaults are still not cleared legal procedures are initiated.

[*Translation*]

Foreign Capital Investment

817. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of restrictions imposed with regard to bring back capital and projects on foreign capital investment made in the country;

(b) whether any foreign investor can take back his capital or he would have to wait till the end of the block period in this regard; and

(c) the country-wise total foreign investment made so far alongwith the investment made by NRIs, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) There are no restrictions on the repatriation of capital in respect of foreign investment except that a condition of dividend balancing is imposed for foreign investment in 22 specified industries in the consumer goods sector. In the case of Housing and real estate development sector where only NRIs/PIOs/OCBs are permitted to invest, where repatriation is restricted to original investment (for NRIs/PIOs) (OCBs permitted to repatriate profits limited to 16%) and permitted after a lock-in period of 3 years. Under the condition of dividend balancing out flows of foreign exchange on account of dividend payments are to be balanced by export earnings.

(c) Country-wise inflow of foreign investment (including NRIs) from 1-8-91 to 30.9.99 is given in the attached statement.

Statement

(In Rs. Million)

Sl. No.	Country	Amount of inflow
1	2	3
1.	Afganistan	1.00
2.	Australia	1.02
3.	Behrain	151.97

1	2	3	1	2	3
4.	Belgium	5.00	25.	U.A.E.	22.50
5.	Bermuda	1.06	26.	U.K.	5.20
6.	Canada	2.12	27.	U.S.A.	505.71
7.	Denmark	11.63	28.	British Virginia	115.06
8.	France	24.27	29.	Australia	1810.52
9.	Germany	122.38	30.	Austria	704.03
10.	Ireland	5.12	31.	Bahamas	387.77
11.	Israel	1.75	32.	Bahrain	579.47
12.	Italy	69.97	33.	Argentina	0.3€
13.	Japan	843.48	34.	Belgium	2390.11
14.	Malaysia	20.00	35.	Belorussia	23.77
15.	Mauritius	1679.46	36.	Bermuda	1017.55
16.	NRI	38.53	37.	Malta	1.25
17.	Netherlands	18.95	38.	Iran	624.60
18.	Poland	1.91	39.	Muscat	8.91
19.	Russia	1568.80	40.	Tanzania	1.98
20.	Singapore	486.68	41.	Gibraltar	7.00
21.	Spain	0.90	42.	Sudan	0.25
22.	Sweden	19.32	43.	Jordon	0.09
23.	Switzerland	126.40	44.	Bhutan	19.00
24.	Taiwan	16.84	45.	Ice Land	9.73

1	2	3	1	2	3
46.	Egypt	15.18	67.	Liechtenstein	53.93
47.	Brazil	23.09	68.	Japan	27256.47
48.	Canada	1580.83	69.	Korea (North)	223.51
49.	Cayman Island	30.00	70.	Korea (South)	20919.85
50.	Channel Island	21.56	71.	Kuwait	79.28
51.	China	18.98	72.	Luxembourg	423.33
52.	Czech Republic	170.77	73.	Malaysia	1421.00
53.	Cyprus	974.59	74.	Mauritius	121423.19
54.	Denmark	1822.01	75.	Mexico	0.06
55.	Estonia	34.10	76.	Maldives	1.54
56.	Finland	656.45	77.	NRi	5323.19
57.	France	9109.86	78.	Nepal	5.04
58.	Greece	95.48	79.	Netherlands	20564.19
59.	Germany	23079.15	80.	Nevis	1.02
60.	Hongkong	9661.90	81.	New Zealand	133.35
61.	Hungary	6.03	82.	Norway	133.56
62.	Indonesia	232.46	83.	Oman	89.59
63.	Ireland	210.88	84.	Panama	131.34
64.	Isle of Man	20.98	85.	Philippines	1864.88
65.	Israel	1375.87	86.	Poland	3.50
66.	Italy	8954.08	87.	Portugal	20.06

1	2	3	1	2	3
88.	Qatar	0.03	109.	Unindicated Country	3450.46
89.	Romania	0.71	110.	Euro Issues (GDR)**	82614.07
90.	Russia	179.83	111.	Acquisition of Shares*	70148.24
91.	Saudi Arabia	422.21	112.	Receipt of Inflow in Advance	7590.86
92.	Singapore	11313.79		NRI-RBI's SCHEMES	
93.	South Africa	21.01	113.	40% Scheme	48611.25
94.	Slovakia	1.05	114.	100% Scheme	14325.22
95.	Spain	249.18	115.	24% Scheme	6896.42
96.	Sri Lanka	32.33	116.	Housing Scheme	5352.20
97.	Sweden	4956.43	117.	Air Taxi Scheme	625.50
98.	Switzerland	7731.08	118.	Sick Unit	415.08
99.	Syria	0.22	119.	51% Scheme	589.80
100.	Taiwan	293.00		Grand Total	639702.14
101.	Tatarstan	0.40		* Special NRI Schemes Administered by RBI from 01/01/91 to 30/09/99 no sectoral details available with RBI. This data has not been reported so far. Approvals/Inflows w.r.t. RBI Automatic Approval Reute have been incorporated in respective sectors.	
102.	Thailand	1699.05		** The amount of inflows raised through GDRS/ FCCBS against the FDI approvals accorded by FIBP during the period from June 1994 to December 1998 on the basis of Information furnished by RBI.	
103.	U.A.E.	330.57		* Reported by RBI, Mumbai—Transfer of Shares from Resident to Non-Resident under Section 29 of the FERA during January 1996 to December 1998.	
104.	U.K.	21023.56			
105.	U.S.A.	78026.72			
106.	Ukraine	4.45			
107.	British Virginia	931.44			
108.	West Indies	46.43			

The above report is provisional and as provided by Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai.

[English]

Industrial Growth Centre at Aurangabad

818. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to set up a Industrial Growth Centre at Aurangabad in Bihar was announced during the year 1989;

(b) if so, whether a large amount of Central investment have been made and basic amenities, such as, construction of roads, provision of water tanks etc., have also been provided;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the proposal have now been cancelled to set up the said Growth Centre at Aurangabad and the venue has been shifted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No funds were released by the Central Government for the location of the project at Aurangabad.

(d) and (e) The location of the proposed growth centre was changed from Aurangabad to Begusarai in February, 1993 on a request of the State Government of Bihar.

Payment award of Rs. 9.13 crore has been made by the State towards acquisition of land.

Free Trade with Sri Lanka

819. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed a Free Trade Treaty with the Sri Lankan Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any obstacles in implementing the treaty;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of items which could be freely imported from Sri Lanka once this treaty comes into operation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A Free Trade Agreement was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 28th December, 1998 in New Delhi.

(b) The Agreement envisages phasing out of tariffs on all products, over a period of time, except for a limited number of items in the Negative List and on some other items of a sensitive nature. While India would complete the process of tariff elimination over a period of 3 years, Sri Lanka would achieve this over 8 years. As per the Agreement, the lists of items on which tariff concessions would be available as well as items on which no tariff preferences would be available shall be finalised within 60 days of signing of the Agreement. The lists were accordingly exchanged in February, 1999.

(c) to (e) There were some reservations on both sides regarding certain items in the negative lists. Final discussions for operationalisation of the Agreement are likely to be held after the completion of elections in Sri Lanka in December, 1999.

Foreign Currency Seized by Customs

820. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of foreign currency seized by the Customs at all international airports in the country during the last two years and the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Assorted Foreign Currencies equivalent to Indian Rupees 66.92 crores were seized by the Customs authorities, at all international airports in the country during the last two years and the current year (upto date). The year-wise details are given below:

Year	Amount of Foreign Currency seized (Rs in Lakhs)
1997-98	3814.49
1998-99	1658.68
1999-2000 (upto date)	1218.68
Total:	6691.85

Fraud by Non-Banking Financial Companies

821. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that small depositors have been cheated by several non-banking financial companies;

(b) if so, the details of cases brought to the notice of the Government during the last two years;

(c) whether any steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to protect the interests of investors in non-banking financial companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reports have been received by the Government from time to time to the effect that some Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) had defaulted in the timely payment of interest and/or repayment of principal to a large number of depositors including small depositors.

(b) to (d) Whenever complaints alleging default by NBFCs are received by the Government such complainants are advised to prefer their complaints in appropriate form to the Company Law Board which is appropriate authority to deal with such complaints, under the Reserve Bank of India Act as amended in 1997. A copy of the proforma in which such complaints are to be filed is also sent to the complainants to enable them to file their complaints. Details of action initiated by RBI against erring NBFCs during the last two years are furnished in the attached statement. Chapter III B of the RBI Act, 1934 was amended in January, 1997 vesting enhanced powers with RBI for effective supervision of NBFCs.

A revised regulatory framework put in place by the RBI in January, 1998 sought to ensure that only financially sound and well run NBFCs were allowed to accept public deposits. Directions issued by the RBI in exercise of statutory powers seek to protect the interest of depositors and to focus supervisory attention on those NBFCs accepting public deposits. The steps taken by RBI for protecting the interests of depositors include, inter alia, the prescription of ceiling on the quantum of deposits, reintroduction of a ceiling on the interest rate on deposits, requirement of minimum investment grade credit rating for NBFCs accepting deposits, prescription of entry point

Net Owned Funds Level, prescription of prudential norms and creation of a reserve fund. In addition, RBI has also undertaken a publicity campaign to educate depositors regarding the various aspects that they should consider if they intend to make deposits with NBFCs.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Particulars of adverse action against erring NBFCs initiated by Reserve Bank of India during the last two years.

1. List of NBFCs to whom Reserve Bank of India issued Prohibitory Orders

Sr. No.	Name of the Company
1	2
1.	Chancellor Housing Dev. Finance & Investment Ltd., Nutan Bazar, PO Dhubulia, Dist. Nadia.
2.	Welfare Savings & Credit Ltd. School Bagan, Bolpur, Dist. Birbhum.
3.	Bityodaya Housing Finance (P) Ltd., Bhojpur, Bihar
4.	Research Savings & Finance (P) Ltd. Mohini Market, Exhibition Road, Patna.
5.	Manav Sansadhan Vikas Finance & Investment (I) Ltd., Shreesh Bhawan, Bailey Rd. Khajpura, Patna.
6.	CRB Capital Markets Ltd., CRB House, Punchkuyan Rd., New Delhi
7.	Prestigious Finance & Investment (I) Ltd., Swayam Sidhi, Commercial Complex, Patna.
8.	Global Finance Corporation Ltd. Calcutta.
9.	World Link Finance Ltd. 151, Maker Chamber III, Nariman Point, Mumbai
10.	Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd. Nagarjuna Hills, Punjgutta, Hyderabad.
11.	Helios Finance & Investment Ltd. Helios Bhavan, Station Road, Patna.
12.	Helios Corporation Ltd. Helios Bhavan, Patna.

1	2
13.	Amnet India Credit Corporation Ltd., Nalin Apts. Andheri West, Mumbai
14.	Gadgil Western Corporation Ltd., Western India House, Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi.
15.	NITL Mutual Benefit (I) Ltd. 9A, DG-1, Vikaspuri, New Delhi.
16.	Prudential Capital Markets Ltd. Tobacco House, 1&2 Old Court House, Corner, Calcutta.
17.	JVG Finance Ltd., B 22, Ansal Chambers 1, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi
18.	JVG Leasing Ltd., Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi.
19.	JVG Securities Ltd. Bhikaji Cama Place, new Delhi.
20.	Western India Securities Ltd. DDA Complex, Safderjung Enclave, New Delhi.
21.	McDowell Krest Finance Ltd. Anna Salai, Chennai
22.	DSJ Finance Corporation Ltd. Shreyas Bldg., New Link Road, Andheri West Mumbai.
23.	Standard Economy (P) Ltd. 28/2/1, Old Baligang, 2nd Lane, Calcutta.
24.	Aneja Financial Services Ltd. Punjagutta, Hyderabad.
25.	Joydip Savings & Credit India Ltd., Dr. Ambedkar Road, PO Bangal Enamel, Dist. North 24 Pargana, West Bengal
26.	Bihar Capital Financiers (I) Ltd. Surya Complex, Jamal Road, Patna.
27.	Rich Capital & Financial Services Ltd. 14/123 A, Gopala Chambers, Parade, The Mall, Kanpur.
28.	Patliputra Housing Dev. & Fin (I) Pvt. Ltd. West Boring Canal Rd. Near Dwarika Mandir Patna.
29.	Entrust Finance (P) Ltd., D 671, Nayana, Mandipet, Davangere.

1	2
30.	DCM Financial Services Ltd., Amrit Nagar, NDSC, New Delhi.
31.	Patla Savings & Investment Pvt. Ltd., Ganj No. 2, Bettiah West Champaran, Bihar.
32.	Lions Mutual Benefit Ltd., A7, Sector J Aliganj Lucknow.
33.	Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd. Kuber Bhavan, Begum Bridge Road, Meerut.
34.	Trikone Mutual Benefit Ltd., B 143, Sector C, Mahanagar, Lucknow.
35.	Rapti Growth Fund Ltd. C 4, Meerabhai Marg, Lucknow.
36.	Ajmani Leasing & Finance Ltd., Bus Station Road, Lakimpur, Kheri, UP.
37.	Galaxy Growfin Ltd. B 12/112-1, Gawari Ganj, Bhelupura Varanasi.
38.	Subidpur Janakalyan Investment & Finance Co. Ltd., Purandarapur, 24 Paraganas North, West Bengal.
39.	Rockland Leasing Ltd., 81 A, Himalaya House, 23, KG Marg, New Delhi.
40.	Raunaq Finance Ltd., 418, Shalimar Complex, Church Road, Jaipur.
41.	Schematic Finance Ltd., New Delhi.
42.	Samruddhi Savings & Investment Co. Ltd., Raipur.
43.	Ennoble India Savings & Inv. Co. Ltd. Bellary.
44.	Genius Financial Services Ltd., Hyderabad.
45.	Midwest Hire Purchase Ltd., Hyderabad.
46.	Midwest Mutual Fund Ltd., Hyderabad
47.	Midwest India Industries, Mumbai.
48.	JK Originated Finance Co. Ltd., Jammu
49.	Rapti Nidhi Ltd. West Bengal

1	2
50.	Rapti Leasing Ltd., Kings Road, West Bengal
51.	Summang Savings & Finance Ltd., Patna
52.	Barl India Finance & Investment Co. Ltd., Patna
53.	Prolate Commercial Pvt Ltd., Patna
54.	Karmabhumi General & Housing Finance Ltd., Guwahati
55.	Abhinandhan Housing & Finance Ltd., Guwahati
56.	Meghfin Finance & Investment Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati
57.	Gramin Vikas Credit Ltd., Patna
58.	Raise India Finance & Inv. Ltd., Patna
59.	Singhbum Savings & Comm. Inv. Ltd., Patna
60.	Trade well Finance Ltd., Patna
61.	Standard Savings & Inv. Co. Ltd., Patna
62.	Young India Rojgar Finance Ltd., Patna
63.	Inways Savings & Inv. (I) Ltd., Patna.
64.	Brahmachari Finance Inv. (I) Ltd., Patna.
65.	Krishco Comm. Co. Ltd., Patna
66.	Social Welfare Savings & Finance Ltd.
67.	Labhai Finance Ltd., Ahmedabad.
68.	Jenson & Nicholson Financial Services Ltd, Calcutta
69.	Kuber Finance (I) Ltd., New Delhi
70.	Kirloskar Investments & Finance Ltd., Bangalore
71.	Pennar Paterson Ltd., Hyderabad
72.	Lakshmi Trade Credit Ltd., Chennai.
73.	Dugar Finance (I) Ltd., Chennai

1	2
II. Winding up Petitions filed	
Winding up petition have been filed in the respective High Courts against	
1.	CRB Capital Markets Ltd., New Delhi.
2.	JVG Finance Ltd., New Delhi.
3.	JVG Leasing Ltd., New Delhi.
4.	JVG Securities, New Delhi.
5.	Asia Pacific Investments Trust Ltd., Hyderabad.
6.	Helios Finance & Investment Ltd., Patna
7.	Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd., Lucknow
8.	Krishi Exports Commercial Corpn. Ltd., Lucknow.
9.	Hoffland Finance Ltd., New Delhi
10.	Kuber Auto General Finance Ltd., New Delhi
III. Prosecution Proceedings Launched	
In exercise of the powers vested in Reserve bank of India under Section 58 E read with Sections 58 B and 58 C of the RBI Act, 1934, criminal complaints have been filed against.	
1.	JVG Finance Ltd., New Dehi
2.	JVG Leasing Ltd., New Delhi
3.	JVG Securities Ltd., New Delhi
4.	Hoffland Finance Ltd., New Delhi
5.	Asia Pacific Investment Trust Ltd., Hyderabad
6.	NITL Mutual Benefits Ltd., New Delhi
7.	Endowment Investments (I) Ltd., Chandigarh
8.	Rockland Leasing Ltd., New Delhi
9.	Trikone Finance (I) Ltd., Lucknow
10.	Trikone Leasing Co. Ltd., Lucknow
11.	Trikone Mutual Benefit Ltd., Lucknow
12.	Ratpi Growth Fund Ltd., Lucknow
13.	Kuber Mutual Benefits Ltd., Meerut.
14.	Prudential Capital Market Ltd., Calcutta
15.	Kuber Auto General Finance Ltd., New Delhi
16.	K.M. Capital Ltd., New Delhi
17.	Raunaq Finance Ltd., Jaipur

IV. Police Complaint Filed

A Police complaint for cheating members of the public has also been filed under Section 420 of IPC against:

1. Hoffland Finance Ltd., New Delhi
2. Krishi Exports Commercial Corpn. Ltd., Lucknow
3. RK Satyadarshi Savings & Finance Ltd., Jalandhar.
4. Amber Investment India Ltd., Patna
5. Bhagawathi Comm. Finance Ltd., Patna.
6. Deshit General Finance & Investment Ltd., Patna

V. Appointment of Special Officer

The Bank has also appointed Special Officers to monitor the repayment of deposit in certain problematic companies:

1. Shriram Group Companies, Chennai
2. MCC Finance Ltd., Chennai.
3. Lloyds Finance Ltd., Mumbai
4. Kirloskar Investment & Finance Ltd., Bangalore.

[*Translation*]

Export by SSI

822. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the share of small scale industries in the total export of the Country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the percentage of small scale industries in the total exports of the Country during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of facilities provided to promote the small scale industries during the last three years; and

(d) the details of facilities out of the above which are likely to generate maximum employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The exports

during 1996-97 stood at Rs. 117524.98 crore, out of which the export share of SSI sector was Rs. 39448.54 crore which was 33.40% of total exports. During 1997-98, the total exports were Rs. 126286 crores out of which exports from SSI sector were Rs. 44442.18 crore, constituting 35.19% of the total exports. The estimated export figures for 1998-99 is Rs. 141604 crore, out of which the estimated share of SSI sector is Rs. 49481 crore which is 34.9% of the total exports.

(c) Various facilities have been provided by the Government to promote SSI which, amongst others, include the following:

- (i) 52 Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres to create and to develop infrastructure.
- (ii) 4 Product-cum Process Development Centres (PPDC) to serve as R&D institutions in the areas of dense industry clusters.
- (iii) 28 Small Industry Service Institutes (SISI) to provide techno-economic managerial support service.
- (iv) National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) supplies machinery on hire purchase basis to SSIs and ancillary units.

(d) Training institutes like SISI, NISIET, NIESBUD, tool room and PPDCs are instrumental in generating employment opportunities to the SSI entrepreneurs by way of specialised training in order to improve the techno-managerial skills of entrepreneurs.

Recommendations of Justice S. Mohan Committee on PSUs

823. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up Justice S. Mohan Committee to revise the pay-scales of Group 'C' and 'D' employees of public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the pay-scales of Group 'C' and 'D' employees mentioned in the report; and

(e) the time by which the revised pay-scales are likely to be given to the employees of the public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) Government had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice S. Mohan, a retired Supreme Court Judge, to recommend revised pay-scales and perquisites for the public sector executives in the Board level, below Board level and for non-unionised supervisors and not for Group 'C' & 'D' employees. The revised pay-scales and perquisites are to come into effect from 1.1.97. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government and the Government have already taken decision on the recommendations and issued necessary orders. Group 'C' & 'D' employees are covered under 'Wage Negotiations'. The Order on 6th Round of Wage negotiation, to come to effect from 1.1.1997 has already been issued on 14.1.1999.

[English]

Grants-in-Aid to Karnataka

824. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to grant an aid of Rs. 200 crore to take up relief works in rain affected districts of the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) While the State Government of Karnataka have requested for Rs. 200 crores from the Centre for relief measures in the rain affected areas of the State, they are yet to submit a detailed Memorandum to the Ministry of Agriculture giving justification for financial Assistance over and above the Calamity Relief Fund.

Special Facilities Fund for States

825. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently decided to create a special facility fund to meet the financial needs of various States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, whenever the States are faced

with ways & means problem the Central Government have been helping the States by giving ways & means advances and making advance releases of States' entitlements on account of Central devolution of plan and non-plan funds. Following the decision of the National Development Council's Sub Committee the Central Government has also begun extending similar assistance to the States who have initiated their fiscal reform programmes.

Gold Deposits in Maharashtra

826. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gold deposits has been found at various places in Maharashtra;

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

(c) the time by which these mines are proposed to be opened for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The names of the places where gold deposits/occurrences have been found by Geological Survey of India (GSI) in Maharashtra are:

- (i) Parsori West, Nagpur district.
- (ii) Kolari Bhanori Ranmangli area, Nagpur district.
- (iii) Kosari-Marupar area, Nagpur district.
- (iv) Kitari-Adyal area, Nagpur/Bhandara district.

GSI has conducted preliminary investigation to locate gold deposits in these areas. After due diligence, any Indian National or a Company as defined in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the gold reserves after getting a prospecting licence or a mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules framed thereunder.

Sale of Shares of Public Undertakings

827. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate amount of funds likely to be collected as a result of sale of shares of Public Sector Undertakings during the current year; and

(b) the amount of the funds likely to be spent therefrom on the modernisation and development of the existing Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The disinvestment during the year is likely to be of the order of Rs. 10,000 crore.

(b) The proceeds from the disinvestment of Government equity in PSUs is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. Government provides Plan & non-Plan budgetary support to the PSUs in relation to assessed needs.

World Bank Loan to Coal India Limited

828. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan/aid given by World Bank to Coal India Limited;

(b) the amount likely to be spent on purchase of various types of equipments out of this loan/aid; and

(c) the manner of utilisation of the loan/aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The total amount of loan sanctioned by the World Bank with co-financing from Japan Bank of International Co-operation (JBIC) for Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSR) to Coal India Limited is US\$ 1060 million.

(b) The amount to be spent for purchase of various types of equipment out of this loan is estimated as US\$ 863 million.

(c) The loan will be disbursed over a period of five years from June, 1998 to June, 2003. The loan will be utilised to meet the investment needs of 24 coal mines under five subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. The investment is to cater for procurement of the equipment, coal handling plants, coal mine plans, consultancy and technical assistance etc. The procurement under the loan is to be carried out following World Bank's procurement guidelines through international competitive bidding.

VRS in Public Sector Enterprises

829. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the strength of work force in various Public Enterprises by introducing Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

(b) if so, the names of Enterprises where this scheme is proposed to be introduced;

(c) whether the Government propose to give some more incentives to employees who opt for VRS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) A model Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) is already in existence since October, 1988 for public sector employees.

(c) and (d) The scheme of VRS may have to be specific to the nature of the unit.

Export of Processed Food and Fruits

830. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to promote the export of processed food and fruits, particularly concentrated pineapple juice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government has been encouraging export of processed food items and horticultural products such as fruits including pineapple juice through various support/assistance schemes. The assistance provided in this regard include the following:

- (i) Provision of grant/loan for development and modernisation of meat processing, establishment of post harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing, assistance for undertaking Research and Development, Strengthening of traditional fish processing technologies and marketing;
- (ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment for horticulture and other agro food products;
- (iii) Providing financial assistance to exporter/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (Pack Houses);

- (iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;
- (v) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (vi) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports.
- (vii) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport etc.

(c) The value of foreign exchange earned from the export of processed food items comprising of processed fruits and vegetables and other processed food items during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1996-97	2309.68
1997-98	2256.37
1998-99	1824.23

The value of export of pineapple products comprised of Rs. 28.59 lakhs in 1996-97, Rs. 101.17 lakhs in 1997-98 and Rs. 260.84 lakhs during 1998-99.

Export of Red Sanders Wood

831. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have suggested the Union Government to consider regulating export of Red Sanders wood through Hyderabad Air Port;

(b) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Government had sent a communication to the Union Government dated October 8, 1998 regarding steps to be taken to curb illegal trade in items made of Red Sanders;

(c) if so, the other issues raised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a communication on October 8, 1998 suggesting a joint team of officials of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh at Chennai Port to verify the value added items of Red Sanders Wood and the quantity converted. It was further suggested that export of Red Sanders Wood from Andhra Pradesh could be regulated through Hyderabad Airport directly rather than through Chennai Port to avoid smuggling.

(d) The export licences of this item are issued on the recommendations of Ministry of Environment & Forests which is now consulting the Government of Andhra Pradesh before recommending issuance of Export Licences for export of value added items made a Red Sanders Wood.

UCO Bank

832. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.S. Verma Working Group has recommended closure of foreign branches of UCO Bank despite the fact that lion's share of the Bank's profit comes from its foreign operations;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to merge loss making branches of the Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The M.S. Verma working Group has recommended that the foreign branches of weak banks need to be taken off their hands because their operations abroad may prove to be a big burden on their future operations in view of declining profitability and poor quality of assets and the operating environments abroad being more volatile. The position would get exacerbated if any of these operations runs into the slightest difficulty or if the local regulators stipulate conditions regarding capital adequacy, which the banks may not be able to meet. This could pose a problem not only for these banks but also for the Indian banking system.

(b) The recommendations of the Working Group are under examination by the RBI.

(c) While extending recapitalisation assistance in previous year, one of the conditions imposed on the banks related to branch rationalization through closure/merger of loss making branches.

Handloom Reservation Act, 1985

833. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether under Handloom Reservation Act, 1985 certain clothes were earmarked for production through hand-driven weaver's workshop;

(b) if so, whether there were 22 categories of clothes that were earmarked for production through hand-driven weaver's workshops under this Act.

(c) if so, whether that number was reduced to 11 from 22 ;

(d) whether Market Development Assistance Scheme has also been withdrawn;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Unit Projects have been closed totally; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. This decision was taken after detailed deliberation by the Advisory Committee, constituted under the Act for this purpose in 1996.

(d) and (e) The Market Development Assistance Scheme was to be discontinued with effect from 1.4.1998. However, after receiving persistent request from the State Governments and other Handloom agencies for its continuation, the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Finance and with their approval, the scheme has been continued with partial modifications in the scheme upto 31.3.2000.

(f) and (g) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had initially approved the Handloom Development Centre & Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme for a period of 4 years commencing from 1993-94 to 1996-97 and this scheme continued during 1997-98 with the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee. However, continuation of the Scheme during remaining period of the 9th. Plan is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Printing Presses and Mints

834. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Printing Presses and Mints in the country alongwith their locations and capacity;

(b) the names of the Printing Presses and the Mints which have been assigned the job of printing currency notes and minting coins by the Reserve Bank of India during 1995-96 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 alongwith denominations thereof;

(c) the extent to which the above Printing Presses and Mints made supply in comparison with the demand made by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) the names of such Printing Presses and Mints which have not printed currency notes and minted coins in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The information is given in the attached statement I

(b) The information is given in the attached statement II.

(c) The supply of notes and coins was to the extent of 49% and 26% of Reserve Bank of India demand respectively in 1998-99.

(d) The production of notes and coins by Presses/ Mints was to the extent of their capacity.

Statement I

Sr. No.	Name of the Unit with Location	Annual capacity (in million pieces) on the basis of present product-mix	Remarks
1.	Bank Note Press, Dewas	2900	Under modernisation, and the Press will come into regular production from 2000 onwards.
2.	Currency Note Press, Nashik	5400	
3.	Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Mysore	4750	Under construction. These Presses will come into regular production from 2000 onwards.
4.	Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Salboni	4750	
5.	India Govt. Mint, Mumbai	1000	On full completion of modernisation.
6.	India Govt. Mint, Hyderabad India Govt. Mint, Cheralapally, A.P.	800	
7.	India Govt. Mint, Calcutta	1000	
8.	India Govt. Mint, Nodia	2000	Including second shift to start shortly.
9.	India Security Press, Nasik		Please see Statement 'A'
10.	Security Printing Press, Hyderabad		Please see Statement 'B'

India Security Press, Nasik

Sr. No.	Name of the items printed	Annual Production Capacity (in crores)	1	2	3
			7.	Non-judicial and allied Forces (Issue Sheets)	8.69
			8.	MICR Cheques	5.86
			9.	Cheques (Non-MICR)	2.70
			10.	Public/Service/Commemorative Postage stamps (Issue sheets)	3.50
			11.	Non-Postal adhesive stamps (issues sheets)	1.40
			12.	Passport Booklets and Visa sheets	0.17
			13.	Misc. Security items (Saving instruments, Railway warrants, import licences etc.)	8.79
1.	Post Cards	55.00			
2.	Ordinary envelopes	20.00			
3.	Registration envelopes	0.80			
4.	Inland letter cards	72.00			
5.	Green envelopes and Forces Letters	4.00			
6.	Aerogrammes	3.00			

Security Printing Press, Hyderabad

Sr. No.	Name of the items printed	Annual Production Capacity (in Crores)
1.	Post Cards	48.00
2.	Inland Letter Cards	54.00
3.	Envelopes	13.80
4.	Central Excise Stamps	34.40
5.	Non-judicial Stamps	15.00

Statement II

Sr. No.	Name of the Presses/Mints and Location	Denomination of notes/coins printed/minted during the period from 1995-96 to 1998-99
Presses:		
1.	Bank Note Press, Dewas	Rupees 20, 50, 100 and 500 denomination notes.
2.	Currency Note Press, Nasik	Rupees 10, 50, and 100 denomination notes.
3.	Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Salboni	Rupees 10 denomination notes.
4.	Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd., Mysore	Rupees 10, 50 and 100 denomination notes.
Mints:		
5.	India Govt. Mint, Mumbai	Rupees 5, 2, Rupee 1, 50 Paise and 25 paise coins.
6.	India Govt. Mint, Hyderabad & India Govt. Mint, Cheralapally	Rupees 5, 2, Rupee 1, 50 Paise and 25 paise coins.
7.	India Govt. Mint, Noida	Rupees 5, 2, Rupee 1, 50 Paise and 25 paise coins.
8.	India Govt. Mint, Calcutta	Rupees 5, 2, Rupee 1, 50 Paise, 25 paise & 5 paise coins.

*[English]***Hemco Group of Companies**

835. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1670 dated March, 5, 1999 regarding HEMCO Group of Companies, Bombay and state:

(a) whether the amount of Rs 950 crores has since been recovered;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the bank officials found responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The case is under investigation.

Recommendations of Disinvestment Commission

836. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has criticised the Government for side stepping the Commission and delay in taking the decision/action on its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for delay in taking action on the recommendations of the Commission; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to take quick decision/action on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission which makes recommendations in regard to disinvestment in various PSEs, keeps advising Government from time to time on various aspects related to disinvestment. It has expressed its views in favour of quick implementation of its recommendations.

(c) and (d) The Government has to take decision on Disinvestment Commission's recommendations keeping all aspects in view. There is a prescribed procedure for processing the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission and for implementation of the Government decisions on such recommendations. There is no delay in taking decision on the recommendations of the Commission.

Fiscal Deficit

837. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fiscal deficit during the first half of the financial year 1999-2000 has gone up by 11% as compared to last year; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken/being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Fiscal deficit during the first six months (April-September) of the financial year 1999-2000 was Rs. 52395 crore (exclusive of loans to states against State's Share in the Small Savings Collections) as against Rs. 43904 crore (on comparable basis) during the same period of 1998-99. As a percentage of Budget Estimates, it registered an increase from 57% during April-September 1998 to 65.5% during April-September 1999. Fiscal situation is under continuous review and in view of the emerging fiscal trends Government has already taken remedial steps to contain the expenditure and to enhance the revenue collections in the remaining part of the fiscal year.

[Translation]

Persons arrested under FERA

838. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons arrested under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973 have been released during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the action being taken under this act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Zone-wise details of persons arrested during the last three years, are as follows:

Zone	1996	1997	1998
Bombay	100	55	29
Calcutta	29	11	07
Delhi	19	32	09
Jalandhar	28	23	08
Chennai	47	31	18
Ahmedabad	—	04	13
Bangalore	—	03	08

All the persons were released on bail/after completion of remand period.

(c) Yes.

(d) A review of the performance of the Enforcement Directorate is undertaken periodically on the basis of monthly reports. The action taken under various provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act is reviewed with particular reference to investigation, adjudication and prosecution.

[English]

Outstanding Debt Entries

839. SHRI RAM SAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2703 dated August 8, 1997 regarding long time outstanding debt entries and state:

(a) whether the entries have since been reconciled and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of entries still outstanding and by whom the same are likely to be reconciled and squared up;

(c) the details of frauds committed, by whom and the present status of the cases;

(d) whether some more cases of frauds have come to light thereafter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the public sector banks have made considerable progress in adjusting the pending entries in inter-branch accounts

(IBA). Negligible entries remained unreconciled up to the period of March 1995. 16 banks have adjusted all entries up to March 1996, 8 have adjusted entries up to March 1997. The progress made by banks in adjusting entries (total of debit and credit) in inter-branch account can be seen from the table given below:

(Entries in lacs)

(Amount in Rupees crores)

Positions as on	Entries upto 31.3.96		Entries upto 31.3.97		Entries upto 31.3.98		Entries upto 31.3.98	
	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
31.3.96	127.51	526323						
31.3.97	31.74	43107	123.36	338806				
31.3.98	11.04	9303	34.64	41797	80.55	249368		
31.3.99	4.62	1541	11.67	5763	44.87	68094	142.40	477300

As the arrears in reconciliation of IBA was a cause of serious concern, banks were asked to segregate the outstanding debit and credit entries in the inter-branch accounts upto 31st March 1995 remaining unreconciled as on March 31, 1999 and arrive at the net position, as on March 31, 1999 taking into account the credit balance in the 'Blocked Account.'

RBI has reported that beginning from the accounting year 1998-99, banks have been asked to make 100 per cent provision for the net debit position, in their inter-branch Accounts, arising out of the unreconciled entries (both debit and credit) outstanding for more than three years as on 31st March every year.

Beginning from 1st April 1999 banks should maintain category-wise (head-wise) accounts for various types of transactions put through inter-branch accounts, so that the netting can be done category-wise. As on the balance sheet date, banks shall segregate the debit and credit entries remaining unreconciled for more than three years and arrive at the net position category-wise. Thereafter, the net debit under all the categories of inter-branch accounts should be aggregated and a provision equivalent to 100 per cent of the aggregate net debit shall be made. While netting, it may be ensured that the net debit under one category is not set off against net credit in another category.

(c) A total amount of 28.78 crores was recovered in respect of cases and reported by four Public Sector Banks and one private Bank in fraud cases involving Rs. 1 crore and above during January '96 to July '97.

(d) RBI has reported that three more large value frauds involving Rs. 1 crore and above have subsequently come to light in the area of inter branch reconciliation.

(e) RBI has further reported that in three cases pertaining to Public Sector Banks, reported from August, 1997 till date in the long area of long outstanding debit entries, an amount of Rs. 1.17 crores has been recovered. Suitable action on Staff accountability is taken wherever reported apart from recovery of the amount and taking criminal action.

Collection of I.T./Excise in Orissa

840. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to stop collections of income tax and excise duty and such other central levies in Orissa in view of the recent cyclone that had hit the State;

(b) if so, the total amount thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the quantum of damage and loss suffered by the industry and business in Orissa ravaged by supercyclone in last October and the amount of claim staked by such victims with the Insurance Companies on these counts; and

(d) whether the Government has instructed the Insurance Companies to dispose of such cases of claims expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No precise assessment of the quantum of damage and loss suffered by industry and business on account of the cyclone in Orissa, has been made. As on 24.11.1999, the amount of loss indicated in the claims lodged with Insurance Companies was approximately Rs. 235 crore.

(d) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Share in Maruti Udyog

841. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw its share from the Maruti Udyog Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) There is no such proposal at present under consideration.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Colombo Plan

842. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any technical assistance received/given by India to the Member Countries of Colombo Plan under Technical Cooperation Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Under the Colombo Plan, the Government of India extends technical assistance to 16 member countries of the Colombo Plan under a scheme called the Technical Cooperation Scheme (TCS) of the Colombo Plan. The scheme provides a comprehensive and integrated training programmes to 400 personnel every year in about 38 Institutes of the country. The entire expenditure on these training is met by Government of India. India does not receive any technical assistance from any other member countries under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan.

Scam in BOI AMC

843. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CVC unearths Rs. 300 crore scam in BOI AMC" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated May 6, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the amount of loss suffered by BOI AMC;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) the action taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Bank of India has reported that during the years 1996-97, certain irregularities and deficiencies in the working of Bank of India Asset Management Company Limited (BOIAMC) broadly covering certain investment transactions not being backed by proper financial analysis exceeding the delegated authority, write off in the dividend receivable account and write off in suspense account in the assured income scheme of the Company etc. were found during internal inspection. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) who were consulted by the bank advised initiation of departmental action against the officers of Bank of India and BOIAMC and accordingly the bank has initiated departmental action against the ex-MD of the Company as well as other officers involved. CVC has also advised the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to register a regular case for investigation to determine the criminality on the part of officials involved. The actual loss to the Company arising out of such investments cannot be quantified since the same depends on the prices of the scrips which are subject to fluctuations.

Computerisation of Bank Branches

844. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to computerise all branches of State Bank of India in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the computerised and Non-computerised branches of SBI and other nationalised banks at present; and

(c) the time by which all the branches are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) It is for State Bank of India and not for the Government to decide on the branches which will be computerised, having regard to directions of the Central Vigilance Commission to cover 70% business by the end of year 2001. According to the information available, the details of fully computerised branches and non computerised branches of State Bank of India and other nationalised banks as on 31st August, 1999, are given below:

	No. of fully computerised branches	No. of non-computerised branches
1. State Bank of India	1773	7168
2. Nationalised Banks	3080	29566

(c) No specific time-frame can be indicated for fully computerising all the branches.

Committee for Restructuring of Companies

845. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed a Committee to examine cases of insolvency and restructuring the companies;

(b) if so, the details regarding its terms and functions;

(c) whether many Non-Resident Indians are interested in investing in India but the image of some companies puts them off;

(d) whether the Government have also approached the Asian Development Bank to have a research center for corporate Governance and research the subject at length and promote its cause; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently constituted a Committee headed by a retired judge of Supreme Court to examine the existing law relating to winding up proceedings of companies in order to remodel it in line with the latest developments and innovations in the corporate law Governance. The Committee would also suggest reforms in the procedure followed in the insolvency proceedings of companies to avoid unnecessary delays and make it tune with the international practice in this field.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee include examination and making recommendations on the desirability of change in existing law relating to winding up of companies so as to avoid delays in the final liquidation, to suggest mechanism through which the management of companies will be conducted after winding up orders are issued, and to specify the authority which will supervise winding up, prescribe rules of winding up, and adjudication of insolvency of companies, manner in which the proceeds of the assets of companies are brought to sale are to be distributed efficiently, and propose a self contained law for winding up of companies having regard to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 and the Securities Contract (Regulations) Act, 1956. The Committee will submit its report within a period of three months from the date of its first meeting.

(c) Various facilities/schemes have been extended to NRIs for investments in India and individual investment decision by NRIs is guided by their perception of attractiveness of the scheme as also returns on investments having regard to depth and credibility of the Indian Capital Market.

(d) and (e) The Asian Development Bank has not been formally approached so far in the matter by the Government.

Scheme for the Development of Backward Areas

846. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored scheme was implemented for development of backward areas during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the achievements made during the above plan period; and

(c) the extent to which Gujarat is benefited from the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) During the Eighth Plan period two Centrally sponsored schemes for development of backward areas are:

(1) Growth Centre Scheme.

(2) Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme. The Growth Centre Scheme envisages development of industrial infrastructure so as to enable the States to physically establish the growth centre and to attract industrial units to the industrially backward districts. The integrated infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme envisages to develop infrastructure facilities for small industries to facilitate location of industries in rural/backward areas. These schemes have been carried over in to the IXth Five Year Plan period.

(b) and (c) Achievements:

Growth Centre Scheme:

Total number of growth centres approved during the VIIIth Five Year Plan was 54 and total Central assistance released was 228.75 crores. Full amount of Central release was released towards 12 growth centres having regard to the progress achieved in the implementation of the growth centres. Three growth centres have been identified in Gujarat. These are Vagra (District Bharuch), Gandhidham District Kutch) and Palanpur (District Banaskantha).

Progress reported by the State Government of Gujarat in the implementation of their three growth centres under this scheme as on 30.9.99 is as follows:

Vagra (District Bharuch): A total expenditure of Rs. 4940 lakh has been incurred in this project with full central release of Rs. 10 crore and balance incurred by the State. Industrial plot allotment has since commenced in this growth centre.

In regard to Gandhidham (district Kutch) and Palanpur (District Banaskantha) centres the State is in the process of land acquisition. Central and State release of Rs. 500 lakh have been granted to each of these State projects.

Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (IID):

Under the Scheme 47 projects are being implemented in various States. The developmental work in respect of 9 centres have almost completed and many units have been set up.

Two centres have been approved in the State of Gujarat in:-

- (1) Vill. Miyani (District Junagarh) where the Central Govt. has released Rs. 92.50 lakhs to the project.
- (2) Vill. Radhanpur (District Banaskantha): GIDC has acquired the land the development work started.

Projects under both the schemes are being implemented by the State Governments.

Production of Coffee

847. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the marketing of coffee do not match with the plentiful production in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote the cultivation of coffee and to stabilise the fluctuating trend in the coffee plantations scenario, especially in the interest of revenue to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. More than 85% of the coffee produced in the country is exported and the rest consumed in the country.

The Coffee Board, besides operating several Plan programmes and developmental activities aimed at intensive cultivation, replanting, quality improvement and water augmentation, has been also providing necessary support in the form of agricultural research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other necessary back up services like supply of seed coffee for planting purposes, etc.

Assistance from British Government

848. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are receiving any financial assistance from British Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the schemes for which the said assistance is being received;

(c) whether the British Government has desired to increase the amount of assistance to India from the current annual level of £100 mln; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) British assistance to India, which is all in the shape of grant, is received for mutually agreed projects in various sectors, such as, Poverty Alleviation, Education, Health & Family Welfare, Power, Environment, Forestry and Renewable Natural Resources.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the recent IndoU UK Annual Aid Talks held in London from 25th-27th May, 1999, British Government had indicated to increase their grant assistance from the current annual level of £100 million to £115 million and £130 million for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively.

Prices of Rubber

849. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the rubber growers in Kerala are facing serious crisis due to the fall in the prices of rubber and the farmers are cutting down the Rubber Plants paving way for other cultivation; and

(b) if so, the action taken to encourage the cultivators to continue their livelihood through Rubber Plantations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the fall in the prices of Natural Rubber and have taken a number of steps including procurement of Natural Rubber on Government Account to arrest the decline in the price. The Government also implements a number of developmental schemes for Rubber farmers. However, no instance of farmers cutting down rubber plants and turning to other cultivation has come to the notice of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Filling up of Reserved Posts in Public Sector Undertakings

850. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to issue an order to fill the backlog of vacant reserved posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Public Sector Undertakings through some special recruitment drive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to fill the backlog of these reserved posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to fill up the backlog vacancies reserved for SC/STs in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) through a special recruitment drive. However, all the administrative Ministries/Departments have suitably instructed PSUs under their

charge to ensure timely filling up of reserved posts in accordance with extant procedures and in order that backlog does not occur.

[*English*]

Value of Rupee

851. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of rupee against the U.S. dollar and other international currencies has gone down during January, 1998 to September 1999;

(b) if so, the lowest level to which rupee value had depreciated against dollar, yen and sterling during the above period;

(c) the reasons of decline in the value of rupees;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide strength to the Indian rupees; and

(e) the amount of foreign exchange utilised by the Government to check the declining trend of the value of rupee during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The exchange rate of rupee against the US dollar had depreciated from Rs. 39.38 per US dollar in January 1998 to a low of Rs. 43.53 in September 1999 and the rate against the Japanese Yen had depreciated from Rs. 30.32 per 100 Yens in January 1998 to a low of Rs. 40.65 in September 1999. The exchange rate of rupee against the Pound Sterling had depreciated from Rs. 64.37 per pound Sterling in January 1998 to a low of Rs. 71.59 in October 1998, but had recovered to Rs. 70.61 by September 1999, with some fluctuations, in a narrow range, in between.

(c) The exchange rate of the rupee in India is market determined. The movements in the nominal exchange rate of the rupee over the period reflect the developments in the foreign exchange market in India, which, in turn, are influenced by the inflows and outflow of foreign exchange. The movements in the external value of the rupee against the major currencies also reflect to some extent the movement of the US dollar against these currencies in the international markets.

(d) The exchange rate developments are closely monitored both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The long term measures undertaken by the authorities include fostering macro-economic stability,

pursuit of rapid growth of output and productivity, appropriate policies to keep the level of the current account deficit within sustainable levels and to manage capital flows consistent with the country's requirement of external financing. These measures have helped to maintain reasonable stability in the external value of the rupee.

(e) The Reserve Bank of India, as and when necessary, undertakes sale/purchase operations of foreign exchange reserves both in the spot and forward segments to impart stability in the foreign exchange market. During January 1998 to September 1999 there were net cumulative purchases amounting to US\$ 2757.5 million by the RBI.

Financial Package to Rajasthan

852. COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan is on the verge of bankruptcy and all ongoing developmental works of the State are held up, as appeared in leading National News Papers;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to offer special financial package to the Government of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the time by which such a package is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Cess on Industrial Units

853. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose cess on industrial units and to set up a fund for revival of sick units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Wheat

854. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish OGL import of wheat introduced last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor.

(c) whether flour millers of the southern region have appealed to the Government not to abolish OGL import of wheat or levy any import duty on wheat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Import of wheat is not under OGL and is canalised through Food Corporation India. However flour millers are allowed to import wheat for their own requirement on actual user basis. The question of removing it from OGL, therefore, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government has received representation from flour Millers of the southern region regarding continuance of the Policy of import of wheat for flour Millers at 0% Custom duty. However, in view of the stocks of wheat available within the country, basic customs duty of 50% has been imposed on the imported wheat.

[Translation]

Surplus of Staff

855. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Industry Ministry has 45 percent surplus staff-study" appearing in the daily 'Observer', dated October 15, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the category-wise break up of percentage of employees found surplus as per the study; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Review and restructuring in Government Ministries and Departments is a continuing exercise, such as, the recent restructuring of the erstwhile Ministry of Industry into the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. Any review of staff has to be in line with the objectives and functions of the Ministries and Departments.

[English]

Royalty of Minerals

856. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of royalty being paid by the Government on the minerals received from various States, State-wise;

(b) whether the amount of royalty on minerals has not been revised since long;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether various State Governments have requested for increasing the amount of royalty and timely payment thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(g) the names of States to whom arrears of royalty is yet to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The rates of royalty on minerals other than minor minerals [defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (MMRD Act)] are prescribed in the Second Schedule to the MMRD Act, 1957. The rates of royalty in respect of minor minerals are prescribed by the respective State Governments. Royalty is paid both by Government Companies and the Private Sector directly to the State Government concerned.

(b) to (f) Under the provisions of Section 9(3) of the MMRD Act, royalty on minerals can not be enhanced more than once during a period of three years. The last revision of royalty for minerals other than coal and lignite was carried out with effect from 11.4.97 and hence enhancement of royalty on these minerals becomes due only after 10.4.2000. The royalty rates on Coal were last revised on 11.10.94.

From time to time representations are received from State Governments for increasing the rates of royalty on minerals other than minor minerals. The Government takes a decision on revision of royalty rates within the prescribed framework of the MMRD Act.

(g) The royalty on minerals is paid by the lessee directly to the State Government; and therefore, the information is not Centrally maintained.

Wholesale Price Index

857. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Working Group was constituted to review the Wholesale Price Index;

(b) if so, whether the Working Group has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the main recommendations of the Working Group; and

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken to change the base year of Wholesale Price Index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main recommendations of the Working Group are:

(i) 1993-94 as the new base year;

(ii) Total number of items under commodity basket as 435;

(iii) Three major groups viz. 'Primary Articles', 'Fuel, Power, Light & Lubricants' and 'Manufactured Products' will have weights as 22.02, 14.23 and 63.75 per cent respectively;

(iv) Attempt be made to compile business services price index for some of the important services; and

(v) Standing Committee be set up to advise on the frequent changes required in the commodity basket, markets, sources, etc.

(d) Base year of Wholesale Price Index will be changed after obtaining necessary administrative approvals.

ATMs in Metro Cities

858. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various nationalised banks are likely to open ATMs in various parts of metro cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the banks to which the RBI has given permission so far, area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) In terms of the current guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks need not obtain prior permission of RBI for installation of ATMs. Banks may instal ATMs at branches and extension counters and also stand alone ATMs at various places indentified by them. While opening ATMs, banks assess the need for installation at a particular place and the availability of adequate security arrangements. The freedom to banks to set up ATMs is given as a measure to strengthen customer service on the one hand and reducing its operating cost on the other. RBI has reported that so far 171 ATM have been opened by public sector banks in various towns and cities.

Promotion of Handicrafts in U.P.

859. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for promotion of handicrafts during the last three eyars, year-wise;

(b) the number of proposals out of these are pending or under consideration, as on date;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any scheme for promotion of handicrafts in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount spent on the promotion of handicrafts in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and the current year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for promotion of handicrafts during the last three years. However, some proposals have been

received from Uttar Pradesh Export Corporation Ltd., Kanpur and Uttar Pradesh Trade Promotion Authority, Kanpur of promotion of handicrafts in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The number of proposal received during each of the last three years and pending or under consideration as on date is as under:

Sl.No.	Year	No. of proposal Received	No. of proposal pending or under consideration
1.	1996-97	17	—
2.	1997-98	12	1
3.	1998-99	7	1

(c) and (d) The schemes for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country including in the State of Uttar Pradesh include: design development; training; setting up of craft development center and emporia; market development; workshed-cum-housing; and group insurance etc.

(e) The amount released for promotion of handicrafts in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years and current year, till date is as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Amount
1.	1996-97	Rs. 297.80 Lakhs
2.	1997-98	Rs. 206.44 Lakhs
3.	1998-99	Rs. 214.07 Lakhs
4.	(1999-2000) (till date)	Rs. 74.03 Lakhs

Import of Sugar

860. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imported sugar from Pakistan during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof alongwith the persons/ companies which involved in sugar import;

(c) the quantity and value of sugar exported during each of the last three years, till date, country-wise and at what rate;

(d) the reasons for exporting the sugar; and

(e) the domestic production of the country and requirement of sugar during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Export of sugar is subject to quantitative ceiling this year at 25,000 MT in consumer packs has been opened besides export of sugar to EU/USA under preferential quota *i.e.*, 33,000 MTs. The total quantity and value of sugar exported during the last three years and its production and requirement in the country is as under:

Year	Exports		Production (Lakh MT)	Consumption (Lakh MT)
	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. Crs.)		
1997-98	175081	240.60	193.7	141.4
1998-99	11290	15.80	207.1	141.8
1999-2000 (P) (April-August)	2229	3.13	225.0	146.7

(P) Provisional

Country-wise details of exports and imports are available in monthly/annual number of foreign trade statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament library.

Funds for State Projects

861. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned Rs. 52.35 crores for various projects of 15 States to meet the financial requirement of critical infrastructure balance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the infrastructure bottleneck to boost the export is proposed to be eliminated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, so far a total number of 58 projects have been sanctioned which are located in different States as indicated below:

(In Rs. crores)

State	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects
Andhra Pradesh	7.0444	7
Assam	8.9547	2
Goa	7.50	1
Gujarat	1.3940	1
Karnataka	8.75	2
Kerala	8.39	7
Madhya Pradesh	2.64	2
Maharashtra	3.1642	2
Meghalaya	3.08	2
Mizoram	2.00	1
Orissa	4.917	3
Rajasthan	8.50	3
Tamil Nadu	3.24	4
Tripura	0.68	2
U.P.	26.9675	13
West Bengal	11.00	6

(c) The projects sanctioned under the Scheme are aimed at bridging the critical gaps in infrastructure for export and export production. The sanctioned projects mainly cover the development of roads, provision for uninterrupted and quality power supply to exporting units, setting up of Earth Stations, computerisation of Export Processing Zones etc.

[Translation]

Soiled and Mutilated Currency Notes

862. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the circulation of soiled and mutilated currency notes in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make currency notes available in good conditions to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps have been taken to make available currency notes in good condition to the people:

- (i) Coinisation of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diversion of capacity so released, for production of notes of higher denomination.
- (ii) Modernisation of Bank Note Press, Dewas; and Currency Note Press, Nashik have been taken up to increase existing annual capacity from 5875 million pieces to 8300 million pieces.
- (iii) Setting-up of two more note printing presses under the control of RBI—one at Salooni and the other in Mysore — with an annual capacity of 4750 million pieces each.
- (iv) By resorting to import of printed notes from abroad to the extent of 3600 million pieces, as a one time measure (2000 million pieces of Rs. 100 notes and 1600 million pieces of Rs. 500 notes).
- (v) To supplement the indigenous production of Re. 1, Rs. 2 coins, Government imported 1400 million pieces of Re. 1 and 600 million pieces of Rs. 2 during the period January 1998 to September, 1999. These have since been distributed.
- (vi) RBI embarked on "Clean Note Policy" during the year 1999 and as part of a special drive, have so far mopped up, through special counters at RBI, 27.76 million pieces of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 notes from circulation, for eventual destruction, as printing of these denominations had been stopped from 1995 due to Government policy of coinisation of these denominations.

- (vii) Banks have been advised to sort out only very good quality notes for re-issuing to the public.

Condition of NTC Mills

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

(a) the number of National Textile Corporation Mills operating in Rajasthan and the details regarding their present status, Production capacity, working capital and the number of workers;

(b) the reasons for continuous decrease in the number of workers and lack of orders and resources;

(c) whether the Government has conducted an enquiry into the causes of these profit making mills which are running in loss at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the schemes of the Government for the revival of these mills and by when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) NTC has 4 mills in the State of Rajasthan. The details of the present status, production capacity, working capital and the number of workers are given in the attached statement.

(b) Government has imposed a complete ban on fresh recruitment in NTC Group. The number of workers is, therefore, coming down due to natural separation and Voluntary Retirement.

The main reason for the continuous losses are the old and obsolete machinery, excess labour force and acute shortage of working capital etc.

(c) and (d) At the time of nationalisation itself, these mills were reporting losses.

(e) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in the Revival Plan.

Statement

Mill's Name	Present Status	Production Capacity (Spindles)	Working Capital (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of workers on roll (30.9.99)
Edward Mills, Bewar	Nil Activity	14,196	-437.21	293
Mahalaxmi Mills, Bewar	Partial working	13,400	-307.34	376
Shree Bijay Cotton Mills, Bijayanagar	Partial working	18,720	-712.59	475
Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur	Partial working	25,180	-317.94	482

Closure of Coal Projects

864. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as many as twelve projects related to Department of Coal have been abandoned just after they were started and approximately rupees sixty crores were spent on them;

(b) if so, the names of such projects;

(c) the reasons for abandoning these projects; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such misuse of resources on the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) 48 projects have been withdrawn in coal companies under Coal India Limited after incurring expenditure of Rs. 107.86 crores on these projects. Name of these projects and expenditure incurred thereon are indicated in the attached statement-I and II.

(c) These projects were withdrawn due to following reasons:

(i) Government guideline to shelve such projects where expenditure incurred has been 20% or less of the anticipated cost even after 60% of the gestation period.

(ii) Adverse geo-mining conditions.

(iii) Safety considerations.

(iv) Non-acceptance of the projected technology by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

(v) Delay in procurement of land.

(vi) Delay in getting forestry clearance.

(d) Steps being taken to minimise such expenditure include:

(i) Advance actions are being taken up specifically for acquisition of both forest and non-forest land, sorting out rehabilitation issue and obtaining environmental clearance before approval of the project report.

(ii) Density of drilling has been intensified for ascertaining firm geological parameters so that the situation of abandoning the project on account of adverse geo-mining condition is lessened.

(iii) The project is discussed in detail with DGMS before its approval.

(iv) Merger with adjoining projects is also done to facilitate economic operations.

Statement I**List of projects shelved/withdrawn after incurring expenditure**

S.No.	Company	Project	Expenditure on withdrawn (Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	ECL	Loudoha UG	0.80
2.		Dalurband UG	0.44
3.		Narainkuri OC	3.85
4.		Bamundiā OC	0.57
5.		C.L. Jambad OC	1.82
6.		Chinakuri UG	21.08

1	2	3	4
7.		Bakulia	2.56
8.		Bhanora West	11.83
9.		Chora Block Pit	1.44
10.		Purusomitampur	0.10
11.		Powapur Scheme	0.23
12.	WCL	Bhakra	0.71
13.		Saoner OC	11.75
14.	BCCL	Bhowrah 3 Pit IX Top Seam UG	1.28
15.		Badruchak UG	1.87
16.		Loyabad XV Seam UG	0.58
17.		Bhowrah IX B Seam Auger UG	0.59
18.		Lodhna XI/XII/XIII Seam	2.92
19.		Damodar	19.84
20.	CCL	Jeewandhara OC	11.68
21.		Ambakocho OC	5.66
22.		Pipradih RO OC	1.69
23.		Tekadi OC	2.82
24.		Tarmi	0.01
25.		Karma	1.51
26.		Hindegir	0.23

Statement II*List of projects shelved/withdrawn without incurring expenditure*

Sl.No.	Company	Project	Expenditure on withdrawn (Rs. Crores)
1.	ECL	Chinakuri R&D	0.00
2.		Pandaveswar R-IV Seam	0.00
3.		Amkola	0.00
4.		Ratibati-Narainkuri Seam	0.00
5.		Bahula Banbahal	0.00
6.		Chinakuri	0.00
7.	BCCL	Reopening of Victoria UG	0.00
8.		PR for Bhutgoria	0.00
9.		Bhagaband XV Seam (Stage-I)	0.00
10.		Bhagaband XV Seam (Stage-II)	0.00
11.		Mohalbari Incline	0.00
12.		Sendra Bansjora VIII Seam	0.00
13.		Patherdih Incline (D/8)	0.00
14.		Akaskinari	0.00
15.	WCL	Sasti Marginal Scheme UG	0.00
16.	SECL	Churha Depillaring UG	0.00
17.		Ghurkundi OC	0.00
18.		Churha West LW	0.00
19.		Kesia	0.00
20.	MCL	Hingir Rampur RO UG	0.00
21.	CCL	Uchitdih	0.00
22.		Jaridih	0.00

*[English]***Revival of Sick Banks**

865. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M.S. Verma Working Group has submitted its report to the Government or the Reserve Bank of India regarding revival of sick banks;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Group; and

(c) the Government's reaction to these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Working Group headed by Shri M.S. Verma has submitted its report regarding revival of weak banks to the RBI.

(b) The Group has recommended a four-dimensional comprehensive restructuring programme covering operational, organizational, financial and systemic restructuring. The comprehensive restructure programme envisages the following:

- (1) Operational restructuring involving,
 - (i) basic changes in the mode of operations,
 - (ii) induction of modern technology,
 - (iii) resolution of the problem of high non-performing assets, and
 - (iv) drastic reduction in cost of operations.
- (2) Organisational restructuring aimed at improved Governance of the banks and enhancement in management involvement and efficiency.
- (3) Financial restructuring with conditional recapitalisation.
- (4) Systemic restructuring providing for, *inter alia*, legal changes and institution building for supporting the restructuring process.

(c) Government is awaiting the views of the RBI on the recommendations contained in the Verma Working Group Report.

Closure of Public Sector Undertakings

866. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to wind up ten loss-making Public Sector Undertakings in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of those PSUs;

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government;

(d) the total loss suffered by these public sector undertakings, undertaking-wise;

(e) whether the Government have also sanctioned Rs. 2,15,000 crore for the industrial development; and

(f) if so, the extent to which this amount has so far been utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Government had taken a decision to introduce Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) by extending benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to the employees of 10 unviable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Department of Heavy Industry listed in the statement enclosed. BIFR/Disinvestment Commission at one stage or the other had reached a preliminary/final view regarding winding up in case of 9 sick PSUs listed in the statement. In the case of Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC), Disinvestment Commission has recommended discontinuance of operations and implementation of a suitable voluntary retirement package for employees. An Expert Group set up to explore the possibilities of revival of some of these PSUs has submitted its report in respect of 8 PSUs. Reports in the case of Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL) are awaited. In the case of Cycle Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), a revival plan is separately under consideration of BIFR. Government is to take a decision on these recommendations and communicate these to BIFR/High Court as the case may be.

(d) A statement is attached.

(e) and (f) A total investment of Rs. 2,04,054 crores has been made in 240 Central PSUs till March, 1998. Their gross turnover was Rs. 2,85,251 crores. Their retained profit was Rs. 9,675 crores.

Statement**[Translation]**

(b)

1. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited (BOGL).
2. National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited (NBCIL).
3. Cycle Corporation of India Limited (CCIL).
4. Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation of India Limited (MAMC).
5. Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Limited (TAFCO).
6. Rehabilitation Industries Corporation of India Limited (RIC).
7. Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Limited (BPMEL).
8. National Instruments Limited (NIL).
9. Weighbird India Limited (WIL).
10. Tyre Corporation of India Limited (TCIL) (Tangra Unit).

(d)

*Total Loss suffered upto 1998-99 by the
9 sick PSUs of DHI*

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the PSU	Total loss upto 1998-99
1.	BPMEL	180.44
2.	WIL	40.60
3.	MAMC	897.72
4.	CCIL	425.98
5.	NBCIL	186.04
6.	BOGL	199.80
7.	RIC	606.46
8.	NIL	215.96
9.	TAFCO	307.78
TOTAL		3060.78

Merger of SBI with its Subsidiary Banks

867. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Office of State Bank of India, Mumbai has forwarded a proposal to the Ministry of Finance for the merger of its subsidiary banks;

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

(c) the policy of the Government in regard to the merger of these subsidiary banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee II) had, *inter-alia*, observed that "Mergers between banks and between banks and Development Financial Institutions (DFI) and Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) need to be based on synergies and location and business specific complementarities of the concerned institutions and must obviously make sound commercial sense. Mergers of public sector banks should emanate from the managements of banks with the Government as the common shareholder playing a supportive role." The recommendations of the Committee would form a valuable input for the Government in the formulation of policy.

[English]**Settlement Commission for Excise Dispute**

868. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for setting up of Settlement Commission for the early disposal of Excise dispute cases in Central Excise and Customs on the lines of Settlement Commission functioning in the Central Board of Direct Taxes, is still pending;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Customs & Central Excise Settlement Commission has already been set up.

Non-Performing Assets

869. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the nationalised banks in the country are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of Non-Performing Assets of each nationalised bank, as on November 30, 1999;

(c) whether the profitability of several public sector banks may come under strain in the next few years due to NPAs; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard particularly with reference to study conducted by RBI sometime in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The gross and net non-performing assets of nationalised banks have gone up to Rs. 3,3069.43 crores (16.02%) and Rs. 15,794.16 crores (8.35%) as on 31.3.99 as compared to Rs. 30,130.38 crores (16.88%) and Rs. 14,497.50 crores (8.91%) as on 31.3.98 respectively. However, gross and net NPAs have come down in percentage terms as indicated in the figures in the bracket. A statement indicating the non-performing assets of nationalised banks as on 31.3.99 (latest available) is given in the attached statement.

(c) The increase in NPAs affect the profitability of the banks as the NPAs do not generate income and the banks are required to provide against possible loan losses from their operating profits. Besides due to tightening of prudential norms on income recognition, asset classification and provisioning requirements in keeping with international standards there will be pressure on profitability of banks. However, during 1998-99 all nationalised banks excepting one made operating profits.

(d) The RBI/Government of India have advised the banks of the following steps not only to check the incidence of fresh NPAs but also to ensure the recovery of existing NPAs of PSBs.

- Banks have been advised to have documents on loan recovery policy prescribing the manner of recovery of dues, norms for permitted sacrifices/waiver etc.
- Reduction of NPAs, through compromise/write offs through negotiated settlements to ensure maximum recovery at minimum expenses on the basis of a banks have been permitted to set up independent Settlement Advisory Committees headed by a retired Judge of the High Court to scrutinise and recommend compromise proposals.
- Banks have also been advised to set up Settlement Advisory Committees for NPAs in Small Scale Sector including Trading and Personal Segment and Agricultural Sector.
- Recovery Cells should be set up at H.O. Targets are to be fixed for various levels and recovery performance is to be monitored closely at all levels.
- Board should reievew top 300 NPAs of banks with special reference to the system prevailing in the banks to fix staff accountability.
- The nationalised banks are advised individually to bring specific improvements in credit management, recovery of NPAs, improvement of profitability etc., and the performance should be monitored periodically by the banks' top management as also the Board.

In addition to above, the Government of India/RBI have also initiated the following steps:

- Debt Recovery Tribunals set up at various places and an Appellate Tribunal in Mumbai to assist speedy recoveries of bank's dues.
- RBI has put in place a scheme to collect details about borrowers of banks and FIs with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above which are classified as "doubtful" or "loss" and accounts where suits are filed as on 31st March and 30th September each year and disseminate this information (on floppy diskettes) to the banks and FIs for their use while considering, on merits, the request for new or additional

credit limits by defaulting borrowing units and also by the directors/proprietors/partners named in the list either in their own name or in the name of other units with which they are associated.

- RBI also publishes a list of borrowers (with outstandings aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above) against whom suits have been filed by banks and FIs for recovery of their funds, as on 31st March every year.
- Pursuant to the instructions of the Central Vigilance Commission, RBI has framed a scheme in February 1999, for collection of

information on wilful defaults of Rs. 25 lakh and above and dissemination to the reporting banks and FIs, under which the banks and FIs viz., IDBI, IFCI and ICICI will be required to submit RBI the details of the wilful defaulters. The report of an informal working group set up by the RBI for framing guidelines on write-offs/compromise settlement of NPAs of banks has also been received and their recommendations have been forwarded to the banks by the RBI for necessary action. Further Government has also set up a working group for formulating specific legislative proposals to keep pace with the changing commercial practices and with the financial sector reforms.

Statement

Gross NPAs of Nationalised Banks

Name of the Bank	31st March, 1998		31st March, 1999	
	Amount	%age	Amount	%age
1	2	3	4	5
Allahabad Bank	1458.93	23.18	1520.11	20.09
Andhra Bank	341.30	9.86	450.21	9.42
Bank of Baroda	3129.28	14.63	3685.56	16.03
Bank of India	2669.00	11.55	3033.56	11.57
Bank of Maharashtra	709.09	17.39	715.76	15.97
Canara Bank	3580.81	18.69	4072.86	18.32
Central Bank of India	2414.53	20.47	2436.23	17.41
Corporation Bank	341.86	7.60	367.99	5.66
Dena Bank	774.79	13.73	857.9	12.37
Indian Bank	3428.39	38.96	3646	37.00
Indian Overseas Bank	1255.00	13.38	1441	13.32
Oriental Bank of Commerce	397.23	6.16	498.03	6.30
Punjab & Sind Bank	1038.90	26.79	1098.35	23.01

1	2	3	4	5
Punjab National Bank	2447.00	14.50	2832.2	14.12
Syndicate Bank	1185.29	15.31	1074.28	10.72
UCO Bank	1780.30	24.04	1716.18	22.55
Union Bank of India	1194.73	11.18	1462.42	12.41
United Bank of India	1451.00	33.50	1548.58	32.38
Vijaya Bank	532.95	15.21	549.37	13.65
Nationalised Bank	30130.38	16.88	33006.59	15.98

Net NPAs of Nationalised Banks

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Bank	31st March, 1998		31st March, 1999	
	Amount	%age	Amount	%age
1	2	3	4	5
Allahabad Bank	859.86	15.09	866.80	12.54
Andhra Bank	93.76	2.92	192.57	4.26
Bank of Baroda	1290.35	6.60	1610.62	7.70
Bank of India	1570.00	7.13	1772.34	7.29
Bank of Maharashtra	316.57	8.59	359.35	8.72
Canara Bank	1255.29	7.52	1384.08	7.09
Central Bank of India	1384.74	12.21	1253.66	9.79
Corporation Bank	125.46	2.93	123.84	1.98
Dena Bank	439.43	8.28	504.37	7.66
Indian Bank	1886.67	26.01	1644.00	21.00
Indian Overseas Bank	543.00	6.26	738.00	7.30

1	2	3	4	5
Oriental Bank of Commerce	287.15	4.84	348.05	4.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	345.08	10.84	430.57	10.48
Punjab National Bank	1526.00	9.60	1694.62	8.96
Syndicate Bank	401.94	5.78	366.75	3.93
UCO Bank	705.12	11.14	715.63	10.83
Union Bank of India	787.89	7.66	984.51	8.70
United Bank of India	415.00	12.10	573.44	15.06
Vijaya Bank	276.16	7.50	250.42	6.72
Nationalised Bank	14440.50	8.87	15813.62	8.35

[Translation]

NABARD Branch

870. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of location of the branches of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development opened in the country, especially in Bihar during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some branches of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development during 1999-2000; and

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not have any branch office concept. NABARD with its Head Office in Mumbai, has set up 25 Regional Offices, one Sub-Office at Port Blair and one Srinagar Cell at Srinagar. In addition, NABARD has posted 281 District Development Managers (DDMs) in 281 districts in various States. State-wise details of these Offices of NABARD are furnished in the attached statement-I. The details of locations DDM offices opened during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 State-wise are indicated

in the attached statement-II and III NABARD has further reported that it does not propose to open any additional DDM offices during the year 1999-2000 in any state including Bihar.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Regional Offices and District Offices of NABARD

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Location of Regional Offices	No. of DDM Offices in the districts
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	18
2.	Assam	Guwahati	11
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	—
4.	Bihar	Patna	26
5.	New Delhi	New Delhi	—
6.	Goa	Panaji	2

1	2	3	4
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	11
8.	Haryana	Chandigarh	13
9.	Punjab	Chandigarh	11
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	7
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	2
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	18
13.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	13
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	24
15.	Maharashtra	Pune	22
16.	Manipur	Imphal	—
17.	Meghalaya	Shillong	2
18.	Mizoram	Aizwal	—
19.	Nagaland	Dimapur	—
20.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	16
21.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	17
22.	Sikkim	Gangtok	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	20 [Ⓔ]
24.	Tripura	Agartala	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	37
26.	West Bengal	Calcutta	10
Total			281

Statement II*State-wise details of DDM offices of NABARD opened during 1998-99*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of DDM Offices	Name of the district
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	Prakasam
2.	Bihar	8	Begusarai Bokaro E. Singhbhum E. Champaran Gumla Munger Giridih Siwan
3.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Guna Khargone Shivpuri
4.	Orissa	3	Nayagarh Kendrapada Sundargarh
5.	Punjab	2	Amritsar Bhatinda
6.	Tamil Nadu	1	Shivganga
7.	Uttar Pradesh	3	Baghpat Ghaziabad Mathura
8.	West Bengal	1	Bankura
Total		22	

[Ⓔ] includes 1 DDM office in UT of Pondicherry.

Statement III

State-wise details of DDM offices of NABARD opened/ being opened during 1999-2000

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of DDM Offices	Name of the district
1.	Bihar	4	Lohardaga Darbhanga Jehanabad Rohtas
2.	Gujarat	2	Baroda Surat
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Sirmour
4.	Karnataka	3	Dakshin Kannada Bagalkot Chitradurga
5.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Narsingpur (being opened) Satana
6.	Maharashtra	3	Gadchiroli Washim Wardha
7.	Orissa	2	Raygada Bargarh
8.	Punjab	2	Muktasar Moga
9.	Tamil Nadu	2	Vellore Tuticorin
10.	Uttar Pradesh	3	Hardoi Bijnore Mirzapur
11.	West Bengal	1	Birbhum
Total		25	

*[English]***Austerity Drive by Finance Ministry**

871. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has directed all the Ministries and Departments to rigorously implement the ten per cent cut in posts besides undertaking a ban on creation of new posts as well as filling up of vacant positions;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Ministries have so far accepted the directive of the Ministry of Finance;

(c) the total number of posts are still vacant;

(d) the austerity measures the Ministries have taken so far; and

(e) the extent to which it will help in checking the expenditure of various departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far the Ministries/Departments have achieved around 4% reduction in posts under the economy exercise of 10% cut in posts (as on 1.1.92). No centralised data is maintained on posts lying vacant in various Ministries/Departments.

(d) and (e) The Ministries/Departments have been advised to take austerity measures relating to ban on creation of plan and non-plan posts, ban on filling up of vacant posts until a review of all vacant posts is completed, implementation of the exercise on 10% cut in posts with respect to the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.92, ban on purchase of new vehicles, 10% cut in Non-Plan non salary expenditure, restriction on foreign travel, no new expenditure proposals during the current financial year, unavoidable increase in expenditure on existing schemes to be met out of savings. Reduction in non-plan expenditure is an ongoing process in Government and no centralised data is maintained to relate savings attributable to specific measures.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

872. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cases so far filed by banks before the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Chennai for recovery of their dues from the borrowers during the year 1998 and 1999;

(b) the cases disposed of so far;

(c) whether the Tribunal propose to arrange its sitting outside Chennai to help the banks and borrowers in Tamil Nadu State to dispose of their cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As reported by Debts Recovery Tribunal, Chennai during the years 1998 and 1999 (upto 25.11.1999) 2546 and 1270 cases respectively were filed before the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Chennai. Out of these 597 cases in 1998 and 543 cases in 1999 have been disposed of by the Tribunal.

(c) to (e) Under the provisions of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, the Debts Recovery Tribunal have powers to regulate its own procedure including the places at which it shall have its sittings. Therefore, the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Chennai is competent to hold its sittings within its jurisdiction. The Tribunal has already conducted its sittings at Karur and Coimbatore.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings

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

(a) whether the Government have prepared modalities of the disinvestment of Government equity in the public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been disagreement between the Petroleum Ministry and the Finance Ministry on the modalities of the disinvestment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Disinvestment in Public Sector Enterprises is being done on the basis of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. The modalities of disinvestment of Govt. equity in Public Sector Undertakings is normally through offer of shares in domestic as well as international markets with fixed price of through book-building exercise or by way of strategic sale.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Selling of Old Stock of Rubber

874. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell the old stock of Rubber with the STC;

(b) if so, the quantity and the price at which they were offloaded as of now;

(c) the quantity of rubber with STC;

(d) whether the Government have any plan to sell rubber further from the stock; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Out of the total quantity of 9596 MT of Natural Rubber procured during September 1997—February 1998, STC has sold 4090 MT at an average price of Rs. 28.25 per kg. A quantity of 5506 MT is still available with STC.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The STC has been authorised to sell the balance old stock of Natural Rubber in the major consuming centres of the country at the best possible price.

BIFR

875. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retired IAS officers who have been and are on the pay rolls of the Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction since its constitution *vis-a-vis* the direct hands with a experience of Industries and financial institutions of repute;

(b) the number of cases referred to BIFR since its inceptions; and

(c) the number of cases settled so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that seven retired IAS officers and 13 others having experience of Industries and Financial Institutions have held the posts of Chairman/Acting Chairman/Members of the Board since the inception of BIFR in 1987. Presently, there are 4 retired IAS officers and two others serving on the Board of BIFR.

(b) and (c) BIFR has reported that as on September 30, 1999, 2779 references of sick industrial companies were registered under the provisions of SICA, 1985. Out of these 1821 cases of the companies had been disposed off.

Revival of HEC

876. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), Ranchi is becoming sick slowly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to revive the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) HEC was making continuous losses due to excess manpower, high interest burden, inadequate order booking, low productivity, high social overheads and industrial relations problems. The net worth of the company got completely eroded and it became sick.

On becoming sick, HEC was referred to BIFR in 1992. BIFR sanctioned a revival plan for HEC on 26.8.1996. This revival plan is under implementation.

Regional Rural Banks

877. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks operating in Andhra Pradesh, as on date;

(b) the profit/loss incurred by these banks during the last three years, bank-wise; and

(c) the number of more such banks are likely to be opened in the State in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As on date, 16 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are functioning in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The details of profit and loss made by these RRBs, as reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), for last three years as under:

(Rs. lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the RRB	Profit/Loss		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nagarjuna Grameena Bank	-766.89	-84.63	146.56
2.	Rayalaseema Grameena Bank	-305.39	460.56	995.89
3.	Sri Visakha Grameena Bank	-1144.21	5.93	150.34
4.	Sree Anantha Grameena Bank	309.45	741.74	936.28
5.	Shri Venkateshwara Grameena Bank	-18.62	202.26	271.99
6.	Shri Saraswati Grameena Bank	40.76	166.60	537.73
7.	Sangameshwara Grameena Bank	157.72	391.10	189.41

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Manjira Grameena Bank	-476.92	318.33	401.82
9.	Pinakini Grameena Bank	-854.83	229.77	365.97
10.	Kakathiya Grameena Bank	-167.85	-15.22	13.52
11.	Chaitanya Grameena Bank	-20.21	171.09	268.66
12.	Shri Sathavahana Grameena Bank	-468.42	161.12	206.02
13.	Golconda Grameena Bank	-54.96	78.43	72.06
14.	Sri Rama Grameena Bank	46.33	109.83	228.68
15.	Kanakadurga Grameena Bank	121.48	172.50	221.40
16.	Godavari Grameena Bank	81.77	142.58	185.32

(c) There is no proposal to open any new RRB in the State.

Declaration of Bangalore as A-1 City

878. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the cities in the country declared as A-1 cities for the purpose of higher rate of City Compensatory Allowance to Central Government employees;

(b) the criteria for declaring A-1 City;

(c) whether Bangalore has been declared as A-1 City; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) In accordance with the policy, based on the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission, a city having a population of more than 50 lakhs within its Urban Agglomeration can alone be declared as A-1 city for the purpose of City Compensatory Allowance. Based on this criteria, Delhi (UA), Brihan Mumbai (UA), Calcutta (UA) and Chennai (UA) have been declared A-1 class cities.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the last Census (1991), Bangalore (UA) has the population of 41,30,288. As such, Bangalore (UA) does not qualify to be declared as A-1 city. It has the status of an 'A' class city.

Import of Silk

879. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of silk imported during each of the last three years, quantity-wise and country-wise;

(b) the reasons for importing silk;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that importing silk has affected the sericulturists of Karnataka;

(d) whether the Government are aware that newly introduced varieties are capable of matching the imported silk in quality;

(e) whether the Government have decided to stop importing silk in order to protect sericulture industry in Karnataka; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of silk imported during each of the last three years are as under:

Country	(Qty. in tons)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99*
China P. Republic	2034	1788	2180
China Taipei (Taiwan)	157	55	109
Brazil	10	73	160
Korea D. Republic	9	7	0
Korea Republic	83	37	99
Hongkong	443	174	138
Singapore	25	30	24
Others	150	182	108
Total	2911	2346	2827

*Provisional

Source: DGCIS, Calcutta

(b) To meet the shortfall in the domestic demand for raw silk Government has permitted import. Presently Government has permitted import under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) wherein, the exporters are allowed to bring in duty free raw silk which is linked to export obligation. In addition, to meet the demand for superior quality mulberry raw silk, the Government has permitted import of mulberry raw silk of Grade 2A and above by canalisation through Handloom and Handicrafts Export Promotion Council (HHEC), National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) and other State Corporations dealing with Handloom/Powerloom and silk.

(c) Till date there has been no adverse impact. However, the Government is closely watching the situation.

(d) Yes, Sir. with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Government through the Central Silk Board has taken up a project for promoting bivoltine technology in the country. The commercial exploitation of

the bivoltine races is expected to result in production of international standard import substitute grade of raw silk in the country.

(e) No, Sir. However to protect the domestic silk industry, the import of raw silk continue to be in the restricted list of imports.

(f) Does not arise.

Setting up of Disinvestment Fund

880. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about Rs. 20,000 crores have been raised through the disinvestment process since 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Disinvestment Commission had proposed to set up a disinvestment fund way back in 1997;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the sale proceeds were proposed for use in developmental projects, particularly in the rural sector;

(f) whether the Government's disinvestment programmes ceased to be a development oriented one; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The amount received through disinvestment since 1991-92 is as follow:

Year	Amount raised (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	3038
1992-93	1913
1993-94	Nil
1994-95	4843
1995-96	362
1996-97	380
1997-98	902
1998-99	5371
1999-2000 (upto 30.11.99)	1479
Total:	18288

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The recommendation of Disinvestment Commission for setting up Disinvestment Fund is under consideration of the Government.

(e) to (g) The amount raised from the disinvestment is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.

Insurance Industry

881. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have held any consultations with various trade unions in the Insurance Industry regarding various policy decisions affecting them; and

(b) if so, the nature and outcome of such discussions/negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Government does not hold any discussion with the Trade Unions of Insurance Industry. However, the management of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) holds structured meetings with associations on various policy issues affecting the Industry.

Dereservation of Garment Sector

882. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is in favour of dereservation of garment sector;

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

(c) whether the Ministry of Textiles has consulted the Ministry of Industry in this regard;

(d) if so, the comments of the Industry Minister thereon; and

(e) the reaction of his Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The scope and nature of any article or class of articles that may be reserved for production by the ancillary or small scale industrial undertakings are decided by the Ministry of Industry. At present, Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries is not in favour of dereservation of garment sector.

Restructuring of HMT

883. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to restructure financially and organizationally the Hindustan Machine Tools, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the restructuring proposals also include the then approved sanction of Rs. 25 crore for Ranibagh Unit of Hindustan Machine Tools during 1996-97; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The turnaround plan envisages *inter-alia* organisational restructuring with formation of 3 wholly owned subsidiary companies for machine tools, watches and tractors, manpower rationalisation through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS); and financial restructuring covering conversion of Government loans into equity and one-time settlement with major lenders. Infusion of funds by the Government of India is also envisaged.

(c) and (d) Although no such amount was sanctioned during 1996-97, there was a proposal under consideration. Infusion of funds by Government of India and Government guarantee to banks for working capital requirements of HMT, including its Ranibagh Watch Factory, are envisaged in the turnaround plan.

Upgradation of Jamnagar City

884. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some representations from Members of Parliament, Government Employees' and Coordination Committee for Central Government Employees, Association of Jamnagar of Gujarat State have been received during the year 1999, till date for the up-gradation of Jamnagar as a special case as class B-2 for H.R.A. purposes;

(b) if so, the action taken on the same; and

(c) the outcome thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In accordance with the policy, based on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, a city having a population above 5 lakhs within its municipal limits is classified as B-2 for the purpose of HRA. As the population of Jamnagar in Gujarat State as per census of 1991 is 3,41,637, the request made in representations could not be agreed to.

Export of Onion

885. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ban on export of onion, particularly "The Bangalore Rose Onions" is still in vogue;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether the onion growers have submitted a memorandum requesting to lift the ban on export of onion, specifically, "The Bangalore Rose Onions" with immediate effect; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government has allowed export of a specific quantity of onions for the next two months *i.e.* December, 1999 and January, 2000.

VRS in LIC

886. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excess staff is employed in Life Insurance Company;

(b) if so, the total number of surplus employees in organisation;

(c) whether any Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has been evolved by the Government to retrench the excess staff; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Recruitment of officers and staff in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in the past was made on the basis of an approved formula based on the size of the premium written by the Corporation. The total number of employees in the LIC as on 31.3.1999 is 1,24,385. In view of the impending competition and extensive implementation of information technology in the recent years, the nature of jobs have changed and therefore, the old staffing norms are currently under review. In the meantime, redeployment of the existing staff is being done to meet the current business requirements. No Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been introduced by the LIC so far.

[Translation]

Import Licences

887. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of multinational companies granted import licence since March 1998 till October 1999.

(b) the effect thereof, on the domestic companies in the relevant field; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to protect the domestic companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The items included in the free list under the EXIM Policy can be imported without a licence by any individual or a business entity registered in India whether Indian, foreign or multinational. The licences for import of items in the restricted list are also granted by an Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by the DGFT on the merits of each case to individuals and business entities registered in India. No separate data is therefore, maintained in respect of import licences issued to the multinational companies.

(b) and (c) The import licences in respect of restricted items are generally issued after taking into consideration among other things the likely adverse impact on the domestic manufacturing companies.

[English]

**Move to Divest Stakes by Foreign
Financial Institutions**

888. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move by the foreign financial institutions to divest their stakes in Indian Companies in the open market and financial institutions have invited bids from outsiders including multi-national companies;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations that the proposed move of the Foreign Financial Institutions to divest their stakes in Indian Companies in the open market; be blocked or differed;

(c) if so, the details of such representation; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Loans for Higher Education

889. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has made certain changes in the provisions to provide loans to the students of Private Medical/Dental colleges in September, 1999; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not made any changes in the provisions to provide loans to students of Private Medical/Dental Colleges in September, 1999. Earlier RBI had advised the banks *vide* circular dated 19.8.1995 to provide loans to students of Private Medical/Dental Colleges. However, as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 27th July, 1999 on the Educational Loan Scheme submitted by RBI, RBI has issued a circular dated 31st July, 1999 to Public Sector Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) indicating policy guidelines for providing financial assistance to students seeking admission in private professional colleges under free/merit and payment categories (in the discipline of medical, dental, engineering, chemical technology,

management, architecture, law, computer science and application etc.) and who fulfil the eligibility criteria. The details of the Scheme which came into effect from 1st August, 1999 is given in the attached statement.

Statement

*Educational Loan Scheme for Students in Private
Professional Colleges*

Objective: To provide financial assistance by way of loans to the meritorious and indigent students in order to encourage them to pursue the full time graduate/post graduate professional courses in Private Professional Colleges for developing the technical skills in the following disciplines *i.e.* Medical and Dental (all branches such as Allopathy, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathy, Unani), Engineering, Chemical Technology, Management, Architecture including interior decoration, Law and Computer Science & Applications (the scheme will be expanded to cover other professional courses, if any, if required).

Area of Coverage: Throughout the country to be implemented by public sector banks.

Eligibility Criteria:

- (i) Student should have secured admission in private professional college against either free/merit seat or payment seat. Student will have to submit a certificate to this effect from the Principal/Competent Authority of the college concerned. The college should be affiliated to a university in the country and the course should be recognized by the concerned Governing body such as Indian Medical Council etc.
- (ii) Student's annual family income (or that of his father or guardian) should not exceed Rs. 1 lakh from all sources. An affidavit to this effect will have to be furnished by the student and his father and in the absence of the father, by mother or other near relative (Students who have secured admission against quota of seats meant for NRI/foreign students will not be eligible for assistance under the scheme).

Loan Amount: Rs. 15,000/- for free/merit seat student and Rs. 50,000/- for payment seat students or the fees payable by the student whichever is less. Student will have to submit a certificate every year from the college authorities regarding fees payable by him. Loan amount will be remitted by the lending bank to the college concerned. Loan granted in each academic year may be treated as a separate loan account for determining rate of interest, security etc. (Bank's assistance should be

available to the student for the entire duration of the course subject to the student continuing to fulfil the eligibility criteria and he being allowed to keep the terms according to the rules of the University concerned. The student will not be required to submit a fresh application for loan every year but will only submit to the bank, proof of his continuing to fulfil the eligibility criteria).

Interest: The rate of interest charged under the scheme will in no event exceed of 12% per annum.

Security: The advances in this case will be on clean basis:

Repayment: Repayment will commence immediately after 2 years of completion of the course the student is studying in or six months after the student borrower has secured employment and starts earning whichever is earlier. Total period of repayment including the above period of two years or six months as the case may be, should not exceed 5 years from the date of completion of the course by student. A bond undertaking to repay the loan amount in the stipulated manner will have to be executed by the student (and in case the student is minor, by his father/mother or the guardian).

Review and Revision: The above scheme may be reviewed and revised from time to time by Reserve Bank of India, if necessary.

[English]

Technology Upgradation Fund

890. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have analysed the results of providing Rs. 25000 crores technology upgradation fund for cash strapped textile industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for non-implementation or modernisation of any mill despite lapse of 8 months since introduction of scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No. Sir: The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched on April 1, 1999. The units which have been sanctioned loans under the scheme are presently in the process of undertaking modernisation.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment in State Financial Corporation Act, 1951

891. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend the State Financial Corporation Act, 1951 with a view to bring the administrative control of the State Financial Corporations directly under the Union Government and to have the financial restructuring of category 'C' of State Financial Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which amendment in State Financial Corporation Act is likely to be made;

(d) whether the proposals of many weak State Financial Corporations for financial restructuring are lying with IDBI for taking decision of recapitalisation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the decision on these proposals is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) A comprehensive amendment is proposed to be carried out in State Financial Corporations Act 1951 with a view to enlarge share holders base of State Financial Corporations, provide them with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility and consequent ability to respond to the needs of the changing financial system. The proposed amendments are in advance stage of finalisation.

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

[Translation]

Convertibility of Indian Rupee

892. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian rupee has been made fully convertible in the capital accounts; and

(b) if so, since when and the reasons for this action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) India has cautiously but systematically moved, over a period of time, from a comprehensive exchange control regime to current account convertibility and market determined exchange rate. The capital account has been managed to ensure growth with stability, while consistently adding to India's foreign currency reserves. Liberalisation of capital account is viewed as a process and not as a single event. It is being embarked upon cautiously as part of overall economic reforms and building up strong institutional frame-work in the financial market alongwith the assessment of the emerging scenario in international economic and financial architecture.

[English]

RBI to Review Banking Laws

893. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had directed the Union Government and RBI for review of banking system and banking laws in the backdrop of ever increasing bank frauds and scams; and

(b) if so, the details of fresh steps taken/under the consideration to frame rules, regulations for speedy recovery of bank loans, interest thereon and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 291 of 1998 was filed in Supreme Court of India by Common Cause Registered Society. Union of India and Reserve Bank of India were the respondents. The writ petition seeks the issuance of a writ, order or direction directing the respondents to formulate definite policy laying down procedure for the recovery of loans and advances together with interest thereon, which are presently being treated as non-performing assets of banks. The matter was listed on 14th December, 1998 wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the respondents to file their reply within eight weeks time. The replies have since been filed by both the respondents. No further directions have been received thereafter.

(b) A number of steps have been taken by the Banks to tackle the problem of NPAs. Some of the steps taken are given below:

- (i) Banks have laid down their loan policies, loan recovery policies duly vetted by the Board of Directors.

- (ii) Banks have set up Recovery Cells at their Head Office, headed by a General Manager. NPAs are reviewed by the Chairman and Managing directors on monthly basis and the Board of Directors on quarterly intervals.

- (iii) In order to make recovery in high value NPAs, Settlement Advisory Committees headed by retired Judges have also been formed by number of banks to scrutinise, evaluate and recommend the compromise proposal to the appropriate authority for their consideration.

- (iv) Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to public sector banks for constitution of Settlement Advisory Committee for recovery in small scale industry, small business including trading and personnel segment and agriculture sectors where the accounts have become non-performing. In terms of the guidelines, Banks have been advised to set up Committees at Head Office, Zonal/Regional Office to review all cases of NPAs which have been classified as NPAs at least three years old as on 31st March, 1999 and process compromised proposals speedily. The Scheme will be under operation upto 30th September, 2000. Banks have been advised to complete the process of settlement within a period of six months and to submit review notes to the Boards. Banks are also required to submit a copy of the review note to Reserve Bank of India.

- (v) Steps have been initiated to strengthen the Debt Recovery mechanism by setting up more Debt Recovery Tribunals and Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals and to enhance their powers.

Fraud Cases in Banks

894. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 822 dated February 26, 1999 regarding fraud cases in banks and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Implementation Statement in fulfillment of assurance given to Unstarred Question No. 822 dated 26th February, 1999 has been laid on the Table of the House on 28.10.1999.

Cases Registered by Directorate of Enforcement

895. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases have been registered by Directorate of Enforcement during the last three years;

(b) the number out of them have been disposed of;

(c) whether there is any proposal to make change/amendment in the Directorate of Enforcement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANAJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the number of cases registered and disposed of by the Enforcement Directorate during the last three years, is as follows:

Year	No. of Cases Registered	No. of Cases Disposed
1996	5486	4254
1997	5511	5219
1998	3402	3520

(c) and (d) A proposal for creation/upgradation of certain posts in the Enforcement Directorate has been received by the Government.

Prudent Norms for Banks

896. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'RBI tightens prudential norms for banks' appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated April 5, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the benefit likely to be accrued to the banks of such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) As reported in the news item, the Reserve Bank of India has tightened the prudential norms, in order to strengthen the banking system in the country.

Permanent Account Number

897. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons applied for Income Tax Permanent Account Number (PAN), till date, year and State-wise;

(b) whether most of them have not been issued PAN Identity Card;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for issue the cards at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The number of applications received for allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) year-wise and Centre-wise is given in the enclosed statement. Total 1,83,51,683 applicants have applied for PAN.

(b) 1,06,94,853 PAN Cards have been issued upto 31.10.99.

(c) and (d) The Computer Centres have been asked to expedite the issue of PAN Cards. It may, however, be stated that while Permanent Account Number (PAN) is allotted even in the case of applications having non-core deficiencies, PAN Cards are issued only after all the deficiencies are removed. At present, a large number of PAN records with core as well as non-core deficiencies are pending due to non-receipt of replies from the applicants. Wide publicity is also being given on the subject by the Department requesting the applicants to reply to the deficiency letters sent to them by the Department. Further, a large number of PAN applications have been received in the recent months which are under process.

Statement

Computer Centre/CCIT		Number of applications received					
Region		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 Upto 31.10.99	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CCIT, Delhi Region							
Delhi		161,323	351,087	147,403	560,589	24,255	1,244,657
	Total	161,323	351,087	147,403	560,589	24,255	1,244,657
CCIT, Mumbai Region							
Mumbai		714,760	181,498	113,970	703,677	76,858	1,790,763
	Total	714,760	181,498	113,970	703,677	76,858	1,790,763
CCIT, Chennai Region							
Chennai		116,364	297,477	101,687	106,045	46,096	667,669
Madurai		0	0	0	115,750	5,000	120,750
Coimbatore		0	0	20,215	118,145	4,001	142,361
	Total	116,364	297,477	121,902	339,940	55,097	930,780
CCIT, Bangalore Region							
Bangalore		0	0	65,975	621,590	107,833	795,398
	Total	0	0	65,975	621,590	107,833	795,398
CCIT, Bhopal Region							
Bhopal		0	0	0	545,061	48,546	593,607
Jabalpur		0	0	0	460,543	35,212	495,755
	Total	0	0	0	1,005,604	83,758	1,089,362

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CCIT, Pune Region							
Pune		0	0	38,326	707,638	17,028	762,992
Nasik		0	0	12,345	747,583	304	487,232
Kolhapur		0	0	97,025	203,113	14,287	314,425
Nagpur		0	0	0	371,957	15,777	387,734
Total		0	0	147,696	1,757,291	47,396	1,952,383
CCIT, Patna Region							
Patna		0	0	99,937	257,687	84,762	442,386
Bhubneshwar		0	0	0	190,779	4,771	195,550
Ranchi		0	0	0	483,650	21,374	505,024
Shillong		0	0	64,121	241,009	6,345	311,475
Total		0	0	164,058	1,173,125	117,252	1,454,435
CCIT, Kanpur Region							
Kanpur		0	0	1,284	149,958	1,884	153,126
Agra		0	0	21,000	160,128	18,612	199,740
Meerut		0	0	2,183	277,812	5,086	285,081
Total		0	0	24,467	587,898	25,582	637,947
CCIT, Lucknow Region							
Lucknow		0	0	4,718	243,308	80,222	328,248
Allahabad		0	0	0	234,417	5,921	340,338
Total		0	0	4,718	477,725	86,143	568,586

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CCIT, Jaipur Region							
Jaipur		0	0	2,614	612,771	25,689	641,074
Jodhpur		0	0	25,775	368,633	14,877	409,285
	Total	0	0	28,389	981,404	40,566	1,050,359
CCIT, Hyderabad Region							
Hyderabad		0	0	1,938	330,301	36,301	368,372
Vishakhapatnam		0	0	0	308,207	9,260	317,467
	Total	0	0	1,938	638,340	45,561	686,839
CCIT, Cochin Region							
Cochin		0	0	0	322,284	39,270	361,554
Trivandrum		0	0	21,451	156,495	5,602	183,548
	Total	0	0	21,451	478,779	44,872	545,102
CCIT, Chandigarh Region							
Rohtak		0	0	13,117	430,428	14,883	458,428
Amritsar		0	0	0	254,040	8,000	262,040
Jalandhar		0	0	4,873	376,528	20,000	401,401
Patiala		0	0	3,092	611,368	39,443	653,903
	Total	0	0	21,082	1,672,364	82,326	1,775,772
CCIT, Calcutta Region							
Calcutta		0	0	10,309	1,753,323	55,654	1,819,286
	Total	0	0	10,309	1,753,323	55,654	1,819,286

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CCIT, Ahmedabad Region							
Ahmedabad		0	0	2,760	660,725	58,752	722,237
Baroda		0	0	0	402,571	20,248	422,819
Rajkot		0	0	543	443,704	17,732	461,979
Surat		0	0	8,415	365,339	30,225	403,979
Total		0	0	11,718	1,872,339	126,957	2,011,014
Grand Total		992,447	830,062	885,076	14,623,988	1,020,110	18,351,683

Setting up of Subsidiary by Rolls-Royce

898. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the UK-based Rolls-Royce to set up a wholly owned subsidiary in India to manufacture gas turbines and diesel power generating systems and joint ventures for providing technical expertise to power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the location has also been selected for setting up the plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In June '99, the Government gave approval for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary to (i) design, develop, engineer, assemble, buy, sell, distribute, import, export, remodel, install, commission, operate, repair, service and otherwise deal in all classes and types of aeroderivative gas turbine and diesel based power generating systems and oil and gas pumping systems, including parts thereof; (ii) to undertake on turnkey/sub-contract basis; (iii) to enter into joint venture for the above items and to provide technical, engineering and impart technical training & technical expertise to customers/power plants in India and elsewhere. This company has now been incorporated in the name of M/s Rolls-Royce Energy Systems India Pvt. Ltd., to implement the project.

(c) and (d) The Government is yet to be informed about location for setting up the plant.

Import of Gold

899. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the import of gold, including those through personal baggage during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; separately;

(b) the export of gold-jewellery during the above period; and

(c) the estimated amount of gold consumed, accumulated within the country during each year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The details of import of gold including those through personal baggage during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 were:

Year	Qty. (in tonnes)
1996-97	338.19
1997-98	643.268
1998-99	521.731

(b) The exports of gold jewellery for the period mentioned at (a) above, were:

Year	Value in US\$
1996-97	511.80
1997-98	572.30
1998-99	863.75

(c) As per information available, the estimated demand of gold in India during the above three financial years were 554 tonnes, 825 tonnes & 758 tonnes respectively, the bulk of which were met by imports and the rest by recycling, etc.

Loan by World Bank for Rural Water Supply Schemes

900. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Rural Water Supply Schemes in Rajasthan, especially in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore and Jodhpur districts which are being financed by World Bank/International Monetary Fund;

(b) the total loans received for these schemes; and

(c) the terms and conditions of said loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The International Monetary Fund does not provide project loans. No rural water supply scheme is being implemented in Rajasthan with assistance from the World Bank.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

New Machine to Sort out Soiled/Mutilated Notes

901. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently started using a new machine to sort out soiled and mutilated notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to use this machine on extensive scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. However, the Reserve Bank of India has in its Chandigarh Office and Bhopal Office, set-up Currency Verification and Processing Systems (CVPS) for authenticating, sorting and on line shredding for processing Bank Notes.

(b) At its Chandigarh Office, the RBI has installed three CVPS supplied by M/s. Giesecke & Devrient, Germany and at its Bhopal Office, four CVPS supplied by M/s Currency Systems International, USA.

(c) The RBI plans to gradually equip all its Issue Offices with the CVPC for mechanising the existing system of manual processing of notes. However, *no specific time frame* has been fixed by RBI in this regard.

[*English*]

Rubber Plantation

902. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where rubber is being produced;

(b) the achievements of those States in plantation and growth of rubber during the Eighth Plan and the current plan period;

(c) the schemes proposed, funds earmarked for the purpose during the Ninth Plan;

(d) the assistance extended by the Union Government to those States for rubber plantation; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the rubber producers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Names of the Rubber producing States and achievements in Rubber

Plantations during the Eighth Plan and the current Plan period in the respective States is given below:

Rubber growing states	Achievements during Eighth Plan (New Planting)	Achievements during the first two years of the Ninth Plan (97-98) and 98-99) (New Planting)
I. TRADITIONAL REGION		
Kerala	28142	10584
Tamil Nadu	846	222
II. NON-TRADITIONAL REGION		
Karnataka	1275	1439
Tripura	5775	3225
Assam	869	1245
Meghalaya	310	333
Nagaland	413	325
Mizoram	59	67
Manipur	150	176
Arunachal Pradesh	33	90
Andaman & Nicobar	65	—
Goa	26	09
Maharashtra	19	25
Orissa	37	03
West Bengal	48	89
Andhra Pradesh	13	09
Total	38060	17841

(c) and (d) Government of India through Rubber Board has been implementing various ongoing schemes such as Rubber Plantation Development Scheme, Promotion of Irrigation, Construction of Smoke House, Assistance for Hand Operated Rollers, Supply of Plantation Requisites including free supply of boundary protection materials etc. for providing financial and extension support to the growers directly. In addition, free training is also imparted to needy growers on all aspects of rubber cultivation.

A Budgetary allocation of Rs. 373.19 Crore for various developmental programmes/schemes for rubber cultivation in the States has been earmarked during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(e) To enable the rubber growers to get a remunerative price for their produce, Government has authorised procurement of 30,000 MTs of rubber on Government Account. The import of Natural Rubber under Advance Licences has also been banned since February 1999.

Privatization of Public Sector Undertakings

903. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to privatise 24 sector undertakings including Hindustan Machine Tools;

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

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure any adverse effect on workers engaged in such Public Sector Undertakings of private participation;

(e) whether the Government have already selected merchant bankers for assisting the Government in turning the identified public sector undertakings into joint ventures and that strategic partners would be identified to take up stake in these companies and the Government would reduce its holding below 49 per cent; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Government have given "in principle" approval for conversion of 24 PSUs under the administrative jurisdiction of this Ministry into joint ventures as part of long term strategy to make them strong and viable. The names of these 24 units are given in Statement-I enclosed.

The process of Joint Venture formation is at various stages. The final decision will depend on the recommendations of Consultants/Merchant Bankers in each case.

(d) The workers interest will be protected through suitable agreement with Joint Venture Partners.

(e) and (f) Consultants/Merchant Bankers have been appointed in the case of 18 PSUs. A list is given in the Statement-II enclosed. The choice of strategic partners and extent of reduction of Government holding would depend upon the offers received and the recommendation of the Consultants/Merchant Bankers.

Statement I

List of PSUs under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises where Government have given "in principle" approval for conversion into Joint Ventures.

1. Andrew Yule & Company Ltd. (AY & Co.)
2. Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd. (BHPV)
3. Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd. (BLC)
4. Bharat Pump & Compressors Ltd. (BPCL)
5. Bridge & Roof Company (India) Ltd. (B&R)
6. Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI)
7. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. (EPI)
8. Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL)
9. H.M.T. Ltd.
10. H.M.T. (Bearing) Ltd.
11. Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. (HPC)
12. Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Ltd. (HPF)
13. Hindustan Salts Ltd. (HSL)
14. Instrumentation Ltd. (ILK)
15. Lagan Jute Machinery Company Ltd. (LAGAN)
16. Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd. (MNPM)
17. Nepa Ltd. (NEPA)
18. National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (NIDC)
19. Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL)
20. Scooters India Ltd. (SIL)
21. Sambhar Salts Ltd. (SSL)
22. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd. (TSPL)
23. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL)
24. Reyrolle Burn Ltd. (RBL)

Statement II

List of PSUs where Consultants have been appointed for locating Joint Venture Partners

Sl. No.	Public Sector Enterprises	Consultant
1.	Andrew Yule & Company Ltd.	ICICI
2.	Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd.	SBI Caps
3.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.	SBI Caps
4.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	SBI Caps
5.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	I-SEC
6.	H.M.T. (Tractors)	I-SEC
7.	HMT Bearing Ltd.	SBI Caps
8.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Co. Ltd.	Price Water House Coopers
9.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	SBI Caps
10.	Lagan Jute Machinery Co. Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
11.	NEPA Ltd.	SBI Caps
12.	Scooters India Ltd.	Price Water House Coopers
13.	Sambhar Salt Ltd.	SBI Caps
14.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	IDBI
15.	Bridge & Roof Company (India) Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
16.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	Bilimoria & Company
17.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	A.F. Ferguson
18.	Instrumentation Ltd.	IDBI

Decline in Textile Export

904. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is decline in export of Handloom/Textile items due to the sanctions imposed by America and its allies on India after the nuclear test conducted by India last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of loss estimated during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance for Developmental/Welfare Schemes

905. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various developmental/welfare schemes of the country for which financial assistance/loans from World Bank and IMF have been received by the Government during the last three years;

(b) the total amount of financial assistance/loans received from the World Bank and IMF, separately, for these schemes during the above period, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) the special conditions imposed by them for these loans along with the annual rate of interest to be paid; and

(d) the amount actually spent on these schemes, till date, out of this loan and the amount remaining with the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) IMF loans are not project based. They are given for Balance of Payment (BOP) support. No IMF loan have been availed over the last 3 years. Details of disbursements in World Bank projects during the last three years in the attached statement.

(c) The special conditions imposed vary from project to project. General conditions for World Bank are as under:

IBRD: The repayment period is at present 20 years, inclusive of 5 years grace period. The interest rate is variable and revised semiannually in accordance with the Bank's own cost of borrowing funds. The current rate of interest is around 6.34%. The commitment charge on undisbursed balance is at 0.75%. A front-end fee of 1% of the loan amount is also payable. A rebate of 0.5% is, however, permitted on the commitment fee. A interest waiver of 0.25% is also applicable for timely repayment.

IDA: IDA commitments, known as credits, are repayable in 35 years inclusive of a grace period of 10 years. The credit carries no interest charge but a service charge of 0.75% is levied on the disbursed portion. Commitment charges on undisbursed balances are fixed every year upto a maximum of 0.5%.

Statement*List of ongoing Projects*

(In US\$ Million)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount	Utilisation			Un-drawn Balance as on 31.3.99
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IDA						
Government Loans						
1.	2223-IN Tech. Education II	255.734	35.4	30.0	26.9	82.57
2.	2252-IN Industrial Pollution Control	31.600	1.1	15.1	0.00	10.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	2572-IN Forest Research Edu.Extn. Project	47.551	4.2	6.0	5.9	35.0
4.	2008-IN Vocational Training Proj.	133.854	17.3	9.4	4.3	8.7
5.	2130-IN Tech. Education	225.629	39.5	25.7	36.1	0.0
6.	2131-IN Integrated Water Shed Dev. Plains	56.961	14.6	7.6	8.3	—
7.	2100-IN Integrated Watershed Dev. (Hills)	75.000	8.0	7.1	11.9	8.5
8.	2241-IN Dam Safety Project	92.973	10.7	16.1	18.2	24.1
9.	2329-IN Shrimp & Fish Culture	36.487	4.0	0.0	8.0	16.0
10.	2328-IN Maharashtra Forestry	107.820	13.8	8.5	19.5	34.2
11.	2350-IN National AIDS Control	84.000	21.8	16.0	14.0	1.1
12.	2365-IN Second National Highway	162.838	28.1	41.8	36.6	—
13.	2439-IN Bihar Plateau Development	117.000	5.8	13.6	23.7	57.4
14.	2433-IN A.D.P. Rajasthan Agriculture Development	106.000	15.4	11.2	13.1	25.8
15.	2449-IN Renewable Resources Dev. Project	115.000	20.7	7.0	8.1	73.7
16.	2470-IN I.C.D.S.-II	194.000	9.5	21.1	28.3	118.4
17.	2483-IN Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	92.000	11.8	8.1	29.1	31.6
18.	2510-IN U.P. Sodic Land Recl. Project	54.700	10.5	8.1	12.2	12.9
19.	2509-IN U.P. Primary Education	165.000	35.8	32.6	20.1	22.6
20.	2409-IN Rubber Project	55.422	4.3	7.8	8.4	23.2
21.	2528-IN National Leprosy Elimination.	75.933	3.2	13.7	10.8	25.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	2394-IN Family Welfare (Urban Slum)	79.000	4.2	5.3	8.5	55.9
23.	2573-IN A.P. Forestry Project	77.400	14.1	15.9	13.1	25.5
24.	2594-IN Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Recon. Pj	220.849	74.6	44.7	23.4	0.0
25.	2592-IN Water REsources Consolidation	258.000	30.9	28.4	19.1	147.9
26.	2611-IN Cataract Blindness Control	117.800	7.3	8.8	8.5	82.1
27.	2630-IN Family Welfare	88.600	6.6	13.9	9.7	53.1
28.	2645-IN Industrial Pollution Prevention	25.000	1.0	0.9	1.0	23.1
29.	2661-IN Distt. Primary Education	260.300	37.6	37.0	24.4	140.4
30.	2663-IN A.P. Referral Health System	133.000	6.1	18.6	30.7	76.0
31.	2699-IN A.P. Referral Health System Resources	59.500	3.3	7.0	8.2	37.8
32.	2700-IN Madhya Pradesh Forestry	58.000	7.1	10.5	14.4	22.9
33.	2733-IN Assam Rural Infrastructure	126.000	2.0	1.6	6.9	113.4
34.	2745-IN T.N. Water Resources Consol.	282.900	2.1	1.9	19.5	246.9
35.	2774-IN Hydrology in India	142.000	1.6	6.1	16.4	113.9
36.	2801-IN Orissa Water Resources Consolidation	290.900	19.9	40.8	30.1	185.8
37.	2833-IN IInd State Health Systems Development	350.00	12.7	13.4	31.4	292.7
38.	2862-IN Coal Sector Env. & Social MIT	63.000	3.0	2.1	8.3	49.6
39.	2838-IN Private Infrastructure (ILFS)	5.000	0.0	0.0	0.4	4.6
40.	2876-IN IInd Distt. Primary Education	425.200	8.5	16.1	64.0	336.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41.	2916-IN Eco-Development Project	28.000	1.5	0.7	1.7	24.1
42.	2930-IN (Environmental Mangmt. Capacity Building	50.000	0.0	3.0	0.9	46.1
43.	2936-In T.B. Control	142.400	0.0	5.0	0.0	137.4
44.	2952-IN AP irrigation-III	150.000	0.0	0.0	8.7	82.4
45.	2950-IN AP Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Cyclone	100.000	0.0	8.6	19.7	71.7
46.	2964-IN Malaria Central Project	164.800	0.0	5.62	3.8	155.4
47.	018-IN Reproductive and Child Health	248.300	0.0	7.0	3.5	237.8
48.	3018-IN Uttar Pradesh Forestry Project	52.940	0.0	0.0	7.4	45.5
49.	3012-IN DPEP-III	152.000	0.0	0.0	7.9	139.3
50.	3013-IN U.P. Basic Education-II	59.400	0.0	0.0	20.6	31.4
51.	2986-IN Coal Sector Rehabilitation	2.000	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
52.	3048-IN National Agriculture Technology Project	100.000	0.0	0.0	6.0	94.3
53.	3106-IN U.P. Diversified Agriculture Support	50.000	0.0	0.0	5.5	44.5
54.	041-IN Orissa Health Systems Dev. Project	76.400	0.0	0.0	3.6	72.8
55.	3053-IN Kerala Forestry Project	39.400	0.0	0.0	3.9	35.1
56.	2942-IN Rural Women's Development	19.500	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.5
57.	3149-IN Maharashtra Health System Development	134.000	0.0	0.0	3.1	130.9
58.	3103-IN A.P. Economic Restructuring	241.900	0.0	0.0	29.1	212.8
59.	3152-IN U.P. Sodic Land-II	194.100	0.0	0.0	0.0	194.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
60.	IFC-044-IN Rajasthan District Primary Education	81.900	0.0	0.0	0.0	81.9
61.	ITF 42-IN Women & Child Dev. Project.	289.250	00	0.0	0.0	289.25
62.	3243-IN Integrated Watershed Dev. Project 'Hills'	50.184	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.184
IBRD						
Government Loans						
1.	3300-IN Tamil Nadu Agricultural Dev.	20.00	0.0	0.0	9.3	10.8
2.	42-0 Women and Child Development	300.000	0.0	0.0	0.0	300.0
3.	3024-IN Nathpa Jhakri Power (R.F.)	485.000	65.9	69.4	46.9	111.7
4.	3096-IN Maharashtra Power (R.F.)	337.330	61.3	62.5	42.6	0.0
5.	3237-IN Northern Region Transmission	485.00	88.6	74.6	21.6	178.7
6.	8334-IN Industrial Pollution Control	124.000	22.5	11.1	5.3	6.7
7.	3470-IN Second National Highway	153.000	0.0	0.0	0.0	153.0
8.	3856-IN Financial Sector	350.000	0.0	0.0	50.0	150.0
9.	3907-IN IInd Madras Water	86.500	0.9	9.7	13.3	56.6
10.	3923-IN Bombay Sewage Disposals	167.000	4.9	26.8	15.4	119.9
11.	4014-IN Orissa Power Sector Restructuring	350.000	12.1	4.3	7.5	326.1
12.	4056-IN U.P. Rural Water Supply & Envil. San.	59.600	2.4	0.7	6.3	50.2
13.	4114-IN Road Infrastructure Dev. Tech. Asstt.	51.500	3.0	6.4	8.3	33.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	4156-IN A.P. Hazard Mitigation of Emergency	50.000	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0
15.	4166-IN A.P. Irrigation Project	175.000	0.0	0.0	0.0	175.0
16.	4192-IN A.P. State Highway Project	350.000	0.0	12.35	10.3	327.3
17.	4271-IN Haryana Power Restructuring Project	60.00	0.0	0.0	18.7	41.3
18.	4296-IN National Agriculture Technology Project	96.800	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.8
19.	4365-IN U.P. Diversified Agriculture Support Proj.	79.900	0.0	0.0	0.0	79.9
20.	4360-IN Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring	301.300	0.00	0.0	32.4	268.9
21.	4441-IN Andhra Pradesh Power Sector	210.000	0.0	0.0	10.2	199.8
22.	4478-IN Second Tamil Nadu Urban Development	105.000	0.0	0.0	0.0	105.0
Non-Government Loans						
1.	3577-IN PGCL Powergrid System Development Project	350.000	72.3	42.9	31.8	117.1
2.	3632-IN NTPC Power Generation	400.000	81.7	123.8	151.5	0.5
3.	33753-IN CONCOR	94.000	9.8	0.2	9.2	73.2
4.	779-O IDBI Industrial Pollution Prevention	93.000	0.0	4.3	7.5	76.2
5.	3780-In ICICI Industrial Pollution Prevention	50.000	3.5	1.9	1.9	46.5
6.	3857-IN IDBI Financial Sector Development	150.000	0.0	11.5	15.5	117.0
7.	3992-IN IL & FS Private Infrastructure	200.000	25.0	0.0	0.0	175.0
8.	4226-In Coal Sector Rehabilitation	515.000	0.0	0.0	44.9	470.1

Manufacturing and Export of Vehicles

906. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a constant rise in the manufacture of petrol, diesel and gas based vehicles in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number and type of vehicles manufactured during the last three years;

(c) whether foreign exchange has also been earned by exporting such vehicles during the above period; and

(d) if so, the year-wise details of the type and the number of vehicles exported alongwith the amount of foreign exchange earned during the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number and types of vehicles produced during the last three years is as follows:

(Production in Nos.)

Category	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1. Cars	4,07,539	4,01,002	3,90,709
2. Multi-utility Vehicles	1,34,583	1,34,653	1,13,328
3. Medium & HCV	1,55,696	95,854	80,528
4. LCV	84,855	65,040	55,363
5. 3 wheelers	2,21,619	2,34,867	2,09,033
6. 2 wheelers	29,79,227	30,72,667	33,74,508
Total	39,83,519	40,04,083	42,23,469

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of exports during year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given below:

Category	1996-97		1997-98	
	Number	Value (Rs. crores)	Number	Value (Rs. crores)
Cars and Multi Utility vehicles	38,030	849.41	29,594	792.19
Commercial Vehicles	6239	363.65	8,283	428.91
Two and three wheelers	1,34,488	329.36	95,198	273.04
Total	1,78,755	1542.42	1,33,075	1674.20

Final figures for 1998-99 has not been compiled by Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta so far.

[English]

Export of Iron Ore

907. SHRI S.D.N.R WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Iron ore exported from Kudremukh Iron Ore Mines in Kamataka by the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) during last three years;

(b) the quantum of Iron ore exported to different countries from other Iron ore producing States;

(c) whether there has been sharp decline in the export of Iron ore as compared to other items exported by MMTC;

(d) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the areas identified by MMTC to increase export during the Ninth Plan and target fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Sir, MMTC does not export Iron ore from Kudremukh Iron ore Mines, MMTC, however, provides marketing services for export of iron concentrates produced by Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. (KIOCL) in the Japanese market. MMTC is exporting iron ore produced in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Kamataka, and Goa States to Japan, China, South Korea, Pakistan, Thailand, Nepal and Europe. Details regarding quantum and value of Iron ore exported by MMTC State/Country-wise during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) Iron ore remains the major export commodity for MMTC. There has been a marginal decline in the quantum of Iron ore exported by MMTC in 1998-99 due to lesser off-take by Japan and South Korea because of South East Asian economic crisis, but in the current year the exports have increased following higher level of steel production in Japan and South Korea.

(e) The broad policy in respect of iron ore is to export quantum surplus to domestic demand. Targets are fixed annually by MMTC based on the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) entered into with the Ministry of Commerce. The current year's target for iron ore exports is US\$ 162 million of which US\$ 115 million has been achieved.

MMTC has identified the following areas to increase exports of Iron ore during the Ninth Plan.

- Enlarging product range to such customised demand for sized ore by setting up crushing and screening plants.
- Locating new markets and applications with a view to improve unit value realisation such as, use of Iron ore fines as high density aggregates for submerged pipe coating applications.
- Improving market share in potential and growing market such as China.
- Enhancing competitiveness by cost reduction and through greater emphasis on quality.
- Using leverage of high-grade ore to promote and develop exports of low and medium grade iron ore.

Statement

State/Country-wise Iron-Ore Export

(Qty. Lakh Tonnes; Value: Rs. Crores)

State	Port	Country	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
			Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
MP	Vizag	Japan	35.69	272.04	35.29	289.27	33.97	309.55
		China	2.16	13.01	2.28	14.47	3.97	29.03
	Total		37.85	285.05	37.57	303.74	37.94	338.53
Orissa/	Paradip	Japan	3.98	26.09	2.26	15.25	3.17	25.36
Bihar		China	5.74	33.93	5.86	34.60	3.12	21.30
		Pakistan	1.18	8.42	1.76	13.62	—	—
		Others	0.04	0.10	0.06	0.16	—	—
Total			10.94	68.54	9.94	63.63	6.29	46.66
Karnataka	Chennai	Japan	18.00	122.90	26.57	190.26	18.14	151.81
		Korea, S.	22.09	151.62	17.37	122.04	17.16	148.86
		China	5.82	31.95	12.36	76.78	11.71	83.48

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Pakistan	—	—	—	—	0.52	5.20
		Others	0.50	3.79	0.41	3.45	—	—
	Total		46.41	310.26	56.71	392.53	47.53	389.35
Karnataka	Goa	UAE	—	—	0.80	5.55	0.17	1.51
		Pakistan	—	—	3.51	32.63	4.66	38.00
		Europe	0.20	0.60	—	—	—	—
		China	1.51	8.14	2.53	14.55	3.36	21.85
	Total		1.71	8.74	6.84	52.73	8.19	61.36
Goa	Goa	Japan	—	—	0.69	2.74	—	—
		China	—	—	2.20	12.01	3.05	19.95
		Thailand	0.66	3.54	—	—	—	—
		Romania	0.26	1.51	—	—	0.22	1.50
		Pakistan	1.44	6.86	0.64	3.22	—	—
	Total		2.38	11.91	3.53	17.97	3.27	21.45
Grand Total			99.29	684.50	114.59	830.60	103.22	857.40

Note: Since the identity of iron-ore from Orissa/Bihar is lost at the port *i.e.* Paradip, state-wise breakup of export from Orissa and Bihar is not maintained.

Hardship Faced by Handloom Weavers

908. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the hardship being faced by the handloom weavers in different parts of the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main problems being faced by handloom weavers include obsolete technology and traditional production techniques, lack of design and product innovation, non-availability of adequate and timely credit facility and inadequate market intelligence.

(c) The Government is making concerted efforts to improve productivity, income and raise socio-economic status of handloom weavers by extending assistance to the State Governments to implement various developmental and welfare schemes like Project Package Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing, Group Insurance Scheme and Thrift Fund Scheme, Market Development Assistance and Decentralised Training Programme.

Import of Cardamom

909. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of cardamom in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the cardamom imported/smuggled during each of the last three years quantity-wise and country-wise;

(c) whether the domestic cardamom growers are facing crisis due to fall in the prices of their produce due to import/smuggling of cardamom; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to help the domestic farmers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The production of cardamom in the country during each of the last three years is given below:

Year	Small cardamom (Quantity in tonnes)	Large Cardamom (Quantity in tonnes)
1996-97	6625	5150
1997-98	7900	5285
1998-99	7170	4210

(b) The import details of cardamom during each of the last three years quantity-wise and country-wise is given in table below:

Quantity in tonnes

Item/Source	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (P)
1	2	3	4
Cardamom (Small)			
Burma (Myanmar)	7.00	—	—
Guatemala	30.00	—	107.08
Singapore	34.48	86.00	59.08
Sri Lanka	—	—	4.00
Total	71.48	86.00	170.16

1	2	3	4
Cardamom (Large)			
Burma (Myanmar)	17.00	—	—
China	—	—	4.00
Germany	—	2.00	—
Indonesia	—	22.0	—
Nepal	1864.40	3023.51	3843.34
Vietnam (South)	—	—	7.00
Pakistan	—	—	5.79
Total	1881.40	3047.51	3860.13

(P) Provisional

Source: Spices Board/DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) Crisis conditions have not been registered due to the marginal drop in prices. The expanded quantities in production has resulted in ensuring net earnings remaining generally constant.

[Translation]

Three Dimensional Strategy

910. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated three dimensional strategy for the promotion of textiles sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to set up Cotton Technology Mission; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government is proposing to launch a Technology Mission on Cotton Development with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernisation of the ginning and pressing factories.

[English]

Losses by Bharat Gold Mines Limited

911. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHR: SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the losses suffered by Bharat Gold Mines Limited during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government floated tenders for private participation in the above gold mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the private sector thereto;

(d) whether the BIFR has recommended for winding up of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) the total amount likely to be required for making payments to the employees on Voluntary Retirement;

(g) the total cost of production of per 10 grams of gold of this company at present, and

(h) to what extent Bharat Gold Mines is likely to be benefited by raising import duty on gold recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) Net losses suffered by Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) during the last three years are given below:

	Rs. in lakhs
Year	Net loss
1996-97	5380
1997-98	3983
1998-99	6531

(b) and (c) A Committee was constituted by the Government for identification of co-promoter(s) for rehabilitation of BGML through the joint venture route. In

1997, an advertisement was issued in news papers and mining journals calling for expression of interest. Twenty parties had sent their pre-bid expression of interest, eleven parties bought the bid document and three parties submitted the bid documents.

(d) BIFR have not recommended for winding up of BGML

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in BGML was suspended with effect from 1.9.97.

(g) The cost of production of 10 grams of gold in BGML during 1998-99 was Rs. 14231.

(h) The raising of import duty on gold effected recently will help BGML to the extent the domestic price of gold increases reducing marginally the loss incurred by the Company. Precise quantification is, however, not possible.

[Translation]

Provision of Funds for Renovation of NTC Mills in Mumbai

912. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided Rs. 2005 crores for the renovation of mills running under National Textiles Corporation in Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether any programme to produce 60% yarn in those mills has been announced;

(c) if so, whether only 40% workers would get job after renovation; and

(d) if so, the details of the plan chalked out by the Government for the livelihood of remaining workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government had approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.72 crores in 1995. The plan was to be implemented through generation of funds from the sale of surplus land/assets of NTC. Major portion of this land is located in Mumbai. The State Government of Maharashtra has not yet given approval for sale of surplus land. In view of the above, the strategy could not be implemented.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b).

Modalities of Disinvestment

913. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared modalities of the disinvestment of Government equity in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not getting expected results of the disinvestment policy in regard to the Public Enterprises, till date;

(d) the reasons for the state of undertaking in the matter of disinvestment;

(e) the achievements of the Government in this regard so far; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to make disinvestment more transparent and attractive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Disinvestment in Public Sector Enterprises is being done on the basis of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. The modalities of disinvestment of Government equity in Public Sector Undertakings is normally through offer of shares in Domestic as well as International Market with fixed price or through book-building exercise or by way of strategic sale.

(c) and (d) The Disinvestment policy in respect of Public Sector Enterprises is yielding expected results.

(e) and (f) An amount of about Rs. 18,288 Crore has been received through disinvestment in PSUs so far since 1991-92. The process being followed for disinvestment is transparent.

[English]

Insurance Scheme for Women

914. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether outraged women groups had condemned the new insurance policy announced by the Government during March-April, 1999 for women and demanded immediate withdrawal of the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons cited by them;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to tackle the problem and to make the insurance scheme beneficial for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) It appears that the reference is to Rajrajeshwari Mahila Kalyan Bima Yojana, which was introduced by the General Insurance Industry in October, 1998 and dedicated to the Nation by the Prime Minister in March, 1999. The definition of an accident under this policy had included disability/death caused by accidents traceable to a variety of reasons including "Rape". Because of misinterpretation of a contingency, appearing in the clause, there were protests from women's organisations. In deference to the views expressed in media and press, the general insurance industry has since deleted the word "Rape" from the body of the Policy.

Export of Agricultural Products/Fruits

915. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great demand of Indian agricultural products/fruits and vegetables in the world;

(b) if so, the details of commodities/items exported during each of the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to produce and export more such products; and

(d) the details of incentives the Government propose to provide to the farmers of such commodities and especially mango and other fruits growers in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Indian agricultural products/fruits and vegetables can cater to a part of the world demand for these items.

(b) The major agro commodities exported are pulses, rice, wheat, cereals, tobacco, spices, cashew, sesame and nigerseeds, groundnut, spirit and beverages, guar gum meal, oil meal, shellac, sugar, meat and meat preparations, poultry and dairy products, flouriculture products, fruit and vegetables seeds, fresh fruits and

vegetables, processed fruits and juices and vegetables etc. The value of agro items exported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Value (Rs. 000 crores)
1997-98	15.2
1998-99	15.96
1999-2000 (April-August)	5.6

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta

The details of exports of agro commodities with respect to quantity and value are available in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) The Government has been implementing various measures including provision of financial assistance to boost production and export of horticultural products including fruits and vegetables. These measures are extended to farmers and exporters throughout the country including Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and include:

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstration, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;
- (ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- (iii) Providing financial assistance to exporter/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (Pack Houses);

- (iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;
- (v) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of select fresh vegetables and fresh fruits;
- (vi) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf life of perishable products such as mangoes and lychees;
- (vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables;
- (ix) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control, packaging, transport etc.

Smuggling of Narcotics/Gold

916. SHRI ANANTH GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of narcotics foreign country, gold and other contraband items seized during each of the last two years, till date, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the smuggling of narcotics and gold in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Sir,

State-wise details of narcotic drugs seized during the last two years and during the current year (upto Oct., 1999) are given in the attached statement I, II and III respectively. Information on foreign currency, gold and other contraband items is not maintained State-wise. However, total seizures of these items during the last two years and the current year (upto Oct., 1999) are as follows:

		Value (in Rs. lakh)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (Upto 31.10.99)
1	2	3	4	5
(i)	Foreign Currency	4874	2354	1253

1	2	3	4	5
(ii)	Gold	5845 (1295)*	2607 (596)*	2340 (550)*
(iii)	Other Contraband goods (excluding (i), (ii) & narcotics)	47556	86805	157645

* Quantity in Kilograms.

(b) The steps taken to check smuggling of narcotics and gold in the country include instructions to enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil, imparting training to officers to improve their effectiveness, fencing and flood lighting of the borders, entering into agreements with foreign countries to prevent smuggling and illicit trafficking, and amending the relevant Acts to make them more effective.

Statement I

State-wise Seizures of Various Drugs during 1997 (Quantity in Kgs.)

State	Opium	Morphine	Heroin	Ganja	Hashish	Cocaine	Metha-qualone
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	1828.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	49.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assam	1.97	0.00	0.74	10335.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chandigarh	8.83	0.00	197.76	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00
Delhi	6.07	0.00	247.88	3317.69	320.10	0.85	73.14
Gujarat	16.75	0.00	11.76	599.42	344.88	0.00	0.00
Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.32	0.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	1.66	0.00	0.03	11.11	73.55	0.00	0.00
Haryana	132.85	0.00	12.83	11.01	296.61	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jammu & Kashmir	2.04	0.00	32.01	0.00	116.75	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kerala	2.37	0.00	1.14	371.64	0.04	0.00	0.00
Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.55	544.70	00.00	0.00	0.00
Maharashtra	63.21	0.00	273.81	5024.58	591.74	7.02	1252.71
Manipur	0.00	0.00	3.16	16632.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	1787.37	33.30	133.50	5678.02	213.69	0.00	11.35
Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.14	4396.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.01	10533.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	0.00	0.00	1.20	49.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	328.77	0.00	217.00	0.00	34.71	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	787.35	0.00	82.23	829.84	164.90	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	49.59	5215.75	276.10	16.14	384.04
Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.28	2824.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	81.40	42.51	57.30	6394.00	847.07	0.00	19.03
West Bengal	0.16	0.00	8.63	5664.14	0.28	0.00	0.00

Statement II*State-wise Seizures of various Drugs during 1998 (Quantity in Kgs.)*

State	Opium	Morphine	Heroin	Ganja	Hashish	Cocaine	Metha-qualone
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	4926.000	—	—	—
2. Arunachal Pradesh	5.370	—	—	61.500	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3. Assam	2.610	—	1.790	10275.450	—	—	—
4. Bihar	—	—	6.020	146.650	84.500	—	—
5. Goa	—	2.080	2.110	—	47.770	0.110	—
6. Gujarat	32.170	—	28.100	379.970	6079.440	—	571.450
7. Haryana	107.360	—	—	3.300	64.700	—	—
8. Himachal Pradesh	11.670	—	0.080	—	35.980	—	—
9. Jammu & Kashmir	1.00	—	16.650	—	69.050	—	—
10. Karnataka	—	—	1.490	—	—	—	—
11. Kerala	0.010	—	0.580	102.440	0.02	—	—
12. Madhya Pradesh	562.210	7.480	105.480	2171.024	39.150	—	160.000
13. Maharashtra	21.030	2.050	69.320	4637.400	918.670	0.470	1124.250
14. Manipur	—	—	5.460	2426.520	—	—	—
15. Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Mizoram	—	—	2.870	33.280	—	—	—
17. Nagaland	—	—	NEG.	4879.000	—	—	—
18. Orissa	—	—	—	707.800	—	—	—
19. Punjab	303.520	—	33.160	—	24.270	—	—
20. Rajasthan	491.790	—	22.670	113.730	27.410	—	—
21. Tamil Nadu	10.160	—	53.630	6263.840	6.850	—	72.760
22. Tripura	—	—	—	107.150	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23. Uttar Pradesh	49.500	2.340	16.100	4781.371	273.460	0.080	5.120
24. West Bengal	—	—	11.740	9329.310	7.570	—	—
25. Delhi	4.720	—	140.370	4984.930	90.090	—	147.660
26. Pondicherry	—	—	—	NEG.	—	—	—
27. A&N Islands	—	—	—	0.060	—	—	—
28. Chandigarh	11.340	—	2.720	—	5.110	—	—

Statement III*State-wise seizures of various Drugs during 1999 (upto October) Prov. (Quantity in Kgs.)*

State/U.T.	Opium	Morphine	Heroin	Ganja	Hashish	Cocaine	Metha-qualone
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	1033.000	—	—	—
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1.000	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Assam	3.000	—	1.000	4500.00	—	—	—
4. Bihar	—	—	0.330	475.000	30.000	—	—
5. Goa	—	0.030	0.020	3.000	3.000	0.010	—
6. Gujarat	—	—	6.000	133.000	40.000	—	104.000
7. Haryana	129.000	—	—	4.000	109.000	—	—
8. Himachal Pradesh	46.000	—	—	—	27.000	—	—
9. Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	20.000	—	145.00	—	—
10. Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Kerala	1.000	0.170	3.000	13.000	3.000	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12. Madhya Pradesh	135.000	6.300	25.000	161.000	12.000	—	—
13. Maharashtra	29.000	10.210	62.000	5320.000	331.000	0.110	182.000
14. Manipur	0.20	—	4.000	4353.000	—	—	—
15. Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Mizoram	0.510	—	1.470	19.000	—	—	—
17. Nagaland	—	—	—	2266.000	—	—	—
18. Orissa	0.640	—	—	15.000	—	—	—
19. Punjab	197.000	—	53.860	2.000	72.000	—	—
20. Rajasthan	602.000	—	25.00	279.000	21.450	—	—
21. Tamil Nadu	1.260	—	133.160	3273.000	27.380	—	—
22. Tripura	—	—	—	9.000	—	—	—
23. Uttar Pradesh	66.110	9.400	17.270	3390.000	1038.850	—	—
24. West Bengal	3.800	—	33.480	679.150	—	—	—
25. Delhi	9.580	—	84.560	3641.000	799.360	0.460	78.270
26. Pondicherry	—	—	—	0.390	—	—	—
27. A&N Islands	—	—	—	1.150	—	—	—
28. Chandigarh	0.800	—	12.070	—	7.000	—	—

[*Translation*]

Loans to SSIs

917. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of applications for seeking loan by small scale industries received by the public sector

banks in the country, particularly in the States of Bihar and Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the number of loan applications have been disposed off out of these and the amount of loan sanctioned/proved; and

(c) the number of loan applications which are under consideration and the time by which these applications are likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the Data Reporting System of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, details regarding advances to Small Scale Industries for the years ending June 1996, June 1997 and June 1998 in the States of Bihar and Maharashtra are as under:

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Year	Advances to Small Scale Industries			
	Bihar		Maharashtra	
	No. of Accounts	Amount Disbursed	No. of Accounts	Amount Disbursed
June 1996	30390	114.04	18187	1713.10
June 1997	31723	110.13	26078	1685.86
June 1998	27685	143.61	26143	1638.47

[English]

IMF Recommendations

918. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund has asked India to accelerate the structural reforms in taxation, banking and corporate sector to ensure greater transparency in Government activities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have seriously considered these suggestions of IMF; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) On the basis of discussions at the Board on India, the IMF, on September 22, 1998 had stated, *inter-alia*, as follows:

"Directors welcomed the new Government's intention to push the reform agenda across a range of fronts, including privatization, infrastructure, insurance, and foreign direct investment, and urged quick implementation of these initiatives. Directors noted the room that still exists for simplifying the regulatory framework, enhancing transparency, and thereby

facilitating investment decisions. Nothing the still high level of protection in India, Directors underscored that considerable efficiency gains could be reaped by accelerating trade liberalization, including through further tariff cuts and a more rapid elimination of remaining quantitative restrictions on consumer goods.... Directors welcomed the strategy for financial sector reforms outlined in the recent Narasimham Committee report. They urged the authorities to accelerate implementation of these reforms.

(b) and (c) Government of India takes policy actions on the basis of its own priorities. Appropriate policy measures are undertaken whenever necessary in the light of emerging economic situation. Government has taken a number of steps towards restoring fiscal health and promoting investment. On the fiscal side, the basic approach has been to raise revenues through a tax structure which is simple, relies on moderate tax rates with a wider base, coupled with prudential expenditure management.

Aid from UNDP

919. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently received aid of Rs. 70 crore from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for development programmes in the country; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the aid is proposed to be utilised in each State with specific reference to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Government of India signed with UNDP aid on 1st November '99 documents worth US\$ 19 million amounting to nearly Rs. 81.7 cores.

(b) The aid will be utilised for financing the following Programmes/sub-programmes:

- (1) Economic Reforms Programme Support-(US\$1.84 million) [Not State specific through Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance]
- (2) Capacity Building in Public Administration (US\$9.25 million) [Not State specific through Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India]

- (3) Three sub-programmes (US\$ 6.7 million) under Food Security programme *i.e.* Sustainable Dryland Agriculture by Mahila Sangam, Andhra Pradesh, Empowerment of Women Farmers for Food Security, Uttar Pradesh, Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Livelihood for Women in Tribal Orissa.
- (4) Sub-programme on Demonstration of community based solar Energy for Sustainable Development (-1.2 million) under the Rural Energy Programme. [Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Sikkim].

Deposit Insurance Corporation for Non-Banking Financial Companies

920. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any requests from Non-Banking financial companies to set up a Deposit Insurance Corporation for them on the lines of banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) In the context of the failure of some Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and the consequent loss caused to depositors, requests have been received to the effect that there should be an appropriate deposit insurance scheme to cover depositors of NBFCs.

(b) The Task Force, set-up by Government, on Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) has, *inter alia*, observed that it would not be judicious to introduce a deposit insurance scheme for the depositors in NBFCs because of the moral hazard issues, likelihood of asset stripping and the likely negative impact on the growth of a healthy NBFC sector. The Committee has further observed that the ultimate insurance must necessarily be a transparent system, better disclosures, better prudential norms, effective regulation and supervision and informed decision-making by aware investors who are in a position to balance risk and returns.

Decline of Cotton Products

921. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's cotton production projected to decline as a result of shifting of farmers to another crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main reasons for falling the cotton imports of India and the steps being taken by the Government to help the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. The Cotton Advisory Board has estimated the production of cotton for the cotton season 1999-2000 at 175 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) as against 163 lakh bales (of 170 kg each) of the previous year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reason for the decline in import of raw cotton is attributed to sufficient availability of stock in domestic market.

To help the cotton growers, the Government undertakes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations through the Cotton Corporation of India. In addition, the Government proposes to launch a Technology Mission on Cotton Development with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories.

Sick Textile Mills of U.P.

922. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sick textile and potentially viable units in Uttar Pradesh and the details of time bound action plan formulated to revitalise the same; and

(b) the estimated requirement of funds to implement the plan and provisions of funds made in the current year and proposed to be made during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, SICA, 1985 and established the BIFR with a view to timely detection of sick & potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies.

There are 36 mills in Uttar Pradesh with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) as on 9.9.99. The status of mills is given below:

Status with BIFR	No. of cases
Declared no longer sick	3
Scheme sanctioned	4
Winding up Recommended	18
Winding up Notice	1
Draft Scheme	1
Under enquiry	4
Non-maintainable	5
Total	36

(b) The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision for working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions. However BIFR does not maintain consolidated statistics regarding the provisions kept by different units towards the rehabilitation package and the expenditure thereof.

Health Insurance Corporation

923. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request regarding setting up of a separate Health Insurance Corporation to deal with the mediclaims and healthcare, especially for senior citizens;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) had, in March, 1999, submitted a proposal to the Government to form a Management Services Company for introduction of Managed Health Care in India. The proposal was

approved, in principle, by the Government. The Company is likely to be set up by the GIC in the next financial year.

Export of Coffee

924. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coffee Board is exporting its products;

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

(c) the amount earned through its export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The Coffee Board do not export any products. However, the quantity of coffee exported by the exporters during the last 3 years and the amount earned therefrom is given below:

Year	Quantity (In lakh tonnes)	Value (Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	1.81	1467
1997-98	1.79	1708
1998-99	2.12	1752

Country-wise figures of export are published by DGCI&S, Calcutta, and this is available in the Parliament House Library.

Export of Rose Onions

925. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to Karnataka to export rose onions;

(b) if so, the quantity of rose onions permitted to export from Karnataka;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sought clearance for the export of additional quantity of rose onions as an advance measure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government had permitted export of 10,000 MTs of Bangalore Rose onions through Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation Ltd. (KAPPEC), Bangalore till 7.12.1999.

(c) Karnataka Government has requested for permission to export 50,000 MTs of normal variety of onions and 10,000 MTs of Bangalore Rose onions.

(d) Government has, *inter alia*, allowed export of 10,000 MTs each of all varieties of onions through Karnataka State Agricultural Produce Processing and Export Corporation Ltd. (KAPPEC), Bangalore and Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. (KSCMF), Bangalore for the next two months *i.e.* December, 1999 and January, 2000.

Duty Free Export

926. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh have sent a request to the Government of India for duty-free export of 25 types of commodities;

(b) if so, the names of commodities for export to India by Bangladesh;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision on this request; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the names of commodities for export to India by Bangladesh are as under:

(1) Artificial Flower; (2) Aluminium Section; (3) Accumulators Battery; (4) Carbon Rod; (5) Carton; (6) Ceramic Products; (7) Cosmetics and Toiletries; (8) Electrical Goods; (9) Electric Cable & Wire; (10) Furniture; (11) Furnace Oil; (12) Footwear; (13) Jute & Jute Products; (14) Knitwear; (15) Leather Products; (16) Melamine and Plastic Products; (17) Nylon Yarn; (18) Pharmaceutical Products; (19) Prepared Food; (20) Soap; (21) Tea; (22) Terry Towel; (23) Textile Fabrics; (24) Transformer; (25) Woven Readymade Garments.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Performance of Public Sector Undertakings

927. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements made by the Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years;

(b) whether the Public Sector Undertakings are being ignored due to outside and other pressures;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The Public Sector Undertakings, as a whole, earned a net profit of Rs. 9574 crores, Rs. 9992 crores and Rs. 13725 crores during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively, till which period the information is available. The detailed information is available in Table 1.13 in Volume-I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1997-98, which was laid in the Parliament on 26.2.99.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government has been taking various steps to promote and improve the performance of PSUs such as granting of autonomy, professionalisation of Boards, enhanced delegation of powers, conferment of Navratna and Mini Ratna status etc.

[English]

Ledger Maintenance Charges

928. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the nationalized banks like State Bank of India are charging ledger maintenance charges from the customers while it is the part and parcel of the Bank's establishment expenses;

(b) if so, the justification therefore and the names of the banks that been charging the ledger maintenance charges; and

(c) the steps taken to withdraw the charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) In terms of Reserve Bank of India's circular of 7th September, 1999, the banks have been granted freedom to levy/fix reasonable service charges, which includes ledger maintenance charges with prior approval of their respective Boards of Directors for the services being rendered by them. Banks have also been advised by RBI that while fixing service charges for various types of services, they should ensure that charges are reasonable and are not out of line with the average cost of providing these services. Banks should also take care to ensure that customers with low volume of activities are not penalized.

Increment of Bank Employees

929. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Bank Association and Tribunal Courts have issued directions/guidelines to public and private sector banks not to stop increment during the period of suspension of an employee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases that have come to the notice where the banks have not followed the guidelines/directions; and

(d) the action the Government have taken or proposed to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Indian Banks' Association (IBA) have reported that Madhya Pradesh High Court, Madras High Court and the Industrial Tribunal, Chandigarh in separate matters have held that having regard to the language used in the Bipartite Settlements in regard to payment of subsistence allowance, annual increments falling due to a Workman Employee during the period of suspension had to be reckoned for calculation and payment of subsistence allowance. Accordingly, IBA have issued guidelines on 17th February, 1998 to its Members Banks, which are parties to the Bipartite Settlements, in this regard.

(c) No instances of violation of above guidelines have been received by IBA.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Emission Standard of Tractor

930. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Euro I and II standards have been prescribed for automobiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith emission standards prescribed for tractors;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to ban on the use of tractors on road; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Emission standards akin to Euro I norms applicable to all categories of vehicles (except agriculture tractors) to be effective from 1.4.2000 throughout the country have been notified *vide* GSR No. 493(E) dated 28.8.1997. However, in pursuance of the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the date of effectuation of these norms in respect of private non-commercial vehicles has been advanced to 1.6.1999 for the National Capital Region, Delhi *vide* GSR No. 399 (E) dated 1.6.1999. Emission norms akin to Euro II standards for four wheeled vehicles having Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) upto 3.5 tonnes to be effective from 1.4.2000 in the NCR, Delhi have been draft notified *vide* GSR No. 681(E) dated 1.10.1999. The emission norms for agriculture tractors have also been notified separately *vide* GSR No. 627(E) dated 8.9.99 which has come into force from 1.10.99.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mineral Reserves in Rajasthan

931. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of MINES OF MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different kinds of mineral reserves found in Rajasthan, especially in Western Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to explore the hidden mineral wealth in this area, especially in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore districts;

(c) whether the Government have prepared/propose to prepare a definite policy and programmes for the proper exploration of Minerals in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) The details of the mineral investigated by various agencies in Rajasthan during the last three years are as follows:

(1) GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

- (i) Lead & Zinc: An additional reserve of 13.75 million tonnes of lead and zinc ores in Bethumni Dariba Belt, Rajsamand district;
- (ii) Gold: In Bhukia East and West Banswara district reserves of 8.3 million tonnes of ores and in Timaranmata block Dungarpur district 0.2 million tonnes of ore;
- (iii) Cement grade limestone: In Nimbh Dungar, Jaitwas and Pohar areas Jaisalmer district, W. Rajasthan 260 million tonnes;
- (iv) Granite as dimensional stones: A total of 1384 million cu.m in 86 sq.km. area in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Ajmer and Alwar district.

2. MINERAL EXPLORATION CORPORATION LIMITED (MECL)

- (i) Lignite:
Gadiyala, Bithnok Extn Girirajsar
and Sindhari Blocks in Bikaner
Dist. — 380.29 mt.
- (ii) Copper
Singhana and Surhari Blocks
of Jhunjhunu districts — 22.12 mt.
- (iii) Lead-zinc
Kayar, Ajmer, district. — 10.14 mt.

3. DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY, RAJASTHAN

- (i) Lignite
Nagur and Bikaner districts 43 mt.
- (ii) Limestone (SMS grade)
Jaisalmer district 130 mt.
- (iii) Limestone (cement grade)
Jodhpur and Jaisalmer districts 1200 mt.

(b) to (d) The following steps have been taken by the Central Government and the State Government of Rajasthan to explore and exploit the mineral wealth in this state:

- (i) GSI has carried out investigations for limestone in Jaisalmer District. Lignite, bentonite and fullers earth are being investigated in Sanchor area of Barmer District. The dimension stones are also being investigated in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts.

(ii) GSI is continuing investigation by drilling for gold in the extension areas of Bhukia Block in Banswara District and for base metals in Dariba Bethumni Belt of Rajsamand District.

(iii) Regional exploration for lignite in Sanchor Basin located in the southern part of Barmer District.

(iv) In Ajmer - Sambar Lake area Hindustan Zinc Ltd. has carried out aerial survey with Geotem Survey, whereby geophysical anomalies were located. These anomalies are being followed on ground by further geophysical survey and test drilling.

(v) In a joint venture between HZL-BHP about 10,117 sq.km area in Rajasthan will be covered by aerial survey as a part of phase III to locate new mineral deposits.

(vi) The Government of Rajasthan has formulated New Mineral Policy 1994, Marble Policy 1994, Granite Policy 1995 and New Prospecting Policy 1999 to accelerate exploration and mining.

[*Translation*]

Simplification of Foreign Exchange Rules

932. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal with regard to the simplification of the foreign exchange rules in keeping with the need of the customers is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Foreign exchange regulations procedures are reviewed and simplified on an ongoing basis in keeping with the needs of customers.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) the question does not arise.

[English]

Guidelines to Write off Loans

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set-up a Working Group to frame uniform guidelines to write off/compromise the bad loans/Non-Performing Assets of banks;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up an informal working group consisting of senior officers from five major Public Sector Banks besides officials from the RBI to frame guidelines on write-off/compromise of non-performing advances of banks. The terms of reference of the group were to examine and suggest:

- (i) Criteria for provisional write off;
- (ii) Criteria for final write off,
- (iii) Criteria for compromise settlement, and
- (iv) Settling up of Debt Settlement Tribunal in view of the fact that the Debt Recovery Tribunals have no discretion in awarding settlements.

RBI has reported that the Working Group has since submitted its report. A note containing important recommendations of the Working Group is given in the attached statement. According to RBI most of the recommendations made by it were already covered by the existing guidelines of RBI issued to banks for settlement of Settlement Advisory Committee. RBI has further reported that a copy of the report of the Working Group has been forwarded to the public sector banks for necessary action.

Statement

1. Technical/prudential write off at present practiced by the banks should be allowed to continue to the extent their profits permitted and subject to retaining the pressure on branches for recovery pursuit.

2. Final write off may be resorted to after exhausting all avenues of recovery and in this regard the existing RBI guidelines should continue to be followed.

3. Recommendations of the Working Group (Headed by Shri N.V. Deshpande, Legal Adviser, RBI) for bringing improvements in functioning of DRTs may be accepted implemented for speedier disposal of cases.

4. One time settlement/compromise/negotiation may continue to be part of recovery policy.

5. The Rating models and matrices suggesting a modular approach in calculation of possible amount of compromise can be adopted by banks. The Models can be devised by individual banks drawing of the models already in vogue in some of the banks and provided in this Report. However, the models are expected to serve only as a base document and the banks should have the freedom to improve on the framework and customise it to suit their operational environment.

6. The Group however noted that the basic parameter for arriving at the amount of principal and interest should be defined so as to ensure uniformity in approach in this regard.

7. The Group considers it desirable for the banks to insist on initial deposit of at least 5% of the outstanding as per books of the borrower as a pre-requisite of borrower's commitment to the initiation of compromise process.

8. Considering the difficulties and cost involved in recovery of NPAs in small loan accounts the Group recommends that special recovery and compromise procedures can be drawn for individual banks for settlement of cases below a cut off level of outstanding in the NPA account.

9. The Group considers that the Staff Accountability aspects, wherever applicable should be pursued as parallel exercise independent of compromise decisions, including write off.

**Private Participation in Mining and
Coal Exploration**

934. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOUDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to invite private sector to participate in mining and exploration of coal and lignite;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for allowing private participation in mining and exploration of coal and lignite;

(d) whether private sector has been allowed to participate in the mining of Iron Ore, Manganese and other minerals;

(e) if so, since when and the response of the private sector thereto;

(f) whether the restructuring of Coal India Limited will also be made and steps would be taken to curb the activities of mafia; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Coal mining by the private sector companies, only for the captive consumption in iron and steel production, power generation and cement production is permissible under the existing provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. The Act also allows lignite mining by the private sector companies for captive consumption in power generation and cement production. The Committee on Integrated Coal Policy had, in their report, observed, *inter-alia*, that the gap between demand and supply of coal at the end of IX and X Plan periods would be substantial. The Committee concluded that the demand-supply mismatch for coal in the country would become more serious unless new policy measures are vigorously pursued. Keeping in view the observations of the Committee, a proposal for introduction of a Bill in the Parliament for amendments to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow the Indian Companies to do non-captive coal and lignite mining and to engage them in exploration of coal and lignite was submitted to the Government on 4.2.99. The proposal was approved by the Government on 17.2.99. However, before the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1999 could be introduced in the Parliament, the 12th Lok Sabha was dissolved. The matter is being considered *de-novo*.

(d) and (e) With the announcement of National Mineral Policy, 1993 and the amendment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 in 1994, 13 minerals, namely the iron ore, manganese, chrome ore, sulphur, gold, diamond, platinum group of minerals, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten ore and nickel, earlier reserved for exploration and exploitation by the public sector were reserved for private participation. There has been a good response from the private sector in this regard.

(f) and (g) No decision to change the existing holding-subsidary structure of Coal India Limited (CIL) has been taken. The following steps are continuously taken by the coal producing subsidiary companies of CIL to curb the activities of the 'Coal mafia';

(i) Intensive patrolling by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and security personnel of coal companies.

(ii) Close liaison with the State/District authorities.

(iii) Raids by CISF and local police on illegal coal depots.

(iv) Surprise checks/raids by security personnel.

(v) Handing over of miscreants to the police and lodging of First Information Reports.

I.T. Corporate Tax Arrears

935. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of income tax/Corporate Tax arrears exceeding one crore from individuals, business house and other pending recovery during the last three years, year-wise, assessee-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action for the recovery of Income Tax/Corporate Tax;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether some film stars are in huge arrears of Income Tax; and

(e) if so, the details of assesseees and their tax dues, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The details of income-tax/Corporate tax arrears exceeding Rupees one crore as on 31.3.97, 31.3.98 and 31.3.99, as compiled from various Chief Commissioner regions are as follows:

	Arrears as on (Rupees in lakh)		
	31.3.97	31.3.98	31.3.99
No. of Cases of outstanding demand	1897	2526	2959
Total outstanding demand (Rs.)	2552794	2993176	3259698

(b) and (c) The recovery of taxes is a continuous process which involves various statutory procedures. These include attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties; charging of interest for late payment; levy of penalty etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving arrears are made by the higher authorities from time to time for issuing necessary instructions for expediting recovery of taxes.

(d) and (e) The details of income-tax arrears exceeding Rs. 1 crore in cases of film stars are as follows:

	Demand outstanding as on (Rupees in lakh)		
	31.3.97	31.3.98	31.3.99
No. of cases of outstanding demand	2	2	7
Total outstanding demand (Rs.)	351.38	471.62	2716.15

Export Growth

936. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export growth increased during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar target has been fixed for 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to further enhance the export growth?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) and (b) As per the provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, export growth in US\$ terms during 1998-99 has been estimated at 3.7% over the provisional data of the same period last year.

(c) and (d) An export target of US\$ 37400 million excluding Software exports has been fixed for the year 1999-2000 representing a growth of 11.3% in US\$ terms over 1998-99.

(e) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

Setting up of Coal Washeries

937. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to set up coal washeries to increase the availability of high grade coal in the country;

(b) if so, the total production capacity targetted to be installed in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Government have identified the sources for raising the required capital;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total additional quantum of high grade coal likely to be available in the country at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan as compared to the end of the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In view of Ministry of Environment and Forests's notification dated 19.6.97 making it mandatory to use coal of less than 34% ash content in all power plants located at a distance of 1000 K.M. and beyond and in locations critically polluted and/or sensitive areas, it has been estimated that about 87 MT such coal would be required by the end of IXth Plan.

According to an assessment made by Coal India Limited, about 68 MT, through blending process, coal having less than 34% ash is likely to be made available from the existing sources. Balance 19 MT will have to be beneficiated.

(c) and (d) In view of fund constraints by both coal companies and the power utilities washeries will be set up through third party participation under Build Own Operate (BOO) basis.

(e) The quantum of high grade coal in IXth Plan period would about be the same as that of VIIIth Plan.

[*Translation*]

Import and Export

939. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by the Government to remove the imbalance between export and import;

(b) the name of countries with whom we have good trade relations and the possibilities to improve it further;

(c) whether India is facing problems in the growth of trade due to WTO restrictions and conditions; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect national interests?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

(b) India maintains good trading relations with all its trading partners and constantly tries to improve them through meaningful bilateral initiatives.

(c) Under the various agreements of the WTO, all members are allowed to provide protection to their domestic industry within the framework of the commitments undertaken by them. The Dispute Settlement Mechanism of WTO provides for remedial measures if any action or policy of a Member is considered to be violative of the obligations of the member concerned.

(d) India has approached the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) in nine cases so far. In four cases, the DSB has ruled in India's favour, one has been dropped, one amicably settled while three cases are continuing.

Expenditure on Social Sector

940. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any effective steps to enhance the expenditure on social sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount being spent on social sector at present; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be enhanced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Central Government (Plan and Non-Plan) expenditure on social sectors (comprising education, health, water supply, sanitation, housing, rural development, social welfare and nutrition and Minimum Basic Services) as a ratio to total expenditure increased from 7.7 per cent in 1990-91 (actuals) to 10.3 per cent in 1997-98 (actuals) and further to 10.5 per cent in 1998-99 (RE) and 11.4 per cent in 1999-2000 (BE).

(b) and (c) The details of Central Government (Plan & Non-Plan) expenditure on social sectors are given in the attached statement.

(d) The likely expenditure on social sectors will be reflected in 1999-2000 (RE).

Statement**Central Government Expenditure on Social Sectors**

Item	(Plan and Non-Plan)								(Rs. crore)	
	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (RE)	1999-2000 (BE)
1. Social Services	53.80	58.92	63.97	81.50	92.23	11631	13659	16007	20315	22921
a. Education, Sports and Youth Affairs	1686	1775	1878	2378	2799	3630	3988	4983	6733	7138
b. Health and Family Welfare	1273	1382	1722	2148	2413	2542	2751	3235	4046	5000
c. Water Supply, Sanitation Housing and Urban Dev.	828	934	788	1262	1351	1756	2957	3328	4325	4898
d. Information & Broadcasting	436	417	371	392	479	596	593	928	1028	1109
e. Welfare to SC/ST and Other Backward Classes	348	419	488	564	744	800	833	692	977	1108
f. Labour, Employment and Labour Welfare	289	357	347	526	440	507	587	642	771	908
g. Social Welfare & Nutrition	520	628	803	880	997	1800	1950	2209	2435	2760
2. Rural Development	2678	2283	3211	4680	5803	6609	5081	5116	5571	5416
3. Basic Minimum Services (BMS)* including Slum development							2466	2873	3684	4043
4. Social Services, Rural Development and Basic Minimum Services (1+2+3)	8058	8175	9608	12830	15026	18240	21206	23996	29570	32380
5. Total Central Government Expenditure	105298	111414	122618	141853	160739	178275	201007	232068	281912	283882
6. Social Services, Rural Development and Basic Minimum Services as % of Total Expenditure	7.65	7.34	7.84	9.04	9.35	10.23	10.55	10.34	10.49	11.41

Note: Figures for the years 1990-91 to 1997-98 are actuals.

* Came into operation from 1996-97. The provision is for both States and UTs.

© With effect from 1.4.1999, a new system of transferring 75% of the net small saving collections to States and UTs from the Public Account is being introduced. But for this change, the non-plan capital expenditure would have been Rs. 25,000 crore higher.

*[English]***External/Domestic Debt**

941. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

(Rs. in crore)

External debts on Govt. Account 55181
at historical rate of exchange

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

Domestic loans on Govt. Account 315894

(a) whether extraordinary increase has taken place in the external debts/domestic loans in the country;

The Government accounts are maintained on the basis of instruments of borrowings, not lender-wise as far as domestic loans are concerned. The lender-wise break up of external debt is being ascertained.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount of external debts/domestic loans, as on date, country-wise and institution-wise separately;

(e) Total principal repayment and interest payment in each of the last three years in respect of external debts and domestic loans are as under:

(d) the comparative figures of external debts/domestic loans as on August, 1999;

	Principal Repayment	Interest payment
External Debt		
(On Govt. Account at historical rate of exchange)		

(e) the total amount of principal and interest paid to external/domestic creditors during each of the last three years; and

1996-97	6547.31	4223.40
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(f) the scheme of the Government to repay the debts and to get rid of the debt burden?

1997-98	6767.83	4110.00
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1998-99 RE	7856.59	4272.90
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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Net external debts/domestic loans on Government account during each of the three years from 1996-97 are as follows:

Domestic Loans on Government Account

1996-97	7904.63	19124.58
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1997-98	10891.07	22170.23
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1998-99 RE	14802.80	28072.00
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(Rs. in Crore)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (RE)	1999-00 (BE)
External debt on Govt. Account at historical rate of exchange	2987	1091	910	845
Market loans on Govt. Account	20012	32499	64911	57461

The borrowing requirements of the Government are increasing since the growth in Government expenditure (Interest, Defence, Subsidies, Internal Security, Salaries, Pensions, assistance to States and development expenditure) has outpaced the growth in Government's revenues and other non-debt receipts.

(f) It is always Government's endeavour to maximise revenue receipts and curtail inessential items of expenditure so that dependence on loans is kept to the minimum. Government has at the same time to ensure that the process of development is not hampered.

*[Translation]***Project Package Scheme**

942. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include more villages in the Project Package Scheme during the current year State-wise;

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

(c) the number of persons likely to get employment under this scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Project Package Scheme is being implemented during current year also to cover more areas/districts. However, there is no specific State-wise target set under the Scheme. Projects are sanctioned on the basis of viable proposals received from the State Governments. Similarly the number of persons likely to get employment State-wise depends upon the number of viable proposals received and sanctioned.

[English]

Industrial Growth

943. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrial growth rate for the current financial year is likely between 5 to 6 percent;

(b) if so, whether this contrasts sharply with the optimistic 7 percent industrial growth forecast by the Reserve Bank of India;

(c) if so, whether the Planning Commission has made appraisal review of the Ninth Plan which also envisages 6.8 percent industrial growth;

(d) if so, the main reasons for not improving the industrial production in the country; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to improve the industrial production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) According to the figures released by Central Statistical Organisation, the industrial growth rate during April-September, 1999-2000 is 6.4% against 4.0% recorded during the corresponding period last year.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India has not made any forecast on the growth rate of the Industrial Sector during 1999-2000.

(c) Planning Commission have not completed the mid-term review of the Ninth Plan.

(d) Do not arise in view of '(b)' and '(c)' above.

(e) The steps taken to improve industrial production, *inter alia*, are:

1. Special package announced for revival of growth in exports;
2. repeal of ULCRA and incentive to house ownership;
3. the Government has allowed buy back of shares and inter-corporate loans to boost investment and revive the capital market;
4. a new power policy announced;
5. excise duties rationalised;
6. income tax rate and custom duties on infrastructure projects reduced;
7. liberalization of inflow of FDI/NRI/OCB investment and the guidelines for foreign equity investment in NBFC have further been modified;
8. setting up of Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) to provide single point interface between foreign investors and Government machinery;
9. setting up of National Accreditation Boards including a National Patent Office and a National Benchmarking Patent House to promote integration of best practices in the Indian Industry;
10. restoration of 100% MODVAT credit;
11. reduction in CRR;
12. withdrawal of interest rate surcharge on import finance.

Assistance from National Renewal Fund to Gujarat

944. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for assistance from National Renewal Fund towards the expenditure incurred on Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) of employees of Gujarat State Textile Corporation/Private Mills closed down by the State Government following the directives of the Gujarat High Court; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Industry, Department of Industrial Development has received two proposals from the Government of Gujarat as follows:

- (i) Proposal of Gujarat State Textile Corporation Ltd. (GSTC) for assistance from National Renewal Fund (NRF).
- (ii) Proposal of Government of Gujarat seeking NRF assistance for closed Textile Mills.

Assistance from NRF is presently available only for Voluntary Retirement Schemes in Central Public Sector Undertakings and Schemes for their counselling, retraining and re-deployment of rationalized workers.

**Industries (Development and Regulation)
Act, 1951**

945. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to repeal the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951;

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

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to bring alternate law;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (e) In the process of review of laws, regulations and simplification of procedures, an Expert Group constituted by Government has finalised its recommendations in consultation with the apex industry associations with respect to the reievw of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[*Translation*]

Modernisation of NTC Mills in Mumbai

946. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether not a single mill of N.T.C. has been modernised in Mumbai inspite of provision of Rs. 1500 crores made by the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted against the guilty officers for the misuse of funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officers found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A sum of Rs. 73.24 crores have been spent on modernisation of NTC mills in Mumbai till 1994. In 1995, a revised Turn Around Plan was formulated which envisaged generation of resources for modernisation from sale of surplus land. Since sale of land could not be effected, the proposed modernisation could not be taken up.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

I.T. Collection in A.P.

947. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Income Tax collection in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of tax is due to be collected/recovered for the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the above dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The total collection of Corporation Tax and Income Tax in Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years are as under:

Fin. Years	Corporation Tax (Rs. in crores)	Income Tax
1996-97	424.57	691.17
1997-98	515.78	677.99
1998-99	568.43	783.01

(b) The quantum of tax due to be recovered from Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years is as under:

	Corporation Tax (Rupees in crores)	Income Tax
As on 31.3.97	236.00	297.90
As on 31.3.98	392.61	351.79
As on 31.3.99	451.06	424.41

(c) The recovery of tax is a continuous process involving detailed statutory, procedures. These include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties etc. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are made by higher authorities on a continuous basis and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting the recovery of taxes.

**Customs and Central Excise Commissionerate
in Mangalore**

948. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to establish Customs and Central Excise Commissionerate in Mangalore;

(b) if so, the areas to be covered by the proposed office; and

(c) the time by which above office start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) A proposal to establish a Customs and Central Excise Commissionerate by conferring the Central Excise jurisdiction to the existing Commissioner of Customs, Mangalore is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The proposal under consideration is to give Commissioner of Customs, Mangalore the Central Excise jurisdiction over the areas comprising of Dakshina Kannada; Udupi and Kodagu.

(c) The date of giving effect is also under consideration.

[Translation]

Setting up of New Industries

949. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to setup a new industry in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. With introduction of the New Industrial Policy

1991, industrialisation is mainly dependent on the choice of the investor, the attractiveness of any investment destination and the initiatives of the State Government. The Central Government assists the process of industrialisation through investor friendly transparent policies and also through schemes to assist the State Governments in their efforts such as the Growth Centre Scheme, the Transport Subsidy Scheme, etc.

[English]

Calves Slaughtering

950. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of age limit allowed for slaughtering the buffaloes and goats/sheep;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the age limit of such animals in view of the decision of the Supreme Court and article 48 of the Constitution of India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Under Order S.O. 203 dated 15.1.93, Government has prescribed the age limit of 4 months to 12 months for buffalo calves and above 12 months for buffaloes as also above 9 months in the case of goats and sheep for the purpose of their slaughter for export of meat.

(b) and (c) Amendment of age limits is not under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

New Branches of Himachal Gramin Bank

951. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 3355 on December 18, 1998 and state:

(a) whether recruitment of employees has been made by the Punjab National Bank which is a sponsor bank to open branches of the Himachal Gramin Bank in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the recruitment of employees is likely to be made in the branches of the rural bank in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) (i) Government has imposed a ban on recruitment in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in view of their precarious financial condition.

(ii) The Area of Operation of Himachal Gramin Bank (HGB) has not yet been extended to the districts of Hamirpur, Una and Bilaspur for which proceedings are separately under consideration.

(c) Government have constituted a Working Group to study and evolve a long-term scientific staffing norms for RRBs, which is likely to submit its report shortly. A decision to lift the ban or otherwise would be taken on receipt of the report of the Working Group.

[English]

No Industry Districts

952. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of "No Industry Districts" in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken to set up industries there to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed educated youth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) As at present, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) had *vide* Notification No. S.O. 714(E) dated 7.10.97 specified 53 category 'A' industrially backward districts and 70 category 'B' industrially backward districts for grant of tax concessions under Income Tax Act, 1961. A list of these 123 districts is given in the attached Statement.

(b) After the announcement of the new industrial policy, investment decisions are even more than earlier, based on the commercial perceptions of the entrepreneurs. Promotion of industrial development in backward areas is primarily dependent on the initiative of the State Governments. The Union Government supports the States' efforts through schemes like the Growth Centre Scheme, the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme and the Transport Subsidy Scheme. For the North-Eastern States, special focus has been provided through the announcement of a dedicated policy package. Additionally there are fiscal incentives for setting up industry in backward states, Union territories and districts.

Statement

List of Industrially Backward Districts in the country, As notified by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue Vide Notification No. 714 (E), Dated 7.10.97.

Category 'A'	Category 'B'
1	2
BIHAR	ANDHRA PRADESH
Godda	Srikakulam
Gumla	Mahbubnagar
Araria	BIHAR
Madhepura	Katihar
Dumka	Bhagalpur
Khagaria	Gopalganj
Kishanganj	Darbhanga
Palamau	West-Champaran
Madhubani	Saran
Jehanabad	Bhojpur
Saharsa	Samastipur
Nawadah	Deoghar
Sitamarhi	Nalanda
Sahebganj	Gaya
Aurangabad	Muzaffarpur
East-Champaran	Rohtas
Purnia	GUJARAT
Siwan	Banaskantha
Vaishali	Sabarkantha
Lohar-dagga	

1	2	1	2
GUJARAT	KARNATAKA	Almora	UTTAR PRADESH
The Dangs	Bidar	Pithoragarh	Mau
KERALA	MADHYA PRADESH	Tehri-Garhwal	Hardoi
Idukki	Seoni	WEST BENGAL	Lalitpur
Wayanad	Tikamgarh	Malda	Hamirpur
MADHYA PRADESH	Shivpuri	West-Dinajpur	Badaun
Mandla	Balaghat	Murshidabad	Fatehpur
Panna	Jhabua	Coochbehar	Azamgarh
Bastar	Sidhi	Bankura	Etah
Sarguja	Vidisha	Bankura	Barabanki
Chhatarpur	Raigarh	Jalpaiguri	Etawah
MAHARASHTRA	Morena		Deoria
Gadchiroli	Betul		Ghazipur
ORISSA	Rajgarh		Ballia
Phulbani	Rajnandgaon		Jaunpur
Kalahandi	Sagar		Sitapur
RAJASTHAN	MAHARASHTRA		Jalaun
Jalore	Beed		Unnao
Barmer	ORISSA		Faizabad
Jaisalmer	Bolangir		Kanpur-Dehat
Churu	Mayurbhanj		Mainpuri
Banswara	Balasure		Gonda
UTTAR PRADESH	Ganjam		Farukhabad
Sidharthanagar	RAJASTHAN		Sultanpur
Baharaich	Dungarpur		Mirzapur
Pratapgarh	Dholpur		WEST BENGAL
Maharajganj	Sawai-Madhopur		Purulia
Banda	Tonk		Midnapore
Basti	Nagaur		Birbhum
Chamoli	Sikar		
Uttarkashi	Jhalawar		

[*Translation*]**'One out of Six Things' Scheme of Income-Tax**

953. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have also covered Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Jodhpur, Kota and many other cities under the purview of 'one out of six things' scheme of Income-Tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any notification has been issued in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of cities where this scheme is being implemented at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The proviso to Section 139(1) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 casts an obligation on a person to file a return of income on his fulfilling any one of the six economic criteria such as occupation of immovable property, ownership of a motor vehicle, subscription of a telephone, foreign travel, credit card and membership of a club. The cities of Gorakhpur, Bareilly, Jodhpur, Kota

with other cities have been covered under the scheme in the third phase and notified *vide* Income-tax Notification No. 242(E) dated 9th April, 1999. At present, this scheme is being implemented in 54 cities.

[*English*]**Survey by Geological Survey of India**

954. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the survey conducted by Geological Survey of India in different States to find out the mines and minerals during the last three years, till date; and

(b) the findings of the survey of Geological Survey of India, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India has conducted a total of 501 investigation for different minerals in various States. The details of the state-wise deposits in respect of important minerals found during the last three years are given in the attached statement.

Statement

States/Minerals	Areas	Reserves in million tonnes of ores
1	2	3
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1. Gold	Dona East Block	3.76
2. Diamond	Ampalle Kimberlite body, Wajrakarur area	Pipe rock have yielded diamond
3. Coal	Krishnavaram and Khammampalli areas	273
ARUNACHAL PRADESH		
1. Limestone/Marbles	East and West Siang Districts	79.5
BIHAR		
1. Coal	Keyada — Gandharap sector, Urma — Oaharitola area, Chaudhar — Gariapani sector & Latehar Block	344
MADHYA PRADESH		
1. Basemetal (Lead — Zinc — Cooper)	Banskhapa—Pipariya, Betul district	3.15

1	2	3
2. Gold	Imaliya block Jabalpur district	0.20
3. Coal	Sursa, Meghuli, Sondiha, Pusalda, Ongana areas and— Potiya, Nagdama, Karkoma, Kente blocks	492
MEGHALAYA		
1. Limestone/ Marble	Jaintia Hills Dist. Litang Valley	5286 (till 1998-99)
MAHARASHTRA		
1. Gold	Marupar-Kitari area Parsori West Block, Sakoli belt Bhimsain—Killa Pahar area	0.125 0.895 0.057
2. Coal	Bahmini—Palasgaon, Rajura —Manikgarh and Jogapur— Sirsi blocks	93
ORISSA		
1. Platinum Group Metals	Baula-Nuasahi	14.20
2. Magnese Ore	Bolangir Dist. Sundargarh Dist.	1.182 0.40
3. Coal	Bagarhia—Aunli block and Ib-River Coalfield	1601
RAJASTHAN		
1. Gold	Bhukia (East & West) Block, Banswara Distt. Timaranmata Block, Dungarpur Dist.	8.3 0.20
2. Base Metal (Lead- Zinc Ore)	Latio-Ka-Khera Block Dariba-Bethumbi belt	13.73
TAMIL NADU		
1. Molybdenum	Marudapathi central block	0.484
WEST BENGAL		
1. Caesium and Lithium	Beku Pagmatite district	High incidence of caesium and Lithium
2. Coal	Bistupur-Dandeswar and Banspetali-Majid sectors	152

Cash Reserve Ratio

955. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has slashed the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to be maintained by the banks by one percent recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any criteria or formulated any policy or rules for providing loans from the nationalised banks to the common people, small artisans, poor farmers and people living below poverty line;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of such people provided bank loans during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in the Raigarh District of Maharashtra;

(f) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the above mentioned people are not actually given such loans but such loans are advanced to other influential people in the name of the above mentioned people; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India have reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by one percentage point from the level of 10 per cent to 9 per cent of Net per cent of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) in two instalments in November 1999 taking into account liquidity conditions in the economy. This would augment the lendable resources of the banks by about Rs. 7000 crores.

(c) and (d) Loans are given by public sector banks to a specific categories of people/poor persons/people living below poverty line under various schemes formulated by the Government such as (i) Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (RMRY) (ii) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) now replaced by *Swam Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY)*, (iii) *Swam Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY)*, (iv) Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS) and (v) Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme. The salient features of these schemes are given in the Statement-I.

(e) State-wise details of assistance provided during the last three years under PMRY, IRDP, SJSRY, SLRS and DRI schemes are furnished in the attached statements II, III, IV, V and VI. The Information regarding Raigarh District in Maharashtra is given below:

	(No. of cases)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
PMRY	946	1078	1052
SJRY	—	331	104 (Upto 31.10.99)
(Amount in Rs. lakhs)			
IRDP	910.30	849.51	1265.48

(f) A large number of such people have got loans as indicated in (e) above.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f).

Statement I

Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana: The objective of the scheme is to provide self employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years. There is 10 years relaxation for SC/ST/Ex-Servicemen/Physically handicapped and Women, in the upper age limit. To be eligible for assistance under the scheme the family income of the beneficiaries shall not exceed Rs. 24000 per annum and income of parents of beneficiary also shall not exceed Rs. 24000. The resident of the area for more than 3 years. The minimum educational qualification fixed is VIIIth passed. The beneficiary would be required to bring in 5% as margin money and Government would provide a subsidy at 15 per cent of the project cost. It has also been provided that the margin money and subsidy amount would be 20% of the project cost. Ceiling on subsidy amount will be Rs. 7500 in States/Union Territories other than in North Eastern Region. In the seven states in North East the ceiling on subsidy amount payable will be Rs. 15000. Hence the margin money to be brought in by the borrowers will vary from 5% to 16.25% of the project cost. All economically viable activities including agricultural and allied activities but excluding direct agricultural operations like raising of crops/purchase of manure etc. are now being covered under the scheme. Projects upto Rs. 1 lakh in business Sector and upto Rs. 2 lakh in other sectors will be eligible for finance by banks. In

case of partnership firm projects upto Rs. 10 lakhs can be undertaken and loan amount will be restricted to the extent of individual admissibility. A reservation of 22.5% of SC/ST's and 27% for other backward classes (OBCs) has been provided. Preference is to be given to women and other weaker sections. Banks have also been advised to ensure a fair and adequate share to the minorities. No third party guarantee/collateral is necessary for projects upto Rs. 1 lakh and the advances under the scheme are treated as advances under priority sector.

Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY):

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India have launched a restructured programme known as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) from April 1999 replacing the existing schemes viz. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS). The Scheme aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in the rural areas of the country. The objective of the Scheme is to bring every assisted family above the poverty line in three years by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy. The monthly income from activity to be undertaken should not be less than Rs. 2000 net of repayment to the bank at least in the third year. SGSY is a holistic programme covering all the aspects of self-employment such as Organisation of Poor into Self Help Groups, Training, Credit, Technology, infrastructure and marketing. The scheme will be funded on 75:25 basis by centre and States and will be implemented by DRDAs through Panchayat Samitis. There is no ceiling on the size of the loan amount. Group activities will be given preference. Major share of assistance will be for 4-5 key activities identified at the Block Level. Subsidy will be uniform at 30% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 7500/-. In respect of SC/ST, it will be 50% with a maximum of Rs. 10000/-. Subsidy for group loans will be 50% of project cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 1.25 lakh. There will be no monetary limit on subsidy for irrigation project. Interest on the loan is charged as per directive on interest rate issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time. For individual loans upto Rs. 50000 and group loans upto Rs. 3 lakhs, the assets created out of bank loan are to be hypothecated to the bank as primary security. Obtaining of suitable margin money/other collateral securities has been permitted in individual cases exceeding Rs. 50000 and group loans exceeding Rs. 3 lakhs. All SGSY loans are to be treated as medium term loans with minimum repayment period of 5 years. The banks are to provide initial moratorium wherever required. Sub-targets have been stipulated for

borrowers under various categories viz. SC/STs at least 50 per cent, women at least 40 per cent, physically handicapped 3 per cent.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY):

The SJSRY scheme is in operation from 1.12.1997 in all urban and semi urban towns of India. Among other components, the scheme has two sub schemes where bank credit is involved namely Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP), and Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA) The beneficiaries are identified by the urban local bodies on the basis of house-to-house survey. Under this scheme, women are to be assisted to the extent of not less than 30 per cent, disabled at least 3 per cent and SC/ST at least to the extent of the proportion of their strength in the local population. The scheme is funded on a 75:25 basis between Centre and the state. Under USEP, underemployed and unemployed urban youth whose annual family income is below the poverty line and who are educated upto ninth standard and who have been included in ULB list are to be assisted with bank loans. Projects costing up to 50000 are to be financed by banks. Subsidy would be provided by Government at 15% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 7,500. The borrower has to bring in 5% of the project cost as margin money. Partnerships are also permitted. Under DWCUA, women beneficiaries may take up self employment ventures in group. DWCUA group should consist of at least 10 urban poor women. The group is entitled to subsidy of Rs. 1,25,000 or 50% of the project cost whichever is less. In addition the group may set itself up as a thrift and credit society.

Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS):

The scheme was introduced in 1993 and is continued in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The scheme is being implemented by all public sector banks except RRBs. The objective of the scheme is to liberate and rehabilitate scavengers and their dependents for their existing hereditary and obnoxious occupation of manually removing night soil and filth and to provide them with alternative and dignified occupation. The scheme covers all scavengers and their dependents (both scheduled caste scavengers and non-scheduled caste scavengers) in the country. Under the scheme, projects costing up to Rs. 50,000 can be financed. Subsidy is available to borrower at 50 per cent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000. The borrowers can also avail margin money assistants at 15 per cent of the project cost at 4 per cent rate of interest from State Scheduled Caste Development Corporations. All loans upto Rs. 6500 will be treated as DRI loan at concessional rate of 4 per cent. However, where the amount of loan exceeds Rs. 6500 the entire loan will carry interest as per RBI directive

on interest rates. The security for the loan will be only hypothecation of assets created out of the loan/subsidy in favour of the banks. The State Scheduled Caste Development Corporation will have second charge/*pari-passu* charge over the asset to cover their margin money loan assistance. The loans shall be repaid within a period of three to seven years (inclusive of grace period not exceeding 6 months) depending on the life of the assets created and repaying capacity of beneficiaries.

Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme: The scheme was introduced in 1972 by Government of India and implemented through all scheduled commercial banks throughout the country. The scheme seeks to provide bank finance at a concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum to weaker sections of the society for engaging in productive and gainful activities in order to improve their economic conditions. Persons of modest means engaged in gainful activities in agriculture and/or allied activities, cottage and rural industries, vocations etc. and whose annual family income does not exceed Rs. 7200 in urban or semi urban areas and Rs. 6400 per annum in rural areas are eligible for assistance under this scheme. Besides, the borrower for being eligible for assistance, should not own any land or in case he owns any land, his land holdings should not exceed one acre in the case of irrigated land and 2.5 acres in the case of

unirrigated land. The land holding criteria is not applicable to borrowers who belong to SCs/STs. The maximum amount of assistance per beneficiary available under the scheme for productive purposes is Rs. 6500. In addition to Rs. 6500, a housing loan of Rs. 5000 beneficiary can be granted under the scheme to the members belonging to SCs/STs provided they satisfy the income criteria of this scheme. Physically handicapped persons engaged in gainful activities can be granted financial assistance to the maximum extent of Rs. 5000 per beneficiary for acquiring aids, appliances, equipments etc. provided they are eligible for assistance under the scheme. This assistance is in addition to the loan of Rs. 6500 available for productive endeavours. Loans granted under this scheme are required to be repaid within five years inclusive of grace period not exceeding two years. Under the scheme no security, margin money etc. have been prescribed. Under the scheme banks are required to lend minimum of one per cent of their aggregate advances as at the end of the previous year. Further, 40 per cent of the total DRI advances are required to be granted to SCs/STs beneficiaries. In order to ensure that the weaker sections in rural areas derive the maximum benefits, banks are required to ensure that no less than two-third of their advances under the scheme are routed through their rural and semi-urban branches.

Statement II

Number of Loan Applications Sanctioned under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Loan Applications Sanctioned		
		March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28199	26309	23355
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	405	269	205
3.	Assam	10798	9355	9411
4.	Bihar	18227	14071	10672
5.	Goa	453	313	367
6.	Gujarat	9930	8223	11180
7.	Haryana	8220	6202	7783

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2393	2341	2311
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1898	2882	1458
10.	Karnataka	15873	17283	16868
11.	Kerala	14747	13829	15946
12.	Madhya Pradesh	32003	30910	29896
13.	Maharashtra	37147	38845	35910
14.	Manipur	2041	832	813
15.	Meghalaya	419	456	359
16.	Mizoram	217	286	160
17.	Nagaland	436	403	165
18.	NCT of Delhi	1132	996	665
19.	Orissa	7563	7962	8324
20.	Punjab	9325	9354	9529
21.	Rajasthan	10407	12779	13726
22.	Sikkim	110	87	87
23.	Tamil Nadu	16379	15383	15136
24.	Tripura	1611	549	939
25.	Uttar Pradesh	34217	37798	42667
26.	West Bengal	6850	5103	3551
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	45	70	94

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Chandigarh	150	168	103
29.	Dadra & Nager Haveli	140	75	37
30.	Daman & Diu	27	23	25
31.	Lakshadweep	36	47	33
32.	Pondicherry	352	420	425
All India		271768	263623	262206

Statement III

Number of Families Assisted under the Scheme of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Families Assisted		
		March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	203135	162117	140880
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10695	12799	12432
3.	Assam	23062	39585	47264
4.	Bihar	24106	196685	176213
5.	Goa	1982	897	895
6.	Gujarat	47545	41822	39598
7.	Haryana	17202	10853	16743
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7990	5548	7331
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7929	13643	13992

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	116900	94688	88007
11.	Kerala	48690	44191	39836
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16823	138810	126617
13.	Maharashtra	161018	147640	145667
14.	Manipur	7256	4258	1638
15.	Meghalaya	6822	5167	4219
16.	Mizoram	3059	2876	3138
17.	Nagaland	2915	835	3502
18.	NCT of Delhi	0	0	0
19.	Orissa	91249	75343	105008
20.	Punjab	7160	6107	10357
21.	Rajasthan	70304	60819	62922
22.	Sikkim	1483	1792	1937
23.	Tamil Nadu	152597	180696	142813
24.	Tripura	13725	4911	18816
25.	Uttar Pradesh	364552	351146	391832
26.	West Bengal	110280	91733	71134
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	591	628	604
28.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	168	179	119
30.	Daman & Diu	178	188	71
31.	Lakshadweep	30	27	9
32.	Pondicherry	1293	1107	1317
All India		1888959	1697090	1674911

Statement IV

Number of Loan Applications Sanctioned under the Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) during the last two years

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Loan Applications Sanctioned	
		March 1998	March 1999
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	637
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	0	36
4.	Bihar	7	331
5.	Goa	0	26
6.	Gujarat	230	2845
7.	Haryana	0	429
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10	26
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1392
10.	Karnataka	0	150
11.	Kerala	4	78
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1558	27403
13.	Maharashtra	73	3842
14.	Manipur	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0

1	2	3	4
16.	Mizoram	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0
18.	NCT of Delhi	0	0
19.	Orissa	0	1837
20.	Punjab	9	188
21.	Rajasthan	166	3762
22.	Sikkim	0	16
23.	Tamil Nadu	33	101
24.	Tripura	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	12	29452
26.	West Bengal	0	269
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	1
28.	Chandigarh	0	13
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	1
30.	Daman & Diu	0	12
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	93
All India		2105	73270

Statement V

Number of Loan Applications Sanctioned under Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS) during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Loan Applications Sanctioned		
		March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	643	646	408
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	61	148	46
4.	Bihar	126	42	17
5.	Goa	0	2	0
6.	Gujarat	1464	953	1246
7.	Haryana	1228	1246	1120
8.	Himachal Pradesh	179	157	68
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	71	40	1
10.	Karnataka	1355	1336	782
11.	Kerala	5	6	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4671	3731	3390
13.	Maharashtra	1705	1153	1225
14.	Manipur	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	27	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	NCT of Delhi	1206	570	380
19.	Orissa	881	1127	479

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Punjab	513	307	197
21.	Rajasthan	3329	1956	944
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	3482	3562	1754
24.	Tripura	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	38048	14263	8406
26.	West Bengal	115	138	78
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
28.	Chandigarh	0	0	13
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
30.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	1
	All India	59082	31410	20455

Statement VI

Disbursement made under the Scheme of Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) during the last three years till March, 1997 (latest available State-wise)

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Loan Applications Sanctioned		
		March 1995	March 1996	March 1997
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79994	39270	20518
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	40	48
3.	Assam	935	1477	1342

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Bihar	11056	4368	6074
5.	Goa	1018	627	686
6.	Gujarat	2079	1253	7069
7.	Haryana	2186	2144	3783
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2371	3678	1114
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	294	304	84
10.	Karnataka	16558	14994	8406
11.	Kerala	23214	11835	16691
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4112	7174	3963
13.	Maharashtra	25818	35666	36730
14.	Manipur	127	257	70
15.	Meghalaya	54	193	148
16.	Mizoram	15	52	243
17.	Nagaland	126	344	155
18.	NCT of Delhi	2758	3164	4053
19.	Orissa	3942	12730	5425
20.	Punjab	3982	3474	4001
21.	Rajasthan	2939	2278	3088
22.	Sikkim	26	32	24
23.	Tamil Nadu	30517	22455	14123
24.	Tripura	39	119	46

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Uttar Pradesh	10227	6953	8451
26.	West Bengal	3016	2042	8942
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	146	62	643
28.	Chandigarh	114	746	251
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
30.	Daman & Diu	0	26	97
31.	Lakshadweep	34	41	20
32.	Pondicherry	340	455	263
All India		228049	178253	156561

EXIM Policy

956. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modified EXIM policy is focussed on reducing transaction cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this policy provide level playing field for Indian exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) "Government has initiated various measures to increase the competitiveness of Indian exports and to reduce the transactional cost and time with a view to providing level playing field to Indian exporters. These measures include extension of zero duty EPCG scheme to textile sector and certain sub sectors of chemicals; exemption of additional customs duty under zero duty EPCG scheme for marine and software sectors; introduction of Annual Advance Licence scheme; rationalisation of EOU/EPZ scheme; recognition for export of services; decentralisation of decision making and automaticity in timebound disposal of various categories of applications. With the objective of reducing interface between exporters and Government agencies, the offices are being computerised.

The Policy, on the whole, is aimed at neutralising some of the disadvantages faced by Indian exporters.

Outstanding Guarantees of States

957. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outstanding guarantees of the States have increased at an annual compound growth of 12%;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the outstanding guarantees of each state during the last three years; and

(c) the details of parameters for fixing a ceiling on guarantees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) to (c) Under Article 293 of the Constitution, the States are competent to extend guarantees within the limits prescribed by respective State Legislatures. The Central Government is not directly concerned with monitoring of State guarantees. According to information available with the Reserve Bank of India, the Outstanding guarantees of the States increased from Rs. 40318 crores at end March 1992 to Rs. 79625 crores at end September, 1998, representing a compound rate of growth of 12.01% per annum. Central Government has not prescribed any parameters for fixing a ceiling on State guarantees.

Pay Scales of Bank Employees

958. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revision of pay scales of bank employees are pending before the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for a long time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the pay scales are likely to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) to (c) Wage settlement in banking industry is done through the process of negotiations between Indian Banks' Association (IBA), representing the banks' management, and representatives of workmen unions/officers' associations. After extensive deliberations, the United Forum of Bank Unions comprising of nine workmen unions/officers' associations and Indian Banks' Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 11.3.99 wherein both the parties have agreed for a wage settlement involving an increase of 12.25% of the base level wages as on 31.3.97 inclusive of the cost of superannuation benefits. The settlement is to be effective from 1.11.97. Negotiations are still going on between IBA and unions/associations to work out the modalities of implementation of this MoU including sharing of cost of pension, merger of Dearness Allowance, construction of new pay scales etc.

Blocking of Loans by International Financial Institutions

959. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of developmental growth has come down to 5.8 percent due to blocking of loans by International Financial Institutions;

(b) whether in 1998 World Bank loan to India was to the tune of \$210 as against \$105 in June, 1999; and

(c) if so, the steps being planned by the Government to complete the developmental jobs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) No, Sir. As per the data released by Central Statistical Organization the overall growth measured by increase in GDP at factor cost at constant (1993-94) prices increased from 5% in 1997-98 to 6% in 1998-99.

(b) No, Sir. In Bank FY 1999 the commitments for new World Bank aided projects was US\$ 1053.80 million as against US\$ 2139.40 million in FY 1998. However, the disbursements during Indian FY 1998 and FY 1999 were US\$ 1339 million and US\$ 1441.76 million respectively, since disbursements in respect of already approved loans continue. Therefore, these projects will continue to be implemented.

(c) As per the 9th plan document total net external assistance provides only 7% of the total plan investment and hence the problem is manageable.

[Translation]

Plight of Handloom Weavers

960. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of the handloom weavers in the country, particularly in Bihar where they are committing suicide due to extreme poverty;

(b) if so, the number of cases of suicide by the weavers have been reported during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision for formulating/implementing any concrete steps to overcome the difficulties of the handloom weavers in the country; and

(d) the number of workers in the textile industry rendered jobless during the last three years and the number out of those who are at the verge of starvation due to implementation of new economic policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government of Bihar has reported that they have no information of any incidence of suicide by handloom weavers because of extreme poverty. Government of India has also not received any report of suicide due to poverty among handloom weavers in any other part of the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India is providing assistance to States for implementation of developmental schemes through State Government for the overall development of handloom industry and the welfare of handloom weavers in the country including Bihar.

(d) During the end of year 1997-98, about 70,000 handloom weavers were engaged in the production of janata cloth in the country. Government has taken a decision earlier to discontinue the scheme by the end of VIII Plan. For an easy switch over from the production of janata cloth to non janata cloth, Government of India has taken a number of measures to give assistance to develop infrastructure to strengthen coop. Societies and to upgrade the skill of weavers by providing training through various schemes and also to strengthen the financial conditions of the coop. Societies by strengthening their equity base through package-II of janata cloth scheme.

[English]

North Korean Ship

961. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the customs authorities in Gujarat detailed a North Korean ship at Kandla in the month of June/July, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of documents/machinery parts etc., seized by the customs authorities;

(c) whether the Government are aware that several important defence/missile related machineries are being smuggled to Pak through that ship; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One hundred forty eight (148) Boxes said to contain "Machines and Water refining equipment", but which on detailed examination with the help of experts, were found to be various parts and components of missiles including machines for making missiles, hand written note books, printed text books, printing design and blue prints of missiles etc. were seized on 11.7.1999, under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 read with provisions of the Arms Act, 1959. The vessel "Ku Wol San" was also subsequently seized.

(c) and (d) There is no categorical evidence available with the Government to establish that several important defence/missile related machines/components/documents found on board the aforesaid Vessel were being carried for smuggling to Pak. As per the import manifest filed by

the Steamer Agents of the aforesaid North Korean Ship, the goods were consigned to M/s. Malta Economic Joint Corporation, Malta. However, secret information received before detention of the vessel had indicated that the wooden boxes apparently meant for Malta contained arms & ammunitions, meant for unloading at Karachi port. On detention of the vessel and detailed examination, the goods as mentioned above were found and the same were seized alongwith the ship. After detailed investigations, Show-Cause-Notices have since been issued to the concerned persons under the Customs Act, 1962.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises

962. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for disinvestment of public sector enterprises;

(b) the number and details of public sector enterprises where disinvestment is proposed to be undertaken;

(c) the time by which the disinvestment of public sector enterprises is likely to be completed;

(d) the amount of money estimated to be collected through disinvestment; and

(e) the manner in which the money is proposed to be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) Disinvestment in public sector enterprises is being done on the basis of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

(b) and (c) So far, the Commission has submitted 12 reports covering 58 Public Sector Enterprises. In these reports, the Commission has recommended trade sale in 8 PSEs, offer of shares through capital market in 5 PSEs, strategic sale in various proportions in 28 PSEs, closure/sale of assets in 5 PSEs and in 12 PSEs it has recommended no disinvestment for the present. These recommendations are at various stages of implementation.

(d) No such estimate has been prepared for the entire process of disinvestment.

(e) The money would be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.

1206 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Coal for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 235/99]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Copper Limited and the Ministry of Steel and Mines, Department of Mines, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 236/99]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98; together with Audited Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 237/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith the Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi for the year 1998-99

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 238/99]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith the Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool and Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 239/99]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 526(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 1999 directing that the commodities specified therein shall be packed in jute packaging material, for supply or distribution with effect from 1st July, 1999, issued under section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 240/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 241/99]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 242/99]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Instrument Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 243/99]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Andrew Yule and Company Limited and the Ministry of Industry, Department of Heavy Industry for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 244/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961:—
- (i) The Income-Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 352(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 1999.
- (ii) The Income-Tax (10th Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 395(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1999.
- (iii) The Income-Tax (Twenty-first Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 499(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999.

- (iv) The Income-Tax (Twenty-seventh Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 543 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1999.

- (v) The Income-Tax (Twenty-eighth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 737(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 1999.

- (vi) S.O. 242(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1999 specifying the areas under Urban agglomeration.

- (vii) S.O. 243(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1999 specifying the immovable properties mentioned therein in 19 cities used for residential and commercial purposes.

- (viii) S.O. 473 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 1999 specifying class of persons mentioned therein as applicants for Authority for Advance Rulings.

- (ix) S.O. 773 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 1999 specifying the cost inflation index for the financial year 1999-2000 and to make certain Amendments in Notification No. S.O. 709 (E) dated the 20th August, 1998.

- (x) S.O. 89 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1999 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 919 (E) dated the 22nd October, 1998.

- (xi) S.O. 90 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 1999 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 920 (E) dated the 22nd October, 1998.

- (xii) S.O. 328 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 1999 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 920 (E) dated the 22nd October, 1998.

- (xiii) S.O. 793 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1999 containing corrigendum to Notification No. S.O. 773 (E) dated the 20th September, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 245/99]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 763(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeks to impose provisional anti-dumping duty under Customs Tariff Act, 1975 on Nylon Tyre Cord Fabric when originating in or exported from South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Taiwan at the rates specified therein.
- (ii) G.S.R. 773(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeks to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Acrylic Fibre when originating in or exported from Turkey at the rates specified therein.
- (iii) G.S.R. 776(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeks to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on barium carbonate, originating in or exported from PR of China, when exported by specified exporters, at a rate specified therein.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 246/99]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:—

- (i) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Officers) Second Amendment Scheme, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 729(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998.
- (ii) The General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Development Staff) Amendment Scheme, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 730(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998.
- (iii) the General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay scales and Other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Second Amendment Scheme, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 731(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 247/99]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:—

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class-I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 530 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 531 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998 together with corrigendum thereto in English version only published in Notification No. G.S.R. 128 (E) dated the 22nd February, 1999.
- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class-III and Class-IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) Second Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 532 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 248/99]

(5) A copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Recruitment of Apprentice Development Officers) Regulations, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 53 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 1999 under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Life Insurance Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 249/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 250/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-I and II) for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council, and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-I and II), for the year 1997-98.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 251/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Leather Exports, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Leather Exports, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 252/99]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English verions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 253/99]

- (8) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MMTC Limited and the Ministry of Commerce, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 254/99]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Tea Waste (Control) Amendment Order, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 763(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 1998 issued under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 255/99]

- (10) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1086 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 1999 making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 287(E) dated the 4th April, 1999.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 256/99]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 257/99]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL), Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL), Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 258/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Dr. Raman, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities (Act, 1955:—
- (i) S.O. 490(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 1999 notifying the Three Star Paper Mills Limited, Uttar Pradesh as a mill producing Newsprint.
 - (ii) S.O. 491(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 1999 notifying the Chandpur Enterprises Limited, Noorpur Road, Chandpur, Uttar Pradesh as a mill producing Newsprint.
 - (iii) S.O. 764(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 1999 notifying the Coastal Papers Limited Andhra Pradesh as a mill producing Newsprint.
 - (iv) S.O. 1026(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1999 notifying the Vishnupriya Paper Mill Private Limited, Tamil Nadu as a mill producing Newsprint.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 259/99]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 160 of the Patents Act, 1970:—
- (i) The Patents (Amendment) Rule, 1999 published in Notifications No. S.O. 411(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1999.
 - (ii) The Patents (Second Amendment) Rule, 1999 published in Notifications No. S.O. 1148 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 260/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 408(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1999 seeking to amend the Notification No. S.O. 557(E) dated 26th July, 1996, issued under Section 3 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 261/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993:—
- (i) The Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal, Mumbai, (Group C and D Posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 10 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 67 dated the 13th March, 1999.
 - (ii) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Calcutta, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 11 dated the 9th January, 1999.
 - (iii) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Ahmedabad, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 12 Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 68 dated the 13th March, 1999.
 - (iv) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1978 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 13 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999.
 - (v) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 14 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 69 date the 13th March, 1999.

- (vi) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Chennai, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 15 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999.
- (vii) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Guwahati, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 16 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999.
- (viii) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Patna, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 17 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 70 dated 13th March, 1999.
- (ix) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Mumbai, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 18 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 71 dated the 13th March, 1999.
- (x) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 19 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 72 dated 13th March, 1999.
- (xi) The Debts Recovery Tribunal, Delhi, (Group C and D posts) (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 20 in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 1999, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 73 dated 13th March, 1999.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 262/99]
- (2) A copy of the Consolidated Report on the working of Public Sector Banks for the year ended for the year 31st March, 1998 (Hindi and English versions).
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 263/99]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.
- (iii) Statistical Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Annual Report of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 264/99]
- (4) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Bank for the year ended on the 31st March, 1999, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—
- (i) Koraput Panchabati Gramya Bank, Jaypore (Orissa)
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 265/99]
- (ii) Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank, Golaghat (Assam)
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 266/99]
- (iii) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala (Tripura)
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 267/99]
- (iv) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane (Maharashtra)
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 268/99]
- (v) Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank, Aurangabad (Maharashtra)
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 269/99]
- (vi) Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia, Shillong (Meghalaya)
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 270/99]
- (vii) Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Daltangang (Bihar)
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 271/99]

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| (viii) Ellaquai Dehati Bank, Srinagar (J&K)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 272/99] | (xx) Cuttack Gramya Bank, Cuttack (Orissa)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 284/99] |
| (ix) Kanakadurga Grameena Bank, Gudivada (Andhra Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 273/99] | (xxi) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore (Andhra Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 285/99] |
| (x) Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Khargone (Madhya Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 274/99] | (xxii) Vallailar Grama Bank, Cuddalore (Tamil Nadu)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 286/99] |
| (xi) Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bikaner (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 275/99] | (xxiii) Nadia Gramin Bank, Krishnagar (W.B.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 287/99] |
| (xii) Jaipur Nagaur Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Jaipur (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 276/99] | (xxiv) Rajgarh Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sehore (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 288/99] |
| (xiii) Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Giridih (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 277/99] | (xxv) Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Etawah (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 289/99] |
| (xiv) Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 278/99] | (xxvi) Surendranagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank, Surendranagar (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 290/99] |
| (xv) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 279/99] | (xxvii) Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank Bolangir (Orissa)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 291/99] |
| (xvi) Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 280/99] | (xxviii) Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank, Karimnagar (Andhra Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 292/99] |
| (xvii) Alaknanda Gramin Bank, Pauri (Garhwal), (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 281/99] | (xxix) Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhagalpur (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 293/99] |
| (xviii) Indore Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 282/99] | (xxx) Sravasthi Gramin Bank, Baharich (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 294/99] |
| (xix) Marwar Gramin Bank, Pali, Marwar (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 283/99] | (xxxi) Kashi Gramin Bank, Varanasi (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 295/99] |
| | (xxxii) Raebareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raebareilly (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 296/99] |

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| (xxxiii) Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Tikamgarh (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 297/99] | (xlvi) Alwar Bharatpur Anchalik Gramin Bank,
Bharatpur (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 310/99] |
| (xxxiv) Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gramin Bank,
Chandrapur (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 298/99] | (xlvii) Godavari Grameena Bank, Rajahmundry
(A.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 311/99] |
| (xxxv) Pratapgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Pratapgarh (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 299/99] | (xlviii) Junagadh Amreli Gramin bank, Junagarh
(Gujarat)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 312/99] |
| (xxxvi) Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin
Bank, Gorakhpur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 300/99] | (xlix) Bhilwara Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Bhilwara (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 313/99] |
| (xxxvii) Kutch Gramin Bank, Bhuj (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 301/99] | (l) Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Mandla (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 314/99] |
| (xxxviii) Magadh Gramin Bank, Gaya (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 302/99] | (li) Bareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bareilly
(U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 315/99] |
| (xxxix) Chhindwara Sioni Kshetriya Gramin
Bank, Chhindwara (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 303/99] | (lii) Dewas Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Ballia (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 316/99] |
| (xl) Bhagirath Gramin Bank, Sitapur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 304/99] | (liii) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia
(U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 317/99] |
| (xli) Puri Gramya Bank, Puri (Orissa)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 305/99] | (liv) Cauvery Grameena Bank, Mysore
(Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 318/99] |
| (xlii) Netravati Grameena Bank, Mangalore
(Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 306/99] | (lv) Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin
Bank, Gurdaspur (Punjab)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 319/99] |
| (xliii) Akola Gramin bank, Akola
(Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 307/99] | (lvi) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Ambikapur (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 320/99] |
| (xliv) Subansiri Gaonlia Bank, North
Lakhimpur (Assam)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 308/99] | (lvii) Kshetriya Gramin Bank Hoshangabad,
Hoshangabad (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 321/99] |
| (xlv) Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Azamgarh (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 309/99] | (lviii) Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Hoshiarpur (Punjab)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 322/99] |

- (lix) Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Diphu (Assam)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 323/99]
- (lx) Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank, Dehra Dun (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 324/99]
- (lxi) Solapur Gramin Bank, Solapur (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 325/99]
- (lxii) Hindon Gramin Bank, Ghaziabad (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 326/99]
- (lxiii) Shekhawati Gramin Bank, Sikar (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 327/99]
- (lxiv) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu (J&K)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 328/99]
- (lxv) Sri Saraswathi Grameena Bank, Adilabad (Andhra Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 329/99]
- (lxvi) Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank, Kalahandi (Orissa)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 330/99]
- (lxvii) Nagarjuna Grameena Bank, Khammam (Andhra Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 331/99]
- (lxviii) Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Madhubani (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 332/99]
- (lxix) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi (H.P.)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 333/99]
- (lxx) Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank, Dumka (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 334/99]
- (lxxi) Muzaffarnagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 335/99]
- (lxxii) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gonda (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 336/99]
- (lxxiii) Marathwada Gramin bank, Nanded (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 337/99]
- (lxxiv) Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 338/99]
- (lxxv) Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhiwani (Haryana)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 339/99]
- (lxxvi) Buldhana Gramin Bank, Buldhana (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 340/99]
- (lxxvii) Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gopalganj (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 341/99]
- (lxxviii) Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Fatehpur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 342/99]
- (lxxix) Yavatmal Gramin Bank, Yavatmal (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 343/99]
- (lxxx) Faridkot Bathinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bathinda (Punjab)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 344/99]
- (lxxxi) Golconda Grameena Bank, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 345/99]
- (lxxxii) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Rajnandgaon (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 346/99]

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| (lxxxiii) Vidisha Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Vidisha (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 347/99] | (xcv) Balasore Gramya Bank, Balasore
(Orissa)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 359/99] |
| (lxxxiv) Banaskantha Mehsana Gramin Bank,
Patan (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 348/99] | (xcvi) Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank, Mandya
(M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 360/99] |
| (lxxxv) Champaran Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Motihari (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 349/99] | (xcvii) Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Monghyr (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 361/99] |
| (lxxxvi) Mallabhum Gramin Bank, Bankura
(W.B.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 350/99] | (xcviii) Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 362/99] |
| (lxxxvii) Krishna Grameena Bank, Bellary
(Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 351/99] | (xcix) Kisan Gramin Bank, Budaun (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 363/99] |
| (lxxxviii) Tungabhadra Gramin Bank, Bellary
(Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 352/99] | (c) Damoh Panna Sagar Kshetriya Gramin
Bank, Damoh (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 364/99] |
| (lxxxix) Varoda Grameena Bank, Kumta
(Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 353/99] | (ci) Chitradugra Gramin Bank, Chitradugra
(Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 365/99] |
| (xc) Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chapra
(Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 354/99] | (cii) Sharda Gramin Bank, Satna, (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 366/99] |
| (xci) Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank,
Jamnagar (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 355/99] | (ciii) Sri Visakha Grameena Bank, Srikakulam
(A.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 367/99] |
| (xcii) Koshi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Purnea
(Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 356/99] | (civ) Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Cooch Behar (W.B.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 368/99] |
| (xciii) Etah Gramin Bank, Etah (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 357/99] | (cv) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal (Manipur)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 369/99] |
| (xciv) Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank,
Shahdol (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 358/99] | (cvi) Parvatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba, (H.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 370/99] |
| | (cvii) Nalanda Gramin Bank, Biharsharif,
(Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 371/99] |

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| <p>(cviii) Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Allahabad (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 372/99]</p> | <p>(cxx) Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hadoti (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 384/99]</p> |
| <p>(cix) Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Siwan (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 373/99]</p> | <p>(cxxi) Rayalaseema Grameena Bank, Cuddapah (A.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 385/99]</p> |
| <p>(cx) Kolar Gramin Bank, Kolar (Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 374/99]</p> | <p>(cxxii) Vindhyavasini Gramin Bank, Mirzapur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 386/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxi) Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Faizabad (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 375/99]</p> | <p>(cxxiii) Manjira Grameena Bank, Sangareddy, (A.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 387/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxii) Jhabua Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhabua (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 376/99]</p> | <p>(cxxiv) Gwalior Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Datia (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 388/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxiii) Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Churu (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 377/99]</p> | <p>(cxxv) Sri Ganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sri Ganganagar (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 389/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxiv) Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pithoragarh (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 378/99]</p> | <p>(cxxvi) Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hissar (Haryana)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 390/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxv) Rushikullya Gramya Bank, Berhampur (Orissa)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 379/99]</p> | <p>(cxxvii) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Mallapuram (Kerala)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 391/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxvi) Bundi Chittorgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bundi (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 380/99]</p> | <p>(cxxviii) Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kanpur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 392/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxvii) Shahjahanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shahjahanpur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 381/99]</p> | <p>(cxxix) Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Baster (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 393/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxviii) Malaprabha Grameena Bank, Dharwad (Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 382/99]</p> | <p>(cxxx) Gurgaon Gramin Bank, Gurgaon (Haryana)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 394/99]</p> |
| <p>(cxix) Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank, Valsad (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 383/99]</p> | <p>(cxxxii) Barabanki Gramin Bank, Barabanki (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 395/99]</p> |

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| (cxxxii) Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Swai Madhopur (Rajasthan) | (cxliv) Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Narsinghpur (M.P.) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 396/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 408/99] |
| (cxxxiii) Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sultanpur (U.P.) | (cxlv) Kapurthala Firozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kapurthala (Punjab) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 397/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 409/99] |
| (cxxxiv) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal (Orissa) | (cxlvi) Ratlam Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandsaur (M.P.) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 398/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 410/99] |
| (cxxxv) Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur (Bihar) | (cxlvii) Kakathiya Grameena Bank, Hanamkonda (A.P.) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 399/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 411/99] |
| (cxxxvi) Nainital Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Nainital (U.P.) | (cxlviii) Cachar Gramin Bank, Silchar (Assam) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 400/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 412/99] |
| (cxxxvii) Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chaibasa (Bihar) | (cxlix) North Malabar Gramin Bank, Kannur (Kerala) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 401/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 413/99] |
| (cxxxviii) Dungarpur Banswara Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dungarpur (Rajasthan) | (cl) Chikmagalur Kodagu Grameena Bank, Chikmagalur (Karnataka) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 402/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 414/99] |
| (cxxxix) Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank, Himatnagar (Gujarat) | (cli) Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Begusarai (Bihar) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 403/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 415/99] |
| (cxl) Patliputra Gramin Bank, Patna (Bihar) | (clii) Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Morena (M.P.) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 404/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 416/99] |
| (cxli) Adhiyaman Grama Bank, Dharmapuri (TN) | (cliii) Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank, Godhra (Gujarat) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 405/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 417/99] |
| (cxlii) Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank, Ara (Gujarat) | (cliv) Avadh Gramin Bank, Lucknow (U.P.) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 406/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 418/99] |
| (cxliii) Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur (Karnataka) | (clv) Farrukhabad Gramin Bank, Farrukhabad (U.P.) |
| [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 407/99] | [Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT 419/99] |

- (clvi) Shri Venkateshara Grameena Bank, Chittor (A.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 420/99]
- (clvii) Bhandara Gramin Bank, Bhandara (Maharashtra)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 421/99]
- (clviii) Shivpuri Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shivpuri (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 422/99]
- (clix) Tulsi Gramin Bank, Banda (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 423/99]
- (clx) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur (Punjab)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 424/99]
- (clxi) Vidur Gramin Bank, Bijnor, (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 425/99]
- (clxii) Gomti Gramin Bank, Jaunpur (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 426/99]
- (clxiii) Sarayu Gramin Bank, Lakhimpur Kheri (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 427/99]
- (clxiv) Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Bharuch (Gujarat)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 428/99]
- (clxv) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 429/99]
- (clxvi) Baitarani Gramya Bank, Mayurbhanj (Orissa)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 430/99]
- (clxvii) Thar Anchalik Gramin Bank, Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 431/99]
- (clxviii) Sahyadri Gramin Bank, Shimoga (Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 432/99]
- (clxix) Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 433/99]
- (clxx) Mewar Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Udaipur (Rajasthan)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 434/99]
- (clxxi) Basti Gramin Bank, Basti (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 435/99]
- (clxxii) Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Darbhanga (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 436/99]
- (clxxiii) Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Samastipur (Bihar)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 437/99]
- (clxxiv) Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank, Rewa (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 438/99]
- (clxxv) Prathama Bank, Moradabad (U.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 439/99]
- (clxxvi) Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin Bank, Ambala (Haryana)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 440/99]
- (clxxvii) Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bilaspur (M.P.)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 441/99]
- (clxxviii) Sree Anantha Gramin Bank, Ananthapur (Andhra Pradesh)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 442/99]
- (clxxix) Bijapur Grameena Bank, Bijapur (Karnataka)
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 443/99]
- (clxxx) Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raigarh (M.P.)
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1210 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, 6th December, 1999 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:—
 - (a) The Notaries (Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (b) The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (c) The Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (d) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (e) The Administrators General (Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (f) The Trade Marks Bill, 1999
 - (g) The Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1999
 - (h) The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Bill, 1999
3. Discussion and voting on:—
 - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1999-2000
 - (b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1999-2000
4. Consideration and passing of the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Bill, 1999
5. Consideration and passing of the Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1999

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, I request that the following two subjects may be included for discussion in the next week's agenda:

1. Lack of adequate transportation facilities in more than fifty per cent rural areas of the country resulting in their inability to contribute in development work by joining the national mainstream and urges upon the Government to prepare and implement a time-bound programme to link all the villages of the country with metalled roads.
2. Growth of population in the country, especially in urban areas and urges upon the Government to take timely steps for providing sufficient infrastructure and housing facilities in high density population areas.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, my first submission is with regard to the killings which took place in Kerala recently which are incessantly taking place.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, it is a State Subject. It cannot be raised in this House. There is a State Government there ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, it is true that there is a State Government. There is total failure of law and order in the State.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, how can that be raised here?*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please complete your submission.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The State Government is doing nothing there.*(Interruptions)* There is constitutional breakdown on the part of the Government of Kerala.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, what is your submission?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, so many killings are taking place. The Government of India should interfere.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Sir, I gave a notice on this issue.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, it is a very serious matter.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Law and order is entirely a State subject. Shri Thomas, please understand.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, law and order is a State subject. It cannot be raised here ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, there has been a constitutional breakdown in the State. The Government of Kerala is responsible.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, you are a senior member. Please understand that.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, they are killing each other.(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Sir, they are State-sponsored killings. They are going on for the past two decades. (Interruptions) That is happening for the past two decades.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the Government of India should interfere.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, you are a senior member.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, three workers were murdered....(Interruptions) There the State Government is working arbitrarily....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somaiya, please take your seat.

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): Sir, the killings are going on continuously.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, it is a serious thing.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chennithala, please take your seat.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, there is a total constitutional breakdown of law and order on the part of the Government of Kerala which has not intervened yet.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, you are a senior member. Please understand. What is your second submission?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the Government should send forces from here. Recently *Yuva Morcha* persons were killed the other day. It is well-known.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please understand.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, they were B.J.P. workers. It is going on for decades.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, I gave a notice on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, what is your second submission?

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may please take their seats.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, yesterday also there was a mention. There is a constitutional breakdown there.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: The Government machinery has failed there.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the Government machinery has completely broken down. The Government of Kerala has not interfered. They have failed to take measures.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, what is your second submission?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I have given notice for two submissions. The first was...

MR. SPEAKER: That is over. What is your second submission?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Then, we will raise it in the 'Zero hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, I have given notice to raise this issue in the 'zero hour'.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He should not be allowed to raise it here.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, my second submission is a very sweet submission. That will not be objected by anybody. That is, that the prices of pineapple have come down from ten rupees to two rupees per kilogram and the farmers are in great hardship.(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Delkar, please take your seat.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Sir, ultimately you are using the rules against me. I want to raise an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not the way.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, on my second submission, there should not be any objection. It is a very sweet matter. It is regarding pineapple. Pineapple is grown in my constituency. The price of pineapple has come down from ten rupees to two rupees per kilogram. I submit humbly that this must be taken up in the next week's agenda for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Punnu Lal Mohale to speak next.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Delkar, yesterday also I told you, you must first know the procedure. You please take your seat. Now it is the stage of submissions and not 'zero hour'.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Sir, please allow me. I request you. You are not allowing me.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are unnecessarily disturbing the House. Please understand that.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Sir, I am not disturbing. I want justice.(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. I.A.S. Officers should be appointed in Public Sector Undertakings, Banks, Municipal Corporation, Municipal Councils, Mandis and provision of reservation should be enforced in appointment on the post of Magistrates, Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.
2. Sufficient funds should be deposited in the Insurance Fund by implementing Crop Insurance Scheme in all districts of Madhya Pradesh and in all states of India for the welfare of farmers.

[*English*]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda. In respect of item number one. I think that the words 'ISI activities' have been missing due to printing mistake or typing mistake. The items are:

- (1) Remedial steps being taken by Government to check the increasing terrorism and ISI activities in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, North-Eastern region and other States in the country.
- (2) Steps being taken by the Government to improve the living conditions of two lakh Indian citizens by exchange of Indian enclaves with Bangladeshi enclaves. The condition of Indian citizens in Indian enclaves surrounded by Bangladeshi enclaves is deteriorating day by day. Voting rights are not given to them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. In Uttar Pradesh adverse situations are arising before sugar industry. Therefore, there is a need on the part of the Government to take steps to provide special protection to the sugar industry.
2. In the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, the unemployment problem is arising due to less supply of electricity. The Government should take action by framing a policy in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (Periyakulam): Hon. Speaker Sir, I request that the following subject may be included for discussion in the next week's agenda:—

Cardamom, a precious commercial crop has great export potential and is capable of earning the much needed foreign exchange. Cardamom has been placed in the Open General Licence List. This has adversely affected the cardamom growers.

I appeal to the Centre to delete Cardamom for OGL category.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, again & again I raise very important matters but it is never included in the List of Business. Therefore, I request you to listen to my proposal carefully.

[*English*]

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would submit that this is one subject which I had raised during Eleventh Lok Sabha also—I was not there in the last Lok Sabha—and my motion was admitted under Rule 193 and in the meantime, the Lok Sabha was dissolved.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now you have got the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I request that the following two subjects may be included for discussion in the next week's agenda:—

1. To discuss steps to improve the standard of sports in the country, especially with reference to our preparation for the next Olympic Games scheduled to be held in Sydney next year.

This is one issue. Again Sir, the Olympic Games will be held and we will not get a single bronze medal and then, the whole House will feel ashamed.

MR. SPEAKER: Again, you are deviating from the subject.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I am telling you that this is one subject which brings shame to the nation. We must get prepared for these Games.

SHRI A.C. JOS: A separate discussion should be held on this subject.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Now, I come to my next submission which is also very important. Sir, I had moved a motion under Rule 193. This is one thing which should be considered because the Olympic Games are scheduled for next year and if we do not start preparing for the Olympic Games...

MR. SPEAKER: This is submission stage.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I just want to impress upon the Government the importance of it.

My second submission—it has already been raised and it is a duplication now—is:

2. To discuss the issue of population explosion and the need to take strong steps and initiative both at the Government level and the non-Government level to tackle the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: These are very good submissions.

Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): On this issue, there should be a full discussion because this is a very important issue.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, these two issues are of utmost importance.

MR. SPEAKER: I know that these are very important issues.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, I require your protection as far as these issues are concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: I am also convinced that these are very important issues.

Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The first subject raised by Shri Rudy is also very important. The Olympic Games are scheduled for next year and we should start preparing for them.

MR. SPEAKER: The time of the House is also very important. Please understand that.

Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. In order to solve the problems being faced by youth due to unemployment, the right to employment should be included in fundamental rights through constitutional amendment or discussion should be held for giving unemployment allowance.
2. Permission may be granted to have a discussion on construction of a high dam in Nepal after negotiation with Nepal in order to find the permanent solution of the problem of heavy loss of life and property in Sitamarhi district of Bihar as devastating flood and heavy rain cause severe damage to all the major roads, bridges and culverts in the district.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I request that the following two subjects may be included for discussion in the next week's agenda:—

1. There is increasing tension and deployment of Para-military forces in the campus of the Aligarh Muslim University. Events have led to attack on the Deputy Proctor and Students' Union have alleged that the administration is ignoring the sentiments of students. A statement is needed from the Government.

2. Haj Pilgrims complain about accommodation, high air fare, poor medical facilities, delay in flights etc. Government needs to make a statement on improvement in facilities for Haj Pilgrims.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, I would like to include the following two agendas in the next week's business:

1. Outcome of Seattle WTO Conference
2. Dilly-dallying progress of Purulia Pump Storage Mega Hydro Project.

1217 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Silk Board

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the 'Zero Hour'.

Shri Madhav Rao Scindia.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Sir, I have given a notice
....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I will come to you.

....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today is the World Disabled Day. So I am calling the name of Shri Jaipal Reddy first.

SHRI S. JAIFAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you. I wish to draw the attention of all sections of the House to an extremely non-partisan issue.

1218 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

We seem to forget that today, the 3rd December, is observed as the World Disabled Day. I may, by way of clarification, state that in all my legislative career for over three decades I have only spoken for the socially handicapped, namely, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the OBCs and women.

I believe, there is an imperative need to focus our attention on the physically handicapped also because they mostly belong to these socially handicapped sections. Our immunization programme and all other programmes pass these sections by. There is a need to appreciate the magnitude of the problem. There are sixty million disabled people in our country.

They constitute six per cent of our population. The disabled people in our country, perhaps, constitute 50 per cent of the disabled in the world. Way back in 1977 we adopted a legislation under which three per cent should be reserved in Government services for the disabled. This particular legislation has been more honoured in breach than in observance. In reality less than one per cent of people have been employed and that reservation in that legislation was confined only to C and D categories. In 1995 we passed another legislation, the Disability Act, which has been put in cold storage virtually.

Sir, our performance in the private corporate sector is even more dismal. In Germany, in the corporate sector, six per cent of jobs are reserved for the handicapped. There is a reservation provision for the handicapped in such countries as USA and Japan. In our own corporate sector, only 0.4 per cent have been accommodated. Sir, this is a House which comprises people elected directly by the people. Most of us come from rural areas. When we visit rural areas, we see thousands of physically handicapped people come up to us to make many representations. I am sure that the heart of every Member bleeds for the pathetic condition of these people.

What is more important is that we have been mute spectators to this pathetic spectacle. We have been helpless about the apathy shown by the Government, the private sector and the society to the condition of these people. Even in China, I discover that 17 per cent of the employable among the physically handicapped, who have been provided employment. Therefore, there is a need for all of us to focus our attention on this problem. I know that the Government is contemplating a National Disabled Trust Bill. I urge the House to get that Bill passed in the House in this Session itself. I am not setting much store by that because we as a nation have always been good at mouthing pious platitudes: we are not good at implementing them. I hope that this Trust will not be another exercise in tokenism. Be that as it may, we should pass the Bill with due urgency. I want the Government and all sides of the House to display necessary political will in this regard because the problem has now become a silent but stupendous national tragedy.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, the Government should give reply as to what happened to that Bill related to disabled persons. We should think over the sufferings of disabled person and the Government should immediately respond to it. The House wants to know as to what legislation this Government have for the disabled and why they are not bringing it forward? We fully agree with the views expressed by Shri Jaipal Reddy. This Government is also crippled like disabled person. It would be better if the Government registers its name in the list of disabled.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I associate with Shri S. Jaipal Reddy that the Government should bring forward the National Disabled Trust Bill. I urge upon the Government to bring the proposed legislation within a short time.*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you have already associated with him. This is not the way to behave. I will not allow you. Now I have given the floor to Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): I and my entire Party and all my colleagues also like to fully associate with the views of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy and fully endorse what Shri Basu Deb Acharia has also mentioned.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the most scandalous and the reckless import of wheat into this country between the months of May and September, 1999 under the garb of price stability and

that too at prices that were prevailing much higher than international price which is the standard of the highest proportion. This happened in spite of the alarming notes being submitted by the Agriculture Ministry and by the FCI and in spite of the fact that there were adequate buffer stocks available in the country, in spite of the fact that the FCI has said that there is no space in their godowns and in spite of the fact that the appraisal report of the Agriculture Ministry to the Cabinet was that there is going to be more than adequate procurement in the coming season. In spite of all this, the wheat imports went on for six months under pressure of lobbies. This is the suspicion that prevailed and the farmers were deprived of selling their produce at reasonable rates. Valuable foreign exchange in crores of rupees of this country was wasted and it points and indicates a collusion between Government and the middlemen. The whole file was delayed under pressure. We have a demand to make that we would like the names of all the parties who made the imports, who opened their LCs, to be laid on the Table of the House and we would like the House to go into this entire matter in all ramifications and in all aspects. A House Committee must be constituted. This is what we demand from Government and we would like the response from the Government on this. This is too serious a matter.*(Interruptions)* I want a response from the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can I compel the Government during Zero Hour? If the Government wants to give their reaction, they can. I cannot compel them.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We must have a response from the Government on this matter very soon. Government must take note of it.*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ministers are there and they are taking notes. Agriculture Minister is there. He has taken note of it.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Let the Government give an assurance that they will respond to this. We have demanded a House Committee....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): This is a very big scandal, these people should raise their voices....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on Point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. Order please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia has raised a matter during 'Zero Hour'. It is definitely an important matter. Ministers are here and they have taken note of it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Minister. If he wants to react, he can react.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Many hon. Members want to raise many other issues. they should also get a chance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We cannot sit down until the assurance comes. They have to react. ... (Interruptions) We must get a response from the Government on this. This is not fair. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, should we take the silence of the Government as an approval?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, we must have a response.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: the Chair cannot compel the Government to react. I have called Shri Mohan Delkar.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Sir, I am unable to make my submission because of this disturbance. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Joshi wants to react.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is in the House... (Interruptions) The Ministry of Agriculture has also played a major role in this... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is reacting and you are standing up.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: He will compromise if he gets something from that side. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you please listen to us also... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you not want him to react?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want him to react, you have to sit down. Please resume your seat.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the matter before the House is no doubt of a great importance. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you please listen to them also. These people will compromise... (Interruptions) Whether only those members will be heard who make hue and cry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nobody is lagging behind in this respect

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You please listen to his point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister is on his legs.

[English]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no doubt, the matter which has been raised in the House is of a great importance. At the same time, you are aware that this cannot be raised during the 'Zero Hour'... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Why can it not be raised?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: The matter can be raised. Let me complete. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Are they going to limit our power to raise matters in the House?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Shri Scindia is a very senior Member of this House. He is very well aware that an instant reply to such matters cannot be expected in the House. *...(Interruptions)* I would like to assure that this matter would be brought to the notice of the Minister concerned. In due course of time, if this issue is raised in the House in some other manner, the Minister concerned will respond to it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Where is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs? He has to respond. This should not be allowed. *...(Interruptions)* We should have a response on this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, we must have a reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri Mohan Delkar. Let me hear him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: They cannot get away like this. There will have to be some responsibility. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. The Congress and Bhartiya Janata Party will compromise in similar way as they have done on Insurance Bill and both have sold the country. Today, the world is observing 'Disabled Day' *...(Interruptions)* Today, there should have been discussion on problems of disabled people *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'. Shri Madhavrao Scindia raised an important matter. The Minister has already reacted saying that he would inform the Minister concerned. What else can I do? During 'Zero Hour', you cannot expect a statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We demanded a House Committee and he has to respond to this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is 'Zero Hour'; I cannot compel the Government. I have called Shri Mohan Delkar.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, they have to respond. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. There are a number of hon. Members who have given notices for raising matters during 'Zero Hour'. Please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. I have called Shri Mohan Delkar.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been deceived. A conspiracy has been hatched against me *...(Interruptions)* I belong to Dadra and Nagar Haveli which is a Union Territory. For the last one and a half years some officers of C.B.I. have been investigating a case in my constituency. I have nothing to do with that case. On 5.8.1999, some officers of C.B.I. hatched a conspiracy against me *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is going to respond. Please sit down.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some Questions have been raised here regarding import of wheat. I am not in a position to give immediate reply on it during Zero Hour and am also not capable to answer on this subject. Scindia Saheb and all other colleagues who have raised Questions know that during the era of liberalisation and after GATT Agreement *...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not fair. This is not fair. Let him complete, Shri Banatwalla. You have asked him to react. He is reacting. Now, you do not want him to react. Shri Buta Singh, please let him complete.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He is not allowing me to complete my point...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this? You wanted him to react. He is reacting and you are interrupting him. If you do so, I will ask the Minister not to react

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this was not the first time that wheat was imported during the tenure of this Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): You are an honest Minister and understand the interest of farmers. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You will allow me to complete my sentence or not?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas, please resume your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You said that being a Minister of Agriculture I should respond over it. Would you listen to my sentence fully or will do injustice with me? Today whatever situation has been arising in regard to import is the outcome of the policies of previous Governments. Can you restrict it today? This Government has simply imposed the import duty. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Government has decided to impose import duty on wheat to protect our farmers. It is true that the food stock is available in plenty but even then for protecting our interest, we have decided to impose this import duty. It is the decision of the Government only and you have provided the market access. You have provided the market after approaching

WTO. The day when you were signing the GATT Agreement at that time we were Questioning your decision, you were extremely anxious to sign it and you signed it too. It is the outcome of that only. You have provided the market, Government does not need to import. The traders do so. This is the outcome of your policies, It is the outcome of what you have done and is coming before you.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful that you have allowed me to speak over a very serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Sir, it is a serious matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision to impose import-duty on wheat has been taken by the Government...(*Interruptions*) Had you been concerned about the interest of the farmers, you would not have signed the GATT Agreement...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you as well as to Mr. Speaker for allowing me to speak on a serious matter. I want to raise a serious matter in the House and seek justice. I want to narrate a incident where the conspiracy was hatched against me and an effort was made to defame me. ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these people are not allowing me...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

...It is not fair.

[*Translation*]

This is a serious matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. My question relates to privilege motion. I would like to make a serious point. Conspiracy has been hatched against me. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Mohan Delkar.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Sir, I have been allowed to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Please let me speak first. You can speak afterwards.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members please remember it is Zero Hour. A number of hon. Members have given notices and they should also be given a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a serious point. Some Officers of CBI have hatched a conspiracy against me and have levelled some serious charges against me. They have used highly defamatory language against me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is not being allowed to have his say. These people have exploited the country. They have caused grievous loss to the country and now they are creating disturbance during Zero Hour thereby depriving a member to have his say.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to ask whether only these people have a right to speak. They are not allowing an hon'ble Member to tell about his sufferings. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that for the last 45 years they kept on exploiting the country by enacting laws and now they do not want to listen to others. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are involved in scams. They are not allowing us to listen to the point raised by an hon'ble Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): The Minister should come out with a statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala, please go to your seat. Please cooperate with the Chair. Many Members have given notices to raise certain important matters during 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: Sir, through you, I would like to say that they are not permitting the hon'ble Member to speak to this House. They do not want to listen to the hon'ble Member's point as to what atrocities have been committed on him and are interrupting his speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, you are the Chief Whip of your Party. Please cooperate. How can I conduct the House if everybody starts speaking?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today being the last day of the week, a number of Members have given notices. They are all important matters. So, please cooperate. The Government has already reacted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Minister. He has already responded.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they do not allow any other Member to speak during Zero Hour, then we will also not allow them to raise any issue during Zero Hour or on any other occasion. They are not letting the hon'ble Member to narrate his plight. They are trying to revolt during Zero Hour. He is a senior Member but still he is trying to deprive an hon'ble Member of speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): These members were involved in Urea Scam, Bofors scam and fodder scam.

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: These people are involved in scams. They have exploited the country. They have looted this country for 45 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At this rate, there will not be any 'Zero Hour' here after.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of a very important issue for the Zero Hour. The Congress Party does not have any facts in this regard. Hon'ble Minister has given an apt reply. Congress party represents people who are involved in various scams. They can stage a walk out if they want to do so but this is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What can I do? I have been appealing to the Members to resume their seats.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I have to raise a very important issue. I have to raise the issue regarding murder of a student leader and a lecturer. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (*Raiganj*): Why are you getting upset? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At this rate, there will not be any 'Zero Hour' hereafter. It will be very unfair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: They want to dispense with Zero Hour. Members of Opposition Parties can raise this matter under some Rule or under some other provision. This issue can be raised in some other form. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a conspiracy has been hatched against me.

[*English*]

I am mentally disturbed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, we have given notices of several important issues and we should be allowed to raise them.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had your chance. Let others also get their chance. May I request the hon. Members to please cooperate?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Members cannot compel the hon. Minister to say what they want him to.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: All we require is a response from the Minister. There must be a response from him. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (*Chhapra*): Sir, this matter is over and now hon'ble Member should be allowed to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, an hon'ble Member wants to raise privilege motion but they are not letting him speak. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Dasmunsi has not let us hear him.

[*English*]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Sir, I must be allowed to speak. This is not fair...(*Interruptions*) I am mentally disturbed. I cannot function as a Member of Parliament. The Chair should allow me to speak...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, Shri Jaipal Reddy raised a matter of great concern for the country. That is a very important issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: You can stage a walk out...(*Interruptions*) Except staging a walkout what else you want...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Under GATT these things can take place, if that is your view, I am sorry. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, I talked about the market access. ...(*Interruptions*)

1251 hrs.

At this Stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (*Ponnani*): Sir, I also join the walk out to protest against the Government attitude...(*Interruptions*)

1251¹/₂ hrs.

At this stage, Shri G.M. Banatwalla left the House

[*Translation*]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (*Jalore*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government has cheated the farmers and is now misleading the House in this regard...(*Interruptions*) At least the policy should be brought before the House ...(*Interruptions*) The scams should be brought to our notice ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also join the walk out in protest.

12.52 hrs.

Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh then left the House

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. I would like to raise a very serious issue in this House. CBI is the top most agency for fact finding and I have great regard for it. This House and the people of this country also have regard for it. I do not want to say anything against it but some junior officers of CBI have hatched conspiracy against me. They have used such a language against me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are speaking on a different subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Sir, let me speak on this subject. This is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Please listen to my point first. What you want to say can be said thereafter. ...*(Interruptions)* I will accept your ruling. ...*(Interruptions)* I want justice ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want action against anyone but I want inquiry into it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Delkar, You have given notice on a different subject. Your subject is: 'Murder of a tribal, Shri Radhya Tulji Uamli on 3.12.1999 in Dadra and Nagar Haveli'. You please speak on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: A conspiracy has been hatched against me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should speak on the subject on which notice has been given by you for Zero Hour.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: You can give your ruling afterwards...*(Interruptions)* Please let me speak first ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak on the subject on which notice has been given.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: I am speaking on the same subject...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The subject raised by you is under consideration with hon'ble Speaker. You cannot speak on that subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: I would like to speak on the privilege Motion moved by me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, you can speak now.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 1¹/₂ year ago a criminal incident occurred in my area. Some officers of the CBI were investigating it. I had no involvement in that case...*(Interruptions)* Accidentally Lok Sabha was dissolved and elections were announced. ...*(Interruptions)* And on 5.8.1999 some officers of CBI filed an affidavit. The language used in this affidavit says that I am the leader of the under world. I organise crime and illegal activities in the Union Territory. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am an independent M.P. and I have been elected to this House for the fifth time. Not a single FIR has been registered against me in the entire country. My father is a freedom fighter and the first Member of Parliament of our area elected after liberation.

My elder sister is the Chief Councillor of the apex body there. On the one hand no case has been registered against me but on the other hand some officers of the CBI are using defamatory language against me. I have resentment against CBI. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given a privilege motion.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: This is the top most fact finding agency of the country. People of this country and I myself have regard for it but the junior level officers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This notice is under consideration of the hon'ble Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: After the dissolution of Lok Sabha, some people of the administration did it against me. I am very much disturbed. I want justice from the Chair. You are my custodian. What mistake have I made? I have been elected for the fifth time in the Lok Sabha, and I am a representative of the people. The lower level bureaucracy has conspired against me. You should think as to how I will be able to discharge my duties in the House if some officers of the lower level of bureaucracy keep on defaming us by conspiring against us...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Delkar, please resume your seat. You have given a notice under Rule 222. It is under the consideration of the Speaker. He has already mentioned it yesterday. You are again raising the same matter. But the matter which you wanted to raise today during Zero Hour is different.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: I want a reply. I am mentally disturbed. How can I discharge my duties as a Member of Parliament? There are CBI charges against me. They should be withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Speaker has already said yesterday that it is under his consideration. Today you can talk about the matter for which you have given notice.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: There are some officers who have done so against me. I want that an inquiry should be conducted into it.(Interruptions) I have not asked you to take action against them.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The privilege issue is under the consideration of the Speaker.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has given the notice under the Rule and it should be handed over to the Privileges Committee...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am aware that the hon'ble Member has given the information under the rule 222.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: We want justice and sifting of truth from falsehood.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, has said that he will consider it.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The notice given by hon'ble Member should be entrusted to the Privileges Committee under the Rule so that the matter, could be examined.(Interruptions) It is a clear cut case of privilege.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. You know that it will be sent to the Privileges Committee only after it is considered and found worth by Mr. Speaker to be sent to the Privileges Committee. I am repeatedly saying the same to the hon'ble Member.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: It should be examined(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If the hon'ble Member wants to take the consent of the House, it should be given to him and the matter should be entrusted to the Privileges Committee...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: A privilege matter has been raised. The Chair has permitted the Member to make his submission. He is only requesting to make his submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already made his submission. Yesterday also he has made his submission. He was told yesterday by the Speaker that it is under consideration by him. He cannot again raise it today.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Whether such baseless charges will be levelled against any Member?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He was told in the House itself. Speaker has already mentioned it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: I have written a letter to the CBI Director one month back. I have sought his clarification in this matter. I have written to the CBI Director asking him to give me evidence and the material of the charges levelled against me by the Officer. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Delkar, you have to conclude now. I do not expect you to continue like this.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: The affidavit given by CBI is a public document which has defamed and tortured me. You must give me the consent. I want that an inquiry should be made into it and it should be examined by the Privileges Committee. I would like to tell you one thing that until I get justice, I will continue to seek justice everyday. I have been subjected to injustice. I am not raising my finger at any agency. There are some officers in CBI who in collusion with local people have conspired against me which should be exposed. Truth should be sifted from falsehood. Is it not my right to ask for an inquiry and investigation into it? Has any officer has so much liberty that he can level baseless allegations against anyone. Am I a underworld leader? There is not a single F.I.R. against me in the entire country. I have been elected to the House for the fifth successive time... (Interruptions) My father is a freedom fighter... (Interruptions) I will continue to raise this matter every day. If an officer can make such a case against me, you just think, as to what might happen to innocent people. How big a fraud is being committed against the people in regard to the crime which is being investigated. Innocent people might have been kept in lock up. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, what is the Government doing? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

1300 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

1406 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Six Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

TRIBUTES TO MAHATMA GANDHI AND SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI ON BEING UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED AS GIANTS OF THE MILLENNIUM

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, as the world contemplates the great figures of this millennium, which are passing into history, two outstanding personalities have been universally acknowledged as the giants of this millennium. It is a matter of great pride for our country that both these world-figures are Indian.

Mahatma Gandhi — the father of the nation — was a man, the like of whom adorn this earth once in centuries. He was an apostle of peace who is widely acknowledged as one of the architects of the 20th Century. His teachings of peace and non-violence serve us as beacons to this day. It is heartening to note that Mahatma Gandhi has been chosen by the *Asiaweek* magazine as the Asian of the Century. It is a great honour for the country.

In a BBC news online world poll, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who adorned this House for many years as Leader of the House and as Prime Minister, has been voted as 'the greatest woman of the millennium' ahead of other great historical figures. This is a rare achievement and is an honour for our country.

I would like to record the tribute of this House to the memory of these two great leaders of India.

1408 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Serious disease of mite endangering coconut cultivation in the Country

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Calling Attention by Shri P.C. Thomas will be taken up.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Where is the Minister? He is not here.

MR. SPEAKER: He is coming.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): You please take a note of it.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that he is coming.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an occasion for a reprimand from the Chair.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that he is coming. In the meantime, Shri Thomas, you can move it.

1410 hrs.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, we have no quarrel with the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not quarrel with the Minister.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: No Sir. He is a very honest person. The only thing that we want is that for the delay which has unknowingly caused, I think he will be benevolent to the coconut farmers in this regard.

I call the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of serious disease of mite endangering coconut cultivation in the country and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, the incidence of Coconut Mite was first reported in India from Emakulam district of Kerala in 1998. It is reported to be spreading to other neighbouring States, viz., Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Union Territory of Pondicherry. The mite infestation causes production extremely small sized nuts with surface warting and longitudinal fissures with immature fall. The infestation in Kerala has now spread to seven districts, viz. Alappuzha, Emakulam, Malappuram, Kottayam, Palakkad, Trichur and Trivandrum.

The infestation on severe scale was similarly reported from some parts of Tamil Nadu, especially Erode, Pollachi, Coimbatore, Dindigul, Virudhnagar. In Tamil Nadu, about 50 lakh coconut palms are reported to have been affected by this pest. Sporadic incidences of this pest are also reported from Karnataka and Pondicherry.

The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasargode have recommended root feeding of 10 ml. Monocrotophos and 10 ml. water at monthly intervals as a satisfactory control measure. Similarly, Kerala Agriculture University (KAU) has recommended spraying of Dicofol 6 ml./litre of water or two per cent neem oil plus two per cent garlic extract at monthly intervals. Government of Kerala are taking steps to adopt remedial/control measures through spraying as recommended by Kerala Agricultural University.

In view of the high cost of pesticides and difficulties in administering the pesticides for control of the pest, the scientists are now of the opinion that development of effective bio-control measures with natural enemies would offer an effective, cheap, eco-friendly and long lasting solution to the problem. The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has, therefore, approved a research project in this direction at a cost of Rs. 3 lakh to develop effective bio-control measures.

The Coconut Development Board has brought out booklets/brochures on mite and are extending assistance for training programmes. The awareness creation campaigns are continuing both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu where the pest incidence is reported to be very high.

On a request received in October 1998 from Government of Kerala for an assistance of Rs. 525 lakh for combating mite infestation in Coconut, the Coconut Development Board released an additional Rs. 96 lakh during 1998-99 to Government of Kerala for this purpose which have been revalidated recently for utilisation during the year 1999-2000. Further, under the project 'Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement', which include a component on plant protection, an outlay of Rs. 713.03 lakh has been sanctioned for Kerala for the year 1999-2000.

In this regard, a meeting was also taken by the Union Secretary of Agriculture & Cooperation with the scientists of CPCRI, KAU, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and officers of the CDB, Director of Agriculture/Horticulture of Governments, of Kerala and Tamil Nadu on 2nd September, 1999 at Kochi to discuss the problem of coconut mite in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

A Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Horticulture Commissioner with the representatives of States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as well as from the three Agricultural Universities, CPCRI, Kasargode, Project Directorate of Biological Control and All India Coordinated Project on "Mite" (ICAR) has been formed to review and coordinate the efforts in developing suitable control measures and management of the problem.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Government of Kerala have requested for a financial assistance of Rs. 100 crore in this regard. The matter is being examined.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem is so serious that India will be put to a great loss if this issue is not properly tackled at this stage. The estimated production of coconut is 130 billion nuts per year in 1.89 million hectares. This is 24.5 per cent of the world's production. The area of cultivation is about 15.5 per cent of the total area of cultivation in the world.

1416 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

India is heading on to be the first in the production and productivity of coconut. At this stage, this disease is going to be devastating. It is going to completely uproot this cultivation. It is of such a magnitude that it has to be very seriously dealt with. This has to be treated as a national calamity and action has to be taken by Government in this respect.

Sir, about 90 per cent of coconut plantation in Kerala is being affected. The statistics of the Department of Agriculture would show that 59 billion nuts are being produced in Kerala and the area of cultivation in 1.02 million hectares. About 10 million people in Kerala alone are engaged in coconut cultivation as labourers, farmers and other jobs connected thereto. About a sum of Rs. 7,000 crore is being given annually to the GDP and also about Rs. 366 crore by way of export of coir and other products of coconut.

Sir, this is not a problem of Kerala alone. About 70 per cent of the cultivation in Tamil Nadu is also going to be affected. Pollachi is the grey area and it has been affected to a very great extent. The statistics would show that 3,716 million nuts are being grown in 3,19,000 hectares of land in Tamil Nadu. In Karnataka—Shri Bangarappa is also going to say about this—about 50 per cent of the cultivation in Karnataka is estimated to be affected and 1,493 million nuts are being produced in Karnataka in 2,86,900 hectares of land. In Andhra Pradesh, 780 million nuts are being produced in 94,900 hectares of land.

I have the statistics of all the other States, West Bengal, Orissa, Goa, Tripura, Maharashtra, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. In Lakshadweep, I shall specifically say that about 28 million nuts are being produced in about 2,800 hectares. This is a very, very serious problem of high dimension. The Government of Kerala alone will not be able to tackle

this problem. The Government of Kerala has not succeeded in tackling this problems. I do not think, the Government of other States alone can do something in this regard. So, the Government of India has to come forward.

Coconut had been declared as an oilseed by the V.P. Singh Government. But, along with that the benefits of oilseeds were taken away. So, it is not treated as an oilseed now. It is being treated as a horticultural product. Therefore, it does not have the cover of the group insurance. The insurance cover, which the Government of India is providing through GIC or other agencies, is not there now. We have been very hastily passing the other concerned Bills. With regard to insurance, we are inviting foreign investment. The poor farmers cultivating coconuts in this country are not covered by insurance and no subsidy is also given by the Government of India.

Therefore, I want that some immediate action in this respect is taken to see how the farmers could be helped at this stage by providing proper insurance cover for each coconut tree which they are planting. This matter should receive very serious consideration of the Government. Then, assistance has to be given to the coconut farmers of all the concerned States by the Government of India. The hon. Minister has been good enough to speak out in the statement with regard to Rs. 96 lakh which has been spent or given by the Coconut Development Board, which is a pittance as far as the magnitude of the problem is concerned. I am sure the Government of Kerala which has taken a step by giving Rs. 3...*(Interruptions)*. The statement has said about Rs. 96 lakh. That is there. That is a very, very small amount in comparison to the magnitude of the situation and the great amount of contribution the coconut farmers are making to the nation. Therefore, I would submit that the very important aspect is that the Government of India should give good assistance to the farmers. The Government of Kerala is doing one thing now. They are giving Rs. 3 per affected tree which is a very, very small amount. At least Rs. 15 per tree is estimated to be the cost of giving treatment which has been mentioned in the statement. In the statement, it is said that some kind of medicines are applied. In Tamil Nadu, for example, one type of chemical is applied. In Kerala, as per the suggestion given by the Agricultural University, they are also giving one particular type of medicine. It is called Dycophil. They are giving that. That alone is not a solution to this problem.

I may also add at this stage that a proper remedy has not been found as yet. Therefore, it may be proper that the Minister himself visits the area concerned, especially, Kerala. Kerala has the largest cultivation. In Kerala 59 billion nuts are being produced. So, the Minister himself must visit not only Kerala but also the other

affected areas along with the high-ranking scientists of India who will be able to find out a solution to this problem which, the scientists say now, is not by giving any type of manure or medicine or insecticide but it may be by way of some organic, natural anti-insects which have to be produced.

This disease was first detected in Africa and Latin America where tea and coffee plantations were being affected. There, they have been successful in finding out some kind of anti-insects or organic insects, natural insects which are now fighting against them, which were able to successfully fight against the disease and they have overcome the problem. So, it may be necessary even to take the advice of scientists abroad also and to find out a proper solution to this problem immediately.

So, I would suggest also that apart from the immediate need for investigation by scientists, there may also be a need to help the farmers who have been already affected. Otherwise, they will stop the cultivation and they will not be able to sustain at all. So, I would suggest that immediately some amount per coconut, per tree, has to be given; and that amount should be calculated. The Government of Kerala has been pleased to ask for Rs. 100 crore which, I think, may be a very meagre amount because the magnitude of the situation is higher than that. I would submit that at least Rs. 50 per tree may be calculated so that some kind of assistance in this regard to the cultivators wherever they are, whether they are in Kerala, or in Tamil Nadu or in all the other States concerned, must be given and they must be allowed to sustain.

There is also a fear that this has come out of some underhand dealing by some agencies also. There is a fear like that. For example, some multinationals who are interested in bringing out their stuff like their soft drinks are doubted, suspected that they have also worked behind this by bringing the insects and formulating them here, and having done something to see that their business interests are safeguarded.

So that also may be inspected whether there is an underhand dealing by any of the multinational companies or others involved who want to give a thrust to their product at the cost of the coconut cultivators.

Some hon. member was saying here that coconut juice is very sweet which we are not making use of. (*Interruptions*). We are using Pepsi whereas in China, I understand from the information which I have received, the coconut milk—which we get in plenty—is being packed and used more. That is a very common drink which is used by the public there, not any other artificial drink which we find here. The sweet water which comes

out of our coconut is also something which has to be taken out and which has to be publicised and which has to be given a thrust industrially so that India can gain by that.

I am sorry that the Coconut Development Board which is a Board under the Government of India is not having any statutory power. Therefore, if we have to do something through the Coconut Development Board, then that Board also should be empowered and something should be done in this regard.

The Government of Kerala has suggested Dycophil. Dycophil is a chemical, but DDT is the major content. DDT is something which is recommended to be completely discarded. So, I would suggest that that also has to be looked into. The Dycophil medicine is supplied by Bayer and Company. I do not know whether this multinational company has come as a saviour. This also needs to be looked into.

Monocrotophos is being injected to the roots of coconut, especially in Tamil Nadu. This is also highly poisonous. Its consequences also have to be studied, otherwise it may affect not only coconut but other cultivators in India. But this is a matter to be taken very seriously in this regard.

Coconut farmers were also in so much of difficulty because they were not getting proper price. The price of coconut which was about Rs. 6/- had come down to Rs. 2/- or Rs. 3/-. They were in a difficult situation. So, the farmers must be helped by way of support for getting the proper price also.

The Ministry of Agriculture is concerned with declaring the minimum support price. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, you have to ask a clarificatory question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Since Shri Nitish Kumar has taken over the charge, I would suggest that, at least this time, the minimum support price which is going to be declared will be based on real cost of production and the cost of living of the farmers.

I was astonished to see an answer which I was given in Parliament a few years back mentioning that the cost of production of coconut cannot be correctly measured. Then, what is the use of minimum support price? So, the minimum support price which is being declared here is also not up to the standard and which has absolutely no relation to the real difficult situation which the farmer is facing and that is the cost of production. So, these things are to be taken into

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

consideration. The minimum support price has to be declared reasonably within a reasonable time and the farmer has to be assured that he gets the minimum support price.

Sir, I will be concluding as my other colleagues are also going to speak.

The only thing which I would pointedly ask is, what is the Central assistance which the Government of India can give to the farmers of India cultivating coconut, especially in Kerala where the maximum production is there?

My second pointed question is...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can ask only one question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Then I shall club it with the first question itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Club it or in whatever form you may ask, but you can ask only one question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, my question prior to the first question is...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, Shri Thomas. There are three or four other Members also to ask their questions.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am finishing, Sir.

So, Sir, my question is regarding (a) Central assistance; (b) Central team which is going to be sent, of course, led by the Minister; and (c) insurance cover or actual safeguards for the farmers so that they can continue with the cultivation of coconut. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am afraid, the Government has failed to fully realise the devastating gravity of the coconut mite problem. Consequently, there is, I am constrained to say, a criminal neglect of the entire problem on the hands of the Government. The entire Government machinery seems to be moving at a leisurely snail's pace. It is important that the Government gives up this procrastination, shake up and rise to the gravity of the situation. We have been told that not only Kerala but also Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Pondicherry have been affected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank God, not Lakshadweep.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: In the case of Kerala, look at the gravity of the situation that about five crore palms of about ten lakh farmers in Kerala have already

been affected. Then, in the statement, we are told that the disease starting from Emakulam has spread to seven districts. No, almost all the districts, particularly eleven districts, are very badly affected and newer and newer areas are being threatened. Therefore, the Government should give up its laxity in this particular problem.

The pitiable position of the farmers that are engaged in coconut cultivation, must be realised. They are small farmers and 95 per cent of them in Kerala have holdings less than one hectare in extent. I emphasise that immediate and massive intervention is necessary. There is already the root or the wilt disease and now we have this coconut mite. Combined, they threaten total extermination of coconut and irreparable damage to the agricultural economy.

The first instance of mites in coconuts was reported in 1998. If I refer to the Government of Kerala, it sought an assistance of Rs. 525 lakh at that particular time.

As against the assistance of Rs. 525 lakh sought, a meagre sum of Rs. 96 lakh was offered. Now, with the passage of time and as a result of this neglect, I would say and as a result of this failure to intervene imminently and massively, the devastating disease has spread. The Government of Kerala has now asked for at least Rs. 100 crore as only the Central share. The programme that they have is for Rs. 195 crore, which again, I am afraid, will not be sufficient. The Government of Kerala and the Local Bodies will raise Rs. 95 crore and the Central assistance is to be Rs. 100 crore.

Now, as I say, as against this, a pittance is being offered. Let the Government realise that the average cost of chemicals, cleaning and application charges come to about Rs. 13 per tree. If five crore palms are affected in Kerala and at least three rounds of spraying is needed for the purpose, then a simple calculation will tell you that the minimum amount that is needed is Rs. 195 crore. A sum of Rs. 95 crore will be met by the State Government and the Local Bodies. The Government of Kerala has, therefore, made a very reasonable and minimum demand for Rs. 100 crore as Central assistance. This question of dealing with the coconut mite brooks no delay. The delay will be costly. As I have pointed out this disease has been spreading while the Government has been sleeping. I say that the Central Government is moving at a snail's pace. We are told that even this demand of Rs. 100 crore is being examined.

[Translation]

I remember a couplet of Urdu-

"Hamne Mana ke Tagaful Na Karoge Lekin,
Khak Ho Jayenge hum Tumko khabar hone tak"

[English]

This is the situation.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): You should translate it into English.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: It means that we may be given to understand that you may not procrastinate; you may not delay. But by the time you rise and take action, we may be mixed with dust. That is the total extermination of the coconut. The agricultural economy is under threat.

I must, therefore, emphasise the need of expeditious decisions and they have to be taken as the coconut mite is on the spread. This pittance will not do. This pittance is not going to solve the problem and we will have to face very bad results of this pittance that is being offered.

Therefore, I must emphasise that in the case of every State, full assistance must be offered. The entire situation should be treated as a great national calamity.

I must say of the Coconut Board. We have also to come to the help of the farmers. They are in a pitiable condition and assistance will also have to be given, as has already been pointed out, to these farmers. I would like to know about some further things. The Coconut Board has asked for a research.

I told you about the leisurely manner in which we are proceeding and a sum of Rs. 3 lakh has been set aside for this research work, to meet the challenge put by this particular disease. Sir, let us know: When was the research project sanctioned? What is its present position? How long is it expected to take?

Sir, we are also told in your statement that when the Kerala Government approached you in the year 1998 for an assistance of Rs. 525 lakh, a pittance of Rs. 96 lakh was offered and released. Let us know when exactly was this amount of Rs. 96 lakh released. Let us also know whether this amount was fully utilised and if so, in what period of time. We are, in your statement, being told that this amount has been revalidated recently for utilisation during the year 1999-2000. What is the meaning of this? My English is rather poor. Therefore, I have to understand whether it means that a fresh amount of Rs. 525 lakh has been sanctioned and released for the year 1999-2000 or it means that the earlier amount though released was not utilised during that period and simply sanction is being given to utilise the earlier amount in the later years also.

Sir, I shall be glad if the pointed replies are given and we are assured, every State is assured of full assistance to meet this devastating pest that we are facing as far as the coconuts are concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, have you asked the question?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I thank you. I shall restart for your benefit.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking about clarificatory question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: My pointed questions are there and I hope that the Government will shake up its lethargy, rise to the occasion and move with all the speed and give full assistance to every State and every farmer that has been affected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kodikunnil Suresh.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, I have to catch flight.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I share the views expressed by my hon. colleagues. The coconut farmers in Kerala are bleeding and the State Government and the Central Government are fiddling. As rightly pointed out by our Hon. colleagues, the Governments—both the Central and the State are sleeping. They are not taking seriously the issues of the coconut farmers in our State.

Sir, in your statement, you have mentioned about the devastating incidence of coconut mite in a large area. Now, it has affected almost all the districts of Kerala. Now, it is slowly spreading to the other States also. It is spreading slowly to your State also, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, and also Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and other parts of the country. The poor coconut farmers are already facing a lot of problems. They are not getting remunerative prices and their products are not sold properly. At the same time, the cost of cultivation is going up. Alongwith that, now the incidence of coconut mite has created a very serious situation in our State.

The entire economy of Kerala is depending on the coconut farming.

Unfortunately, the Central Government and the State Government are taking this issue very casually. I do not want to go into the details of the coconut production in

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

our country. Kerala is one of the States which has contributed a lot in this sector. The ten crore farmers who are engaged in this sector are either marginal or poor farmers. Even though the Government has set up the Coconut Development Board, it is unfortunate to note that the farmers living in the villages are not getting any benefit from this Board. The non-functioning of the Coconut Board has created this situation in our State. They are not looking after the farmers; they are not giving any kind of incentives to these farmers.

The hon. Minister has mentioned about CSIR, and CPCRI, which was started in 1989. But till now, nothing has happened. The callous manner in which the Central Government has taken note of this is made clear when you find that three lakh rupees were earmarked for research and development purpose. Can we accept this? It was started in 1989, but till now, no attention has been paid to this problem. Thousands of coconut trees were affected by this disease, and thousands of coconut farmers are suffering because of it. With three lakh rupees which were earmarked for research and development, how can any institution carry out and sort of research and development work? Look at other countries and see how they have tackled this problem. When Latin America and Brazil faced this problem, their scientists came forward and tackled this problem effectively. Is there any dearth of scientists or institutions in our country? What are the CPCRI and CSIR doing? These institutions are accountable to this Parliament. They are sleeping and they are not taking it very seriously. How much money are we spending on these institutions? As Shri Banatwalla rightly pointed out earlier, the coconut farmers are facing this mite problem along with other problems. So, it is the duty of the CSIR as well as the CPCRI to take care of this issue seriously and find out some kind of a remedy for it.

The Kerala Agricultural University has also suggested that spraying is a very dangerous thing. Shri Thomas also pointed out that it is dangerous. My point is that the Central Government and the State Government have not taken this issue very seriously. The Central Government has not given proper guidance to our research and development institutions to tackle this issue. It is very important to note that this disease is spreading to other States also. So, what is the reason behind this callous attitude?

Sir, I want to mention emphatically that it is not mere callousness; there is a lobby working behind this. The oil lobby is very strong in our country, and they are working against the interest of the coconut cultivators in our country. It is not mere callousness or negligence. They are intentionally doing this to help the oil lobby in our

country, who are very powerful. Due to this oil lobby, we have suffered all these things. I also want to say that they are against the coconut farmers and coconut seed. They propagate that if we use coconut, then the cholesterol level will go up. But research and development says that it is absurd to say so. So, a particular lobby is influencing the people who are taking the decisions. So, my request to the hon. Minister, who is a young fellow, and we worked together for so many years in Parliament, is that he has to overcome this problem. He has to tighten or plug the loopholes.

He has to come forward and help the poor farmers of the State.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you ask the clarification.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I would like to mention that our State Government is also doing the same thing. When this disease cropped up, the State Government has not done anything. They are only sending representations to the Centre. Our Chief Minister has the habit of sending love letters to the Central Government. The Chief Minister never come to the Centre and ask for any assistance for our State. He would always write love letters to the Central Government and make statements. ...*(Interruptions)* Anyway, I do not want to politicise the issues.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chennithala, you are such a senior Member and you should know that you can ask only one question.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Yes Sir, I know I am a senior Member but I wanted to mention that when such an issue cropped upon the State of Kerala and it was having a devastating effect on our economy, the State Government did not do anything. They even did not represent the case properly to the Central Government.

Sir, my request to the hon. Minister for Agriculture is that proper allocation should be made for the State of Kerala. The hon. Minister has given some assistance which has been mentioned by him in his statement, but that is as a matter of routine allocation for purposes of coconut replantation and other things. But we want certain Central assistance to help the poor farmers in our State. That is the most important thing. I would like to know whether the Ministry of Agriculture is contemplating to provide proper assistance to the farmers who are suffering owing to the disease of the coconut trees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have just only clarification.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, secondly, my request is that I am not saying that the hon. Minister should visit the State of Kerala, of course, he is always welcome to the State but alongwith him the senior officers should also come to our State and proper directions should be issued to the institutions which are responsible for research and development work.

Sir, I think, these issues would have to be taken very very seriously and proper assistance should be given by the Central Government to the State and should also see to it that the assistance reaches the poor farmers of the State.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not like to go into the details of the subject. I fully agree with the views which have been expressed by my colleagues here.

Sir, as you know, coconut cultivation has a very major role to play in the economy of Kerala. Lakhs of people, many with small holdings, depend on coconut cultivation for their living. A new mite disease called the *mandari* has created a havoc in the State by destroying the coconut crop on a large scale in many of the districts in the State of Kerala. This is a mysterious disease and nobody has been able to find a correct remedy to this. The Agriculture Minister of the State has attributed the cause of the disease as the handiwork of the Mumbai oil lobby the hon. Minister for Agriculture of the Central Government has stated that this disease was noticed only ten months back but the Kerala Agricultural University has said that this disease was detected in September, 1997. This disease has added to the problems of the farmers of Kerala whose economy has already been shattered by the falling prices of rubber and other cash crops.

Sir, one thing is clear and that is, this disease is spreading very fast and farmers are in serious difficulty. I have four suggestions to make in this regard. First, the Centre should immediately send a team of experts to Kerala to study the situation and suggest immediate remedial measures. Second, the State alone is unable to handle the situation for want of funds and so, the Centre should extend necessary financial support to the State of Kerala for taking effective steps to improve the situation.

Hon. Agriculture Minister of Kerala requested the Central Government for Rs. 100 crore in this regard. We expect the hon. Union Minister of Agriculture to sanction this amount and make an announcement to this effect during his reply.

My third point is, farmers' crops are lost and they are in serious financial problem. Centre should evolve some scheme, in consultation with the State, to give financial support to the affected farmers. Fourthly, a detailed research should be conducted to save Kerala's coconut cultivation from total destruction. The root wilt disease has already done severe damage to the coconut cultivation in the State. This disease is also growing unchecked. Therefore, I request the Central Government to intervene immediately in this serious matter. I also request the Minister to convene a meeting of Agriculture Ministers of all the southern States to discuss this problem.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, the magnitude of this problem has already been effectively highlighted by my esteemed colleagues here. As you know, coconut is the backbone of the agricultural economy of Kerala. The name of the State Kerala itself is derived from the word *keran* which means coconut tree. No other tree in any other part of the world is so intimately interwoven with the lives and livelihood of the people as this tree in Kerala is. Each and every part of this tree is useful right from the root to its fruit. My humble request is that the Central Government should take this problem, which affects the entire economy of Kerala, seriously.

Sir, as you know already, this tree is affected by root wilt disease. This root wilt disease was first reported in 1882 i.e., some hundred years back. Till this day no proper remedy has been found. Now this pest called mite has affected almost eleven districts of Kerala, not seven as mentioned by some hon. Members. Coconut trees in eleven districts of Kerala are affected. It is spreading to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and also Andhra Pradesh. So, as my friend Shri Thomas has already stated, this should be treated as a national calamity. This pest affects the nuts and the nuts become small and wrinkled. As a result of this it is very difficult to de-husk them. Since it is difficult to de-husk the nuts, they are rejected in the market. If this disease continues like this, entire tree population in Kerala and all the farmers there will be affected. Ninety-five per cent of them are small farmers.

I understand that the Minister of Agriculture is coming to Kerala next month for a programme. He can very well take some scientists with him. Government of Kerala is doing its best in this regard. Several meetings were conducted, several conferences were held and some spraying of chemicals was done as suggested by scientists. Our colleague Shri Chennithala used this occasion for scoring political points. Government of Kerala within its limited means, is doing everything possible.

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

Perhaps our friend was thinking that every Government is like that of Orissa or every Chief Minister is like the Chief Minister of Orissa. It is not so. The only thing that Government of Kerala ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut): Sir, how can he bring the Chief Minister of Orissa into this? This is not correct.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I was only saying that this occasion should not be used to score political points.

15.00 hrs.

This occasion should not have been used for scoring political points. The only request that the Government of Kerala has made is that the Centre should allow sufficient funds. Government has requested for Rs. 100 crore. My humble request is at least that amount should be sanctioned and a team of scientists should be sent to Kerala to evaluate whether the measures taken are proper. So, my pointed question is whether the Government intend to sanction this amount of Rs. 100 crore and also whether the Government will send a team of scientists to the State and to all the affected States to evaluate the relief measures taken.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Andhra Pradesh is also involved.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: My difficulty is that this rule does not permit me to give you any chance to speak.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : In Andhra Pradesh, particularly Konaseema is an area where there is lot of coconut. There is a Coconut Research Centre.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even if I have to give you permission, I will be violating the rules here. Therefore, you can put just one question. Not more than that. But this will not be a precedent. I permit you as a special case considering the seriousness of the problem.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. It will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): On behalf of Lakshadweep also, I demand that the hon. Minister should reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can interrupt on behalf of Lakshadweep!

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: In Andhra Pradesh, Konaseema area is only having a coconut garden. There is no other crop. Konaseema has a Coconut Research Centre at Ambajipeta. During the 1996 debacle of the cyclone, two-third of the coconut trees have fallen down. So, only one-third of the trees remain which are also attacked by pests now. Unless urgent measures are taken to eliminate that disease, the people will be put to irreparable loss. Konaseema is in the Constituency of the Hon. Speaker and I belong to that Constituency. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take into account the needs of the medicines and other things of Konaseema also. Thank you very much.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): The gravity of the problem is understood by the hon. Minister and by the House also. I am just asking the Hon. Minister whether he will consider again as it is mentioned here that coconut is declared as an oilseed long back when the National Front Government was in power. If it is declared as an oilseed, naturally the assistance which is due to oilseeds should have been given. Even at this late stage, when coconut farmers and coconut are facing a serious problem like this, will the Government and the hon. Minister consider to declare coconut as an oilseed and sanction assistance accordingly? An assistance of Rs. 100 crore which is needed to solve this problem should be made. I would like to know when the Government plans to sanction this Rs. 100 crore of Central assistance. The hon. Minister may respond to these two points.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Has this disease spread in Bihar?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This disease has yet not reached in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where is coconut in Maharashtra? This disease has not yet spread there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): This disease is rampant in the Konkan region of Maharashtra. Thereafter large member of ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Members for drawing the attention of the House towards this dreaded disease.

* Not recorded.

Their concern is genuine. It is undisputed that this disease is causing a very heavy loss.

It is a kind of airborne disease which, for the first time, had appeared in other countries especially the regions of Mexico during the 1960s. There is no definite knowledge as to how it came here or in Mexico. The agro-scientist have get to reach any conclusion in this regard. Today those people told me that it is an airborne disease and spreads very rapidly. It is true that this disease is not confined to the Kerala alone but has also spread in Tamil Nadu. Besides this, as has been told, it has also spread to other states like Andhra Pradesh. As to what solutions can be offered to combat this disease, I have mentioned it in my original answer. The names of two chemicals have been suggested as an information about the ways to combat this disease when it had earlier appeared in other countries of the world. There are only two ways to use these chemicals—firstly, it should be poured in the roots of the plants with the help of the needless after dissolving it in water. Secondly, it can be sprayed over the trees. The pouring of the chemical in the roots of the plants is dangerous because the coconut gets water from its roots only and it can be harmful. The spraying of this chemical over the coconut tree is also a tedious job. When this calling attention motion was admitted, we tried to gather full information about it. I have also seen the pictures as to how this disease has been harming the tree. This disease can only be seen through a microscope. This organism stays under the leaf-petals and especially attacks tender nuts. The people in Kerala are being provided with full information about it. People are also being advised as what to do to combat this disease.

As far as combating this disease is concerned, whatever essential steps the Central Government should take, are being taken. The work is also being done in our research center in this regard and public is also being made aware. The scientists are of the opinion that the only pesticides can not solve this problem, but we should also pay attention towards biological control for solving it. The work is also being done in this direction. Even in the foreign countries, it was controlled through the biological fungus. It has been found useful even here in lab-conditions. The spread of this disease has been controlled by 88 percent in the countries where the people have used this fungus. Here too, is being controlled and we shall check its impact under field conditions too. After that it is to be seen as on what scale we can make available or produce this fungus. This is known as Hirsutella Fungus. As Shri Banatwallaji was saying that the Government is paying no attention in this regard and is doing no work. I would like to tell him that there is no such thing.

The work in this regard is being done since the news of this disease arrived. Scientists from here have gone to affected areas and a meeting has taken place. I did not consider it right to reveal about it, but I have said it in my reply—

[English]

A meeting was also taken by the Union Secretary of Agriculture in cooperation with the scientists of CPCRI, Kerala Agricultural University, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Officers of CDB, Directors of Agriculture and Horticulture of the Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu on the 2nd September, 1999 at Kochi to discuss this problem.

[Translation]

Apart from it a Steering Committee has also been constituted to deal with this problem. Efforts are being made to control it suitably. The representatives of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have also been included under the Chairmanship of Horticulture Commission. There are three representatives of agricultural universities and C.F.C.I.R. in it. It has been designated as the Project Directorate of Biological Control and All India Co-ordinated Project of Mite and it has been functioning. They have been trying to conduct all the trials to combat the disease. But the most viable and efficacious solution for it will be biological control. Firstly, the chemicals are expensive and their spray is also a difficult job. Spray can only be done by climbing a person over the tree and that process will require a lot of money. Shri Banatwalla ji has said that the Government has been sleeping and we would like to know as to what has happened and when Rs. 96 lakhs were released in 1998-99. At that time, Kerala Government could not spend that because it lacked the requisite training at that time. Government has no blame to share for this...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: When did you release the money?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: In 1998-99...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: You would have released it on the last day.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: No, it is not so. ... (Interruptions) You can ask the Government. I am coming to that point. It required training too. It has to be sprayed by climbing the tree. It requires a lot of persons. And for that purpose they are to be trained first. Money is also needed, they could not utilise the funds. That was revalidated in 1999-2000... (Interruptions) I am coming to your point. I too understand that the funds were not sufficient, I am not saying that the funds have been allotted quite sufficiently. Requirement of that state has been met. I am not saying that it could not be met you have asked as to when a proposal of Rs. 100 crore from the Kerala Government has been received. It has been received through fax yesterday.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: You better check it ...*(Interruptions)* You tell about it after checking it properly...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Did you get it only yesterday?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Let me complete...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let him complete. If there is any other clarification to be sought, I will allow later and you cannot do like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: A letter dated 25th November 1999 addressed by the Minister of Agriculture, Kerala to the Union Minister here was received by fax yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, you will have to hear him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Please bear with me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: On 15th November, the Minister has declared in Trichur that they had applied for it; on 24th, all the Members were called to meet the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jos, he is only giving you the details which was received by him. Why are you doing like this? I do not allow you. I will not allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete first. Hon. Minister, you may address the Chair and do not address the hon. Members.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Thank you, Sir. A letter dated 25th November 1999 from the Agriculture Minister of Kerala to the Union Minister here was faxed yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We are very sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, he is giving you the information he received; you are not to say anything more than that. If you have anything to ask, you may do it later and not now.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am giving whatever information I have. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Minister's statement.

...*(Interruptions)* *

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The second part will satisfy all of you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We are ashamed of that. I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether you are ashamed or otherwise, he is stating the information that he has received.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Not like this. I will not allow you. No I will not allow anyone. We have got another legislative business to be taken up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: A copy of the project was handed over in person to the Additional Secretary on 25.11.99, when she called on the Minister of Agriculture, Kerala at Trivandrum in connection with another meeting.

[Translation]

She had went there also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Thank you. At least you have cleared this...*(Interruptions)* It is good that you have been giving this logic. But when did you get it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Banatwalla Saheb, you have asked as to when did I receive it. I have told you both the things. Our Additional Secretary had gone there to meet the Minister of Kerala. This letter was personally handed over to him and he faxed and repeated it. When did we receive it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have already stated that.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Only because of this Calling Attention, the Minister of Kerala Government has faxed this information. Otherwise, the State Government of Kerala would not have done even this.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: By when will it be examined?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: By when it will be examined. You have raised this question now.

[English]

The Government's response is that it is under examination.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: You can declare it today itself.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Shri Suresh, you please tell me under which Head I should declare it. How can I declare it right now without properly examining it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have only to give clarifications.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am only clarifying those points.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, had the Question not been raised, what the Government was going to do?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You ask your question after reading it. This has not yet reached you. May god not allow it to reach you. ...*(Interruptions)* This kind of national calamity like the crop being infested with this kind of worm or disease, in this regard I have said that there is a question of treating this disease. The National fund which deals with such kind of problem, have sufficient funds and all the arrangements to combat all these problems. But the question is as to how the help will be provided to you. Under the rules the small and marginal farmers will get an assistance of Rs. five hundred per hectare for each single crop. But the question is as to when will he get this assistance? He will get it when the State Government submits a memorandum in this regard. After that internal Committee and Central team will be constituted and that will visit the State and submit its assessment before the inter-Ministry group. After that, the Inter-Ministry group will give its recommendations in this regard. This procedure is followed by National Relief Committee. This is a process. If you seek the assistance from National Calamity Relief Fund, you will have to follow that procedure. The maximum help which can be availed is Rs. five hundred per hectare and that too is available to a marginal and small farmer. The motive behind this is that they have an assessment for realising a single crop.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: We have a Coconut Development Board situated at Cochin. Can you channelise your funds through this Board because the Board is already seized of the matter? The Board has examined the problems and they themselves have stated that Rs. 150 crore are necessary which they themselves would provide. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would kindly check up with the Board what are their activities and alert them to do something in this matter.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The role of the Coconut Development Board has been properly narrated in the main reply itself. The main reply also talks about what different agencies put together are doing there. Now, I am just responding to specific questions of the hon. Members.

[Translation]

The access of these agencies to the National Fund is through that process but the greatest hinderance in it is the inadequacy of funds. The funds available for this project are inadequate. The funds alone would not solve this problem. Today only I have discussed this matter with the officers. They have been asked to devise a solution in its regard. I have instructed the Department that a high level team of officers should visit the entire area and talk to the people there. The M.P.'s of the concerned area feel that they can hold a meeting with the scientists who are engaged in this job in regard to the needs which may arise during the research work. Thirdly, what else can be done in this regard is also being examined. We are also trying to find out as to what help can be provided for this and from which head. A permanent programme is also running for combating the root-wilt. Some help is provided through that fund. More than Rs. Seven Crores have been allotted for the entire programme to Kerala. How much could be spent out of the allotted funds or whether some money can be transferred from some other head, we are discussing these points and trying to provide better assistance to the affected parts of Kerala in this matter. It is a very serious problem. The question of ignoring this problem does not arise. We are as sensitive in this matter as you are concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The Minister has not said anything about insurance.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: As far as insurance is concerned, this has not been covered under the recently implemented New National Agriculture Insurance Scheme.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): You, please do it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: After some time, after four-five years the perennial crops...*(Interruptions)*. Perennial horticulture not covered under this scheme but the annual plants or crops are covered perennial plants these have yet not been covered under the scheme. The problem of payment of premium arises in it. If they are covered under the scheme then the actuarial rates will be changed from them but the coverage of these perennial crops can also be considered in the forthcoming years. Right move, the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme is being implemented from the Rabi season. Those crops are not included in it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter ends now.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We will decide the further course of action. We will try our best to do whatever can be done ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. I am on my legs.

The Minister has already suggested that he will have a meeting with all the concerned Members of Parliament, scientists and Members of the Coconut Board to find out some solution.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The Minister should make some announcement regarding the financial assistance. We have had a very good discussion. It will be good if some amount is also released.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister has already assured that a meeting will be convened and he will announce whatever funds he can give.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It will be good if the Minister could announce it here only.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have mentioned this fact earlier also that we will discuss this matter with you by holding a meeting.

[English]

We will do our level best. We had certain difficulties. We will now have a meeting and do whatever we can.

15.25 hrs.

THE MINES AND MINERALS (REGULATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I would like to highlight some aspects of this Bill. The process of globalisation and liberalisation in our country began virtually a decade ago. Earlier Governments helped in this process and our Government wants to pass this Bill which is an extremely progressive legislation. This legislation will encourage vast investment which is required urgently for the mining sector. Reconnaissance is a procedure which takes a very long time and it requires a lot of investment. State-of-the-art technology is required for this which is generally not to be found for this aerial reconnaissance prospecting.

Sir, since a long period, the State Governments have been asking for more powers as far as the mineral sector is concerned. This Bill will give many more powers to the States. For instance, the States have been asking to remove the lime stone mineral from the Schedule to the Act. This Bill wishes to give lime stone to the State Governments. As we all know, lime stone is used for making cement. Therefore, the State Government have been asking for this and the Bill wishes to give it to them.

Sir, this Bill is also there to further strengthen the laws against illegal mining. There is a provision for confiscation of the illegal mineral mined as also the equipment used for illegal mining.

* Not recorded.

Sir, I would like to round off by saying that the object of the Bill is to bring more investment to this sector, to give more powers to the States and also to strengthen the laws against illegal mining.

With these words, I beg to move that this Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister who comes from my State for piloting his maiden Bill, I believe.

Secondly, I welcome this Bill. As he has rightly pointed out, this has been a vexatious question with the State Governments that the law did not empower them with adequate powers for reconnaissance, for prospecting and for giving lease in the various fields and there was undue delay. What started off in 1996, I am very happy and I compliment the Minister for bringing it to the House as a result of the Committee of Secretaries which met in 1996. The reasons which he has enumerated are very cogent. But along with authority, I think, goes accountability and responsibility. I am not very sure that the Bill empowers the State Governments in the enforcement and policing this vast mineral deposit which do give the State Governments a lot of revenue. Therefore, the accountability and responsibility have to be met and have to be asked for, at the same time giving adequate powers.

In this regard I would like to take advantage of the discussion here because we have had occasions earlier where in the name of development and in the name of cost we forgot the value and the price of many a thing. In fact, if I just pick up the Economic Survey of 1998-99, in the Industrial Policy and Development chapter, it says that in the current year deceleration has been most pronounced in mining and manufacturing among broad sectors and industrial production registered a growth of 3.5 per cent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member may continue his speech on Monday.

The House shall now take up Private Members' Business. Introduction of Bills.

15.31 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

(i) The House of People (Administration) Bill*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of a Commission to oversee the administration of the secretarial staff of the House of the People and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of a Commission to oversee the administration of the secretarial staff of the House of the People and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

(ii) The Indian Citizens Abroad (Voting Right at Elections) Bill*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide the Indian citizens living abroad with the right to vote in elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide the Indian citizens living abroad with the right to vote in elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 3.12.99.

15.33 hrs.

(iii) The Reservation (Services and Higher Education) Bill**[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for adequate reservation in posts and services under the Central Government and its public sector undertakings and in higher educational institutions for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and backward minorities and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for adequate reservation in posts and services under the Central Government and its public sector undertakings and in higher educational institutions for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes and backward minorities and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

(iv) The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) (Withdrawal of Legal Proceedings) Bill**[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for withdrawal and prevention of all legal proceedings under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 which expired on 23 May, 1995 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2 dated 3.12.1999.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for withdrawal and prevention of all legal proceedings under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987 which expired on 23 May, 1995 and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

(v) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill***(Insertion of new article 75A, etc.)***[English]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): 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 KIRIT SOMAIYA: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

(vi) The Empowerment of Women Bill**[English]*

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for empowerment of women in all fields and for matters connected therewith.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2 dated 3.12.1999.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for empowerment of women in all fields and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(vii) The Medical Profession (Regulation) Bill*

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate medical profession with a view to provide best available health care to the citizens of the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate medical profession with a view to provide best available health care to the citizens of the country.

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA: I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

(viii) The Investors' Protection Bill*

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of interests of depositors in the financial establishments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of interests of depositors in the financial establishments."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

(ix) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of article 311)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): 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 BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

(x) The Government of Union Territory of Lakshadweep Bill*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Lakshadweep and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Lakshadweep and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2 dated 3.12.99.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 3.12.91.

15.41 hrs.

(xi) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) (Amendment) Bill***(Amendment of section 1, etc.)***[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

(xii) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill***(Amendment of the Schedule)***[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.43 hrs.

(xiii) The Technology Bank of India Bill**[English]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Technology Bank to assist professionals engaged in research work in various disciplines.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Technology Bank to assist professionals engaged in research work in various disciplines."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Adityanath—not present.

15.44 hrs.

(xiv) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill***(Amendment of article 58, etc.)***[English]*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, my opposition to the introduction of this Bill emanates from the fact of law that it is not within the competence of this House or of the other House to enact an amendment to the Constitution which has the effect of altering its basic features. The Constitution of India, which was the result of hardwork of freedom fighters who had sacrificed the best of their lives for the Independence of

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 3.12.91.

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this country, who could visualise what the Independent India had to be like, made no distinction between any class of citizens. The most important article of the Constitution, which I would term as article 19, guarantees certain fundamental rights to the citizens. It begins with the following words:

"All citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression; to assemble peaceably and without arms; to form associations or unions etc."

The six most important Fundamental Rights which article 19 accords to the Constitution refer to the words "all citizens of India." Ever since the promulgation of the Constitution, it has been working that way. Now, my friend has come forward with an amendment to suggest that the posts of the President of the country, the Vice-President and that of the Prime Minister should not be held by all the citizens. He wants to exclude a particular class of citizens whom he calls not "natural born citizens." I do not know how he has used the words "natural born citizens." If he had used the words "by birth" or by acquisition of citizenship under the Citizenship Act, that is a different matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Nobody is artificially born...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Though the words used are like that, that is not my basic objection. I wish to bring to the notice of this august House the point that I have made very briefly. Besides, I would like to refer to Rule 294 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. It talks of the formation of a Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. It says as to what are the functions of the Committee. The first function of the Committee is as Rule 294(1) says:

"The functions of the Committee shall be to examine every Bill seeking to amend the Constitution notice of which has been given by a private member, before a motion for leave to introduce the Bill is included in the list of Business."

My objection is two-fold. One, that an amendment like this cannot at all be brought about and we are not competent to make an amendment like this which makes distinction between different classes of citizens. The matter does not rest here. The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill, as you would appreciate, is always read with the Bill. Please permit me to say that the hon. Member has cast aspersion on the House, on the residents and the citizens of this country. Every day, we hear the hon. Ministers from the other side talking

of the ongoing process of liberalisation as if it is the Magna Carta of the country, as if there is nothing beyond that.

Here, what we find, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, quite objectionable is the following sentence. I quote:

"Given the enormous role that money has come to play in the political life of the country, there will be temptations for these corporations to use the power of their money to influence political development in India."

Then, he berates the foreign print media which has begun, according to him, to make inroads into our country, though, my opinion is, it cannot make any inroads into our country. Then, he says:

"These developments are fraught with grave consequences for India's sovereignty. Sooner or later, these foreign economic and cultural interests can be expected to make efforts to influence India's decision-makers to formulate policies which may not be in national interest."

He further says:

"In the changing global scenario, it will not be beyond the capacity of foreign interests to manipulate a situation to project a person who is not a natural born citizen of the country and whose patriotism may be in doubt."

He goes on to add further:

"They hold in their hands decision-making powers which can take the country to wars or make compromises on the nation's security. Any person whose patriotism is untested should not be trusted with the fate of one-sixth of humanity."

These are the reasons given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons which have motivated the hon. Member to move his Amendment. I have serious objections to these points enumerated here. If any citizen, under the law of the country, contests an election and the people vote him or her to power to represent them in Parliament, then, according to the law, the President has the right to appoint somebody as the Prime Minister. But we know that, according to the system, the leader of the party or the conglomerate or the alliance, as the present alliance is, which enjoys the confidence or the majority of the House of the People is called upon to be the Prime Minister. The system is working well. There is no reason to doubt or to have some sort of suspicion in

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

the mind excepting some paranoia which may be, in fact, the real reason for a thought like this. That is the first serious objection which I have to this Bill.

Sir, in our system if we feel that if these three important positions of the country can be excluded from those people who are not citizens by birth for the reasons that we doubt their integrity, commitment and patriotism, how can we have people as the Speaker who is not a citizen of the country by birth or the Chief Justice of India who is not a citizen by birth? This is outrageous.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, Rule 72(1) says:

"If a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the Speaker, after permitting, if he thinks fit, brief statements from the member who oppose the motion..."

But he has been speaking for the last 5 to 10 minutes. It is not a brief statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given notice and I have allowed him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He has given notice. That is all right. But he is making a lengthy speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it is not a point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, he is arguing his case.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, it has become a lengthy discussion. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a lengthy discussion; he is arguing his case.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: There is a provision for full discussion also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That provision will not apply here.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He is saying that it is beyond the legislative competence of the House. If you want, then you can allow a full discussion on this matter, so that we will also participate. It is not that only one Member can speak and others will just listen. I want a ruling from you on this matter. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is arguing on the legislative competence. It can be argued and the constitutional propriety can also be argued. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Let hon. Deputy Speaker allow everybody. We are also willing to put forth our views. ...(Interruptions) We are prepared for a full discussion on this matter. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, they are so much afraid and that is why they are raising objections to the introduction of this Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Shri Somaiya and Shri Swain, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You must hear me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, I have asked you to listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not interrupt

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The public has proceeded this in the last elections. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Where ever you tried to raise this issue, your arguments were lasted off...(Interruptions) You have tried to argue from place to place...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, we are prepared for a discussion. ...(Interruptions) We are willing to argue with him. ...(Interruptions) He goes on speaking for hours. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: There should be some limitation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, I have given the floor to him to put forward his case. Then, I will ask the mover to give reply. Thereafter I will follow the other steps.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way. This is Private Members' Business. Let there be a healthy discussion. Everything should be conducted in a healthy manner.

Now, let me ask him to conclude. His case is over. Now, I will ask the mover to give reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Other hon. Members will not get a chance.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): For your information, I was born in East Pakistan. And I have a right to be in this House under the Constitution of India. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, nothing will go on record. I have to take a serious note of your utterances.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): He is speaking under the rule only. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, I have to warn you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rawat, this is not the way. I have to warn you. Behave yourself well. This is not the way to behave in this House. I am conducting the House. He is putting forward his case. I will ask the mover to give reply. In the meantime, how are you coming forward without my permission?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I have quoted the rule. ... (Interruptions) I have got every right to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot challenge the ruling of the Chair.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is speaking under the same rule with the permission of the Chair. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: This is a very important hour for the Private Members' business. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am prepared to show the extent of intolerance like our friends from the other side. ... (Interruptions)

This brings me to the last point, that is, Rule 294(1). I have cited it earlier also. I submit that in the absence of any Constitution (Amendment) Bill moved or sought to be moved by a Private Member being brought before the Committee, it cannot be introduced.

It cannot be introduced here, before the Committee on Private Members has had an opportunity to examine the Bill. There is a specific provision for this in Rule 294(1).

Sir, I would seek your indulgence to this Rule again.

"(1) The functions of the Committee shall be—

(a) to examine every Bill seeking to amend the Constitution notice of which has been given by a private member, before a motion for leave to introduce the Bill is included in the list of business;..."

Thereafter it has to examine all Bills after introduction, etc. which I am not concerned with at the moment. The Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions has not yet been constituted. But this is the secondary objection that I have. My first and the fundamental objection was the constitutional one.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): It is a very valid point, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir. How did this Bill come to us without being examined by this Committee?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: When the Committee is not in existence, the House gives the permission...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I will just conclude by briefly reiterating the two aspects. One is the constitutional aspect and the intention that go with that as is manifest from the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended with the Bill. The second is the bar of Rule 294(1)(a), that is, till the Bill has been examined by the Committee, it cannot be taken up in the House. In view of this, my submission is that the introduction of this Bill has to be rejected.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Read sub-clause (d) also.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: That will be done subsequently.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: You just read it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It says:

"(d) to examine every private member's Bill which is opposed in the House on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House, and the Speaker considers such objection *prima facie* tenable.."

But the basic and fundamental thing is the constitutional one.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member Shri Bansal ji was the first to raise objection on the discussion over the naturally born citizen. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Who will be unnaturally born. When all are naturally born, then who will be unnatural born. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I will tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The United States of America's constitution makers should be asked about it because they have also mentioned about natural born citizen. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I will not call it a hobby, but those who have to be so much dependent on the foreign person will need more time to interpret the phrase 'natural born'. When the discussion over the Bill starts. I will tell you the difference between natural and unnatural born. Recently, your strength has been reduced to 113 members. Now you might have understood the difference. In American Constitution—

[English]

In that Constitution also it is clearly mentioned.

[Translation]

Therefore I said that we will discuss this thing at that time.

[English]

The United States of America's Constitution provides:

"That no person except a natural citizen or a citizen of the United States at the time of adoption of this Constitution shall be eligible for the post of Office of the President, neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall have not attained..."

16.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, he has raised two objections. Firstly he said that among citizens, you cannot discriminate; that will be the violation of the basic structure of the Constitution; and in that case, this House cannot transact this. This is the first point that he has raised. Secondly, he has said that there is a Committee on Private Members' Bills; the screening part and approval are done by the Committee on Private Members' Bills; that Committee is not yet constituted and, therefore, this cannot be transacted here. He has raised these two points. You may kindly mention about those two points.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has raised several objections during his brief and his speech has lasted for approximately seventeen minutes. From the very beginning he has elaborated not only over these two point but it also includes 12 other points. In the very beginning, I have told you about the natural-born citizenship. There is a clear cut provision in the constitution of the U.S. which I quote—

[English]

"The Constitution provides that no person except a natural-born citizen or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this Constitution shall be eligible to the Office of the President." ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him place his case. Why are you interrupting him?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to give the example of Peru also. Here it says that only natural born Peruvians are eligible for the Office of the President.

[Translation]

The one who is born in India, who has taken birth from the womb of Mother India, he will be called natural born citizen of India and it is elaborated there.

[English]

That is number one. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It should be defined in the Bill. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have defined it in the Bill. You kindly go through that. It has been clearly mentioned as to what is meant by natural-born citizen'. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Secondly, The details about it have also been provided in the objects and reasons of the Bill. Mentioning about it, you have also raised some issues and have said that when this House is going to open the business for foreign institutions and foreign nationals, then why are we discriminating between Indian born citizenship and foreign born citizenship. When the discussion starts over it, I will put before the House what was discussed in the Constituent Assembly in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, fifty years ago when the Constitution was adopted, nobody would have imagined or even dreamt that an attempt will ever be made in the India of Gandhiji's dreams to elect a foreign national as the Prime Minister or the President of the country. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Maulana Azad was born in Macca and became the Minister of Education. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have said about three posts only. *i.e.* The President, The Vice-President and the Prime Minister. I am unable to understand that in India with a population of hundred crores. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what section?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am quoting the first page of the solemn declaration of the Constitution of India. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to quote the rule.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am quoting the first page of the solemn declaration of the Constitution of India.

Constitution can be quoted for raising a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: But you have raised a point of order.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Yes, I am raising a point of order.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Let him say under what rule.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Under what rule he is raising? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Constitution of India and the Rule Book can be quoted off and on for raising point of order. That is the established rule. Any time I can quote Constitution. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Equality does not mean that person of any country can come and become President or Prime Minister here. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was not relevant.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Under what rule?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is referring under the Constitution.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am quoting the preamble of the Constitution of India. To quote the preamble, there is no bar. It is always allowed for raising point of order or for any other provision. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, under which Rule he is mentioning this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am quoting the preamble of the Constitution of India. Without preamble, you cannot read the Constitution of India.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Under which rule? Let him quote the rule. He is not giving the rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, do you think that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was irrelevant. You do not ask that question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is quoting the preamble of the Constitution.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Under which rule, he is referring? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You see rule 294. You read the book. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Before telling, first you read out the rule. What is the rule?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You read out the rule.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, whatever is mentioned in Rule 294, point of order has no relation with that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You have no right to decide. It is the Deputy Speaker who will decide as to whether this is related or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me read.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: It is related to the function of the Committee and he is raising objection. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: How the earlier ones were passed. ...*(Interruptions)* If he talks about the functions of the Committee then how the earlier ones were passed? How they were accepted? ...*(Interruptions)* How they were passed without referring them to a Committee. Earlier bills were passed without referring to the Committee.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You cannot refer Constitution of India. Do you mean to say. ...*(Interruptions)* Three Bills have been introduced. At that time, you did not come. Do you know how many Bills have been introduced? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am reading rule 294.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have introduced Bill No. 5 ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

It was under the Constitution. You see the Bill listed under Item No. 9. It was also for amendment of the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Somaiya, he has only taken objection to one Bill. For other Bills, there is no objection. Therefore, we have taken them.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: There is no question of objection. You please see the method he has adopted. The Bill listed under Item No. 5 is a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Shri Basu Deb Acharia's Bill is also a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Bill listed under Item No. 12 is also a Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We had no objection to them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Somaiya, anybody can object to any Constitution (Amendment) Bill. It is not the Chair's business, if nobody has objected to some other Constitution (Amendment) Bill. He has taken objection only to your Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Now, I have to hear him. I have asked him to read the rule.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am just requesting him to quote the rule. Which rule is he quoting?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no need for you to ask. I have to ask him. I am asking him and I am reading the rule. If you are not satisfied, then only I will give and that you can address to me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If 14 Bills have already been introduced today and two or three Bills have already been introduced by himself, they were not objected to on the ground that it was not...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Swain, if nobody objects to two or three Bills, then do you want me to block them? If you object on one Constitutional (Amendment) Bill, I have to take note of it. If nobody raises any objection on three, four or any number of Constitution (Amendment) Bills, then I have to withhold them. Then, what are you talking about?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, are you allowing a full-fledged discussion on this matter? If you feel that it is beyond the legislative competence of this House, then only you can allow a full-fledged discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is what he has raised.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If you feel, then only you will allow for a full discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not allowed a full-fledged discussion. He has raised a point of order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing anybody to start the discussion. When he was replying, Shri Dasmunsi raised a point of order. I have heard you also, but you could not convince me. I differed with you. I said that there is no point of order. He raised a point of order. So, I am asking him. You just point out if it is a point of order, all right, I accept it, and if it is not, then I will rule it out.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, both under rule 375 to raise the point of order—I am quoting rule 294 of the Rules of Procedure pertaining to Private Members' Business, to examine the Bills—and also under the guard of article 19 correlated with the Preamble of Constitution of India, I am raising my point of order to you.

Sir, besides this, we discuss the nature of the Bill in regard to Constitution amendment to be brought in the House through the Private Members' Business List; unless otherwise objected, nobody will raise. But since that has not been objected and it has not been examined and it has not been examined and it is touching very fundamental rights guaranteed by article 19 of the Constitution of India related to this. I will cite umpteen number of rulings in this House which is affecting the very basic declaration of the Preamble of the Constitution of India from which the strength of article 19 of the Constitution of India emanates in the fundamental rights. The Preamble which has been translated into action in article 19 says:

"Equality of status and of opportunity..."

To whom, to all citizens until this very Preamble, the very structure and the very right under article 19 for every citizen irrespective of his status is not altered or competent to be altered, this Bill cannot be introduced. That is my submission.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, in the Preamble of India, there was no word like 'secularism' and 'socialism'. It was introduced at a later stage. ...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Normally, this objection does not arise here. In Private Members' Business, it is not taken up.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: (Trichur): Sir, you have given ruling on 294, but you have not given a ruling on 295 which he has raised. Rule 295 is very clear. It is succeeded by rule 294. I will quote:

"At any time after the report has been presented to the House a motion may be moved that the House agrees or agrees with amendment or disagrees with the report."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is only introduction of a Bill.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The Committee has not been constituted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House itself can take it up when the Committee itself is not constituted.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: We have not objected to 13-14 bills or to the constitutional amendments which

were brought earlier. The Rule of Committee applies there also. When the Committee has not passed those bills and not even considered them then how those bills have been introduced in the House? The House can consider and adopt them.

[English]

You are requested to kindly allow this Bill also to be introduced.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now let him reply.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I was also reading out rule 294(1). It says:

"The functions of the Committee shall be—

- (a) to examine every Bill seeking to amend the Constitution, notice of which has been given by a private member, before a motion for leave to introduce the Bill is included in the list of business;

Sir, has this formality been completed with regard to other Bills which have been introduced/ There should be a level playing field.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His contention is that there cannot be a discrimination between a naturally born citizen and citizen who has acquired citizenship. Another point is the one that you have referred to. Have you got my point?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yes, Sir.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, if we have committed one mistake, it cannot be argued that...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, I am not going into the merit or demerit of it; I am only saying that this is a separate question. The point that has been raised is about discrimination between a citizen born in India and citizen who has acquired citizenship here. If that is so, then the basic structure of the Constitution is in question. That is what he has asked and Shri Somaiya has to argue from that point of view.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, if you allow me also to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not asking you. He is the Mover of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you have allowed almost a full-fledged discussion...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing of what Shri Swain says will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not asked anybody to participate. It is not a debate. He has raised a point of order, you have also raised a point of order. I have never asked anybody to participate in the debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If you have allowed him, you allow me also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I am not allowing you unless and until the Bill is introduced. How can I allow you to participate?

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two issues have been raised here. I will be brief in my submission. When discussion will be held on other points of the Bill at that time I will make my points. First thing is that when constitution was framed 50 years ago at that time nobody imagined that...(Interruptions) You please listen to my point. We had discussion over more than hundred proposals in this House regarding constitutional amendment. Out of these, many proposals were also passed whether they are related to secularism, socialism or nationalisation of banks. Many such subjects have also been passed here. When discussion over this subject will be held in the House at that time I will mention my point in detail. There is nothing illegal in this. In the constitution there is no mention about the rights of natural or unnatural citizens. It is not against the constitution to question regarding three posts of highest office.

Second thing is that the entire House is capable of taking such kind of decision though it has not been discussed in the Committee. Prior to this when committees were not constituted at that time also such constitutional Amendment bills were introduced. Not only in 13th Lok Sabha but in every Lok Sabha such bills were introduced. This has been the practice and convention.

*Not Recorded.

[*English*]

That is why you must allow me. I would request you to allow me to introduce this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, mention has been made about secularism. Secularism has not come as a result of any Constitutional amendment.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: sir, whenever there is a discussion on this it can only be decided then. Then somebody can challenge it. The Supreme Court can decide whether it comes under the basic features of the Constitution or not.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have got the point. In the Indian Parliament also, can such type of a Bill be postponed?

[*Translation*]

When Lok Sabha was constituted and first session was held, in that session constitutional amendments were allowed in all kinds of Private Members' Bill. This has been the practice. When IRDA Bill was introduced this point was raised and at that time also its clarification was given. This is the constitutional amendment bill through which the constitution is proposed to be amended. When the opinion of this House will be sought and necessary voting takes place only then this amendment can be done otherwise there will be public debate on this. I request you for this.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me give my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I want to know whether all the provisions of the law of the House and the natural process of the law have been gone through or not. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: This is the Parliament. The job of this House is to legislate. ...(Interruptions) It is for the Supreme Court to decide whether it forms part of the basic feature of the Constitution or not. If anybody thinks that this does not come in the basic feature, he can go to the Supreme Court because the Supreme Court has said it. If it is not the basic feature, let him

continue now. This House has got every right to discuss anything. ...(Interruptions) He can go to the Supreme Court. It is the right of the Member to move an amendment. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me give my observations.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Let him go to the Supreme Court. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this Shri Swain? You go on talking without my permission. You have got this habit. I am sorry. You are a young man. You speak well. Let there be some discipline in the House. You speak with my permission or for that matter anybody who is sitting here should do so. Otherwise how will I contro! the House? You tell me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, I am talking to Shri Swain and you stand up and talk. How to control the House?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that the Chair does not decide whether the Bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence of the House or not. The House also does not take a decision on specific question of *vires* of a Bill. As far as a demand for referring the Bill to the Committee of Private Members' Bills and Resolutions, the Committee has not yet been constituted. There are several precedents when Private Members' Bills were included in the List of Business for introduction without prior permission of the Committee.

In these circumstances I put the question before the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Once an objection is taken, it is a valid thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even in the Committee also, the majority opinion prevails. Therefore, I am taking the opinion of the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: There is a particular procedure laid down.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: I want to know whether it has gone through the procedure or not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: No, it is not.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are precedents on earlier occasions also. It happened.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am sure it was not when an objection like this is raised and then a decision is taken.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am told by the Secretariat that there are instances.

I take the opinion of the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, It is a question of ruling.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in view of the point raised by Shri Somaiya, I have said that will secularism and socialism be brought through amendment?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): How can you decide this without a division? The louder voice came from this side. ...*(Interruptions)* Either you put it to the division...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want a division?

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Otherwise, how can you take a decision? Our voice was louder than theirs.

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 KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: I am sorry that I kept quite.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you really contest?

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Sir, the people of this country are indivisible. By bringing this kind of a Bill, they are going to create gradation of the Indian citizens which I condemn vehemently.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the solemn declaration of the Preamble is being assaulted through the introduction of this Bill. The solemn declaration in the holy Constitution of India, drafted and prepared by our great freedom fighters, is being assaulted by the introduction of this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would also like to place on record that I was born not in free India, I was born in East Pakistan before the freedom came. I also treat it as an insult to those who took part in the liberation of this country and were born outside India. It is an insult to them also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member may move the Bill.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I have already moved the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we come to item numbers 16 and 17. Yogi Aditya Nath—not present.

Shri Uttamrao Patil.

16.27 hrs.

(xv) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of articles 74 and 163)

[English]

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (Yavatmal): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.28 hrs.

(xvi) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of Preamble, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a bill further to amend the constitution.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 3.12.1999.

[English]

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.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bir Singh Mahato — not present. Shri Ramesh Chennithala — not present.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Sir, can we move it on his behalf?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

16.29 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

RE: Sick Public Sector Undertakings

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will go to item number 26. The House will now take up resolution on sick public sector undertakings to be moved by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. Before we take up the resolution for discussion, we have to fix the time for discussion on this resolution. Shall we fix it two hours initially?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House expresses its serious concern over the increasing number of public sector undertakings falling sick and Government's decision to close down 12 such Undertakings resulting in the loss of employment of thousands of workers and employees and non-payment of their wages and allowances and disinvestment of public sector undertakings, including even profit making undertakings, and urges upon the Government to—

- (i) stop closure of sick public sector undertakings;
- (ii) take steps to revive the viable sick public sector undertakings and formulate a comprehensive policy to improve their functioning;

- (iii) review the disinvestment policy;
- (iv) make immediate payment of dues of employees; and
- (v) frame policies to rehabilitate ousted workforce due to closure."

After the election of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, and the new Ministry took over, the hon. Prime Minister declared that it is time to take hard decisions. These proposed hard decisions by Shri Vajpayee means implementation of structural adjustments as dictated by IMF and WTO resulting in aggravation of unemployment, no wages or half wages to workers etc. The proposed reforms are actually meant to dismantle the public sector by sale of sick public sector units, by conversion of 24 PSUs into joint sectors, by offloading the Government's stake in profit-making PSUs, including some *Navratna* companies.

Due to wrong policies followed by the Government, those PSU units which were recommended for revival are not getting funds from the Government, such as IDPL and Tyre Corporation of India. Due to the presence of their second generation economic policies, a major shift has taken place in Government's attitude towards public sector. It is not even considering the fact that the cost of revival of sick public sector units is much less than the cost of implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. For example, one can mention the cases of eight sick PSUs that were decided for closure, namely, MAMC, BOGL, BPMEA, WIL, CCIL, RIC etc. The total cost of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in these units is Rs. 517 crore, and the revival package would cost only about Rs. 200 crore, less than half of the total VRS cost.

In Independent India, public sector have succeeded in meeting the objective and laying a strong foundation for the industrial development of the country to a large extent. It is always widely recognised that public sector played a vital role in the Indian economy for what it is today, and has been the main vehicle for its growth. But this sector has been neglected of late, largely starved of adequate investment etc., contributing to reduction of industrial activities, particularly from 1997-98.

Though the public sector units are making substantial contribution to the public exchequer to augment the much needed resources through payment of dividend, corporate taxes, Excise Duty, Customs Duty and other duties, yet the Government is hell-bent to sell out these units to the private sector undermining the national interest.

Sir, to prove the case, one can mention the case of GAIL. In tune with the policy of this Government of appeasing the multinational companies, the shares of GAIL were sold to M/s Enron and M/s British Gas at a discounted price. As the Government has decided to help the MNCs and other foreign companies at the cost of our national interest, even the suggestions of their Ministers are going in vain. Though the Minister of Heavy Industries had suggested that a part of the proceeds of the disinvestment funds should be utilised for re-vamping and re-building the PSUs, particularly the sick PSUs, yet nothing towards that end has been done.

Sir, the stoppage of JCI has pushed thousands of workers into the precarious conditions due to lay off, payment of half wages and etc. It has also put the jute growers at great difficulty as they are being compelled to sell raw jute at a price which is below the cost of production. The NJMC having no regular flow of funds from the Government is faced with the danger of its closure. 33,000 workers of Nationalised Jute Mills—five of them in West Bengal and one in Bihar—are not getting their wages. The same is the case with M/s Jessop Ltd. in West Bengal where 10,000 workers are not getting their wages.

Sir, another case in point is M/s. IDPL. The hon. Prime Minister assured a delegation of IDPL workers, who were accompanied by Central Trade Union leaders and the Members of Parliament from the Left Front, that all the necessary funds would be given to the IDPL for its survival. But unfortunately, in spite of the assurance by the hon. Prime Minister nothing has been done till now. As I said earlier, the workers of IDPL already are not getting their wages for the last three to four months.

Sir, here I would like to sound a word of caution. If IDPL is closed down, a majority of the pharmaceutical industries would go to the MNCs and the cost of life-saving drugs and other drugs would go up to such an extent that even people belonging to the middle class would not be able to afford it, let alone the poor people.

Sir, the Sick Industries Companies Act was enacted with a view to going into the causes of sickness and the measures to be suggested for rehabilitation of the undertakings, both private and public and to check unemployment and foster industrial growth. But experience reveals that in most of the cases, the sick industries are recommended for commencing liquidation proceedings in the State High Courts.

This is being done instead of revitalising them through schemes prepared for their opening through financial institutions and without fixing responsibility of funding on

the Central Government and in some cases the State Governments. Although representatives of trade unions extended full cooperation to the Government to execute such schemes, the schemes do not pass through due to the policy of Government of India. This process is a long drawn one during which time workers do not get wages. The employers and the Government do not take any responsibility for workers. Consequently, factories are closed down and sold out through liquidation. During the investigation process, workers or creditors are not permitted under law to proceed with their claims for payments through due course of law under section 22 of the SICA. This means, that workers do not get wages for the entire period of litigations. Thus, BIFR has been made infructuous. This renders SICA meaningless. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to desist from following the policy dictated by IMF, MNCs and WTO and go back to our old policy of really making the public sector strong.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That his House expresses its serious concern over the increasing number of public sector undertakings falling sick and Government's decision to close down 12 such Undertakings resulting in the loss of employment of thousands of workers and employees and non-payment of their wages and allowances and disinvestment of public sector undertakings, including even profit making undertakings, and urges upon the Government to—

- (i) stop closure of sick public sector undertakings;
- (ii) take steps to revive the viable sick public sector undertakings and formulate a comprehensive policy to improve their functioning;
- (iii) review the disinvestment policy;
- (iv) make immediate payment of dues of employees; and
- (v) frame policies to rehabilitate ousted workforce due to closure."

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, being sworn in the present Cabinet as Minister in charge of Department of Industries we expect cooperation from the Minister's end so far as disinvestment is concerned. Disinvestment is a burning problem at this juncture in the State of West Bengal and also in other parts of India. When Kumari Mamata Banerjee took this matter up firmly with the Prime Minister, he assured in his letter to her that eight Central public sector units—seven in West Bengal, about which Shrimati

Geeta Mukherjee mentioned repeatedly, and one in Prime Minister's constituency Lucknow—will be dealt with separately on priority.

The Disinvestment Commission was set up in 1996 to look into the problems of various industries. Its tenure has been completed recently. I was going through an editorial in *The Hindustan Times* about three days back which, under the headline *Disinvestment Blues*, reads:

"To be fair to the Commission, it worked hard and with sincerity in submitting 12 reports covering 58 public enterprises. It made a careful analysis of each unit and prescribed specific action in each case. Its recommendations ranged from sale to the introduction of strategic partner to outright closure. In most cases, disinvestment was to be accompanied by attractive voluntary retirement schemes and certainly no Government was willing to listen to the Commission or to act on this report."

Whether the report of the Disinvestment Commission should be accepted or rejected is a matter in which a decision has to be taken by the Government. However, the Government should remember that a decision in this matter is directly connected with the fate of lakhs and lakhs of employees, labourers, workers and many many distressed families.

What are the basic causes of the sickness of Indian industries? According to our observation, the basic causes of sickness in the Central public sector units are, low capacity utilisation, equipment deficiencies, frequent equipment breakdown, aging of the plants, power shortages, industrial relations problems and lack of competitiveness. We have repeatedly pointed out that modernization programme ought to be implemented.

Sir, the proposal for 'Public Sector Modernization Fund' was discussed in the meetings of the Committee on Public Undertakings in their 11th and 12th Reports. The Committee, very categorically, proposed for setting up of 'Public Sector Modernization Fund.' So, this Fund should provide financial assistance to the sick public sector units for their revival, restructuring and modernization without any further delay.

But unfortunately, it appears that the present Government is a little bit shaky and fumbling with the proposals as to what to do. We do not know what position they will actually take.

Sir, restructuring is also necessary. There are many public sector units which have very lavish guest houses. Retired IAS officials are placed on the top of many Central public sector units who get their alternative employment

after retirement. The Board of Directors are good for nothing. My point is that political appointments normally cause damage to the development so far as the Central public sector units are concerned. In different units, this practice is going on. In one unit there is no need of putting Chairman and the Managing Director both together. You can take technocrats there who are experienced in that field. They can be placed at the head of our Central public sector units. So, all these matters are to be dealt with firmly.

Sir, this is for the Government, which has taken oath of office recently, to see that this apprehension is precipitated, that if disinvestment will be there in the name of Voluntary Separation Scheme or Voluntary Retirement Scheme, many people will be retrenched from their concerns, many units will get closed down. Take for example, the case of Tea Trading Corporation of India. Its employees are not being paid their salaries for the last 20 months.

Similarly, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee also mentioned certain names of the sick units, and I do not want to repeat them. Now, take for instance, the Tyre Corporation of India. This morning I received a fax message from them about the revival of industrial rubber division of Tangara. It has to units—one at Kakinada and the other in the city of Calcutta. They said that one of the units of the rubber products division which is running smoothly is going to be stopped.

Similarly, there are so many units which are facing serious threats of closure. Labourers and workers are genuinely frustrated and disappointed. They are, all passing their days with anxiety.

That is why we request the hon. Minister to try and provide more funds to these institutions.

There was one point made, which I fully agree, that the total amount required for the survival of the sick units is less than the total amount to be required for the VSS and VRS. If it is a fact, why not a parliamentary committee be formed to look into it? Why not the Central trade union leaders be given a call for discussion in details to see as to what their proposals are, how they are looking into the matter?

The question of workers and employees in the management is still pending. Without deployment or appointment of many Members in a Board, if any representative from the workers of these units can be sent to the Board of Directors, that will be more beneficial.

Sir, in this regard, an assurance was also given by the hon. Prime Minister to our leader Kumari Mamata Banerjee, not once but twice, in writing. I hope, the copies of that letter are there with the hon. Minister.

We want a clear and categorical assurance that these Central Public Sector Units will not be allowed to close down. At least, an effort has to be made by the Government in this regard. The previous Governments at the earlier stages had caused damage to these institutions. So, sufficient efforts are to be made to see that the units get revived and we are sure that if an honest effort is made, the Central Public Sector units can at least give some positive direction by which other units can be benefited. We seek your blessings, good wishes and support so far as the revival of these units is concerned.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, this is a subject which is perhaps discussed years after years in this House. Even the Members have become sick discussing the sickness of the industry. I am grateful to Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee for having brought this very important matter which is related to the interest of large section of the workmen of our country, namely, large scale, medium scale and small scale. I will only submit to the hon. Minister through you a few important aspects. I have had the privilege to represent two constituencies of West Bengal earlier, one which was earlier known to be the Sheffield of India at the dawn of the national struggle, Howrah, before that Calcutta South. Sickness is not merely because of modernisation. Sickness is precisely of three aspects. I have gone deep into the issue. First, the unit which is to manufacture A or B item, whether that has a potential market; and (b) the unit which is to manufacture A or B item, for that whether the raw materials were available in abundance and at least at reasonable price; and (c) the manpower deployed in the unit was commensurate with the total expenditure of the unit. These are the first causes we have studied in the respective units. When the revival package of respective units is placed before either the Union Government or the State Government, we have observed one interesting theme which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government...*(Interruptions)* I would give to the hon. Minister who has assumed charge of this department, a classic example of one unit of West Bengal, called Hoogly Dock Shipyard. It is a unit having tremendous skilled manpower, having the potential not only to repair, but to manufacture ships, having the potential from early days

to make the kind of vessels which even Mazagaon Dock could not conceive of, in early 50s or 60s. These units were nationalised at the time of late dear Indiraji. These units, with the concurrence of the Government, submitted three revival packages and all the revival packages including (a) capital support; (b) raw materials cost production support; and (c) specific direction for reduction of manpower. The management both in the Unit and the Government gave first priority to reduction of manpower which was done at the first stroke. After that, the support of the revival package was delayed for decades thereby compelling the units to become not only sick but to die.

There are umpteen number of instances where the manpower reduction clause is first implemented and then the financial package for revival is taken up. I am not talking about the parties in Government but I am only mentioning that the whole system of the Government is functioning in this pattern. Thus, at the end, the units die.

I will give a second classic example to the hon. Minister. This is the case of a unit called National Instruments. My friend and brother Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay will also be knowing this. This unit was reputed not only for its glasses but also for infra-red light equipment. During a war, after sunset, when night falls, if you have to operate with a tank in a jungle, you have to look at the enemy's position with a red light called infra-red light.

[Translation]

The enemy will not be able to see that but we will be able to see. That unit was manufacturing such sophisticated products but orders placed to that unit were withdrawn and placed to a private firm and thus that unit was made sick.

[English]

That unit's revival package was endorsed by the Government not once but five times and it was not implemented.

I will give another glaring example of an important case of a company called India Machinery which is no more there. That unit survived till about 1990.

[*Translation*]

You might have heard the name of Ala Mohandas in whose name Dasnagar was also set up. He brought up technology in India after taking stand with the Britishers. That machinery company manufactured all weighing machines.

[*English*]

That unit offered the manpower retrenchment programme on its own. A huge amount of money went to Japan for Japanese collaboration with this unit for manufacture of electronic weighbridges. Yet, the programme was repeatedly delayed and the unit was killed.

I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is in a position, before he thinks of the overall policy revival, to think of the four directions in which to proceed. Direction number one is to see whether a unit which is languishing can survive, not only with an injection of capital but also by augmenting a new variety of marketing of the products with a certain amount of modernization. The next is whether we can depute a professional management to those units. The Government usually deposes some officer who it does not like, for the time being as Chairman or Acting Chairman. He goes there and tries to find out what his comforts in the company are. If the comforts are less, he comes back. If the comforts are all right, he stays there without any renovation plan. So, for God's sake, withdraw all kinds of bureaucrats from all such sick public sector undertakings and deputy professional management. There has to be contractual obligation on the revival package and if the health is not improved within, say, four or five years, some drastic steps should be taken against such management.

The third direction is that the units can be combined together. There are many units which cannot survive alone. These can be combined. It will combine the expenditure of the establishment, integrating the production line. I will give an example. There is a unit called the National Iron and Steel Company in Belur, near the Belur Mutt of Swami Vivekananda. This unit used to wonder in the 1960's but it has now become sick. I found that some of the ancillaries that this unit manufactured were required by the Durgapur Steel Plant. The Durgapur Steel Plant was actually purchasing these ancillaries high prices

from other parties. If the requirements of the Durgapur Steel Plant are integrated with the ancillaries manufactured by this unit, this unit can easily survive. But no effort has been made in this direction in spite of several memorandums and representations being placed before the Government.

17.00 hrs.

My fourth suggestion is this. Once I was also inspired by this institution; but I am sorry to say that—even after today's - BIFR should be wound up. This is a terrible quasi-judicial body which is not considering revival of units, but it only considers either to wind up units or to find out some buyers who will buy them with a motive to utilize the properties for ulterior purpose and not for industrial packages.

I will give you hundreds of examples. I am tired of such cases. So, you may wind up BIFR. Instead of this, you can have a kind of 'Revival Board' without quasi-judicial authority having a representative from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry, the Department of Planning with an integrated nature and offer the packages from the Government itself after considering the health of the units. Then only, revival is possible. Otherwise, I am sorry to say that I am not able to show my face at any gate of the public sector undertakings. They question me and say that I am coming there as a *dalal* of the Government or as a party to sign them in some agreement where retrenchment is fast and there is no revival. This is the fate.

Hon. Minister had been the Chief Minister of Maharashtra; he is much more competent and he knows—more than us—the reason of sickness of the units. The eyes of the private developers are on the properties. They come in, in the name of industry, but they do not do anything for the industry.

[*Translation*]

If you enter Howrah city from the railway station you will find that the factories which were situated on both sides of G.T. Road were demolished after buying the same with the help of police in the name of their revival. The workers migrated to eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as they were rendered unemployed.

[English]

A large number of workers went without getting the provident fund, without getting their wages from the sick units at the cost of their toil, the developers got the properties like building.

[Translation]

I do not know how you will check this. I can only request the hon'ble Minister to implement all these four suggestions and create history of revolution. We will not depend on BIFR for this instead we will call the representative of four Ministries and offer separate packages after studying health, marketing, raw material and refinance.

[English]

It can be done through professional management with a clear agreement of workers, the management and the Government; and they can say that such and such things are to be done year-wise and they have to develop. Then only, a few units would survive. Otherwise, I am sorry, they will not survive.

West Bengal is crying now because of this. Jessop is crying; India Machinery is closed; Hoogly Dock and Shipping is crying; National Instruments is finished; MAMC is closed. MAMC is a very good unit which was a dream of Dr. B.C. Roy. It is in Durgapur. These are a few cases, Mr. Minister, where your Government has killed such units. There was one of the best units in India called, ABL in Durgapur which used to manufacture boilers of the power structure. Thirty per cent share of it is with the Government even today. It was closed. I got it reopened with the help of Shri Vasant Sathe, when he was the Minister of the Government.

That unit is competing well in the public sector. It stood the lowest in the bid to get the order to manufacture boilers. In spite of standing the lowest, they were not given the offer thereby causing threat of retrenchment in the unit. I talked to the hon. Minister Shri Kumaramangalam today. How can this happen? If NTPC is not awarding the contract to a unit which stood the lowest in spite of having technological power and awarding the contract to the highest bidder, that is, BHEL, what is the point in keeping such units? Such units will be closed. This kind of discriminatory attitude should also be opposed by the Government.

I have a lot of hope in the hon. Minister. It is not because he is a Minister, but he comes from a State for which industrial progress is the key. He knows the reasons and ailments. If he can consider these suggestions and do the needful, I will be grateful to him. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to take one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, in addition to what I said in my speech, I want to give some proposals in just a minute's time. I want to mention some proposals for remedial action. Induction of new technologies, budgetary support, consultative studies and rationalization of manpower are some of the proposals which will remedy the situation. Now, under the policy of the Government, the Central Public sector units are being offered to the strategic partners. Kindly they may explain what are the real roles of the strategic partners, what are their capacities and in what capacity they are entering into the field in the name of strategic partners.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many times a discussion has been held in the House on the resolution presented in this House. In past, many times the discussion on public undertakings had been held through special motions and also by other procedures. The result of it had been Zero. Due to continuous loss, the condition of these undertakings have become so miserable, that they are on the verge of closure. According to the Government's figures there are 12 such undertakings, which are being asked to shut down. In past, many units had been shut down, but at present Cement Corporation of India, Cycle Corporation, Indian Ophthalmic Manufacturing Limited and many other corporations are being asked to shut down. Although by investing money, these units can become viable, but their viability was not considered they were either sent to B.I.F.R., where even after the lapse of two-four years, no solution has been suggested, and they too have not taken any decision. Therefore, everybody is concerned about their closure. Once these undertakings were the foundation of the economic policy of the country. The one lakh crore rupee of the country had been invested in these undertakings, but it appears this money will go waste, and because of loss of their productivity, their utility has become Zero. We have to think about it. There is need for a clear cut labour and industrial policy.

I would like to cite the example of Cement Corporation. A unit which was running smoothly was shut down due to lack of funds. Two Units of Cement Corporation in my constituency Nayagaon have been closed because Cement Corporation was unable to pay the electricity bill. It was unable to pay the bill of Rs. 45 lakh, therefore units which were giving good production

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

were closed down. Though 800 officers and employees of these units are getting salaries, but due to non-availability of electricity, they are facing many problems. The Kendriya Vidyalaya is there, but their children are not studying in it. It has been repeatedly said that some sick units of Cement Corporation will be sold and that money will be invested in this unit to make it viable, but I regret that it has not happened.

Same is the condition of Cycle Corporation. It was proposed to make this Corporation viable, but due to mismanagement, it has also not become viable. In spite of controlling the extra expenditure, the employees of lower level have been retrenched in these units. Today, the situation is such that we are continuously worried that ultimately, what should be done about these units. Despite many efforts and reforms, nothing could be done. The Units like Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India, Eastern Coal Field Limited, Bharat Coking Coal, Air India Limited, Bharat Ispat Nigam, Indian Iron and Steel Company, Cement Corporation of India, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Company, are also incurring loss. The second example is of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals company. This company is incurring loss. It has units in Pimpri, Rishikesh and Hyderabad. But due to continuous mismanagement, they have incurred loss. Today, other companies whether it's Ranbaxy or Glaxo are making progress and are earning profit. But there was time when IDPL had monopoly. When Pencillin was invented, they begin its production, but today it is no longer used, but at that time they had monopoly, and this company was famous for manufacturing life-saving drugs.

But today, I.D.P.L. has been simply reduced to producing contraceptive pills only. I have seen those plants. Why is it so? On one side there is a I.D.P.L. unit and in its neighbour there is a Ranbaxy unit. You can see it in Gurgaon, Haryana. Both of them are adjoining. You will see the differences in their condition. You should seriously consider all this. This proposal is very practical. What is the fault of people working there? What crime the employees have committed? They should get good salary and allowances. Their children should get protection. The arrangement for withdrawing money from provident fund is also not good. It has been discussed many times, how to bring improvement in it, but no further action could be taken. It has also been seriously discussed this year in the House through a question. I would not like to go in details of it. In March 1999, a question was asked. It was asked there.

[English]

"Whether Rs. 191 crore were provided to 12 Central profit-making Public Sector Units from the National Renewal Fund?"

The Minister has given the answer saying:

"It has been stated in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 1997 that controlling Ministries released Rs. 190.73 crore to 12 profit-making Central Public Sector Undertakings for Voluntary Retirement Scheme."

[Translation]

The Voluntary Retirement Scheme was not even implemented for those who want to retire voluntarily. Some sectors are profit making and some are not. You should consider both of them. The Government should work seriously in this regard. This matter was discussed in 12th Lok Sabha. The Government had taken a decision to make a package programme for this, to make viable units viable, and to leave those units which are not viable. No decision has been taken in this regard so far. Without going into much detail, I would like to request the Government to consider it seriously. The capital of worth crores of rupees invested in these units should be saved. The Units which are in working condition, should be run. The future of thousands of employees employed in these units should be protected. These units were useful and could still be useful for the economy of the country. The Government should save such units. With these words and aforesaid views, I support this motion.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, many people work in the public sector industries. It has also been acknowledged in the constitution that everybody should get employment. It is good that Government have set up many industries. Lakhs of crores of rupees have been invested in these. The Government has not paid attention towards the working of the management of these industries. Many a time it happens that labourers do not have sense of belonging to the factory in which they are working. The Management should consider the interests of the labourers, Japan has made a lot of progress in a few years even after destruction. It's economy has been developed. But why we have not progressed even after setting up of so many industries? The Government should think about it. Shri Manohar Joshi is a good and strong Minister. Why sick industries are becoming sick? You should think in this regard. Today, private industries are earning profit, but Government industries are incurring loss. I request that there is a need to improve the management. The management should treat labourers as their own. Today it is seen that management is not looking after the interests of labourers. In Mumbai, Maharashtra, the N.T.C. Mills are shut down, or on the verge of closure. The textile industry in country is getting organised, but Government Mills need to be strengthened more.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every industry has Board of Directors, and it should be constituted, for industries, where it is not in existence. As told by Shri Sudip, there should be a provision for two Members in the Board of Directors. In this way they become aware of the problems of the labourers. The Board of Directors should have one person from the trade Union leaders. Once I had raised an issue in the House that the duty hours of the labourers should not be 8 hours, but instead there should be a shift system. Everybody had made a fun of it. My suggestion is that their duty hours should be of 6 hours and they should work in four shifts. It has been observed that production increases in shift system and lakhs of people get employment. The experiment should be made. The lakhs of people can get employment. It can be started with Government industries like N.T.C., Steel Authority, O.N.G.C., Coal, C.C.I. and F.C.I. It should be experimented, whether production increases in the four shifts of 6 hours. It has been observed that in the Government offices where working hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. people work only for 2 to 3 hours. If it is done, every worker can get job. My suggestion is that, Government should do experiments in this regard. A meeting should be called to consider how sick units can be made viable.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is need for modernisation and installing new machinery in all the mills. My suggestion is that labourers should not be retrenched on the name of modernisation. It should not be so that 100 labourers are sacked, by installing one machine. People migrate from villages to work in mills. They live in slums and work for the development of the cities. For livelihood, they migrate from villages to the cities. If they are removed from their jobs, their lives will be totally devastated. Many mills in the Mumbai have closed and they were compelled to leave their jobs and return. It has also affected their families. Once a person has migrated from village to the city, he should not be compelled to go back to the village. Their jobs should be protected. My suggestion is that this new Government should seriously think over it. The Government should provide some guidelines for it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has brought this proposal, and as Shri Dasmunsi has told that many times this issue has been discussed in the House, there is a need to find a solution for it. It should not happen, this time also that only discussion is held, and is kept in record only. The Government should seriously consider and should take decision on the subject discussed in the House. Therefore, I would like to appeal the hon'ble Minister that he should take some decision to develop the sick industries. He should also make it sure that workers will not be removed from their jobs. I would like to conclude, giving these suggestion.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, everybody want to move with the current but it needs courage to move against the current by understanding the need of the time. There are some good points in the resolution presented by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, which should be supported. The labourers, workers and officers of the public undertakings, which are going to be closed should either be adjusted in some other places or under V.R.S., they should be retired after giving them salary and other benefits. I am sorry to state that the public undertakings which had made great contribution in the economic and industrial development of the country and which were termed the temples of modern India, which we had wished to be the ideal and model in view of management and efficiency, in which billions of rupees of our country were invested, the hard-earned money of our people, which they had paid as tax was invested in them, and from which entire country had great expectations, we had great hopes from them but they could not be realised and become burden on us. Initially, the public undertakings excluding 'Navratnas' or 'Miniratnas' were 26 in number and now their number has rose to 241. Approximately Rs. 5 trillion, 83 billion, rupees of the country are invested in them, and they are the biggest job generators in the country. They had played positive and historical role, but despite this we have not been able to fulfill our dreams. SAIL, BHEL and ONGC are exception to it. The present condition of the public undertakings is due to mismanagement, corruption, theft, adhocism, bureaucracy, and turning of public undertakings into pastures for politicians. We have to think about it.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government that the public undertakings which can really earn profit, should be encouraged, and efforts should be made for their progress. But the units which are incurring losses and are not at all viable should be shut down, but the employees and officers of these units should be absorbed somewhere else. In Ajmer, there is a H.M.T. factory.

Earlier the Minister of Industry issued orders that the employees can seek voluntary retirement. Salary of four to six months was paid to them and they were retired after giving assurances. Some employees were not even paid salary. The Minister of heavy industries is here. I had sent the memorandum of 15-20 employees of Ajmer who sought retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the hon'ble Minister wherein it has been stated that they were assured payment of a certain amount and some other benefits but even after a lapse of such a long period nothing has been done in this regard and on approaching the officer of the undertakings they told that fund is not being allocated to them and the undertaking is running in loss and as such how can they make payment to them. Initially the Government provided some

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

money from the National Renewal Fund. B.I.F.R. has considered the cases of loss making units and has recommended closure of nine units out of them. Similar fate is awaited for the rest of the units. Sir, for how long we can bear the burden of such units. Therefore, payment should be made early in respect of those units whose payment is outstanding. Some employees have sought voluntary retirement, but the officers are not taking decision in this regard and letters from here also reach quite late. You should also look into this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though you I would like to say few things more. What was the reason of failure of those government undertakings about which we were quite hopeful. Our communist friends talk much about public sector undertakings about which we were quite hopeful. Our communist friends talk much about public sector undertakings and about safe guarding the interests of labourers. There are so many trade unions in the public sector undertakings and if you concede the demands of one union other union will raise their banner demanding something else and the management is busy all the time in dealing with the strikes by the employees. These people encourage strikes. Just now Shri Dasmunsiji was referring to the situation prevailing in Calcutta and Howrah. We will have to consider all these things open mindedly in this age of liberalisation and globalisation. Profit making public sector undertakings should be allowed to grow and loss making public sector undertakings should not be permitted to operate as they cause burden of taxes on the public through the budget. The people of the country can no longer bear this burden of taxes caused by these units. Therefore, they should be closed down immediately. But the Labourers, Employees and officers engaged therein should get their due benefits and justice should be done to them in other matters.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am pained to say that I had visited Gorakhpur four five years ago with a Parliamentary Committee. I saw the huge fertilizer plant of Fertilizers Corporation of India there. I was told that the said plant was closed for the last six months. The said plant is spread over miles of land. Bangalows of higher officers and staff quarters are also there. The pipe line of the boiler was to be replaced. But nobody is taking decision in this regard because bureaucrats are appointed as managers on deputation and officers on deputation exploited the people there. Politicians are exploiting the plant by making appointment of their kith and kin in the plant. They have no autonomy to take decisions. It is very pleasant to say that now the Government have decided to accord autonomy to the these undertakings also called 'Navratnas' and they can take decisions with regard to management production and to streamline the management also. Earlier, the situation was not the same.

As a result, everybody was passing the bulk on to other. Earlier it was decided that officers and labourers will take care of it. They will be committed to all the public sector undertakings and they will have devotion to work. But neither they observed discipline nor they realised their responsibility. Which resulted in this chaos and the condition of the public sector undertaking became critical. That is why we have accepted this reality. The Government will have to take this unpleasant decision. I would like to appeal to the government that unviable loss making public sector undertakings which cannot be revived should be closed down immediately. The labourers employees, officers and management of such undertakings should be absorbed somewhere else or they should be retired under voluntary retirement scheme or Golden handshake scheme and all benefits should be given to them. They should not be left to face hardship or to made to go from pillar to post for their benefits. I hope the Government will keep this thing in mind.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give one or two more suggestions. I would not like to mention the name of any union. Certain organised groups, political leaders mafia and bureaucrats have done immense damage to the property of the public sector undertakings. Several such instances have been published in the newspapers. Our public sector undertakings have been set up by spending thousands of crores of hard earned public money. These undertakings will be of no use if we are not dedicated, self disciplined, if their management is not efficient and if we do not care for their safety and if we work honestly. Therefore a trained independent cadre should be created for them. The Government officials remain in them for two-three years and they do not take interest in their affairs, as a result of which their the condition of these undertakings does not improve.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, a trained independent cadre should be created for heavy industries. Besides, efficiency should be brought in management. Autonomy should be given to the individual undertakings so that official concerned could take decision in regard to manufacturing production, marketing goods and replacement of infrastructure. The Officers of these undertakings should not wait for the files from the Secretariat which may take days together. Instead of that officers of these undertakings alongwith participants of labourers should decide as to how they can make progress and they should make efforts to ensure that the labourers are committed to the undertakings. Fund should be mobilised for modernisation by selling shares to the private investors.

Very few of communist friends of mine are present in the House right now. I would like to remind them that Russia collapsed due to nationalisation of everything. Their

economy collapsed due to lack of competitiveness which resulted in disintegration of erstwhile U.S.S.R. Do they want to ruin our remaining economy? I request them to give up their narrow attitude and to come out of the borders of Bengal and Tripura and think broadly in the interest of the entire country.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that more powers should be given to the Disinvestment Commission appointed by the Government and a specific number of shares should be sold to the private investors and funds should be mobilised for modernisation. Accountability of the management should be fixed. They should be made accountable so that they could take bold decision according to prevailing circumstances without waiting for orders from the Secretariat. Sir, some one has said:

"Log Kahte hain ki badalta hai zamana—
Are mard wah hai jo zamane ko badal de."

Sir, Shri Josiji is here. He has contributed a lot in the development of Maharashtra. I would like to request him that he should take firm steps in the national interest and improve the condition of public sector undertakings. Profit making public sector undertaking should be allowed to continue and those which are running in loss, which are burden on us, should be closed down immediately and some other works should be started in lieu thereof. If we do not have latest technology for management of these then we should make arrangement to have it. Moreover a feeling of oneness towards the undertakings should be created amongst the labourers and management. It will put the country on path of progress and they should work unitedly which will further strengthen the feeling:

'Agar naav doobegi to doobenge saare,
Na ham hi bachenge na saathi hamare.'

If feeling of oneness is created amongst them definitely this slogan will be chanted.

'Desh ke liye karengे kaam,
phir kaam ke badle lenge daam."

If this feeling is created then definitely our country and our public sector undertakings will march on path of progress.

With these words, I partially support the bill regarding the public sector undertakings introduced by Shrimati

Geeta Mukherjee but I do not want to support this bill blindly. I think there is nothing objectionable about the things mentioned in it with regard to investment and disinvestment but we should take every care in this regard. O.N.G.C., SAIL., BHEL, DEL, Nav Ratnas like Videsh Sanchar Nigam etc., should be strengthened and there should not be any hesitation in mobilising funds. Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN
(Sivaganga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is really a very important matter which has to be looked into by the Government.

We are very happy to say that Maharashtra is an industrially advanced State. Shri Manohar Joshi was a very successful Chief Minister there and he has recently taken over charge as the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. Therefore, he has rich experience. The industrial development attitudes should be thoroughly gone into in this very important period of our nation's turning point because we are really thinking that only foreign funds and private sector can bring in the scope for the development of this country. But it is not a true statement. The truth is that they are also needed. But the truth is that we have got a very rich heritage. We have also got a very good industry run by the Public Sector which was successful and wonderful in the world when other countries were limping back to normalcy.

India was very successful as a socialist country when the Russian Communist Party and Mr. Gorbachev could not retain their country together. We have kept different sections of people and people with different cultures united for the past 50 years. This is a big achievement. But now BJP Government is taking steps to reverse all the good things. This is very unfortunate. BJP's attitude is different from that of the previous Governments. They want to denationalise everything and they want to divide the people on the basis of Mandal and *Kamandal* which is very unfortunate. As a newcomer in Parliament, I am observing each and every physical movement of important persons. I am very unhappy to see Shri Pramod Mahajan encouraging two young Members, Shri Somaiya and Shri Swain to promote a division among the citizens by bringing a Private Members' Bill and applauding them.

These are the things which the people of the country are looking at. Therefore, Bharatiya Janata Party should not be a Bharatiya*...Party. It should not be a party which divides the nation. This nation expects a lot from this Government because people with different attitudes have come together and formed the Government. So, people are expecting so much from this Government.

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That word will be expunged from the record.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: In this context, I would request the Government to kindly take into consideration the historical aspect of the public sector undertakings. They were created with the view that the private enterprises could not take so much of investment to come to the level of industrial revolution. That was the intention of Jawaharlal Nehru when he set up these public sector units. He brought industries like iron, steel and coal into the public sector because that was the necessity for the nation at that time. When the other countries of the world could not progress, India had progressed well due to its public sector. A lot of our tax money was invested in it and that is why, they could come up to the level of competing with other nations. They can supply goods any other material which are required for building up the under-developed countries. Earlier, all the Non-aligned countries were purchasers from us and all the countries of the world were looking at us. That was the stature of our public sector which was promoted by Pandit Nehru. Subsequently, when Indiraji came to power, she had promoted them very aggressively to make these units come on the top. They surpass in every field.

She had nationalised the banks and we cannot rewrite the history. The nationalisation of the banks proved to be very profitable for the country. That made the ordinary people able to get capital and know-how to promote small-scale industries. That was a very successful venture because so many unemployed people got employment and also got self-employment. They promoted very good small-scale and medium industries.

That was the thing promoted by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. That was the thing prevailing during the period of her rule. That was the thing when unemployment was stagnated. That was coming down because of these types of opportunities. Therefore, we cannot change the small-scale industries. We cannot eradicate medium-scale industries.

Now, what has happened during the past five years? We see so many Governments coming and going. But every time, they just kill the small-scale industries. They kill the medium-scale industries. They kill the public undertakings systematically. They want the public undertakings to face a natural death. How is it possible? It is our money. It is our taxpayers' money. For the past 50 years, it has been the toiled money of the poor citizens. Their blood and their sweat was converted into taxes. That was paid to the public undertakings. Therefore,

that is our money. That is people's money. That is our ancestors' money. That is our forefathers' money. That money has to be protected. The assets have to be protected. That type of policy-making should become available to the new Government. They have got some patriotism. They should feel that we are running the Indian enterprises. We are running them on behalf of the people. We are running on behalf of the shareholders, that is, the people. That is more than the private sector. The private sector undertakings are manned by Managing Directors or Board of Directors on the basis of shares given by certain people. But here, the entire country is paying the money. The citizens are the shareholders of these public sector undertakings. Therefore, the Managers, that is, the Managing Directors or Directors or Chairmen of these public sector undertakings should feel that they are manning the companies. We are manning people's money. We are manning the community assets. That type of feeling should be created. That is why I submit that they should be professional managers. The bureaucrats should not manage the companies. The bureaucrats can manage bureaucracy. They cannot manage the companies. They cannot manage the textile mills. They cannot learn it. They may be going to foreign countries to learn many things. But they unlearn it because when they come back, they are transferred immediately from leather industry to steel industry. Therefore, it is very easy for them. The bureaucrats are changed every two or three years. They are changing it.

Therefore, I would like to submit that the Ministry should take into consideration that these should be professionally managed and also the marketing methods should be totally taken into consideration. The industry should decide about marketing needs and the people's needs.

I would request the labour side also—because the trade unions should have their participation that they should become shareholders of the public sector undertakings. They should feel that it is their own industry. The service is very important for them. The trade unions should feel that they are partners in the industry. They should not feel that they are agitating against the private management. They should not agitate against the people. They should not agitate against public investments. Therefore, I would request that the trade unions should also change their attitude. Then, they should show that the public undertakings are in no way less than the private sector undertakings. They are also competitive. They are also modern. They can also come up to the competitive level to go anywhere to compete with any industry. In that way, that attitudinal changes should come up. That should be very important.

I want to mention that many NTC mills are now sick. In my constituency, many mills are sick. These should be revitalised. Therefore, they should get capital. New investments should be there. The labour matters should be settled immediately. There should be some settlement with labour and revival should be there. The textile policy should be changed. The policy about cotton, other raw materials and about export of raw cotton should be changed so that the textile mills could be revived. That will help in another way. The handloom industry will also come up. It is giving a lot of employment to the poor people.

With these words, I just follow the statement which has been made by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee on whose resolution you have given me an opportunity to speak. The hon'ble members who spoke prior to me have also made references that discussion on sick public sector undertakings takes place frequently in the House through questions, through other rules and through the resolutions moved by private members. But it has not been possible to find out any one time concrete solution of this problem after discussions. Sir, through you I would like to say that Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has brought this resolution at a ripe time in the House. Certainly, Mumbai is industrially developed city of Maharashtra and our hon'ble Minister for Heavy Industries, Shri Manohar Joshi has contributed a lot in steady growth of industries in the city and the state as a whole during the tenure as Chief Minister of the State. Now the responsibility of improving the condition of these undertakings has come on his shoulders and we are quite hopeful that certainly a package will be offered in this regard because a lot depends on stature, intention and will power of the Minister incharge of any ministry. Concrete decision have to be taken by keeping co-ordination amongst several Ministries in this connection. The hon'ble Minister is quite capable for it. The entire House have expressed this view and all are confident that he will take firm steps.

So far as this discussion is concerned several hon'ble Members have participated in this discussion and they have said that bureaucracy, corruption, political interference and mismanagement are the reasons for the worsening condition of about 226 public sector undertakings. As per the official report, out of these 226 undertakings, 12 undertakings have been recommended for closure hon'ble Pandeyji also read out the list of such undertakings. Discussion on C.C.I., F.C.I. and H.F.C. and several other undertakings took place here which the

Government consider fit to be close down. Our hon'ble friends from Congress were telling frequently and will giving political tinge to the discussion.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to express my concern on the subject. The public Sector undertakings on which we are having discussion today were set up by the then governments at a cost of about Rs. 583 crore during the mixed economic policy regime. At that time these undertakings were set up with the objective that these will be immensely helpful in speedy development of the country. Sir, through you I would like to draw attention of my colleague who were participating in the discussion that during 50 years of our own rule irrespective of which party was in power the condition of these undertakings deteriorated from bad to worse in all respects due to bureaucracy, mismanagement nepotism, rampant corruption and political interference.

I was in the standing committee of the Ministry of Industry during the eleventh Lok Sabha, and as convener I got opportunities to visit several places and I had also visited the Scooters India at Lucknow. There I came to know that there are 250 officers on a strength of five hundred employees. I came to know that whoever was appointed in some such organisation through political backing made further appointment of his own people. Thus the strength of officers and Staff reached 250 and 500 respectively.

Generally it is accepted that one officer require staff strength of ten employees to work under him in any organisation. There are several organisations where six employees have been sanctioned under an officer. But in public sector undertakings two employees are sanctioned to work under one officer. We had celebrated 50th year of our independence. The condition of public sector undertakings deteriorated due to such nepotism, political interference, mismanagement and bureaucracy. These facts have been revealed after a review was conducted in this regard. But condition of these undertakings cannot be improved by merely by conducting reviews as we usually say. Earlier also, several suggestions have been given in this august House and several points have been discussed in this House but they are not translated into action.

When I was in the parliamentary standing committee, I found that B.I.F.R. had received proposals from several organisations two to three years ago but they were not being disposed of due to corruption in the B.I.F.R.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the fact that a time limit should be fixed for the other 26 institutes or the 12 institutes which are going to be closed down.

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

Proposals should come timely and their disposal should also be done timely. But this does not happen. It has to be pursued in the B.I.F.R. The other way is adopted in the B.I.F.R. which results in irregularities. Through you, I would like to tell the Government that during the last financial year Rs. 205 crore were not utilised in the National Renewal Fund while the position of 226 Government undertakings is precarious. In our country the position of a dozen companies like BHEL is good and the remaining undertakings are in bad shape. I had already stated that 12 companies are about to be closed down and we have been seriously considering to do so. This proposal has been presented in the House for discussion by hon'ble Geeta Mukherjee, therefore we have found a chance to consider this proposal.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand the situation is like this and on the other hand if we study the Budget of the Government of India we will find that the money which is allocated for the National Renewal Fund each year is not fully utilised. This does not happen because we do not take timely decision within the decision making time limit by holding discussion among the various Ministries and do not try to dispose the case by taking on the spot decision. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit before the hon'ble Minister that you are a capable Minister having a status, we recognise your potential and you have the will to work, hence I would request that if all the matters in B.I.F.R. are disposed off collectively by holding discussion among various Ministries, problem could be resolved to a large extent.

With this I would like to say one more thing that the Government want to improve the condition of all the public undertakings. The Public undertakings were started for the purpose of associating them with the placement of order of some factory, like the Housing Construction Limited Company in Bokaro. It has units at many places, it should get construction work orders from SAIL but they do not have the work construction. Their employees have not been given salary for 12 months. Several methods are adopted to get the deal now-a-days. Political pressure and several other factors are there due to which Housing Construction Limited does not get work. Similarly, there is 'Patna based Bharat Wagon Company which has a unit at Muzzaffarpur. I hail from Bihar, so I want to discuss it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it might be in your knowledge as to what is the condition of that company. Another unit of this company is located in Mokama and it was getting orders for constructing Railway Wagons from the Railways but no longer the Ministry of Railways do so and now the electricity poles are manufactured there. This job work too is not provided by the State Government to the Company and now this Unit is also turning sick. I hope that you will consider it. I would like to submit before the

hon'ble Minister whether it is not possible that a package of works from various Ministries could be offered to the unit. I would be very kind on your part if you make the arrangements for providing work to the Bharat Wagon after speaking to the Ministry of Railways regarding it. It is a very viable unit but now has turned sick. If the orders for constructing all the coaches and wagons for Railways is placed with the Bharat Wagons Limited, it will be able to grow. Similar is the case of IDPL located at Rishikesh. Hon'ble Doctor Sahib has said rightly that the medicines should be manufactured properly there but it is not happening and the medicines are being produced in half quantity. That company is somehow being run. There is Scooter India Limited Company in Lucknow but instead of scooters, something else is being manufactured there and this company too has been referred to B.I.F.R. We are in the second phase of economic reforms. Today morning itself, this issue was being discussed during Question Hour and yesterday some legislations related to it have been passed. It is the beginning of the second phase. We moved to the era of liberalisation by shunning the policy of mixed economy in 1991.

We adopted to new economic policy, new industrial policy. Today the second phase of economic policy and new industrial policy is being started by the Government after completing the first phase. We would like to submit to the hon. Minister that this should be reviewed. These Government undertakings become sick during the regime of mixed economy policy under which they were started by naming them as the 'Temples of modern India'. These units were started to accelerate the pace of economic development and provide it a razor like sharpness. The mixed economic policy was their heritage which was started by them and helped it grow as the 'Temples of India'. But during their regime these 'Temples' were converted into pasture lands. All these units became sick due to their turning into political pasture lands and also due to nepotism, bureaucracy and mismanagement. But some units could not face the competition during the era of mixed industrial policy. Today we have completed the first phase of liberalisation. Where do we stand in the first phase of liberalisation which started in 1991. Twelve units are on the verge of closure and many person have lost their jobs during this. Now we have moved to the second phase. Yesterday, we have also passed the legislation in this regard. I support a lot of things contained in the proposal of Geetaji but I do not want to support it fully because when we could not strengthen our public undertakings during the regime of mixed economic policy, it is very difficult to do so in the second phase of economic liberalisation started since 1991 and in my opinion we lag far behind in this field. After that when we are starting the second phase, we have to seriously think over it and carry it forward after careful consideration. We will not enter in the competition till we do so, whether we have to participate in the private sector, sell shares in the market or invest by any means. It should be

followed by framing a right policy and bringing a package in Parliament in this regard. Discussions should be held over that package and after that collective decisions should be taken after holding deliberations among all the important Ministries, the Minister of Industry alone will not be capable of doing so.

Sir, through you I would like to submit before the hon'ble Minister that during this second phase of new economic policy which has just started, this question assumes more importance that when we have not been able to face the competition during the era of mixed economy policy how can we face it now. The issue of providing participation in management to the workers has already been a subject of debate. Along with the role in management workers should accept their responsibility in building 'Temple' of their dreams, *i.e.* their own undertakings. That kind of atmosphere is to be created. The closing down 12 units, sick units which you have been thinking about and the companies where the workers have not been getting their salary without any fault of theirs nor is it the fault of their families and children. Their welfare should be kept in view. Whether it is voluntary retirement scheme, golden hand-shake scheme or it be any scheme under B.I.F.R., they should not be delayed. They should be given proper job, proper work as an alternative. The hon. Minister should bring forward a package in the House which should incorporate proper policy for their development ensuring their rights. Under this package a single window system should be developed and all cases arising out of B.I.F.R., golden hand shake scheme, Voluntary Retirement Scheme and problem of sick industry should be redressed through the single window thereby resolving the issue of worker's participation and responsibility at one go, ensuring their competitiveness against the multinationals in the second phase of economic liberalisation so that the name Manohar Joshi may continue to echo during the coming eras.

I want to submit to you that you should handle it strongly. It will be very kind on your part if you talk to the Ministry of Railways for providing work for the Bharat Wagon Limited in Bihar. You please visit the unit and arrange to provide the work of manufacturing wagons to the unit after holding discussion with the Ministry of Railways so that it may not close down.

18.00 hrs.

You are also requested to resolve the problem of IDPL. With these words I partly support it and I conclude.

18.0¹/₂ hrs.

**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—Laid**

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 1999."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 1999."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill, 1999 and the Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1999, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 1999.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned to meet on Monday at 11.00 a.m.

18.01 hrs.

*Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Monday, December 6, 1999/
Agrahayana 15, 1921 (Saka)*

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