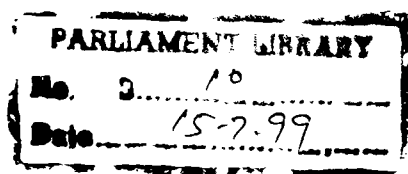


# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Second Session  
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

**Shri S. Gopalan**  
**Secretary General**  
**Lok Sabha**

**Dr. A. K. Pandey**  
**Additional Secretary**  
**Lok Sabha Secretariat**

**Shri P.C. Bhatt**  
**Chief Editor**  
**Lok Sabha Secretariat**

**Shri A.P. Chakravarti**  
**Senior Editor**

**Shri J.C. Sharma**  
**Editor**

---

**(Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof.)**

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES  
(English Version)

Friday, June 5, 1998/Jyaistha 15, 1920 (Saka)

....

<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
ii/29	Shri Chandershekhar Sahu	Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu
2/10	SHRI T.R. BALLU	SHRI T.R. BAALU
58/34	SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI	SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY
160/last	SHRI ANNASABEB M.K. PATIL	SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL
175/13	1588	1558
181/2	SHRI RANJIB BISWAL	SHRI RANJIB BISWAL
232/13	SHRI DATTA HEGHE	SHRI DATTA MEGHE
277/2	THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES	THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES
277/11	SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY	SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY
366/21	SHRI P.SHIV SHANKAR	SHRI P.SHIV SHANKER
372/29	(ULLEBERIA)	(ULUBERIA)
461/11	from 50 to 60	from 58 to 60
499/6 (from below)	adourned	adjourned

---

**(Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof.)**

## CONTENTS

*Twelfth Series, Vol. II. Second Session 1998/1920 (Saka)  
No. 8, Friday, June 5, 1998/Jyaistha 15, 1920 (Saka)*

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE .	1
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
* Starred Questions Nos. 142 to 144 .	5-25
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Questions Nos. 145 to 161.	25-64
Unstarred Questions Nos. 1463 to 1667.	64-334
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE .	334-356
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE .	356, 371-373
Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhry .	371
Shri Rajendra Agnihotri .	371-372
Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra .	372
Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee .	372
Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan .	372
Shri Hannan Mollah	372
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	372-373
Dr. C.P. Thakur	373
Shri Punnu Lai Mohale	373
PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357	357-358
Shri Jag Mohan	
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS--(GENERAL), 1995-96	358
Shri Yashwant Sinha	
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	384-386
Situation in Assam	
Shri L.K. Advani	

---

\* The Sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

## SUBJECT

## COLUMNS

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF STATUS PAPER ON RAILWAYS RAILWAY BUDGET, 1998-99 - GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (RAILWAYS) (1995-96) .	400-406, 447-500
Shri Hira Lal Roy .	402-406
Shri Balram Jakhar .	448-452
Shri Chinmayanand Swami .	452-460
Shri M. Selvarasu .	460-464
Shri Shantilal Chaplot .	464-468
Shri A. Siddaraju .	468-469
Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar .	469-472
Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik .	472-476
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey .	476-482
Shri Th. Chaoba Singh .	482-486
Shrimati Reena Choudhary .	486-488
Shri K.A. Sangtam .	488-491
Shri Anup Lal Yadav	491-496
Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari .	496-499
PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION	406-447
RE : NATIONAL HOUSING POLICY	
Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy	407-412
Prof. Jogendra Kawade .	413-415
Shri Prabhunath Singh .	415-417
Shri Adityanath	417-419
Shri Motilal Vora	420-423
Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	423-426
Shri Chandershekhar Sahu	427-428
Shri Manikrao Hodliya Gavit	428-430
Shri Rama Nand Singh .	430-432
Shri Nakli Singh	433
Shri Ganga Charan Rajput	433-436
Shrimati Usha Verma	436-437
Shri Gyan Singh .	437-438
Shri Vilas Muttemwar	438-440
Shri Chhatra Pal Singh .	440-441
Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria .	441-445
Shrimati Reena Choudhry .	445-446
Shri Anant Kumar Hegde .	446-447

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Friday, June 5, 1998/Jyaistha 15, 1920 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

#### OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of Shri Teja Singh Dardi.

Shri Teja Singh Dardi was a Member of Eighth Lok Sabha representing Bhatinda Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab during the year 1985-89.

Earlier, he was a Member of Punjab Legislative Assembly during 1962-67 and 1977-80 and Haryana Legislative Assembly during 1968-72.

An able Parliamentarian, Shri Dardi was a Member of the Committee on Petitions during 1987-88.

An agriculturist by profession Shri Dardi was an active social and political worker. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the poor and down-trodden.

Shri Teja Singh Dardi passed away on 27 April, 1998 in New Delhi at the age of 67.

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

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul.

11.01 hrs.

*The Member then stood in silence for a short while.*

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 142. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI) : Sir, I gave a notice for suspension of Question Hour because of the nexus between I.S.I. and D.M.K. and the need to dismiss the D.M.K. Government immediately ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQUH RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD): The statement of Swamiji is correct hence this government be dismissed.

[English]

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (PERIYAKULAM) : Sir, this concerns the security of the country. We are not raising any law and order problem here. We are raising an important issue... (Interruptions)

SHRI T. R. BALLU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Sir, they cannot raise this matter here. It is a State subject... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, the D.M.K. Government should be dismissed... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swamy, I have gone through your notice also. It is a State subject; you can raise it in the 'Zero Hour'. I will allow you in the 'Zero Hour' Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir, the matter is *sub judice*. They cannot raise it here ... (Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, the country is falling apart... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I understand your feelings. You can raise it in the 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri R. Muthiah, Dr. Subramanian Swamy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I understand your feelings. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I understand your feelings. You can raise it during 'Zero Hour'. Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members to please go to your seats. It is entirely a State subject.

(Interruptions)

\*Not Recorded

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise it during the 'Zero Hour'. Please go to your seats. This is not good. Please go to your seats. You can raise this important matter during the 'Zero Hour'. Please go to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. If the matter is serious, I shall allow you during the 'Zero Hour'. Please go to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If the matter is so serious, I will allow you during the 'Zero Hour' Hour. The Question Hour is also very important.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that this is entirely a State subject. Please go to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour and not 'Zero Hour'. Please go to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Subramanian Swamy, this is not good. The 'Zero Hour, is also an important hour. You have raised your point, and I understand your feelings also.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record Q. No. 142, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : I would request you to please go to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You can take it up during the 'Zero Hour'. Please understand that this is not 'Zero Hour'.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that this is Question Hour and not a 'Zero Hour'. You must follow the procedure.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not 'Zero Hour'. During the 'Zero Hour', I will allow you to raise this question during 'Zero Hour'.

*(Interruptions)*

*\*Not Recorded*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Subramanian Swamy, please go to your seat. You know the procedure. You can raise this matter during 'Zero Hour'.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I again request you to please go to your seats. This is not 'Zero Hour' Hour. This is Question Hour. You are all senior Members.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please go to your seat, Dr. Subramanian Swamy. You know the procedure of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is on his legs. Please go to your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

11.15 hrs.

*(At this stage, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Shri. R. Muthiah and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 142 - Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Subramanian Swamy, please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava to put his question.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, what have you decided on my notice regarding the activities of ISI of Pakistan in Tamil Nadu?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 142 - Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : What has happened to my notice ? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the matter relates to law and order but since he had mentioned about I.S.I. we are ready to have discussion in which-

*\*Not Recorded*



ever manner you may decide...*(Interruptions)* We are ready for discussion...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : ...\*What is the report that the Government have got on this issue? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 142 – The Minister of Finance to reply.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, what happened to my notice ?

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please adjourn the House for ten minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : ....

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seat. You can raise the matter during 'Zero Hour.' But I cannot allow you now. I will allow you during the 'Zero Hour'.

Now, Q. 142 – Shri Girdhari Lai Bhargava.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This is an important issue. Sir, what is your ruling regarding my notice for suspension of Question Hour?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister of Finance to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Except the statement of the Minister of Finance, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\*\**

11.19 hrs.

*(At this stage, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Shri R. Muthaiah and some other hon. Members left the House.)*

11.20 hrs.

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Advance Funds for Externally Aided Projects

+

\*142. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

\*Expunged as Ordered by the Chair.

\*\* Not Recorded

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a provision of providing 25 percent amount of the Budgetary allocations to the State Governments as an advance in the beginning of every financial year for the implementation of externally aided projects without causing time and cost over-run;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have released the amount of advance to the State Governments, particularly to Rajasthan and Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether several claims of externally aided projects pertaining to the State Governments of Rajasthan and Karnataka are pending with the Union Government for reimbursement;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the pending claims are likely to be reimbursed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The normal procedure for release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is on reimbursement basis. However, release of advance ACA has been undertaken by way of assisting the States in effective aid utilisation. The amount of advance ACA has varied from year to year.

(b) and (c) During 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 750 crores has been released as advance ACA to 18 States including the States of Rajasthan and Karnataka.

(d) to (f) Claims amounting to Rs. 1.38 crore and Rs. 1.14 crore in respect of Rajasthan and Karnataka for which the donor has disbursed amounts are being processed for reimbursement. Further, reimbursement/direct payment claims worth Rs. 16.49 crore from Rajasthan and Rs. 22.84 crore from Karnataka have been received by the Government. These are under scrutiny in the Ministry or with the donors. Amounts against these will be due for release after the disbursement is received from the donor.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I would like

to humbly tell the Hon'ble Minister that the government has not given sufficient importance to Rajasthan and I got this impression from the reply of Hon'ble Minister that the amount of advance of Rs. 750 crore was released and out of that my State Rajasthan was given only Rs. 1.38 crore. Therefore, the Hon'ble Minister should think seriously for increasing this amount because it is injustice to give such a meagre amount to a desert hilly and backward state like Rajasthan.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first supplementary is that the Finance Minister should inform us about the schemes for which funds have been released and also the schemes for which funds are not being released? My second question is whether the economic sanctions imposed by America have had a bearing on the amount being given to Rajasthan? If so, whether an alternative arrangement will be made for Rajasthan?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had mentioned in my reply that the remaining amount which is to be released for making payments for special scheme, was Rs. 1.38 crore in the case of Rajasthan. Perhaps Hon'ble Minister has some confusion in this regard. It is pending amount. This year the amount of money which has been released to Rajasthan is Rs. 30 crore 42 lakh whereas last year under this head we had released only Rs. 20 crore 28 lakh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as Hon'ble Member's second question is concerned, I would like to say that in Rajasthan many such schemes are going on which are getting assistance from foreign institutions. I would also like to say that the hindrance which has occurred now due to postponement of our proposals by World Bank, has not influenced these payments. The process of payment is not affected due to this development. I would also ensure that not only Rajasthan but other states should also get their payments from time to time.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied with the reply of the Hon'ble Minister and I thank him for that. I would also like to ask one more supplementary Question. The Hon'ble Minister may please disclose the names of donors of the schemes of Rajasthan and how much amount is expected to be received from them?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got a long list of Rajasthan in which names of many countries are given. In that names of Switzerland, Japan, Canada, Sweden, Germany and many countries of European Community are mentioned who have been providing money for the approved schemes

of Rajasthan. Since it is a long list, if you allow me then I can make this list available to the Hon'ble Member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is another Member also. Shri A. Venkatesh Naik.

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Sir, presently several projects are being implemented all over the country. The completion of most of these projects are being delayed and the cost of those projects are also escalating day by day.

Sir, the Finance Minister, in his reply, has not stated anything about the amount of money that has been forwarded to the State Government of Karnataka during the year 1998-99. By what time due reimbursement of Rs. 22.84 crore would be made?

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As far as the Question of Karnataka is concerned, this year the amount which has been released to the State of Karnataka under the Advance Additional Central Assistance is Rs. 34.80 crores. This is only the advance.

Sir, We have a system of disbursement. The advance is released early in the year. This is only to help the States in order to get over the ways and means problem so that they could take up the implementation of the externally-aided projects as quickly as possible. Then, in course of the year, as and when we receive the bills, the accounts from the various State Governments we look at them and after we satisfy ourselves, we send them to the donor-agency. Then the donor-agency examines them and after the donor-agency has satisfied itself and made the disbursements, the monies are disbursed to the States.

Sir, this whole cycle takes about three months, which is not undue delay. Now, this amount of Rs. 20.84 crore, as I have stated, is the account that we have received from the Government of Karnataka. This is being processed. After we have looked at it, we would send it to the donor-agency and after it has been cleared by the donor-agency, this money will be reimbursed to the State. But I would like to say that this does not create any handicap for the States because the Advance Central Additional Assistance takes care of that problem.

[Translation]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Minister that Uttar

Pradesh is a very backward state and its own resources are meagre. It is also very backward in the area of health and industry. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister how much amount was given to Uttar Pradesh under Advance Funds for Externally Aided Projects?

[English]

How many Projects are pending.

[Translation]

By when their balance money will be given so that there is no cost over run in these projects and these projects whether they are in the field of power or any other field, could be started at the earliest?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the information available with me, Rs. 1.20 crore and 35 lakh was made available to Uttar Pradesh in the beginning of this year as advance additional central assistance. As far as the question of the schemes of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, I would like to say that in Uttar Pradesh also like other states, amount is being made available by various countries and multinational institutions for approved schemes. I am having the long list with me. With the progress in the implementation of the schemes we provide funds to Uttar Pradesh. There is no difficulty in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a fact that the Central Assistance as well as the Advance ACA which has been mentioned, reach the State Governments very late. We are told that there are several schemes for which ACA and Advance ACA are expected from the Central Government by the State of Kerala. We also are told that there has been a long delay and because of the delay, many of the schemes are pending.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please ask your pointed question. We are already running short of time.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : This is my pointed question, Sir.

There is one major irrigation project called Muvattupuzha Valley Irrigation Project. Work on this project is long pending because the Central Assistance and the Advance Assistance have not reached in time. Will the Minister be pleased to highlight these issues and also address these issues, so that the Kerala State and the people of Kerala will not be deprived of the Central Assistance in time?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am afraid, the impression that the hon. Member has is unfortunately not correct. This year we have released 15 per cent of the total amount as Advance Additional Central Assistance. This amount was released on 13th of May 1998. So, there has been absolutely no delay on our part in the release of this Central Assistance.

The other point which I would like to make is, the hon. Member would recall that when I had made my interim Budget speech in this House, I had said that I was making available an amount of Rs. 1000 crore by way of additional Central Assistance only in order to settle the outstanding bills of the State Governments. I would like to inform the hon. Member that compared to the arrears of previous years - in 1996-97 the arrear was Rs. 1105 crore, in 1997-98 the arrear was Rs. 1204 crore - fortunately in 1998-99, in the current year, the arrear is only Rs. 315 crore. It is as a result of the action that this Government took immediately after coming into office by making a special provision that the States' bills could be settled and the amount of the pending bills could be brought down to this level. This is unprecedented in the last few years. I would like to say that as far as Kerala is concerned, the amount of money which has been released this year by way of Advance Additional Central Assistance on the 13th of May is Rs. 22.45 crore. So, in the light of this, I do not think there is any special problem. If Kerala has any special problem in regard to any other project or any specific project, I will invite the Member to come and discuss it with me.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister in his reply has stated that during 1998-99 amount of Rs. 750 crore has been released in the form of advance additional central assistance to 18 states including Rajasthan and Karnataka. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister through you whether Maharashtra is also included in this and if so, how much amount has been given to Maharashtra?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Maharashtra was also included in these 18 states and an amount of Rs. 104 crore and 76 lakh has been given to it.

[English]

#### Export Performance

+

\*143. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any fresh initiatives and worked out new strategies to boost the export performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the export performance during 1997-98 in terms of target fixed with reasons for sluggish growth; and

(d) the details of revised target fixed for the current year with item-wise break-up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Monitoring and Review of Trade policy is a continuous process. This Government has initiated a number of policy initiatives to boost export performance during 1998-99. The external trade sector of India has been further liberalised with the changes introduced in the New Exim Policy. The existing export incentive schemes have been strengthened while an effort is being made to evolve new strategies for accelerated growth of exports. Procedures are simplified and sector specific issues are being addressed vigorously to deal with sectoral constraints. The threshold limit under the export promotion goods scheme has been reduced to Rs. 1 crore on the request of the small scale sector. The setting up of private bonded warehouses have been allowed to facilitate supply of imported raw materials to exporters, especially the small scale units, and bulk imports from India by large overseas buyers like departmental stores abroad. Through these efforts, the Government is trying to move towards a system based on mutual trust.

The Ministry of Commerce prepared a Medium Term Strategy covering sectoral and regional aspects for achieving the targeted export level of US \$ 90 billion by the year 2002 and to achieve 1% share in world exports. The sectoral strategy discusses sector specific issues and suggests measures to improve trade in these sectors. The regional strategy suggests a special focus on the emerging markets in Africa, Latin America and CIS countries.

(c) As against a target growth rate of 18% fixed for 1997-98, the growth rate achieved was 2.64% in US \$ terms. The factors contributing to the sluggish

growth of exports at the macro level include—slow growth in world trade (the world trade grew by 3% in value terms in 1997); the South East Asian currency crisis which affected India's exports to this region as well as the competitiveness in items of common interest; high cost of export credit; supply constraint faced on account of slow industrial growth and infrastructural inadequacies.

Sectorally, factors affecting the growth performance of the commodity groups with high weightage in India's export basket include - slow growth of demand in the importing countries for the gems and jewellery sector, short term ban imposed by EU on the marine product sector, closure of tanneries in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal on account of stringent pollution control measures for the leather sector, trade barriers in the form of anti-dumping duties and plant inspection for the chemical and allied products, demand recession in the importing countries faced by the textile sector and supply constraints faced in respect of agro products.

(d) The revised target fixed for the current year is 20% above the previous year's performance. Export in value terms of US \$ 41 billion is being targeted. The itemwise break up is being finalised in consultation with Trade Promotion Organisations and the Trading Community.

#### [Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of Hon'ble Minister is a routine one. Since Shri Hegde is our Commerce Minister, it was expected that he should have given a good and clear reply. I am saying this because keeping in view the discussion which is going on about our relations with other countries due to recent nuclear explosion and the hindrance which will occur in future in our export promotion, he has not mentioned these things in his reply. As far as the question of export is concerned, if it increases, it is a symbol of our self-dependence. Our export should always be more than our imports. I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister as to why he has not mentioned anywhere the problems which have arisen due to this nuclear explosion. Will this nuclear explosion not affect our trade policy and export promotion?

SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE : The reply to Hon'ble Member's Question is this. He has not mentioned anything about nuclear device explosion in his question. No question was asked about its impact, therefore, I replied to the question which was asked. The

question which he has asked just now, I would like to give its reply in this way. After nuclear explosion, some countries have threatened that they will impose economic sanctions but till now no country including America has imposed economic sanctions against our country. USA had tried its best, it even influenced England and other countries so that they could support them in imposing economic sanction but no country has agreed. Therefore, we should not worry about that, but even then if any sanction is imposed, we are ready to face it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary question.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is that our Ministry aims at achieving the targetted export level of \$ 90 billion by the year 2002 and to achieve 1% share in world export, but keeping in view our performance, how can we achieve this target? Moreover, no provision of any sound policy is mentioned in this reply. Previous year, the export target was 20% but we could achieve only its 2.6%. It seems to me that there is lack of necessary atmosphere which is required for export promotion. I am saying this because in the recent budget presented by the Finance Minister, excise duty was imposed on many such items, as a result of which cost of raw material, will increase. Due to increase in the cost of raw material the goods which are exported, in international market....(Interruptions) I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister whether he has paid his attention towards this point? My second question is that World Trade Organisation has refused to accept our products due to our social conditions like child labour, by taking the issue of those people who are engaged in leather industry and that this industry causes pollution and similar other interference by WTO, that there is no international secretarial assistance to face them... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is what I am asking. We have not been given any secretarial assistance by the Commerce Ministry. We do not have any lawyer at international level. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to what is his opinion in this direction and whether his Ministry in association with Finance Ministry is trying to create such an atmosphere?

SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE : It is true that during last two years, the growth of our export had declined drastically. As compared to our target, our performance has been very low. There are many rea-

sons for this. If the Hon'ble Member wants to know in detail, I will explain it to him or could also table the details. Hon'ble Member has raised the issue of creating proper atmosphere. The atmosphere is not created by itself. We have tried to take all those concrete steps which should have been taken by Government. I had given one statement while announcing new Exim Policy and if you study that statement, then you will come to know about the steps we have taken to create atmosphere. As the Hon'ble Member has mentioned that some or the other excuse is made or false pretexts as the issue of child labour and environment pollution is raised. I want to tell that in whichever case such objections have been raised, we have countered it. There is one process in this regard and one dispute panel is there where we have raised this issue. It is not true that we do not have any lawyer there. We had sent one well-known lawyer there and he is again going there. I would like to assure the Hon'ble Member that this time we will certainly achieve success in increasing our export by 20%.

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, as the hon. Minister has been explaining a little while ago, there are a number of reasons for the failure in achieving the target of eighteen per cent for the year 1997-98. In spite of the failure, this year the Government has fixed a target of twenty per cent for exports.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating any long-term export policy so that this target can be achieved. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether efforts have been made to identify the product-specifics. It is because one of the reasons mentioned for not achieving the target in so far as agro-products are concerned, is the supply constraint; and so far as marine products are concerned the reason mentioned is the short-term ban imposed by the EU Community.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the measures the Government is contemplating to overcome these constraints. Are the Government thinking of taking proper steps to develop new export promotion zones? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any thinking in the Government to develop the New Mangalore Port as a free port.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, the Question relates to export performance. Please come to the point.

**SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR :** I am asking this because this would enable the Government to achieve the export targets. So, I would like to know whether there is a proposal to develop this Mangalore Port as a free port.

**SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE :** Sir, the hon. Member has put too many supplementaries in one supplementary.

It is true that in spite of the poor performance last year, the target which we fixed for the current year seems to be highly ambitious. I think it should be possible for us to achieve this target because of certain actions that we have taken in regard to promotion of exports.

Secondly, the hon. Member asked about free port. Developing a free port is a very difficult proposition. We have no port which is actually a free port. It requires a huge area. Whatever ports are there today, even though they are developed in other respects, they cannot be called as free ports because the approach to those ports is through cities and towns.

Thirdly, so far as the question of development of Mangalore Port is concerned, the matter comes under different Ministries.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir in answer to the first supplementary of the hon. Member, the hon. Minister of Commerce said that there are no economic sanctions as a result of Pokhran blasts. I think, it is a very bold statement. I wonder if it is an official stand of the Government that there are no economic sanctions. The Finance Minister is sitting here; perhaps he would like to clarify. I presume that the Commerce Minister perhaps meant there are no trade sanctions. But to say that there are no economic sanctions would be a very bold statement. Perhaps, it should be clarified.

My Question relates to one of the reasons given for low export growth, that is, the imposition of anti-dumping duties on our exports. Particularly, the EU has been very aggressive in slapping anti-dumping duties on Indian exports; and efforts at fighting these cases in the International courts are definitely lacking on our part. The entire Anti-Dumping Secretariat in the Government of India consists of two or three junior officers while the EU has a staff of about 200 international lawyers who are fighting these cases. We have engage foreign lawyers to fight these cases.

I would like to ask the hon. Commerce Minister whether there is a plan to set up a separate Directo-

rate or a large office or a large Secretariat for fighting anti-dumping cases both ways—the anti-dumping duties which are imposed on Indian exports and the dumping that is going on here.

**SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE :** I would like to inform the hon. Member that our defence against anti-dumping duties imposed by other countries, particularly the European Union has not been very weak. Otherwise, we would not have won the case regarding a ban imposed by the European Union on the exports of Indian fish and fish products to Europe. We have fought the case.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :** What about the nylon rope case? We have lost that case.

**SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE :** One after the other, it will come. We have won the case. I am very happy to announce here that we have won that case and today our exports of marine products have started again.

We have established an Anti-Dumping Directorate in the Commerce Ministry. It has a Director-General and it has full staff. We do not lack competent lawyers. Indian lawyers are as competent, if not more, as European lawyers or English lawyers. Therefore, I do not think that there is any need to engage foreign lawyers. Our lawyers are quite capable; we have recently won that case and I think, we are going to win other cases also ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI P.M. SAYEED :** The hon. Member has asked a question about the economic sanctions which he has not answered. It is a very important question...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :** Sir, I want to know about the economic sanctions....*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE :** Actually, I referred to economic sanctions and I also had to refer to trade sanctions. They have started to impose and enforce economic sanctions. I do not think that economic sanctions will be there for a long time....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister is worried that export should increase, but in Uttar Pradesh facilities for export are not sufficient. Brassware is exported from Moradabad, Sarees from Banaras and carpets are exported from Bhadohi. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that Bareilly is famous for world renowned embroidery work, Karchobhi and Zardozi and goods worth crores of rupees are exported from that place, but there is no export House

to export goods from there. Due to this reason, people of Bareilly are not directly benefited. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether on the lines of Moradabad, an Export House will be set up in Bareilly for Karchobhi and Zardozi so that craftmen could be directly benefited, more export could be made and India could earn foreign exchange?

SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE : I will consider the suggestion given by the Hon'ble Member.

#### Coal Reserves

+

\*144. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal reserves in the country at present and the time upto which it is sufficient to meet the domestic requirement;

(b) whether the coal reserves have decreased due to fire in some coal mines including Jharia area during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of coal mines where coal mining is not being undertaken at present?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) Coal reserves in the country as assessed by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) (down to a depth of 1200m), as on 01.1.1998 are 206,239.50 million tonnes. Though exploration of coal is an on-going exercise for finding new deposits, the coal reserves established till date are likely to last over 100 years even at an enhanced rate of production.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Due to fires, which predominantly occur in Jharia Coalfields and to some extent in Raniganj Coalfields, the estimated quantity of about 42 m.t. of coal reserves have been lost due to fires in these two coalfields.

(d) Since nationalisation of coal mines, coal mining operation was suspended in 139 mines of Coal India Limited and 5 mines in Singareni Collieries Company Limited. The names of the mines where mining operations have been suspended are given in the Annexure.

#### Annexure

*Names of the mines in Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) where mining operations have been suspended.*

#### EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

- |                      |                           |                         |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Sanctoria         | 12. Gogla/Adjoy Bank      | 23. Purusottampur OC    |
| 2. East Jamehari     | 13. Manderboni 1, 2 & 4   | 24. Nimcha OC           |
| 3. Ratibati 5 & 6    | 14. Deoli                 | 25. Sheebpur OC         |
| 4. KLS Chalbalpur    | 15. B. Dhemu/Ramjibanpur  | 26. Mahabir OC          |
| 5. Chalbalpur Khas   | 16. Banksimulia 7 & 8     | 27. New/Central Satgram |
| 6. New Jamehari Khas | 17. Brights Rana          | 28. Alkusha Gopalpur OC |
| 7. Pure Searsole     | 18. Madhusudanpur 1 & 2   | 29. Benalee             |
| 8. Damoda            | 19. Central Jamuria       | 30. Kenda/Dobrana OC    |
| 9. Seetaldas         | 20. Nabakajora/Ghanasya M | 31. Darula              |
| 10. Belruidisergarh  | 21. Jote Janki            | 32. Krishanagar         |
| 11. North Brock      | 22. Ratibati OC           |                         |

- |                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 33. Seetalpur                     | 65. Ena                                 | <b>WESTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED</b>              |
| 34. Shankarpur                    | 66. Basdeoipur OC                       | 96. Barkuhi UG                                 |
| 35. Girmint                       | 67. Laxmi OC                            | 97. Barkuhi West UG                            |
| 36. Rana                          | 68. Tasra OC                            | 98. Bhamori Jhantachapa                        |
| 37. Mahabir                       | 69. Jhunkundar OC                       | 99. Datia East UG                              |
| 38. Kankartalla 1 & 2             | 70. Victoria                            | 100. Data West                                 |
| 39. Tara                          | 71. Kankanee                            | 101. Dhao                                      |
| 40. Dhandadih OC                  | 72. Kenduadih                           | 102. Shibpuri OC                               |
| 41. Barmondia                     | 73. Dharmaband                          | 103. Ghorawari Hirdagar                        |
| 42. Dabor OC                      | 74. South Tisra                         | 104. Ghorwari Kalan                            |
| 43. Gangaram Chak                 | 75. Kujama                              | 105. Ballarpur OC                              |
| 44. Poldih OC                     | 76. Gaslitand                           | 106. Kalichapar                                |
| 45. Ranipur                       | 77. Bhurungia                           | 107. Newton Chikill                            |
| 46. Dalurband OC                  | 78. Teturiya                            | 108. N. Chandametta                            |
| 47. Palasthali                    | <b>SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED</b> | 109. Nandora                                   |
| 48. Chapapur-1                    | 79. Domnara OC                          | 110. Sial Ghogri                               |
| 49. Badjna/Pusal OC               | 80. Burhar No. 3                        | 111. Nakoda OC                                 |
| 50. Kapasara OC                   | 81. Rungta                              | 112. Sastlipit                                 |
| 51. Lalmatia UG                   | 82. North Jhakrahand                    | 113. Ballarpur 1 & 2                           |
| 52. Laimatia OC                   | 83. Burhar No. 1                        | 114. Pobartson<br>Inc./Belbora<br>Inc./Ghughus |
| 53. Shampur-A                     | 84. Pure Chirimiri                      | 115. Kumda OC                                  |
| 54. Dalmiya OC                    | 85. Korba 1 & 2                         | 116. New Majri No. 1                           |
| 55. Bhanora                       | 86. Korba 3 & 4                         | 117. Dhuptala OC                               |
| 56. Damra                         | 87. Chachai OC                          | 118. Shibpuri - 2 OC                           |
| 57. Sangramgarh OC                | 88. Banki 5 & 6                         | 119. Taroda OC                                 |
| 58. Nutandanga                    | 89. Jarwahi OC                          | 120. Sethia OC                                 |
| 59. Kankartala                    | 90. New Jhimar                          | 121. Bellorra OC                               |
| 60. Pure Searsol                  | 91. Banki 7 & 8                         | 122. N. Dhuptala RRR OC                        |
| 61. Sripur                        | 92. S. Jhakrahand-Old                   | 123. Rakhikole                                 |
| 62. Incline No. 3. of Simla       | 93. Ramnagar                            | 124. Chikalmau                                 |
| <b>BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED</b> | 94. Jhimae Old                          | 125. Umrer                                     |
| 63. Murlidih                      | 95. Rajgamar 8 & 9                      | 126. Satpura-1 UG                              |
| 64. Bera OC                       |   |  |



127. Sukri UG	134. Chalkari
128. Chincholi UG	135. Karkatta
<i>CENTRAL COALFIELDS LIMITED</i>	136. Dhodidih
129. Semra	137. Gidhania
130. Pakri Barwadih	138. Rauta
131. Sugia OC	<i>NORTHERN COALFIELDS LIMITED</i>
132. Pure Dhori	139. Gorbi
133. Mael UG	

*SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED*

1. Kothagudem - 5-A Incline
2. Gautamkhani UG
3. Kalyan Khani - 2A
4. Mahavir Khani - 3 Incline
5. Mahavir Khani - 2 Incline

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that it appears from his reply as if the fire has been put out in the Jharia mine, however it is still smouldering. Hence my question is as to how many millions of rupees have been spent by the Government to put out the fire; how many mafias are involved in quelling the fire and how much the Government has spent for that? I would also like to tell to the Hon'ble Minister that there is no need to hide the facts because the money has been spent not by this Government but by the previous U.F. and the Congress Governments. I would like to have information in this regard and I would also like to know as to whether the very existence of Jharia town is threatened due to the raging fire? This is my question.

*[English]*

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, these fires are due to the unscientific slaughter of mines done by the private mine owners about 70-80 years back. The first fire was located some time in 1916. In my statement, I have not mentioned that all the fires have been put off. After nationalisation, we took stock of the fire situation in places where the fires are on and we found that 70 fires were spread over an area of 17 square kilometres. Due to these fires, 42 million tonnes of coal were lost and 1864 million tonnes of coal were blocked. We took up 22 fire projects at the cost of about Rs. 115 crore in 1976. Out of this amount, about Rs. 75 crore were spent and ten fires were put off totally out of these 70 fires. Other fires were more or less brought under control. They are still on but they are under control.

I would like to mention here that at the time when we located this fire, in some places like Jhokta and Lodna areas, the flames went to almost as high as 60-70 feet in 1960. By taking up these fire projects, we have brought the fire-affected area from 17 square

kilometres to 8.9 square kilometres. Since this is a complicated affair and a vast area is involved, we decided to get the assistance of International Consultants like Gai-Metchem and Norwest Mine Services to engage them for these projects.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : My query is regarding the expenditure incurred in putting out the fire ..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DILIP RAY : That I have already told.

*[English]*

I have already mentioned that 22 fire projects were taken up at the cost of about Rs. 115 crore to put off the fire.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : That was in 1976....(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : You have got another supplementary to ask.

SHRI DILIP RAY : Out of about Rs. 115 crore, we have spent about Rs. 75 crore and put out ten fires.

*[Translation]*

As of now, the international consultants - Gai Metcham and Norwest have made an estimate and asked for Rs. 4071 crore

*[English]*

to deal with this fire.

*[Translation]*

This is an old report.

[English]

It may go upto Rs. 6000 crore. Under the World Bank Assistance Scheme, we have got 12 million dollars under Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project.

[Translation]

Last year, the Government spent 33 to 34 crore rupees for E.C.L. and B.C.C.L.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : My second supplementary is that the Hon'ble Minister has stated that Rs. 1000 crore have been spent for putting out the fire. More expenditure is likely to be incurred for the purpose. My point is that the case of Jharia is not a simple case of fire, rather it is a scam. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to order two enquiries—the first should be with regard to the amount of money spent for putting out the fire at Jharia and secondly, what action is being taken by the Hon'ble Minister to check the illegal mining in that area being carried on under the patronage of a powerful mafia which is resulting in the constant depletion of the coal reserves.

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, the illegal mining about which the hon. Member has mentioned is of two types. One is the abandoned mines. Earlier, these belonged to the private mineowners. It does not fall under our leasehold area. Time and again, we have taken it up with the State Governments to look after those leasehold mines which are outside our leasehold area because there is no policing power for this.

[Translation]

The villagers in connivance with the mafia are carrying on illegal mining activities in the mines falling under our leasehold area and which have been abandoned subsequently. We are using the bulldozers to close the pit-mouth. Security has been provided for such mines and the C.I.S.F. has also been asked to take a round of that area.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, is the Government aware of the latest geological findings in the State of Tamil Nadu, especially in Manargudi in Tiruvallur district, where they have identified 19.2 billion tonnes of lignite?

I also want to know through you whether the Government would come forward to set up an NTPC thermal power plant of 10,000 MW.

SHRI DILIP RAY : It is totally a separate question. It is not linked with this.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Are you aware of it?

SHRI DILIP RAY : I am aware of it. But it is separate question.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Sir, the Member of Parliament from the Jharia constituency is present and he should be asked to comment.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the reply given by the Minister regarding the coal reserves and coal exploration. I would like to state that after the exploration of the coal deposit, the field is marked out for mining of coal reserves. However illegal mining is carried out there due to lack of security arrangements. The fire starts accidentally not only in the course of mining but the coal reserves taken out from the mines also catch fire and the expenditure incurred in the mining of coal ....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your supplementary because there is no time.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I would like to know about the measures being taken to check the fire at the stage of stocking the coal reserves?

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, I have already mentioned about what we are going to do about prevention....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, often we are given the reply that the fire started at the time when the previous colliery owners were handling the work and it has been passed on to them over the time, but this reply is not correct. The previous Governments, and the Congress Government has been one of them, have made good contribution in this regard. The wall of the mine under the Munidih Colliery project has a thickness of five metres and thus such a machine should have been purchased which could cut coal of five metres thickness. I do not know why then the machines having a capacity of cutting three and a half metre thick coal were purchased. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister the reasons for purchase of the wrong machines for the Munidih project, due to which a mine which was considered a show-piece of the Bharat Coking Coal and on which crores of rupees were spent, has turned into a gassy mine

and the production has come to a halt there? I would also like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to whether he proposes to conduct an enquiry in this regard?

12.00 hrs

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, this has already come to our notice and we are inquiring into it.

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[Translation]

**Anti Dumping Directorate**

\*145. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up an Independent Directorate General to deal with Anti-dumping cases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of its constitution and functions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) The Government has already set up the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties under the Ministry of Commerce with effect from 13.4.98.

The Directorate General has been created to further expedite relief to the domestic industry from the impact of dumped goods and to institutionalize the system.

The Directorate General is headed by an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce as the Designated Authority and is to be assisted by two Deputy Secretary/Director level officers and other supporting staff. Under the anti-dumping laws, the Designated Authority passes orders as an independent authority and its orders are liable to appeal in the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal (CEGAT).

**Licences for Sugar Mills**

\*146. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued by the Union Government in Madhya Pradesh for setting up of sugar mills in December, 1997, location-wise;

(b) the details of other States to which licences have been issued for sugar mills during the current year alongwith the crushing capacity thereof, State-wise;

(c) the percentage and number of export oriented units given approval by the Government in December, 1997, State-wise, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) the details of licences for setting up of hundred percent export oriented units have been issued in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) whether there is decline in the proposals in regard to setting up of industries in various States in January 1998; vis-a-vis in December, 1997; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) 6 Letters of Intent (LOIs) were granted for setting up of Sugar mills in the State of Madhya Pradesh during December 1997 by the Central Government under the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. Details of LOIs issued is given in the attached Statement-I

(b) 9 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have been issued for Sugar mills in various States during the current year i.e., during 1998 (upto May, 1998), State-wise details of Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued along with the total crushing capacity of each state have been given in the attached Statement-II.

(c) Details of number of approvals for 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) pertaining to Madhya Pradesh and other States is given in the attached Statement-III. However, none of the EOUs approved in December, 1997 is for manufacture of sugar.

(d) 27 Export Oriented Units (EOUs) were approved for the State of Uttar Pradesh in 1996, 24 during 1997, and 1 between January-March, 1998. These EOUs are for diverse industrial activities, e.g. textiles, food processing, electrical equipments, etc.

(e) and (f) The total number of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEMs) filed and Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued during January, 1998 is 221 as compared to 310 in December, 1997. Part of the decline can be attributed to the upward revision in the ceiling of investment in the small scale sector from Rs. 60 lakhs to Rs. 3 crores during December, 1997, because of which many entrepreneurs who would have been otherwise required to file IEMs or obtain Industrial Licences would not be exempt from such requirement by virtue of their investments coming within the enhanced ceiling for small scale sector.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued for setting up of new units for the manufacture of sugar in the State of Madhya Pradesh during the month of December 1997*

Sl. No.	Name of the Undertaking/ Applicant	Proposed Location	Crushing Capacity In TCD*	Number & Date of Letter of Intent
1.	M/s. Bhaskar Industries Ltd., Bhopal	Shivpur-kala Dist. Morena	2500	LI : 309/97 dt. 5-12-1997
2.	M/s. Krishak Shakari Shakkar Karkhana Maryadit Dist. Guna	Narainpur Ragogarh Dist. Guna	2500	LI : 310/97 dt. 5-12-1997
3.	M/s. Chatisgarh Sahakari Sakkar Karkhana Maryadit, Dist. Raipur	Kurud Dist. Raipur	2500	LI : 311/97 dt. 5-12-1997
4.	M/s. NEPA Limited Dist. Khandwa	Nepanagar Burhanpur Dist. Khadwa	2500	LI : 312/97 dt. 8-12-1997
5.	Shri Naveen Jindal New Delhi	Sarang Garh Dist. Raigarh	2500	LI : 313/97 Dt. 8-12-1997
6.	Shri Mohan Patel, Chairman M/s. Raigarh Sahakari Shakkar Karkhana Maryadit, Dist. Raigarh	Salheona Saranagar Dist. Raigarh	2500	LI:314/97 dt. 8-12-1997

\* TCD=Tonnes Crushed per Day.

**Statement-II**

*State-wise number of Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued along with crushing capacity-tonnes crushed per day (TCD) for the manufacture of sugar for the current year (i.e. upto May 1998)*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of Letters of Intent issued for New Units	Crushing Capacity in TCD*	Number of Letters of Intent issued for Substantial Expansion	Crushing Capacity in TCD*
1.	Andhra Pradesh			1	1,250
2.	Maharashtra			5	9,984
3.	Tamil Nadu	1	2,500	1	2,500
4.	Uttar Pradesh			1	2,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16,234</b>

\* TCD = Tonnes Crushed per Day.

**Statement-III**

*State-wise distribution of 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) approved during December 1997*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Number of proposals of 100% EOUs approved	% age viz-a-viz total approval given during December 1997	1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	5.00	2.	Gujarat	11	27.5
				3.	Haryana	2	5.00
				4.	Karnataka	5	12.5
				5.	Madhya Pradesh	5	12.5
				6.	Maharashtra	2	5.0
				7.	Orissa	1	2.5
				8.	Punjab	1	2.5

1	2	3	4
9. Tamil Nadu		8	20.0
10. Uttar Pradesh		1	2.5
11. West Bengal		1	2.5
12. Daman & Diu		1	2.5
Total		40	100

[English]

**Allocation of Coal to Power Projects**

\*147. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters of quarterly allocation of Coal linkage for power generation projects;

(b) the quarterly demand of coal by various power projects in the country during the last three years and actual allocation made, project-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the allocation of coal linkage to several power projects, particularly in Gujarat and Punjab is not adequate;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for sufficient supply of coal to power projects particularly in Gujarat and Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The recommendations made by the CEA for allocation of coal for each power plant are first discussed in the Inter-Ministerial Body comprising representatives of the ministries of Power, Railways and Coal, CEA and coal companies. This Committee, after taking into considerations the projections made by CEA based on the ground coal stock at the power house end, expected generation, availability of coal in the coal companies and the transport constraints, firms up the linkage proposals for each power station. The firmed up proposals are then placed before main Standing Linkage Committee (short-term) for further discussions in which the representatives of the power utilities are also present, and quarterly linkages for individual power houses are firmed up.

(b) The details regarding quarter-wise linkages sanctioned and actual supplies to various power stations in the country during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statements I to III.

(c) and (d) Adequate coal supplies to the power houses of Gujarat and Punjab had been made available, and there has been a perceptible improvement in stock position in all the power houses of Gujarat and Punjab as illustrated in the following table:

(Fig. Qty. in '000 tonnes)

Power House	Stock as on 1.4.96		Stock as on 1.4.97		Stock as on 1.4.98	
	Qty.	No. of days	Qty.	No. of days	Qty.	No. of days
<b>PUNJAB</b>						
Bhatinda	39	6	36	5	272	82
Ropar	68	5	57	3	463	31
<b>GUJARAT</b>						
Sikka	0	0	9	3	159	64
Ukai	4	0	40	4	205	21
Gandhinagar	4	1	41	5	420	51
Wanakbori	20	1	134	8	433	24
Ahmedabad (AEC)	2	0	73	14	104	18

(e) Close co-ordination is maintained to ensure supply of coal to the power houses in the country including those in Gujarat and Punjab. Coal supplies

to power houses are also reviewed regularly by a Inter-Ministerial Committee and appropriate action is taken to step up coal supplies wherever necessary.

**Statement-I***Power house and quarter-wise approved monthly Linkage vis-a-vis actual supplies*

(In '000 Tonnes)

(Provisional)

Name of Power House	I Quarter 1995-96		II Quarter 1995-96		III Quarter 1995-96		IV Quarter 1995-96	
	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Badarpur	1050	809	810	496	810	686	810	885
I.P. Station	360	303	270	274	270	255	285	248
Rajghat	210	196	180	130	180	160	180	217
Faridabad	310	203	240	184	180	148	180	167
Panipat	750	450	690	440	300	510	600	461
Bhatinda	570	473	615	453	510	440	570	403
Ropar	1350	1054	1350	1175	1200	1151	1350	1216
Kota	1350	1019	1200	717	1140	917	1200	1257
Harduganj	300	252	240	221	240	167	240	276
Panki	105	88	30	24	30	34	30	12
Panki Extn.	180	79	150	64	180	135	165	197
Paricha	120	5	120	112	150	108	150	106
Tanda	300	157	225	198	240	268	405	366
Unchahar	600	622	540	458	510	560	540	441
Obra	1080	825	900	905	1260	1113	1140	1220
Anpara	1860	1723	1650	1618	1770	2001	1785	2428
Singrauli Stps	2250	2206	1950	1915	2070	2471	2400	2539
Rihand	1110	1155	970	1038	1050	1471	1065	1373
NCTPP (Dadri)	810	741	810	676	600	649	900	812
Ahemdabad	450	409	450	498	375	352	420	290
Gandhi Nagar	720	880	720	668	660	763	660	685
Ukal	990	769	900	827	900	1132	1050	925
Wankbori	1620	1223	1350	891	1360	1166	1350	1163
Sikka Replacement	360	332	270	186	240	251	270	274
Amarkantak	300	241	300	288	270	179	300	261

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
S Gandhi Birsingpur	390	388	390	283	330	325	330	508
Korba East	540	471	540	434	540	561	585	669
Korba West	900	762	720	619	900	723	885	1015
Satpura	1350	1167	1200	1232	1050	1300	1200	1688
Korba Stps	2430	2761	2250	2584	2460	3380	2325	3419
Vindhychal Stps	1170	1187	1050	1378	1170	1423	1200	1599
Bhusawai	690	400	540	241	660	386	630	481
Chandrapur (MSEB)	2850	2452	2520	2060	2475	2571	2580	3049
Koradih	1350	1755	1320	1978	1350	1964	1350	1968
Kaparkheda	630	141	540	102	540	120	645	97
Nasik	1080	1045	1140	909	1050	1039	1050	1110
Parli	1050	805	1140	646	720	448	930	742
Paras	90	48	60	46	60	43	60	64
Trombay	150	33	150	63	150	57	165	58
Dhanu	225	35	270	148	450	265	540	393
Kothagudem	930	1049	930	827	990	716	1170	1154
Ramagundam "B"	90	46	60	69	90	51	90	85
Vijaywada	1785	1767	1620	1912	1800	1916	2010	2579
Mundannur	150	19	360	30	375	250	540	420
Nellore	45	13	30	22	30	13	60	22
Ramagundam Stps	2400	2014	1980	2134	2220	1983	2400	3142
Raichur	1050	945	1200	871	1125	1047	1200	970
Ennore	750	794	750	712	510	763	570	856
Tuticorin	1260	657	1020	592	1050	756	1350	812
Mettur	1140	855	1140	1035	1020	1129	1140	1205
North Madras	90	—	90	—	150	—	180	—
Barauni	150	141	135	101	180	121	180	153
Muzaffarpur	120	27	90	63	150	106	150	220
Patratu	270	201	270	322	360	371	405	352
Kahalgaon	360	441	360	394	420	354	660	711
Patna	15	4	15	4	15	2	15	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bokaro A & B	720	363	600	557	600	579	735	963
Chandrapur	330	337	330	303	240	310	435	501
Durgapur (DVC)	450	288	270	210	240	212	345	385
Mejia (DVC)	—	0	—	0	—	0	135	0
Talcher	390	209	360	246	390	281	450	398
IB Valley	165	262	—	165	—	328	240	365
Talcher Stps	270	163	210	353	270	78	—	143
Bandel	360	275	360	289	300	304	360	235
Santalalrh	270	245	270	178	240	208	270	265
Kolaghat	1215	1238	1335	1117	1350	1210	1200	1124
Calcutta (CESC)	240	272	240	250	180	243	255	238
South Gen Station	165	142	165	140	135	154	150	132
Titagarh	240	237	270	249	180	205	225	218
Durgapur (DPL)	150	176	270	124	150	138	150	268
Farraka Stps	1440	1202	1260	1093	1500	1320	1605	1559
Bangaigoan	180	104	150	91	150	98	150	108

## Statement-II

*Power house and quarter-wise approved monthly linkage vis-a-via actual supplies*

(In '000 Tonnes)

(Provisional)

Name of Power House	I Quarter 1996-97		II Quarter 1996-97		III Quarter 1996-97		IV Quarter 1996-97	
	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Badarpur	810	690	—	768	810	717	900	1029
I.P. Station	255	326	285	271	270	173	270	155
Rajghat	180	188	180	192	210	179	210	146
Faridabad	195	197	210	196	210	92	210	195
Panipat	630	577	690	695	720	512	780	713
Bhatinda	450	439	540	669	600	475	510	685
Ropar	1140	1035	1350	1387	1350	1117	1350	1303
Kota	1050	1006	990	2181	1350	294	1350	896



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Harduganj	120	232	180	138	180	227	180	175
Panki	30	29	30	24	30	31	30	20
Panki Extn.	120	121	120	96	120	119	120	136
Paricha	120	134	150	135	150	138	150	167
Tanda	210	265	210	222	210	342	210	229
Unchahar	450	444	510	437	600	581	750	642
Obra	1080	783	1080	488	1080	831	1080	1326
Anpara	1650	1634	1650	1936	1650	2157	1650	2474
Singrauli Stps	2100	2367	1950	2170	2220	2563	2280	2700
Rihand	870	1168	810	926	1290	1505	1470	1250
NCTPP (Dadri)	1035	873	1260	976	1260	1216	1320	1200
Ahemdabad	390	424	435	458	480	515	480	261
Gandhi Nagar	720	525	630	382	630	611	690	642
Ukai	825	987	810	883	810	816	960	808
Wankbori	1200	1253	1200	1125	1350	1381	1355	1496
Sikka Replacement	225	308	225	301	240	277	270	353
Amarkantak	195	179	255	104	270	48	270	139
S Gandhi Birsingpur	405	427	255	280	270	386	270	486
Korba East	480	765	495	191	570	595	630	645
Korba West	810	633	660	852	1050	858	1050	1130
Satpura	1200	1297	1125	1286	1320	1515	1440	1942
Korba Stps	2250	3139	2400	2941	2400	3081	2700	1325
Vindhyachal Stps	1200	1286	1200	1315	1500	1740	1620	1819
Bhusawal	480	561	480	269	375	467	630	614
Chandrapur (MSEB)	2250	2220	2250	1761	2460	2833	2850	3000
Koradih	1260	1410	1200	2179	1350	1558	1350	2858
Kaparkheda	525	91	570	435	600	365	540	196
Nasik	870	1076	870	850	960	819	1050	985
Parli	720	726	720	864	900	810	900	911
Paras	45	33	45	46	30	30	45	71
Trombay	105	22	45	3	45	10	60	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dhanu	540	385	570	532	600	561	600	472
Kothagudem	1080	1175	900	8870	900	7800	1020	3103
Ramagundam "B"	75	83	90	76	45	60	75	72
Vijaywada	1800	2015	1650	1947	1920	2119	2085	2780
Mundannur	600	476	600	321	750	353	795	134
Nellore	54	29	45	6	30	25	45	25
Ramagundam Stps	2400	1881	1875	1861	2400	2505	2700	3308
Raichur	1275	869	1200	984	1425	1034	1500	1379
Ennore	670	689	600	811	600	906	525	868
Tuticorn	1335	710	900	757	810	918	1275	915
Mettur	1080	949	1080	1100	1080	1324	1050	1120
North Madras	510	—	300	—	510	—	390	—
Barauni	240	162	165	116	210	93	210	193
Muzaffarpur	150	76	60	54	60	65	180	137
Patratu	420	309	210	304	210	150	315	524
Kahalgaon	540	645	360	703	855	696	900	1050
Patna	15	2	15	6	15	2	15	2
Tenughat	135	23	90	63	285	147	315	247
Bokaro A & B	630	394	345	445	330	489	450	710
Chandrapur	450	436	285	356	300	487	600	644
Durgapur (DVC)	345	244	270	189	225	238	300	414
Mejia (DVC)	125	—	45	—	60	37	105	91
Talcher	510	398	510	373	420	367	450	423
IB Valley	240	336	270	443	465	555	450	610
Talcher Stps	390	0	300	99	300	299	450	309
Bandel	375	330	300	341	420	302	420	416
Santalidih	210	268	270	249	330	161	300	78
Kolaghat	1320	1224	1440	1279	1440	1226	1440	1196
Budge-Budge	90	—	30	—	30	—	90	16
Calcutta (CESC)	240	249	240	251	255	258	270	284
South Gen Station	150	126	150	152	150	115	135	86
Titagarh	255	280	255	278	240	272	255	202

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Durgapur (DPL)	210	168	240	172	330	144	330	218
Farraka Stps	1560	1473	1590	1270	1440	1479	1800	1528
Bangaigoan	150	89	120	88	135	97	150	96

## Statement-III

*Power house and quarter-wise approved monthly linkage vis-a-vis actual supplies*

(In '000 Tonnes)

(Provisional)

Name of Power House	I Quarter 1997-98		II Quarter 1997-98		III Quarter 1997-98		IV Quarter 1997-98	
	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply	Linkage	Supply
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Badarpur	1050	750	1110	1294	1110	677	900	756
I.P. Station	255	253	300	266	300	305	255	251
Rajghat	195	200	195	181	210	173	210	135
Faridabad	210	171	210	189	210	118	180	149
Panipat	720	629	720	589	870	686	780	658
Bhatinda	570	761	600	656	420	490	300	453
Bhatinda Extn.	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	—
Ropar	1350	1517	1500	1542	1275	1318	1350	1455
Kota	1350	1212	1200	1089	1050	1113	1050	1077
Surat Garh	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	—
Harduganj	120	194	120	200	120	141	255	151
Panki	30	17	30	10	—	—	—	—
Panki Extn.	120	224	120	194	120	165	195	183
Paricha	120	154	120	144	120	154	240	253
Tanda	210	351	240	180	240	357	480	532
Unchahar	630	598	660	557	660	602	510	572
Obra	1080	1079	750	578	1440	993	1950	1257
Anpara	1650	1624	1890	1706	2130	2121	2490	2615
Singrauli Stps	2100	1943	1920	3284	2400	2455	2700	2691
Rihand	1305	1037	900	1044	1350	1313	1380	1369
NCTPP (Dadri)	1350	1323	1200	1085	1080	1036	1140	1056

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ahemdabad	450	300	450	391	510	504	510	369
Gandhi Nagar	720	809	705	748	750	721	750	716
Ukai	725	919	900	1067	900	814	900	1057
Wankbori	1200	1561	1440	1631	1500	1377	1650	1817
Sikka Replacement	225	304	270	280	270	376	225	141
Amarkantak	300	127	255	69	270	150	360	246
S Gandhi Birsingpur	300	391	450	311	600	369	690	482
Korba East	570	496	660	428	720	573	750	585
Korba West	930	898	990	761	1050	997	1320	1029
Satpura	1485	1512	1590	1678	1680	1848	1830	1907
Korba Stps	2700	2842	2760	2871	2850	2841	3000	2892
Vindhyachal Stps	1350	1331	1200	1225	1695	1333	1860	1722
Bhusawal	600	479	630	641	630	553	630	604
Chandrapur (MSEB)	2550	2425	2490	2041	2700	2471	2910	2349
Koradlh	1440	1912	1200	1458	1200	1606	1200	1628
Kaparkheda	600	190	600	560	600	573	360	571
Nasik	750	906	900	832	900	1032	1050	1117
Parli	1050	861	900	854	900	782	900	775
Paras	45	51	45	48	45	58	45	36
Trombay	105	14	105	24	135	9	105	3
Dhanu	540	465	450	355	600	384	540	352
Kothagudem	1200	1107	1290	1107	1650	1294	1800	1597
Ramagundam "B"	90	78	105	68	60	61	105	73
Vijaywada	2100	1967	1950	2219	1950	2209	2100	1876
Mundannur	690	166	540	245	690	301	735	778
Nellore	39	15	30	3	30	—	30	14
Ramagundam Stps	2760	2360	21	2224	2700	3046	3300	3403
Raichur	1500	869	1395	961	1425	908	1650	1464
Ennore	570	825	540	761	690	1057	750	1023
Tuticorn	1500	936	1500	1141	1350	944	1500	1102
Mettur	1200	1258	1200	1173	1200	1409	1650	1498
North Madras	270	—	510	169	810	—	930	258
Barauni	150	61	120	18	120	57	180	169
Muzaffarpur	105	29	120	14	150	28	90	67
Patratu	330	128	300	262	510	354	510	513
Kahalgaon	1170	755	1110	764	1200	762	1200	692
Patna	15	5	15	—	15	4	15	4
Tenughat	330	218	450	214	420	367	540	431

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bokaro A & B	390	500	660	348	410	411	660	494
Chandrapur	510	205	315	152	315	197	420	149
Durgapur (DVC)	360	399	360	147	360	193	360	404
Mejia (DVC)	240	24	240	40	240	72	240	50
Taicher	510	499	540	485	570	501	600	581
IB Valley	735	536	630	626	660	530	660	472
Taicher Stps	750	479	900	585	810	674	735	1010
Bandel	390	329	270	356	390	350	330	240
Santalidih	225	222	240	296	330	290	330	262
Kolaghat	1200	1020	1260	912	1500	1040	1440	663
Budge-Budge	60	37	120	20	120	68	150	97
Calcutta (CESC)	255	238	255	255	210	221	210	227
South Gen Station	150	129	180	194	150	158	150	146
Titagarh	315	294	330	224	225	216	195	216
Durgapur (DPL)	330	166	330	158	330	176	330	113
Farraka Stps	1800	1162	1890	1098	2010	1561	2100	1583
Bangaigoan	150	58	105	24	120	40	180	28

#### Safeguard Duties

\*148. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade and financial experts have suggested imposition of various safeguard duties including vanti-dumping duties to arrest depreciation of the Indian Rupees; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government and the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The safeguard duties are imposed to protect domestic industries against sudden increased imports as a result of tariff concessions given as per our GATT commitments. Similarly to protect domestic industries, anti-dumping duties are imposed on imports of those goods which are exported to India at less than their normal value in their country of production which cause or threaten to cause material injury to any industry in India. These duties are not imposed to take care of depreciation of currencies.

However, the exchange rate developments are closely monitored both by the Government and the

Reserve Bank of India and appropriate policy measures, including market intervention is taken to maintain a reasonable stability in external value of rupee consistent with preservation and improvement of India's external competitiveness.

#### Cases Pending with BIFR

\*149. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of large and small scale sick industries in the country, State-wise;

(b) the major factors responsible for their sickness;

(c) the number of cases registered with BIFR during the last three years;

(d) the number of cases finalised out of it and the number of cases still pending with the Board as on date. State-wise and Industry-wise;

(e) the basis on which industries are declared as sick by the BIFR; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the cases of industrial sickness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), State-wise number of sick small scale industries (SSI) units and sick non SSI units financed by scheduled commercial banks as on 31st March, 1997 (latest available) has been shown in the enclosed Statement-I. The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 is not applicable to SSI units.

(b) According to a review of sick industrial units done by RBI, the main reasons for industrial sickness in respect of sick and weak non-SSI units, as reported by the banks, relate to both internal factors and external factors. The internal factors include deficiencies in project appraisal and deficiencies in project management. The external factors include such factors as non-availability of raw materials, power shortage, transport bottlenecks, financial bottlenecks, labour problems and problems relating to marketing.

(c) and (d) As reported by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), State-wise and industry-wise number of cases registered with BIFR during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 and number of cases disposed off during these three years and those pending out of the above as on 31.3.1998, are shown in Statement-II and III respectively.

(e) Under the provisions of SICA, an industrial company registered for not less than 5 years which has at the end of any financial year accumulated losses equal to exceeding its entire net worth shall be deemed to be a sick industrial company.

(f) BIFR has reported that it expeditiously deals with the cases in accordance with the provisions of SICA. However, the disposal of cases depends upon the nature of sickness of each case, preparation of rehabilitation scheme with fully tied up financial arrangements and implementation of revival packages by all concerned agencies.

#### Statement-I

State-wise number of Non-SSI sick industrial units and SSI sick units financed by scheduled commercial banks as on 31.3.1997

Sl. No.	Name of States/ Union Territories	Number of Non SSI Sick Industrial Units	Number of SSI Sick Industrial Units
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	225	15460
2.	Assam	38	10133

1	2	3	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	26
4.	Bihar	55	22702
5.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	21	3943
6.	Goa	3	604
7.	Gujarat	174	6510
8.	Haryana	66	2574
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21	2206
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	761
11.	Karnataka	110	6937
12.	Kerala	64	8908
13.	Madhya Pradesh	91	12070
14.	Maharashtra	340	19360
15.	Meghalaya	1	5531
16.	Mizoram	—	1199
17.	Manipur	1	2707
18.	Nagaland	1	2738
19.	Orissa	55	3408
20.	Punjab	51	2466
21.	Rajasthan	67	14561
22.	Sikkim	1	30
23.	Tamil Nadu	141	9809
24.	Tripura	6	3171
25.	Uttar Pradesh	170	23286
26.	West Bengal	216	53451
<b>UNION TERRITORY</b>			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	13
2.	Chandigarh	10	170
3.	Daman & Diu	1	4
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1
5.	Pondicherry	9	293
6.	Lakshadweep	—	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>1948</b>	<b>235032</b>

## Statement-II

No. of cases registered and disposed during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 and pending out of these cases with BIFR as on 31.3.1998

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		Pendency out of cases registered during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98
		Registered	Disposed	Registered	Disposed	Registered	Disposed	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	6	11	5	29	3	36
2.	Assam	1	1	—	—	2	—	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	1	—	4	2	3	—	6
5.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	—	—	3	—	6	—	9
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	2	—	2
7.	Gujarat	12	10	11	4	20	—	29
8.	Haryana	5	3	4	1	16	—	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	1	4	1	4
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
11.	Karnataka	7	5	6	3	7	—	12
12.	Kerala	5	4	—	—	1	1	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10	8	12	6	17	2	23
14.	Maharashtra	14	9	20	5	44	5	59
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Manipur	—	—	1	1	1	1	—
18.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Orissa	2	2	4	—	2	1	5
20.	Punjab	10	7	8	2	10	—	19
21.	Rajasthan	6	5	4	—	14	—	19
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	5	3	6	3	33	3	35
24.	Tripura	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	23	13	9	4	17	2	30
26.	West Bengal	13	7	3	2	17	1	23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>UNION TERRITORY</b>								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	6	11	5	29	3	36
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	3	1	2
3.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Pondicherry	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
6.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		132	90	110	40	248	21	339

**Statement-III**

*Industry-wise break-up of cases registered and disposed during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 and pending out of these cases with BIFR as on 31.3.1998*

Sl. No.	Industry	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		Pendency out of cases registered during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98
		Registered	Disposed	Registered	Disposed	Registered	Disposed	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Metallurgical	16	12	10	2	30	1	41
2.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
3.	Electrical Equipment	7	6	8	3	9	1	14
4.	Telecommunications	2	2	1	0	5	1	5
5.	Transportation	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
6.	Industrial Machinery	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
7.	Machine Tools	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
8.	Agricultural Machinery	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
9.	Misc. Mechanical and Engineering	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
10.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
11.	Industrial Instruments	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
12.	Fertilisers	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Chemicals	7	5	10	4	14	0	22



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
15.	Dye Stuffs	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
16.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	1	1	7	2	10	2	13
17.	Textiles	20	12	8	2	41	3	52
18.	Paper and Pulp	6	5	3	3	9	2	8
19.	Sugar	6	2	3	1	3	0	9
20.	Food Processing	9	7	5	2	13	2	16
21.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	2	1	8	2	15	1	21
22.	Rubber Goods	3	2	4	2	4	0	7
23.	Leather and Leather Goods	1	1	1	1	2	0	2
24.	Glass	0	0	1	0	3	1	3
25.	Ceramics	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
26.	Cement and Gypsum Products	1	1	4	1	12	1	14
27.	Miscellaneous	37	24	28	11	53	3	80
28.	Jute	2	1	1	0	0	0	2
29.	Electronics	9	6	5	2	8	2	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>132</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>339</b>

**Credit flow of SSIs**

\*150. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-availability of credit constitutes a major problem for Small Scale Industries (SSIs);

(b) if so, whether the Government have urged the RBI to monitor credit flow to SSIs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of districts identified to monitor credit flow to SSIs, particularly in the State of Maharashtra; and

(e) the details of the action plan finalised for 1998-99 and fresh initiatives under consideration for revival of sick SSIs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have urged the Reserve Bank of India to effectively monitor credit flow to small scale sector with special emphasis on improving the quality of credit in the context of Seven Point Action Plan.

(d) The credit flow is monitored on quarterly basis for the whole country by the Reserve Bank of India and the Government under Seven Point Action Plan for banks to improve the flow of credit to small scale sector. One of the action points of 7 Point Action Plan is to set up specialised SSI branches in the 85 identified districts which had more than 2,000 registered small scale units on 31.03.1998. Out of these, two districts namely Greater Bombay and Pune are

from Maharashtra. Subsequently, Reserve Bank of India had advised banks to operationalise more specialised SSI branches at centres where there is potential for financing many SSI borrowers. Till March, 1997, banks have opened 29 specialised SSI branches in the State of Maharashtra.

(e) For tackling the problems of sick SSI units, Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines to scheduled commercial banks in February, 1987 (modified in June, 1989 and April, 1993), containing, inter-alia, definition of sick units, viability norms, incipient sickness as also reliefs/concessions for banks/financial institutions for implementation of packages in case of potentially viable sick (SSI) units. The same are proposed to be continued.

#### Coir Industry

\*151. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Coir Board for export promotion programmes of coir products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Programmes for export promotion of coir and coir products are proposed every year by the Coir Board and considered by the Government.

(b) The programmes include participation in International exhibitions and conferences, organising seminars on specific products, publicity through media abroad, awards for export performance and promotion etc. During the year 1998-99, Coir Board proposes to participate in the following programmes:-

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. India Exhibition<br>Baku, Azerbaijan                        | 24-28, June, 1998   |
| 2. Inter Build Australia 98<br>Melbourne                       | 19-22, July, 1998   |
| 3. National Hardware<br>Show, Chicago,<br>USA                  | 16-19, August, 1998 |
| 4. Thessaloniki International<br>Fair, Thessaloniki,<br>Greece | September, 1998     |
| 5. Caribbean Expo,<br>Port of Spain, Trinidad                  | September, 1998     |

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 6. Saitex-98, Johannesburg<br>South Africa  | 20-24, October, 1998    |
| 7. Domotex, Hannover<br>Germany   | January, 1999.          |
| 8. Kuwait International Trade<br>Fair, Kuwait   | February/March,<br>1999 |
| 9. Carpet Fair/Made in India<br>Exhibition (To be organised<br>by Indian Consulate & CII) | Date not specified.     |
| 10. Coir Geo Textiles, USA  | Date not specified.     |
| 11. Coir Geo Textiles, U.K.   | Date not specified.     |

(c) The Coir Board, which is a statutory body, has taken various measures to boost the export of coir and coir products in the international markets. The Board has undertaken joint publicity programme with British and German Coir Associations for promoting Indian coir products in these countries. In order to increase the export of coir and coir products, the Board participates in important exhibitions abroad, deputed officials in market development missions, and undertakes publicity programmes.

#### New Textile Policy

\*152. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to have a new textile policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the new textile policy is likely to be announced and implemented;

(c) whether there is any plan to allot quota and reserve items for the mills, powerloom and handloom sectors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up an expert group under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam for the purpose of enabling the formulation of a new textile policy. The composition and the terms of references are under finalization.

(c) to (e) There is no plan to allot quota and reserve items for the mills, powerloom and handloom sector except to the extent of existing reservation of 11 items for production under the handloom sector and annual quotas for exports of raw cotton and low count cotton yarn.

[Translation]

**Protection to Domestic Industry**

\*153. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the negative impact of the steep reduction in import tariff on project imports and finished products on the domestic industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering a proposal to bring about a legislation to protect the domestic industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether the Government have received representations from small scale industries in this regard; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (f) There have been representations from the capital goods industry about an adverse impact of reduction in import duty rates. A number of policy initiatives have been proposed in the recent Budget including 8 per cent non-modvatable levy on imports of a wide range of goods.

[English]

**L.C. Gupta Committee**

\*154. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether L.C. Gupta Committee appointed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has finalised and submitted its report on the introduc-

tion of equity based derivatives in the Indian capital market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which the said derivations are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The L.C. Gupta Committee appointed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to recommend an appropriate regulatory framework for the introduction of derivatives trading in India has submitted its report to SEBI.

(b) The report of the Committee consists of two parts. Parts I of the Report focuses on the economic justification and regulatory structure for the introduction of derivatives trading in India and Part II is the suggested bye-laws for regulation and control of trading and settlement of derivatives contracts. The recommendations include phased introduction of equity derivatives, operation of derivatives exchanges as effective self-regulatory organizations under the overall supervision of SEBI, stringent entry requirements for brokers/dealers for derivatives market, improvements in underlying cash markets etc. Copies of the report are publicly available.

(c) The SEBI Board considered the report of the Committee as its meeting held on May 11, 1998 and accepted most of the recommendations.

(d) SEBI will take an appropriate decision when systemic, institutional and regulatory arrangements for derivatives trading are in place.

**Patent of Various Products**

\*155. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that steps are being taken by the US and other European countries to have various vegetables and other botanical products like Neem, Turmeric and their formulations already in vogue in Ayurveda and other Indian Systems of Medicines patented through the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Scientists in large numbers are engaged in such patenting work abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to take effective steps to free the patented products from American laws; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Patents cannot be granted for plants like Neem and Turmeric nor can they be granted for substances which are already in the public domain. Patents are granted by countries under their respective laws. The rights granted to the patentees are restricted to the territory of that country.

(c) and (d) It is difficult to have precise information in this regard.

(e) and (f) Whenever information is received about patents being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged. When sufficient material is gathered, steps are taken for filing a petition for re-examination and ultimate revocation of patent in that country.

[Translation]

#### Closure of CCI Units

\*156. SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA :

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of units of Cement Corporation of India functioning in the Country;

(b) the number of units out of these closed down during 1987 to 1997;

(c) the reasons for their closure; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) 10

(b) None.

(c) Not Applicable.

(d) CCI was referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in 1996. BIFR appointed Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) as Operating Agency and directed it to prepare a revival package. The revival package prepared by Operating Agency is under the consideration of BIFR.

#### Profit earned by IDBI

\*157. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has earned profit during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the non-performing assets of the Bank have also increased during that period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it was more than the previous year;

(e) the percentage of the total value of non-performing assets as compared to the total loan advanced during 1997-98; and

(f) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The profit after tax of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for the year ended 31st March, 1998, was Rs. 1501.29 crore.

(c) to (e) Non-performing assets (NPAs) as a percentage of IDBI's loan and other assistance portfolio declined marginally from 10.3% in 1996-97 to 10.1% in 1997-98 but in absolute terms NPAs increased by Rs. 735.7 crore in 1997-98 over 1996-97 levels.

(f) IDBI has reported that concerted efforts were made during the year to recover its dues from assisted units. IDBI has set up special recovery cells both at Head Office and Zonal/Branch Offices. Recovery performance is also being closely monitored by Credit Committee at Head Office and Zonal Committees at Zonal Level. This has enabled IDBI to contain

deterioration in asset quality in a year when several major segments of industry passed through difficult conditions.

[English]

#### FERA Cases Against T.V. Channels

\*158. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI S. S. OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of foreign exchange is going abroad through advertisements by Indian exporters on foreign T.V. Channels;

(b) if so, the number of cases booked under FERA in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive policy on advertisements by Indian exporters on foreign T.V. Channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has initiated investigations against seven foreign TV Channels for suspected violations of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA).

(c) and (d) At present, the exporters having export earnings of Rs. 10.00 lakhs or more during the previous two years or those maintaining Export Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) accounts are eligible to advertise on overseas TV Channels.

#### Export of Rubber Based Products

\*159. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of Rubber based products has increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Rubberwood products are being exported;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The export of rubber based products has increased from Rs. 1225.2 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 1338 crores in 1997-98.

(Source : Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Rubberwood products are being exported in the form of chairs, brush blocks, kitchen cabinet shutters, parquet floorings, lumber blocks, etc.

(e) The following steps have been taken as part of the ongoing efforts to boost exports. Continuing interaction with the trade and industry to identify and deal with problems related to exports; extension of Market Development Assistance to the exporting community through the Export Promotion Council for participation in trade fairs/exhibitions; organisation of buyer-seller meets and other market promotion activities.

[Translation]

#### External Commercial Borrowings

\*160. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the existing external commercial borrowings policy;

(b) if so, the details of the amendment likely to be made; and

(c) the reasons for amending the existing policy?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Foreign Equity Capital in Coal Sector

\*161. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to permit hundred per cent foreign equity capital in coal mining sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 in order to issue more licences for the purpose in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the approval for foreign equity capital in Coal mining sector is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No separate policy to allow 100% foreign equity in the coal mining sector has been laid down by the Government. All downstream investments by foreign holding companies through joint ventures and subsidiaries, including 100% subsidiaries, require prior Government approval from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

(b) No amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is necessary for permitting hundred per cent foreign equity capital in captive coal mining projects in the private sector.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (b) of the question.

[Translation]

#### Trade Treaties

1463. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with whom Government have signed the trade treaties till March 30, 1998 alongwith the areas thereof;

(b) the names of the items likely to be expected or imported under these treaties;

(c) the period for which these treaties would last; and

(d) the items which have been included in the restricted list of items and its likely effects on the Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (c) A Statement is attached.

(b) and (d) The items which are agreed for Export and Import in the Trade Agreements change from time to time when the bilateral issues are reviewed in the Joint Commission/Joint Trade Committee Meeting. Restrictions of any kind of Import and Export of any items is guided by the EXIM Policy.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Nature of the Agreement	Date of Signing	Validity period	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (former)	Trade and Economic Cooperation	4.11.72	1.1.73	Automatic renewal for a period of one year at a time.
2.	Hungary	Trade and Economic Cooperation	15.12.77	1.1.78 to 31.12.80	Automatic renewal for a period of one year at a time.
3.	Poland	Trade and Economic Cooperation	26.11.90	Indefinite period	May be terminated upon written notice by either party.
4.	Romania	Trade and Economic Cooperation	23.2.93	Indefinite period	May be terminated upon written notice by either party.
5.	Czech Republic	Trade and Economic Cooperation	15.3.93	14.3.98	Automatic renewal for a further period of one year at a time
6.	Slovak Republic	Trade and Economic Cooperation	14.5.93	13.5.98	Automatic renewal for a period of five years at a time.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Slovenia	Trade and Economic Cooperation	7.12.93	6.12.98	Automatic renewal for a period of five years at a time.
8.	Croatia	Trade and Economic Cooperation	16.9.94	15.9.99	Automatic renewal for a period of five years at a time.
9.	Bulgaria	Trade and Economic Cooperation	4.12.96	3.12.2001	Automatic renewal for a period of five years at a time.
10.	Brazil	Trade Co-operation	3.2.68	—	The agreement are entered into generally for a specific period but are automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate the same.
11.	Colombia	Trade Co-operation	14.7.70	—	
12.	Peru	Trade Co-operation	4.11.71	—	
13.	Cuba	Trade Co-operation	9.7.79	—	
14.	Guatemala	Trade Co-operation	23.4.81	—	
15.	Argentina	Trade Co-operation	26.7.81	—	
16.	Trinidad & Tabago	Trade Co-operation	24.1.97	—	
17.	Afganistan	Trade Agreement	24.6.78	Initially valid for one year.	Automatically renewed for a period of one year each time unless either party gives a notice for termination.
18.	Sri Lanka	Trade Agreement	28.10.61	—	Perpetually valid unless terminated through a notice given by either party.
19.	Bangladesh	Trade Agreement	4.10.80	3.10.98	Renewed periodically.
20.	Maldives	Trade Agreement	31.3.81	Initially valid for one year.	Perpetually valid unless terminated through a notice by either party.
21.	Bhutan	Trade Agreement	2.3.95	10 years	—
22.	Nepal	Treaty of Trade	6.12.97	5.12.2001	Automatically renewable for a period of 5 years at a time.
23.	Republic of Korea	Trade Promotion, Economic and Technical Co-operation	12.8.74	Initially valid for two years.	In the first instance and shall continue to be in force unless either party gives atleast 90 days written notice to the other party of its intention to terminate the Agreement.

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	North Korea	Trade Co-operation	3.2.78	Presently in force	—
25.	Republic of China	Cooperation in Economic Relations, Trade, Science and Technology.	15.8.84	Presently in force	—
26.	Mongolia	Trade and Economic Cooperation	16.9.96	Presently in force	—
27.	Israel	MFN treatment, exchange of delegations, participation in fairs, economic/industrial cooperation etc.	21.12.94	Initially 5 years.	Automatically extendable for subsequent period of 5 years unless terminated by either party.
28.	Tunisia	MFN treatment, exchange of delegations, participation in fairs, economic/industrial cooperation etc.	20.9.94	Initially 5 years.	
29.	Egypt	MFN treatment, participation in fairs, etc.	12.3.78	Initially 5 years.	Automatically renewable for periods of one year unless terminated by either party.
30.	Algeria	MFN treatment, participation in fairs and exhibition, exchange of information etc.	10.2.76	Initially one year.	Automatically renewed for further period of one year, unless terminated by either party.
31.	Jordan	MFN treatment, participation in fairs/exhibitions, exchange of information, joint ventures etc.	24.2.76	Initially 5 years.	Automatically renewed for further period of one year, unless terminated by either party.
32.	Morocco	MFN treatment, participation in fairs and exhibitions, encouraging visits of businessmen etc.	17.11.81	Initially 3 years.	Automatically renewed for further period of one year, unless terminated by either party.
33.	Syria	MFN treatment, exchange of information, participation in fairs and exhibitions, etc.	20.4.78	Initially 3 years.	Automatically renewable for further period of one year, unless terminated by either party.
34.	Libya	MFN treatment, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, exchange of business establishment of joint ventures etc.	19.7.78	Initially one year.	Automatically renewed for further period of one year, unless terminated by either party.
35.	Oman	Agreement on Economic, Trade & Technical Cooperation,	15.6.93	5 years	Automatically extended for similar periods unless a notice of termination in writing is given by either side before expiry of the prevailing periods.
36.	Kuwait	Trade Agreement	13.2.74	3 years	Automatically extended for similar periods unless a notice of termination in writing is given by either side before expiry of the prevailing periods.



1	2	3	4	5	6
37.	Iraq	Trade Agreement	24.9.71	3 years	Automatically extended for similar periods unless a notice of termination in writing is given by either side before expiry of the prevailing periods.
38.	Bahrian	Economic and Technical Cooperation	28.4.81	5 years	Automatically extended for similar periods unless a notice of termination in writing is given by either side before expiry of the prevailing periods.
39.	Saudi Arabia	Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement	14.4.81	3 years	Automatically extended for similar periods unless a notice of termination in writing is given by either side before expiry of the prevailing periods.
40.	Iran	Trade Agreement	31.8.74	5 years	Automatically extended for similar periods unless a notice of termination in writing is given by either side before expiry of the prevailing periods
41.	Cameroon	Trade Agreement	22.2.68	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
42.	Senegal	Trade Agreement	22.5.74	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
43.	Zambia	Trade Agreement	8.12.78	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
44.	Kenya	Trade Agreement	24.2.81	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
45.	Zimbabwe	Trade Agreement	22.5.81	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.

1	2	3	4	5	6
46.	Ghana	Trade Agreement	12.10.81	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
47.	Mozambique	Trade Agreement	28.10.81	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
48.	Liberia	Trade Agreement	16.11.81	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
49.	Uganda	Trade Agreement	24.11.81	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
50.	Nigeria	Trade Agreement	27.1.83	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
51.	Angola	Trade Agreement	4.10.86	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
52.	Rwanda	Trade Agreement	13.6.90	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
53.	Ivory Coast	Trade Agreement	17.2.93	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
54.	South Africa	Trade Agreement	22.8.94	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
55.	Burkina FASO	Trade Agreement	4.11.95	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.

1	2	3	4	5	6
56.	Namibia	Trade Agreement	27.11.95	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
57.	Ethiopia	Trade Agreement	6.3.95	—	Automatically renewed unless either contracting party notifies the other in writing to its intention to terminate the same.
58.	Indonesia	Trade Agreement	1978	One year	Automatically extended on year to year basis, unless a notice for intention to terminate the same is given by either side.
59.	Thailand	Trade Agreement		One year	Automatically extended on year to year basis, unless a notice for intention to terminate the same is given by either side.
60.	Philippines	Trade Agreement	1979	One year	Automatically extended on year to year basis, unless a notice for intention to terminate the same is given by either side.
61.	Vietnam	Trade Agreement	8.3.97	5 years	Automatically extended on year to year basis, unless a notice for intention to terminate the same is given by either side.
62.	Myanmar	Trade Agreement and Border Trade Agreement	1970	One year	Automatically extended on year to year basis, unless a notice for intention to terminate the same is given by either side.
63.	New Zealand	Trade Agreement	17.10.86	5 years	The validity would stand terminated if either of the contracting party informs the other party in writing of its intention to cancel the same.
64.	Australia	Trade Agreement	2.8.76	2 years	The validity would stand terminated if either of the contracting party informs the other party in writing of its intention to cancel the same.

1	2	3	4	5	6
65.	Italy	Trade Agreement	6.10.59	—	—
66.	Switzerland	Trade Agreement	13.4.70	—	—
67.	Spain	Trade Agreement	14.12.72	—	—
68.	Finland	Trade Agreement	22.5.74	—	—
69.	United Kingdom	Trade Agreement	6.1.76	—	—
70.	Portugal	Trade and Economic, Industrial and Technical Cooperation Agreement	7.4.77	—	—
71.	France	Industrial and Commercial Co-operation	28.1.80	—	—
72.	Netherlands	Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation.	8.2.83	—	—
73.	Sweden	Agreement on export of certain cotton textile products.	14.3.83	—	—
74.	Hellenic	Agreement on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation	23.9.83	—	—
75.	Germany	Technical Cooperation	—	—	—
76.	European Community	Cooperation Agreement	27.8.94	—	—
77.	Russian Federation	Trade and Economic Cooperation	4.5.92	Validity till 31.12.96	Automatic renewal for further successive periods of five years.
78.	Republic of Latvia	Economic Cooperation	10.9.93	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
79.	Republic of Lithuania	Trade and Economic Cooperation	2.7.93	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
80.	Estonia	Trade and Economic Cooperation	15.10.93	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.

1	2	3	4	5	6
81.	Republic of Uzbekistan	Trade and Economic Cooperation	24.5.93	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
82.	Republic of Kyrgyzstan	Trade, Economic Relations and Science and Technology	18.3.92	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of five years.
83.	Republic of Tajikistan	Trade and Economic Cooperation	15.2.93	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
84.	Turkmenistan	Trade and Economic Cooperation	20.4.92	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
85.	Republic of Kazakhstan	Trade, Economic Relations and Science and Technology	22.2.92	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of five years.
86.	Republic of Moldova	Trade and Economic Cooperation	19.3.93	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
87.	Ukraine	Trade and Economic Cooperation	27.3.92	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
88.	Belarus	Trade and Economic Cooperation	14.5.93	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
89.	Armenia	Trade and Economic Cooperation	11.3.93	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
90.	Georgia	Trade and Economic Cooperation	15.8.95	—	Five years from the date of signing and shall be automatically extended for further successive periods of one year.
91.	Trade Agreement with Azerbaijan is yet to be signed.				

[English]

### Indo Belgium Trade Relations

1464. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which Indo-Belgium trade relations established;

(b) whether steps have been taken by the Government to expand trade relations between both the countries;

(c) if so, the areas identified to expand trade relation between both the countries;

(d) whether any trade agreement has signed between India and Belgium for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The principal areas of Indo-Belgium trade are Gems and jewellery, textiles, chemicals, agricultural & marine products and Minerals and Metals.

(b) Yes, Sir. Besides, bilateral exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs, organising seminars and buyer-seller meets, etc. an Indo-Bleu (Indo-Belgium and luxemberg) Joint Commission at official level is functioning to oversee developments on economic cooperation between the two countries which last met in New Delhi in March, 1995.

(c) The areas identified to expand trade relation between the two countries are Computer software, engineering products, handicrafts, pharmaceuticals and bulk drugs and leather.

(d) and (e) While no trade agreement has been signed between India and Belgium. Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement was signed in April, 1993 (ratified by Belgium Parliament in August, 1997) and Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was entered into in November, 1997. Besides, India signed a Co-operation Agreement with EU in 1994 and Belgium being a member-state is covered under that agreement. All these agreements are expected to promote Indo-Bleu economic and trade relations.

### Prices of Rubber

1465. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission for the import of raw rubber;

(b) whether the new EXIM policy has caused steep fall in price of rubber in the domestic market;

(c) if so, whether any representations have been received from rubber growers of Kerala to ensure better price for rubber;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to export rubber; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The fall in price of Natural Rubber has been mainly due to reduced consumption of Natural Rubber by the user industries.

(c) Representations have been received from rubber growers of Kerala to ensure a better price for rubber.

(d) and (e) The export of rubber is already under Open General Licence (OGL).

### Decline in Sanction of Loans by Financial Institutions

1466. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loans sanctioned by financial institutions during 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97, institution-wise;

(b) whether there had been downfall to the extent of nearly 15 percent in the sanction of loans by the financial institutions during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) As per information provided by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), institution-wise details of financial assistance sanctioned during 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) During 1996-97, sanctions by all India Financial Institutions had declined by 14.9%.

(c) and (d) IDBI has reported that the decline in sanctions in 1996-97 was largely due to subdued investment climate for large projects and decline in operations under non-project loans and capital market products etc. However, with the Government opening

up infrastructure sector for private sector investment and Reserve Bank of India permitting institutions to operate scheme for working capital loans to industry, there was a substantial growth of 48% in institutional sanctions during 1997-98 over the previous year.

#### Statement

*Assistance Sanctioned by all India Financial Institutions during April-March 1996-97 and 1997-98*

				(Rs. crore)
Sl. No.	Institution	Apr-Mar 1996-97	Apr-Mar 1997-98	% Change
<b>SANCTIONS</b>				
1.	Industrial Development Bank of India	17049.9	24198.5	41.9
2.	Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd.	7212.3	10982.6	52.3
3.	Industrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Ltd.	14313.1	25532.0	78.4
4.	Small Industries Development Bank of India	6485.3	7482.5	15.4
5.	Industrial Investment Bank of India Ltd.	816.0	2061.0	152.6
6.	Risk Capital & Technology Finance Corporation Ltd.	30.5	10.8	-64.6
7.	TDICI Ltd.	16.6	42.8	157.8
8.	Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd.	303.5	320.1	5.5
9.	Life Insurance Corporation of India	2820.8	3563.1	26.3
10.	Unit Trust of India	3669.1	4229.1	15.3
11.	General Insurance Corporation of India	1035.2	1148.8	11.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>53752.3</b>	<b>74571.4</b>	<b>48.0</b>

Note : Data are provisional

#### Streamlining of Financial Institutions

1467. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring financial institutions under the audit of Advisory Board on Bank Frauds;

(b) if not, the reasons for non-inclusion of financial institutions;

(c) whether financial institutions have huge bad debts on their accounts;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to streamline financial institutions;

(e) whether huge hidden loans are there in the financial institutions; and

(f) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Advisory Board on Bank Frauds (ABBF) was constituted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in February, 1997 to advise RBI on the references referred by CBI either directly or through Ministry of Finance for investigation/registration of cases against bank officers of the rank of General Manager and above in nationalised banks. The executives of financial institutions were not brought by RBI under the purview of ABBF and no references regarding officers of financial institutions had been referred to RBI.

(c) to (f) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Production/Export of Opium

1468. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a contract about 600 tonnes of opium has to be exported;

(b) whether total production of opium in the current year is quite low in comparison to the last year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No, Sir. Contracts for export of opium have not been signed yet.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The total production of opium at 70°C during the current crop year in the three opium growing states is as under :-

Year	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan	Uttar Pradesh	Total (in Metric Tonnes)
1997-98 (Prov.)	128.042	188.914	48.048	365.004

The low production of opium during crop year 1997-98 is due to cultivation of about 33% of the total area licensed and damage to opium crop due to inclement weather, unseasonal rains, hail-storms and plant diseases.

[English]

#### Setting up of New Textile Mills

1469. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up new textile mills in the Country during the Ninth Plan;

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

(c) the details of funds provided by the Union Government to the State-Governments for the revival of sick textile mills during the current year and the Ninth Plan Period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government do not provide funds to State Governments for revival of sick textile units.

#### Fiscal Deficit

1470. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are receiving any financial assistance from the RBI to make up the annual fiscal deficit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are pondering over any proposal to prescribe the limit of such assistance so as to ensure better control on the currency supply by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of benefits likely to be accrued as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The gross fiscal deficit of the Central Government is financed through market borrowings, other liabilities like small savings, Provident funds and special deposits, external assistance and till 1996-97 through ad hoc Treasury Bills. With effect from April 1, 1997, the practice of issuing ad hoc Treasury Bills has been replaced by a system of Ways and Means Advances (WMA) provided by RBI to enable the Central Government to meet temporary mismatches between receipt and expenditure. RBI also gives support to the market borrowing programme of



the Central Government which is reflected in the net RBI credit to the Central Government or monetised deficit. The Revised Estimates for 1997-98 have placed gross fiscal deficit of the Central Government at Rs. 86,345 crore. As per RBI records, monetised deficit, which is the net RBI credit to the Centre at end-March, 1998, amounted to Rs. 12914 crore.

(c) and (d) The limit for WMA provided by the RBI to the Central Government is based on mutual agreement between the Government of India and RBI. For the current fiscal year (1998-99), the WMA limit for the first half and second half has been set at Rs. 11,000 crore and Rs. 7,000 crore respectively. The new system of WMA seeks to meet temporary mismatches in the receipt and expenditure of the Central Government without contributing to monetisation of deficit. It provides considerable transparency in Government's fiscal operation. Besides, the system of WMA to the Central Government contributes to better fiscal-monetary policy co-ordination.

#### Credit Deposit Ratio

1471. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of credit-deposit ratio in public sector banks, during 1996-97 and 1997-98 State-wise;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the rates of credit-deposit ratio (percentage) in any of the States;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the rates of credit-deposit ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) States/Union Territories-wise deposits, credit and credit deposit ratio (CDR) of scheduled commercial banks as on the last Friday of March 1996 and March 1997 is given in the enclosed Statement. During the period March 1996 to March 1997, the CDR has declined in 25 out of 32 States/Union Territories and from 61.9 per cent to 57.3 per cent for the country as a whole. Except for Chandigarh, outstanding credit of scheduled commercial banks during the period has increased in all States/Union Territories. The decline in CDR of scheduled commercial banks in States/Union Territories during the period is attributed to larger increase in deposit base of these banks, as compared to the increase in credit during the same period.

(d) The State Level Bankers' Committee which comprises representatives of banks operating in a particular State/Union Territory and representatives of Government departments review in regular meetings all aspects of bank credit including the CDR in the States/Union Territories.

#### Statement

*State/Union Territory-wise deposits, Bank Credit and Credit deposit ratio of scheduled Commercial Banks as on the last Friday of March 1996 and March 1997*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	March 1996			March 1997		
		Deposits (Rs. in crore)	Credit	Credit Deposit Ratio (%)	Deposits (Rs. in crore)	Credit	Credit Deposit Ratio (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21605	17461	80.8	25850	20061	77.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	360	37	10.4	394	42	10.7
3.	Assam	4393	1726	39.3	5084	1789	35.2
4.	Bihar	17922	5732	32.0	21222	6467	30.5
5.	Goa	3127	842	26.9	3834	957	25.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	25265	13393	53.0	29059	14449	49.7
7.	Haryana	8930	4108	46.0	10354	4422	42.7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3139	810	25.8	3676	861	23.4
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4031	1540	38.2	4717	1829	38.8
10.	Karnataka	23258	16205	69.7	26357	18842	71.5
11.	Kerala	19793	8985	45.4	22995	10783	46.9
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15651	8934	57.1	18127	9486	52.3
13.	Maharashtra	89173	67519	75.7	101954	69998	68.7
14.	Manipur	231	124	53.7	264	152	57.6
15.	Meghalaya	730	105	14.4	892	127	14.3
16.	Mizoram	209	34	16.2	285	40	14.0
17.	Nagaland	377	103	27.4	490	118	24.0
18.	National Capital Territory of Delhi	42477	31745	74.7	48847	32676	66.9
19.	Orissa	6006	3292	54.8	7153	3504	49.0
20.	Punjab	20075	8407	41.9	23843	9015	39.1
21.	Rajasthan	12017	5602	46.6	14055	6215	44.2
22.	Sikkim	206	40	19.3	240	42	17.7
23.	Tamil Nadu	29052	29410	01.2	32487	32597	100.3
24.	Tripura	581	245	42.1	694	262	37.7
25.	Uttar Pradesh	41451	14195	34.2	48304	15267	31.6
26.	West Bengal	31127	17352	55.7	36450	18241	50.0
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	153	25	16.5	189	30	15.0
28.	Chandigarh	3751	5205	130.8	4061	3574	88.0
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	60	12	20.7	82	15	18.6
30.	Daman & Diu	168	39	23.3	206	45	21.9
31.	Lakshadweep	25	2	9.6	31	3	8.8
32.	Pondicherry	729	306	41.9	831	324	39.0
All India		426073	263533	61.9	492227	282237	57.3

[Translation]

**New Tourism and Travel Management Institute in U.P.**

1472. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some new Tourism and Travel Management Institute in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up a new Institute for Tourism and Travel Management in U.P. or anywhere else in the country at present.

The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management Gwalior, a society supported by Government of India, has its chapter in Lucknow which caters to the tourism training requirements of the region.

[English]

**Revival of N.T.C. Mills**

1473. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid by the National Textile Corporation as idle wages to the workers of National Textile Corporation since 1992;

(b) the amount projected as the cost of the National Textile Corporation revival scheme worked out in 1994;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the revival scheme of National Textile Corporation, mentioned above;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the names of mills likely to be modernised and likely to be closed down under the proposed scheme; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The total budgetary support extended by the Central Government to NTC from 1992-93 to 1997-98 towards payment of salaries and wages is approximately Rs. 1400 crores.

(b) to (e) On account of net worth erosion, 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC have been referred to and

declared sick by the BIFR. Govt. approved a revised turn around plan for NTC in May, 1995 involving modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs. 2005.72 crores and placed the same before the BIFR. The funds for rehabilitation were to be raised from sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. The BIFR found the rehabilitation plan not viable in case of four subsidiary corporations viz., NTC (MP), NTC (Guj.), NTC (WBAB & O) and NTC (UP) and issued show cause notice for winding up these four subsidiary corporations. In respect of the remaining 4 subsidiaries viz. NTC (DPR), NTC (APKK& M), NTC (MN) and NTC (SM), the BIFR published draft rehabilitation schemes seeking certain reliefs and concessions. However, as the rehabilitation plan could not be implemented in the absence of approval of BIFR and availability of funds from sale proceeds, Government are considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC on the basis of the unit-wise viability study made by NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interests of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

**Import of Cardamom**

1474. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have permitted to import large quantity of Cardamom irrespective of the demand in the domestic market;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that due to uncontrolled import, the Cardamom growers in Kerala are badly affected and stopped its cultivation; and

(c) if so, the action taken to protect the Cardamom growers of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) The Import Policy on cardamom is restricted and no Special Import Licences have been issued for import of cardamom during 1997-98. However, under the Advance Licensing Scheme an exporter who requires cardamom as an input for export production is entitled to import cardamom for the manufacture of such export goods. There can, thus be no threat to Indigenous cardamom growers on account of import of cardamom under the Advance Licensing Scheme.

**Fall in Production in BCCL**

1475. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of principal factor contributing in the fall of production in BCCL with particular reference to power failure, machinery breakdown, land dispute, absenteeism, industrial relations during the last three years with year-wise and item-wise break up;

(b) the details of loss due to paying fall back wage for the same period; and

(c) the justification in simultaneous loss due to fall back wage and absenteeism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The details on loss of production in BCCL due to various reasons during the last three years in BCCL are given below :-

(Figs. in "000" tonnes)

Year	Power failure	Machinery break-down	land dispute (Non-availability)	Absenteeism	Industrial relation
1995-96	463.3	998.4	112.0	351.6	20
1996-97	359.3	754.4	1065.0	314.7	1.7
1997-98	237.7	462.5	93.0	177.9	2.3

(b) The details of the loss due to payment of fall back wage for the same period are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
133	301	293

(c) The justification in the simultaneous loss due to fall back wage and absenteeism is given below:

(i) Long power-cuts after the workers report for duty in a shift.

(ii) In the event of major break-downs taking place after the workers report for duty.

(iii) Detection of inflammable gas as a result of which persons have to be withdrawn from the mines.

#### Capital Support to RRBs

1476. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the RRBs which have not received the additional capital support at their disposal due to non-participation of the State Government during the last three years; and

(b) whether State Government has not yet extended their proportionate additional share capital during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE)

(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Out of a total number of 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), 136 RRBs were provided additional equity support by the Government of India during the years 1994-95 (49 RRB), 1995-96 (53 RRBs) and 1996-97 (34 RRBs) for cleansing up of balance sheets. As reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), only 45 RRBs out of these 136 RRBs have not received proportionate amount of additional equity support from 14 State Governments. The names of these RRBs are given in the enclosed Statement. Further, an amount of Rs. 200 crores was also released by the Government during the year 1997-98, as additional equity support to a set of 15 new RRBs besides grant of supplementary dose of capital assistance to 90 RRBs covered during the earlier years. It is expected that State Governments will release their matching shares in respect of these RRBs during the current year.

#### Statement

*Names of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) which have not received additional equity assistance (Matching Share) from State Governments*

Sl. No.	Name of RRBs	Name of States
1	2	3
1.	Nagarjuna Grameena Bank	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Sri Visakha Grameena Bank	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Sri Sathavahana Grameen Bank	Andhra Pradesh
4.	Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank	Assam

1	2	3
5.	Subansiri Gaoniia Bank	Assam
6.	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank	Assam
7.	Cachar Gramin Bank	Assam
8.	Begusarai Gramin Bank	Bihar
9.	Giridih Gramin Bank	Bihar
10.	Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Bihar
11.	Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	Bihar
12.	Patliputra Gramin Bank	Bihar
13.	Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank	Bihar
14.	Siwan Kshetriay Gramin Bank	Bihar
15.	Banaskantha Mehsana Gramin Bank	Gujarat
16.	Gurgaon Gramin Bank	Haryana
17.	Ambala Krukshetra Gramin Bank	Haryana
18.	Hissar Sirsa Gramin Bank	Haryana
19.	Jammu Rural Bank	Jammu & Kashmir
20.	Netravati Gramin Bank	Karnataka
21.	Krishna Grameena Bank	Karnataka
22.	South Malabar Gramin Bank	Kerala
23.	Raigarh Gramin Bank	Madhya Pradesh
24.	Shivpuri Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Madhya Pradesh
25.	Damoh Panna Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Madhya Pradesh
26.	Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Madhya Pradesh
27.	Kshetriya Gramin Bank Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh
28.	Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Madhya Pradesh
29.	Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank	Madhya Pradesh
30.	Cuttack Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Orissa
31.	Korapur Panchbati Gramin Bank	Orissa

1	2	3
32.	Dhenkanal Gramya Bank	Orissa
33.	Rushikulya Gramya Bank	Orissa
34.	Kalahandi Anchalik Gramya Bank	Orissa
35.	Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank	Punjab
36.	Kapurthala Firozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Punjab
37.	Jaipur Nagaur Anchlik Gramin Bank	Rajasthan
38.	Shekhawati Gramin Bank	Rajasthan
39.	Bhilwara Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Rajasthan
40.	Bundi Chitorgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Rajasthan
41.	Dungarpur Banswara Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Rajasthan
42.	Jamuna Gramin Bank	Uttar Pradesh
43.	Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Uttar Pradesh
44.	Kisan Gramin Bank	Uttar Pradesh
45.	Mallabhum Gramin Bank	West Bengal

[Translation]

#### New Coal Mines

1477. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start new coal mines during 1998-99;

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

(c) the production capacity of the proposed coal mines and the estimated cost thereof; and

(d) the time by which production is likely to be started therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Location-wise details of new projects likely to give production in the year 1998-99 are as follows:-

Projects	Company	State
1	2	3
1. Ganga	BCCL	Bihar
2. Sulunga Jeenagora OC	BCCL	Bihar

1	2	3
3. Karo-I	CCL	Bihar
4. Tawa UG	WCL	M.P.
5. Hingula-I	MCL	Orissa

(c) The production capacity and estimated cost of the new projects which will contribute production in the year 1998-99 are given hereunder:-

Name of the projects contributing prodn. in 1998-99	Capacity (Mty)	Anticipated project cost (Rs. Cr.)
Ganga	0.36	17.48
Sulunga-Jeenagora OC	0.70	41.60
Karo-I	1.50	79.22
Tawa UG**	0.59	79.10
	(0.80)	(98.08)
Hingula-I	4.00	201.27

\*\* Tawa Ph. I consisting of 0.21 mty. capacity with a capital outlay of Rs. 18.98 Crores is an ongoing project.

(d) The above projects are slated to give production in the year 1998-99.

[English]

**Safai Karamcharis in United India Insurance Company Ltd.**

1478. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the part-time safai karamcharis of United India Insurance Ltd. although regularised on permanent basis, are paid their salary and other allowances on prorata basis in proportion to the fixed number of hours of work allotted to them;

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

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to pay their salary and allowances equal to other employee of the same grades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Part time Safai Karamcharis employed by United India Insurance Co. Ltd. on permanent basis are paid salary and other allowances as a percentage of monthly gross emoluments payable to employees working full time in the cadre of Sub-staff. Such payment to part time employees is linked to hours of work they are called upon to perform, on the following scales:

Daily working hours	Total remuneration payable per month as percentage of monthly gross emoluments at the minimum of the scale applicable to workmen on full time basis in the corresponding cadre
2 hours	24%
3 hours	36%
4 hours	48%

(c) The question of paying full-time wages for part time employment does not arise.

**Performance of HCL**

1479. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Cables Limited, Hyderabad is running in losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present financial performance of the company; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to revive the company and for the welfare of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for losses of Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) are : inadequate capacity utilisation, acute shortage of working capital, high finance charges and higher employment cost disproportionate to the value of production.

(c) The present financial performance of the Company is as under :-

(Rs. in crores)	
1997-98 (Provisional)	April 1998 (Provisional)
Loss (-)/Profit (+)	Loss(-)/Profit (+)
(-) 174.80	(-) 14.95

(d) A final view on the proposal of Hindustan Cables Limited for financial restructuring and other measures, is yet to be taken by the Government.

#### Setting up Tourism Institute in J & K

1480. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Tourism Institute in Jammu & Kashmir to impart education and training on tourism related aspects;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such institute in the State in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present. This is mainly due to constraint resources.

#### Housing Loan

1481. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the private and public sector banks in Delhi are not releasing house building loans to their employees who are members of the cooperative group housing societies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the rules framed, if any, by the public and private sector banks on the subject; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take to ensure that the banks do not refuse the house building loans to their employees who are members of the cooperative group housing societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No such complaint regarding public sector banks appears to have been brought to the notice of the Government in the recent past.

(b) and (c) As far as public sector banks are concerned, no such restriction exists. Ministry of Finance is not administratively concerned with such schemes in private sector banks.

#### Bank Officers Demand Regarding Wage Settlement

1482. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank Officers Association have put forth the demand for continuation of the present system of Industry-wise wage settlement;

(b) If so, the details their demands;

(c) the reaction of Indian Bank's Association (IBA) to the demand;

(d) whether IBA have laid down any guidelines to be followed by various Banks in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Indian Bank's Association (IBA) have reported that the Bank Officers' Associations have made a request for continuation of the present system of wage revision.

(b) As reported by IBA, the major demands raised by the Officers' Association in Charter of Demands submitted to the Indian Banks, Association include, inter alia, compression of the existing seven scales of Officers into three, merger of DA into Basic Pay, increase in minimum basic pay and maximum basic pay, 100% DA neutralisation at all stages of pay; provision of free furnished quarters to the Officers and increase in HRA, CCA and various other allowances etc.

(c) IBA have reported that during the discussions with the Officers Associations it was clarified that a realistic approach would be needed on the part of both IBA and officers and that at industry level only basic pay and DA will be discussed. The associations were also informed by IBA that all banks may not be covered by present discussions as some banks may drop out

(d) and (e) IBA has further reported that they have not laid down any guidelines to be followed by various banks in this regard.

(f) It is for IBA and the associations to conclude the discussions and no time limit can be indicated.

#### Violation of Patent Act

1483. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :

SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from scientists against the International Patent Act in India to file criminal charges against piracy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no International Patents Act. Patents are granted by respective governments under their patents laws. Violation of patent rights is also to be challenged under those laws by the affected parties.

#### Leakage of Price Sensitive Information

1484. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has brought to the notice of the Government that some vital price sensitive information leaked to brokers by the officials of stock exchanges thereby creating menace and confusion in money market in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to curb the menace and prevent leakage in stock exchanges in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) According to SEBI the allegations are of a general nature and hence specific details are not available.

(c) SEBI have informed that they have discussed this matter with the Stock exchanges. They have taken the following steps to minimise the possibilities of such leakages of information:

(i) Stock exchanges have been advised to insulate their surveillance departments and make systemic changes to restrict the access to price sensitive information only to certain identified officials.

(ii) A group comprising of elected representatives of major stock exchanges has been set up to evolve a draft code of ethical

conduct for the Directors and key functionaries of stock exchanges, which would impose self restraint on them in misusing such information.

[Translation]

#### Decline in Production of Coffee

1485. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coffee is declining continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to adopt bio-technology in order to increase the production of coffee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Coffee Board has set up a full fledged bio-technology laboratory equipped with the latest instruments and highly qualified scientists specialised in bio-technology, at Mysore (Karnataka). They undertake research studies on clonal multiplication through micropropagation, production of Haploids and Somaclonal variants for breeding purposes, production of interspecific hybrids through Embryo culture and utilisation of Protoplast culture and Somatic hybridisation technique for crossing distantly related species to achieve agronomic traits of the hybrids. These Research studies aim to develop coffee varieties of higher productivity and better quality. A comprehensive bio-technological scheme has also been in operation in the Coffee Board since Eighth Plan.

[English]

#### Investment in Public and Private Sector

1486. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of investment made in the Public and Private sectors during each of the last three years State-wise;

(b) whether there is any reluctance on the part of the investors to make investment in the backward States; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?



THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The State-wise details of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEMs) filed and Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued during the last three years (which includes both the public and the private sector) is given at the enclosed statement.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the

State Government to create congenial atmosphere and provide infrastructural facilities for the development of the State. The Government of India supplements the infrastructural facilities through the Growth Centre Scheme. Growth Centres are identified in consultation with the States Government. The Government also encourages setting up of industries in industrially backward areas such as through tax incentives.

#### Statement

*State-wise proposed investment made in the Public and Private sectors during the years 1995 to 1997*

Sl. No.	Name of States/UT	1995 (Rs. in Crs.)		1996 (Rs. in Crs.)		1997 (Rs. in Crs.)	
		LOI	IEM	LOI	IEM	LOI	IEM
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	551	8918	2993	7079	611	6268
2.	Assam	0	1464	578	38	0	33
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	3
4.	Bihar	1	1009	276	735	1016	160
5.	Delhi	3	595	0	0	0	19
6.	Goa	3	904	7	484	0	356
7.	Gujarat	5169	33833	1674	16228	1714	6807
8.	Haryana	740	2641	1371	3113	200	2073
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	1594	50	717	105	201
10.	J & K	5	55	5	53	55	45
11.	Karnataka	295	6148	4311	5602	845	4205
12.	Kerala	69	1572	397	316	750	251
13.	Madhya Pradesh	124	6257	1673	5288	716	2784
14.	Maharashtra	696	19414	6085	11588	270	5418
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	0	188	0	14	0	4
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	46	0	42
19.	Orissa	9	2495	1321	1493	439	1468
20.	Pondicherry	85	1929	816	284	0	1025
21.	Punjab	476	3412	1477	2101	322	1804

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Rajasthan	6	6669	138	2130	51	1882
23.	Sikkim	0	3	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	3204	9429	1432	4888	759	6916
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	2	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1801	7963	3323	6504	1065	5155
27.	West Bengal	1000	6099	1953	2182	587	2261
28.	A & N Islands	0	48	0	23	0	0
29.	Chandigarh	0	1	0	74	0	10
30.	Dadra & N Haveli	10	2632	41	2045	23	2613
31.	Daman & Diu	14	237	11	251	0	576
32.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	More than 1 State	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		14265	125509	29932	73278	9528	52379

Note : LOI : Letter of Intent

IEM : Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum

### Rubber Production

1487. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's natural rubber production has gone down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the production of natural rubber during each of the last three years; and

(d) the plans of the Government to increase the production of the natural rubber in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The production of natural rubber during the last three years is given below :-

Year	Production in MT
1995-96	5,06,910
1996-97	5,49,425
1997-98	5,14,000 (Provisional)

(d) The Rubber Board is implementing various short term and long term measures to increase production and productivity of natural rubber. The short term measure consists of schemes for bridging technology gap and long term measure provides for expansion of area.

### Import of Milk Powder/Butter Oil

1488. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the market value of the milk-powder and butter oil imported during each of the last three years; and

(b) the manner in which imported milk-powder and butter oil distributed to various agencies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The details giving the c.i.f. value of milk powder and butter oil imported during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (April 97-July 97) are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Import of milk in powdered granules and solid form has always been in the Restricted list.

Butter oil derived from milk is in the Free List since 1995. None of these items has been commercially imported by the Department of Animal Husbandry and

Dairying or NDDB during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 (uptil now) . The question of distribution of these imported items therefore does not arise.

### Statement

*Import of Milk Powder and Butter Oil during 1995-96 to 1997-98*

Value : Rs. Lakhs

	1995-96	1996-97	Apr. 97 to July, 97
1. Milk and Cream, Concentrated or Containing added Sugar or Other Sweetening matter:			
a) In powder, granules or other solid forms, of a fat content by weight not exceeding 1.5%	840.14	196.40	294.12
b) In powder, granules or other solid forms of a fat content, by weight exceeding 1.5%			
i) Not containing added Sugar or other Sweetening matter	2513.03	0.84	—
ii) Other	280.39	42.65	—
iii) Not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	1.52	—	—
iv) Other	28.40	9.67	40.42
2. Butter Oil	2421.51	—	344.51

(Source DGCI&S)

[Translation]

### Export of Marble

1489. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased

to state:

(a) whether the Government are exporting marble;

(b) if so, the value of the marble exported during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to export the refined form of marble in place of the raw one; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of marble from India in the past three years is given below :-

(QTY. MT; Value : Rs. Crores Source : DGCI & S)

Year	Qty.	Value
1994-95	54,744	37.84
1995-96	35,883	29.25
1996-97	36,714	32.87

(c) and (d) As per the present policy, marbles and products thereof are exportable commodities.

[English]

### States Fiscal Deficit

1490. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India In its report on State Finance has expressed concern cover the net primary deficit which overshoot estimates by 64.9 per cent to touch Rs. 16,124 crore;

(b) if so, whether the State revenue deficit

which was estimated at Rs. 11,632 crore now stands revised at Rs. 15,855 crore in 1996-97;

(c) if so, whether the revised estimates show that there has been a deterioration in the consolidated fiscal and revenue deficits of States by 8.0 per cent and 36.3 per cent respectively;

(d) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(e) the action being taken by the Union Government to check the State fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The deterioration in the consolidated fiscal and revenue deficit of the State is mainly due to the overshooting of revised expenditure estimates over the budgeted estimated on account of increased developmental expenditure.

(e) Government have already appointed a Special Task Force on Devolution of Powers to States, to examine and recommend measures for devolution of additional financial powers of the States and additional or alternative means by which States can raise more resources. The first report of the Task Force has been received.

#### Upgradation of Calcutta and Chennai

1491. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to accord "A-1" status to the cities of Calcutta and Chennai;

(b) if so, the benefits that will accrue therefrom;

(c) whether the Government also propose to grant "A-1" status to some other State Capitals; and

(d) If so, the names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) The Central Government employees serving in Calcutta and Chennai will be entitled to draw HRA at the rate of 30% of the basic pay.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Training Centres in Tribal Areas

1492. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up any training centres for the tribal people of Madhya Pradesh to train them to get them employed in the industries located there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Training Centres are set up by the State Governments with financial assistance provided with budgetary support of various Ministries/Departments of Governments of India. In the case of Madhya Pradesh, the Ministry of Welfare, Government of India released Rs. 88.68 lakh during the financial years 1993-94 and 1994-95 for setting up six Vocational Training Centres in tribal areas to assist the tribal youth. The Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) also provides financial assistance for setting up such training centres. The Commission has received proposal from Madhya Pradesh Khadi & Village Industries Board for setting up a training centre in Bilaspur District, a pre-dominantly tribal area. The State Khadi Village Industries Board, however, is yet to fulfil certain criteria before the sanction can be given to them by KVIC for setting up the training centre.

#### Use of Hindi

1493. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue guidelines to the Government Undertakings to write the names of their product, manufacturers' name and other details in Hindi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the names of the Government Undertakings which are not using Hindi on their products and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Instructions have already been issued by the DPE on 9th May, 1989 that the Public Enterprises should give description on all the commodities/items manufactured by them in Hindi also along with English.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

### Import of Wheat

1494. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Australia says sold 'some' wheat to India" appearing in the Times of India dated March 20, 1998;

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

(c) the quantity of wheat proposed to be imported this year, country-wise, alongwith the reasons for such import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government constantly review the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-a-vis the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for the Public Distribution System/other welfare schemes, open market prices etc. and decision to import foodgrains is taken depending on the overall situation. Due to untimely rains during the

sowing season the Ministry of Agriculture had initially estimated that the production of wheat during the current Rabi season was likely to be 64.51 million tonnes as against the production of 69.27 million tonnes last year. Government has therefore, decided to import upto 2.0 million tonnes of wheat during 1998-99 to build up adequate reserves for keeping the prices under control. Against this authorisation, STC has contracted for import fo 1.5 million tonnes MT +/- 5% wheat from Australia.

### Export of Tobacco

1495. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of tobacco and tobacco products exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the estimated foreign exchange likely to be earned by exporting these products the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The quantum of tobacco and tobacco products exported during the last three years and the value thereof are as follows:-

(Qty. in tonnes; Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Unmanufactured Tobacco		Manufactured Tobacco		Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1995-96	77,665	378.69	9,429	68.13	87,094	446.82
1996-97	77,093	445.98	9,850	91.83	86,943	537.81
1997-98 (Apr.-Mar.)	1,32,533	910.49	10,363	148.01	1,142,896	1058.50

Source : DGCI & S

(c) The estimated exports for 1998-99 are as follows :-

	Unmanufactured Tobacco	Manufactured Tobacco	Total
Quantity (Tons)	1,00,000	9,900	1,09,900
Value (Rs. crores)	600.00	125.00	725.00

### Export of Basmati Rice

1496. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice exported and the rates thereof during each of the last two years, both basmati and non-basmati, separately;

(b) the quantity of rice and wheat imported, giving details of quantity, the source of import and the expenditure incurred thereon, separately, during the above period;

(c) the actual inflow of foreign exchange as a result of export of rice and the outgo for import of wheat; and

(d) the cost per tonne in terms of CIF and FOB for these two way deals in respect of both rice and wheat?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The total quantity, value and

rates thereof of Basmati and Non-basmati rice exported during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Basmati			Non-basmati		
	Quantity	Value	Rate	Quantity	Value	Rate
1995-96	3.73	85067	22806	45.41	371741	8186
1996-97	5.23	124764	23850	19.89	192472	9680
1997-98	5.82	167435	28780	17.22	160038	9294

(Source DGCI & S Calcutta)

(b) The total quantity and value of rice and wheat imported during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	Rice		Wheat	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1995-96	80	4.69	8240	1039.19
1996-97	2	1.87	612676	40375.93
1997-98	77	7.28	1344546	97096.26

(Source DGCI & S Calcutta)

Country-wise details of imports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. The import of wheat has been mainly of "Australian Standard white" from Australia, "Canadian Western Red Spring (Grade I & II)" from Canada and "Hard Red Wheat" from Argentina. The data on quality of rice imported is not maintained.

(c) The actual inflow of foreign exchange as a result of export of rice and the outgo for import of wheat is as follows:-

Year	Value : in Rs. Lakhs	
	Exports of Rice	Imports of Wheat
1995-96	456808	1039.19
1996-97	317236	40375.93
1997-98	327473	97096.26

(d) Exports of rice and imports of wheat have been undertaken independently by separate set of importers/exporters.

### Development of Naini Jheel and Roshnara Bagh, Delhi as Tourist Spots

1497. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated May 7, 1998 wherein it has been stated that the Roshnara Bagh and Naini Jheel in Model Town would be developed as major tourist spots of Delhi;

(b) the details of the work undertaken;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to develop more tourist spots in other parts of the country;

(e) if so, the details of the plan for the current year, State-wise; and

(f) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM : (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Delhi has been asked to prepare the blue prints for development. The State Government has however renovated the Boat Club building and upgraded tourist facilities at Naini Lake.

(d) to (f) The Union Government provides financial assistance to every States/U.T. Governments for the development of tourist spots every year on the basis of specific proposals received from them. All the State Governments have not finalised the project proposals for financial assistance during current year. The Union Ministry of Tourism does not make any prior allocation of funds to State/U.T. Governments in this regard.

[Translation]

### Vacant Posts of SC/ST

1498. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :  
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of posts lying vacant in Banks and the Life Insurance Corporation of

India reserved for the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and other backward classes; and

(b) the action being taken to fill up these posts during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the public sector banks and Life Insurance Corporation of India, the backlog vacancies in recruitment as on 30.9.1997 (latest available) of SC, ST and OBC are given cadre wise in the attached Statement-I and II respectively. The backlog vacancies remain due to non availability of suitable candidates, ban on recruitment in some of the banks in terms of Memorandum of Understanding signed with Reserve Bank of India, some SC/ST candidates not joining after selection and restriction in the percentage of reservation in any promotional process. However, banks and LIC have informed that steps are being taken by them for recruitment of SC/ST candidates through various channels as per prescribed procedure after observing all formalities.

#### Statement-I

State-wise break up of backlog vacancies of Clerks and Sub-Staff in Public Sector Banks as on 30.09.1997

(Data Provisional)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Clerks			Sub-Staff		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	32	28	120	15	25	68
Assam	13	11	14	6	23	18
Bihar	49	33	70	21	15	56
Gujarat	9	31	135	10	68	187
Harayana	51	2	43	8	-	30
Himachal Pradesh	9	4	6	16	10	18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jammu & Kashmir	1	6	5	1	4	-
Karnataka	71	25	89	48	56	67
Kerala	10	4	20	11	6	37
Madhya Pradesh	43	105	65	59	120	49
Maharashtra	33	97	153	18	148	137
Manipur	1	3	-	2	5	-
Meghalaya	2	1	-	1	11	2
Nagaland	-	4	-	-	1	-
Orissa	81	139	6	14	145	3
Punjab	55	-	63	8	1	55
Rajasthan	24	15	15	17	24	23
Tamil Nadu	57	17	23	9	31	65
Tripura	3	6	4	2	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	122	21	199	53	16	98
West Bengal	87	33	88	76	46	83
Andaman Nicobar Islands	-	2	2	-	1	-
NCT Delhi	58	53	62	23	45	91
Chandigarh	8	1	5	5	-	16
Dadar Nagar	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	4	-	1	2	-	-
Goa	4	8	9	5	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>1197</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>1106</b>

Note : State Bank of India do not maintain State-wise data instead it has 13 Local Head Offices at Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Patna, Bhopal, Bhubneshwar, Chandigarh, Guwahati and Bangalore. The figures/data of the concerned LHOs has been shown against the State/UT where it is located.

#### Backlog In Officers cadre

In recruitment in officers' cadre in the public sector banks made on All India Basis, the backlog vacancies as on 30.09.1997 was SC-207, ST-287 and OBC-131.

## Statement-II

State-wise break-up of backlog vacancies in Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 30.09.1997

(Data Provisional)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Class-II			Class-III			Class-IV			Class-IV(S)		
	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC	SC	ST	OBC
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
West Bengal	—	1	5	9	7	25	—	—	6	3	4	—
Bihar	—	—	—	8	5	20	2	3	29	—	—	—
Orissa	—	—	1	2	6	4	—	—	2	—	1	—
Assam	—	—	—	4	4	4	1	1	—	—	1	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Andaman	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	—	1	1	1	5	11	—	—	—	—	1	—
Gujarat	—	11	1	4	28	25	1	3	1	—	3	—
Maharashtra	2	23	15	15	44	130	1	9	15	2	1	4
Rajasthan	2	1	1	31	32	22	1	—	30	1	—	—
Punjab	3	—	8	31	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	—	—	—	10	—	27	1	—	1	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	8	2	—	2	7	—	—	5	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	3	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
New Delhi (U.T.)	1	4	13	19	13	10	—	—	9	—	2	1
Chandigarh (U.T.)	—	—	—	1	—	8	2	—	10	—	—	1
Kerala	—	4	7	3	5	7	—	2	2	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu *	3	4	1	44	5	11	—	—	4	1	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	8	26	2	4	27	2	1	2	—	—	3	—



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Uttar Pradesh	2	2	—	43	7	23	3	3	3	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	1	—	1	4	9	72	2	1	—	—	1	3
Karnataka	—	—	1	7	3	8	3	3	4	1	—	—
Total	22	85	59	244	206	440	18	29	121	8	17	9

Note : \* — Figures for Tamil Nadu are inclusive of figures for Union Territory of Pondicherry.

8 SC and 7 ST vacancies under Class-III and 1 SC and 1 OBC vacancy under Class-IV under Vellore Division covering State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry not included in above statistics due to a stay from High Court of Madras in the matter.

[English]

### Need to Develop National Tourist Circuits

1499. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tourist circuits set up so far in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to develop some more national tourist circuits in the country;

(c) if so, the number of tourist circuits identified for development, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the funds allocated for the development of those tourist circuits during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM : (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) to (c) As a follow up of the National Action Plan for Tourism 1992, the Government has identified 19 tourist circuits for intensive development with the combined efforts of Central and State Governments and the private sector. The circuits identified so far are the following:-

1. Kullu-Manali-Lahul/Spiti-Leh-Monastic Circuit.
2. Gwalior-Shivpuri-Orchha-Khajuraho
3. Bagdogra-Sikkim-Darjeeling-Kalimpong
4. Bhubaneshwar-Puri-Konark
5. Hyderabad-Nagarjunasagar-Tirupati
6. Madras-Mahabalipuram-Kancheepuram-Vellur-Thiruvannamalai Ginjee-Pondicherry (Southern Heritage Circuit)
7. Rishikesh-Narendranagar-Gangotri-Badrinath
8. Bhopal-Sanchi-Indore-Ujjain-Maheshwar-Omkareshwar-Mandu (Bhopal and Sanchi)

9. Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bikaner-Barmer

10. Bangalore-Mysore-Hassan

11. Raigad Fort-Janjira Fort-Kuda Caves-Sirivardhan-Harihareshwar-Sindhudurg

12. Varanasi/Saranath-Gorakhpur Kushinagar-Sunauli-Piprahwa (Kapilvastu), Sankasia Kausambi-Sravasti-Lucknow (Buddhist Circuit)

13. Patna-Bodhgaya-Nalanda-Rajgir-Vaishali (Buddhist Circuit)

14. Bhubaneshwar-Lalitgiri-Ratangiri-Udaygiri-Kendraparha-Chand Bali Bhadrak (Sun Temple)

15. Cochin-Thekkady-Madurai-Rameshwaram

16. Harishankar-Narsinghanath-Hirakud-Sambalpur-Bed Vyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit)

17. Swaranchuda Circuit-Chandipur-Chandaneshwar- Panchelingeswar-Simlipal Sanctuary-Khiching

18. Koraput-Araku Valley-Nandapur-Gupteshwar-Rayagada (Panchabati Circuit)

19. Guwahati-Kaziranga-Shiilong-Tawang

(d) The Ministry of Tourism does not make any prior allocation for the development of any specific circuit or State. However, financial assistance is provided to the State/UT Governments on the basis of specific project proposals received from them and priority is given for projects in identified travel circuits.

### Difficulties Faced by Handloom Weavers

1500. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state : the steps that are taken by the Government to remove the difficulties faced by the Handloom Weavers due to the stagnation of their finished goods and also due to the difficulties faced by them in securing yarn?

**THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) :** The Government provides requisite marketing support by organising National Handloom Expos, District Level Fairs, Product Specific exhibitions and Craft Meias to enable the weavers to sell their products and liquidate their accumulated stocks. In order to assist weavers in securing yarn, the Government has been implementing the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and Mill Gate Price Scheme.

#### **Denationalisation of Khottadih Coal Mines**

1501. **SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to denationalise Khottadih Coal Mines;

(b) if so, whether the Global Tender is likely to be floated soon in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to part (a) of this question.

#### **Import Licencing Restrictions**

1502. **SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed with the European Union and Australia regarding the import licencing restrictions on a variety of consumer goods; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) :** (a) Yes, Sir. Mutually satisfactory solutions have been reached on the phased removal of quantitative restrictions on import.

(b) During formal bilateral consultation held under the dispute settlement mechanism, India reached a mutually satisfactory solution each with Australia, Canada, the European Communities, New Zealand and Switzerland as well as with Japan which was a third party to the disputes for removal of all the residual import restrictions maintained for balance of payment purposes on agricultural, textile and industrial products including consumer goods within a 6-year time schedule starting 1 April, 1997, in three consecutive phases of 3 years, 2 years and one year, in a balanced manner.

#### **Development of A & N Island**

1503. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering any plan for Tourism Development for Andaman and Nicobar Island;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether UNDP report has been released by the Administration; and

(d) if so, the salient feature of the report and the action contemplated thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) :** (a) and (b) During the year 1997-98, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Rs. 60 lakhs for the implementation of Light and Sound Show at Cellular Jail in Andaman Island.

(c) and (d) The study report on "Development Strategy on Environmentally Sustainable Tourism in the Andamans" has been made available by the UNDP. The report has suggested a strategy for the development of five selected areas in the Andaman Islands. The action plan for the same includes institutional restructuring for plan implementation, relaxation or removal of institutional constraints, training, planning and designing of development zones and undertaking development programmes.

#### **Fake Financial Companies/Banks**

1504. **SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :**

**COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :**

**SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :**

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :**

**PROF. P. J. KURIEN :**

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :**

**SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT :**

**SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA :**

**DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cases of cheating by the fake financial institutions/private banks/plantation companies and some other NBFCs with the investors in making repayment of investment are increasing day-by-day in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated number of such cases noticed by the Government during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government have any data about such fake financial institutions/private banks/plantation companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulters; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to verify the genuineness of such investment companies and to regulate their functioning with a view to saving the investors from being duped of their hard earned money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) Reserve Bank of India/Government have been receiving complaints from depositors, association of depositors and Members of Parliament that a number of the NBFIs have been delaying the repayment of public deposits and interest thereon.

(b) and (c) A Large number of complaints against NBFCs for non payment deposits/interest thereon are being received from time to time. Depositors are advised to file their claim with the Regional Office of Company Law Board where registered office of the NBFCs is situated under Company Law Board Regulation 1991 and Section 45QA of RBI Act, 1934. Thereafter the Company is required to appear before the Board to explain the reasons for non-refund of the deposit amount. Different schemes are approved by the Board for refund of the money. The Company is required to file an affidavit of compliance of CLB order to the concerned General Manager. Deptt. of Non Banking Supervision (DNBS), RBI. The power to prosecute NBFCs for non compliance of CLB's order have been given to RBI under Section 58B(4AAA) vide RBI Amendment Act 1997. Between January to December, 1997 RBI has issued prohibitory orders in respect of 28 defaulting NBFCs prohibiting them from accepting deposits for violation of the provisions of RBI Act and directed NBFCs not to alienate their assets. Similarly since January, 1998 prohibitory orders have been issued in respect of 3 defaulting NBFCs.

(d) and (e) With the amendment of RBI Act in 1997 more powers have been vested with the RBI. The amended Act inter-alia provides for :

- (i) Compulsory registration of NBFCs having Net Owned Fund of Rs. 25 lacs and more.
- (ii) Creation of Reserve Fund and transfer of at least 20% of the profits to the said Reserve Fund.

(iii) Authorising Company Law Board to direct a defaulting NBFC to repay deposits.

(iv) Vesting RBI with the following powers:

- (a) Giving directions to the NBFCs regarding prudential norms,
- (b) Giving directions to the NBFCs and their Auditors on matters relating to Balance sheets and cause Special Audit as also to impose penalty on erring Auditors.
- (c) Prohibiting NBFCs from accepting deposits for violation of the provisions of the RBI Act and direct NBFCs not to alienate their assets.
- (d) To file winding up petition against the erring NBFCs.
- (e) Impose penalty directly on the erring NBFCs etc.

[Translation]

#### Import of Coal

1505. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

SHRI ANANDA RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the estimated quantity of Coal imported annually and the amount of foreign exchange incurred thereon;
- (b) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to reduce the import of coal and explore the vast coal reserves in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Details of imports of coking and non-coking coal are as follows:-

	1995-96	1996-97 (Prov.)	1997-98
Quantity (in million tonnes)	12.51	14.41	Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
Value	US \$ 925.6 million	Rs. 3532 crores	

(b) and (c) The bulk of imported coal is coking coal required by steel plants. The domestic coking

coal production has not been able to keep pace with the increase in demand from the steel sector.

Import of coking coal required for metallurgical purpose cannot be totally stopped, since these are blended with indigenous coal to improve its quality. India has limited reserves of coking coal as well as superior grades of non-coking coal. However, steps are being taken to augment indigenous production of these grades of coal to the extent practicable. These include opening of new mines and increasing productivity and improvement of infrastructural facilities. Private Sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining for captive consumption. These put together are expected to increase domestic coking coal and coal production.

[English]

#### Shortage of Small Denomination Currency Notes

1506. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

DR. Y.S. RAJASEKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of small denomination currency notes (especially Rupees one, two and five) in the country consequent to which torn/soiled notes are in circulations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the measures being adopted by the Government to overcome this shortage; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken to stop circulation of torn/soiled currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The lower denomination notes of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 have been coined and the capacity so released has been diverted for production of higher denomination notes. Therefore, printing of these notes has been stopped (Re. 1 from September, 1994; Rs. 2 from January, 1995; and Rs. 5 from November, 1995).

With a view to improving supply of currency notes/coins, Government has taken various steps like (i)

modernisation of the existing two note printing presses at Nasik and Dewas; (ii) setting up of two more note printing presses under the direct control of Reserve Bank of India (i.e., one at Mysore in Karnataka and the other at Salboni in West Bengal); (iii) Modernisation of India Government Mints at Calcutta, Hyderabad and Mumbai; (iv) complete coinisation of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diversion of the capacity for printing of higher denomination notes; and (v) import of printed notes to the extent of 3600 million pieces (of a total face value of Rs. 1,00,000 crores) and 2000 million pieces of coins (of a total face value of Rs. 260 crores) as a one time measure.

(d) Under the RBI Note Refund Rules, 1975, RBI has delegated full powers to all the public sector banks maintaining currency chests to provide facilities to the members of public for exchanging mutilated, torn and soiled notes. All other branches of public sector banks have also been authorised by RBI to exchange soiled and slightly mutilated notes. These instructions are also reiterated to the Chairmen of all the public sector banks from time to time by RBI in order to ensure that such powers are exercised by them in letter and spirit. All complaints regarding banks' failure to act according to the above rules, are promptly taken up by RBI with the concerned banks for remedial action.

#### Excise Duty Evasion

1507. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted a special audit of around 100 large and medium corporate houses spread across the country to check evasion of excise duties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) : (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Upto date information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Flood of Bhutan Notes and Coins in North Bengal

1508. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhutan notes and coins are being

flooded as the media of purchase in North Bengal particularly in Jalpaiguri, Coochbehar and Darjeeling districts;

(b) if so, the reasons for shortage of Indian currency notes and coins in these areas;

(c) whether this job of driving out Indian currency is being done by big gangsters;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this evil;

(e) whether the Government propose to open any branch of Reserve Bank of India to ease the currency and coin situation in North Bengal; and

(f) if so, the time by which such a branch is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Import of News-Print

1509. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of news-print imported during the year 1996-97;

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

(c) whether the stock of foreign news-print in the country is more than the desired extent due to which the production of domestic news-print has also been affected;

(d) if so, the reasons for the said import of news-print to such an extent;

(e) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Import of newsprint was permitted freely during the period 01.05.1996 to 28.01.1997 without any restriction. The total quantity of newsprint imported during the year April 1996 to March 1997 was 494038 MTs (Source DGCIS).

(c) and (d) Import of newsprint being free, it is difficult to say whether the imports had resulted in surplus stock of foreign newsprint in the country thereby affecting the production of domestic newsprint. How-

ever, keeping in view the interests of the domestic newsprint industry, newsprint has been restricted for import by Actual Users who hold 'Registration Certificate' issued by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with effect from 29.01.97. The import during this year 1997-98 after this restriction came into effect was 497611 MTs (Source DGCIS).

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

#### Use of Hindi

1510. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindi Journals and magazines being published by the Hindi Department of his Ministry; and

(b) the steps being taken to promote the use of Hindi in his Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No Journals/magazines are being published by the Hindi Section of the Ministry. However, 7 magazines are being regularly published by the various organisations under the administrative control of the Ministry.

(b) Appropriate steps are being taken to promote the use of Hindi in the Ministry such as organising Workshops/Hindi Fortnight's, review of the progress of use of Hindi by holding quarterly meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee, nominating officials to various Hindi Training programmes, providing bilingual gadgets to employees, etc.

#### Investment Protection Treaty

1511. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India and Taiwan have signed Investment Protection Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[English]

**Trade Gap**

1512. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the trade gap has widen for the year 1997-98 as compared to the year 1996-97;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to narrow down the trade deficit during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) As per the Provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI & S), the trade deficit for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 in Rupee terms and in Dollar terms are:

Year	Value	
	US\$ Million	Rs. Crores
1996-97	5442	19319
1997-98	6799	25268

The trade deficit is measured by excess of imports over exports. The increase in trade deficit is primarily due to increased import of petroleum products and fertilizers besides capital goods, raw material and intermediate goods. These were required for accelerating industrial production and exports, which is the basic feature of a vibrant economy. The key to reducing trade deficit lies in accelerated export growth. To this end, export promotion measures are initiated on a continuing basis by the Government, to enhance the export growth of the country. These include policy liberalisation and simplification of procedures for providing an exporters friendly environment. Export promotion measures are initiated on the basis of constant interaction with the trade, industry and export promotion organisations set up by the Government.

**Retrenched Employees of WCL**

1513. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether employees of Western Coalfields Limited are being retrenched due to medical unfitness;
- (b) if so, the total number of such employees;
- (c) the procedure adopted in this regard;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to change the existing procedure; and

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) There is no policy of retrenchment of workers in coal companies on the ground of medical unfitness, but employees who are declared permanently medically unfit get the benefit of employment to one of their dependants under clause 9.4.0 of National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA)-V.

(b) In Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), since 1996-97 and upto 29-5-98, 378 workers have been given such benefit under Clause 9.4.0 of NCWA-V.

(c) The employees who desire to get this benefit under Clause 9.4.0 of N.C.W.A. -V, apply for the same. After screening at the area level, a Medical Board examines them at the head quarter level. If permanent disability is established, then the employee is declared medically unfit.

(d) No such proposal has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

**Outstanding Income Tax**

1514. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons against whom income tax amount of more than One lakh rupees was outstanding as on December 31, 1997;

(b) whether the Government have not been able to recover the amount; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The total number of persons against whom income-tax amount of Rupees one lakh and above are outstanding is 111290 as on 30.9.1997. (latest available figures).

(b) and (c) The following are generally the reasons for the outstanding demand :-

- (i) Demands that have not become due for payment;

- (ii) Demands claimed to have been paid but pending verification;
- (iii) Demands stayed by Courts, Settlement Commission, Tribunal and I.T. Authorities; and
- (iv) Demands for which instalments have been granted.

The following steps are taken to reduce/collect the outstanding demand:-

Income Tax Act prescribes a statutory procedure for collection and recovery of taxes. The recovery of the outstanding tax is a continuous process. The process starts after the demand falls due after 30 days of the service of the Demand notice. Thereafter, action is taken by Assessing Officer in respect of unstayed demand by attaching bank accounts, charging interest, levying penalty etc. In difficult cases, matter is referred to Tax Recovery Officer who takes various coercive measures as per the Act like attachment and sale of defaulter's movable and immovable properties, arrest of defaulter and his detention in prison, appointment of Receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable and immovable properties. The recovery action taken by the Assessing officers and TROs is closely monitored by the higher Income-tax authorities.

Further dossier cases having outstanding demand of Rs. 10 lakhs and above are monitored by higher authorities on a regular periodic basis and necessary instructions are issued for taking various coercive measures for effecting the recovery of demand.

#### New Tourism Policy

1515. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to make India the global tourist destination, to achieve the objectives of New Tourism Policy;

(b) is so, the main features of the policy which are being formulated:

(c) whether India has also decided to set up Tourism Recreation Centre in Delhi and other States Capitals;

(d) if so, the details of the steps being taken to provide assistance and cheap accommodation to the foreign tourists;

(e) whether recently a number of foreign tourists were badly treated in India which gave a wrong signal about India in other countries;

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the number of tourists who visited India during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) and (b) India is already an international tourist destination. The efforts of the Government is to achieve sustained economic development and positive social change through development of Tourism-both Domestic and International-while preserving and protecting the environment and heritage.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to set up a Bharat Paryatan Bhawan in Delhi to provide information services and other facilities including air and rail reservations to tourist at a single place. The Ministry of Tourism and the information counters of State Govts. would also be housed in the Bharat Paryatan Bhawan.

The Ministry of Tourism has provided financial assistance to State Govt./Union Territory Govts. for the construction of tourist reception centres and low priced accommodation units in various tourist centres.

(e) and (f) Some incidents came to the notice of the Ministry of Tourism and those were taken up with the concerned law enforcing agencies to book the culprits and to avoid such incidents in future.

(g) The foreign tourist arrivals during the last three years were as given below :

Year	Arrival
1995	2123683
1996	2287860
1997	2374094

#### Non-Performing Assets

1516. SHRI ANNASHEB M. K. PATIL :

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-performing assets in the banking industry and financial institutions have been on increase

over the past several years and have assumed an alarming proportion;

(b) if so, the details of the trends regarding magnitude of the problem for nationalised banks/financial institutions during the last three years, state-wise particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) the number of debt recovery tribunals set up so far with locations and review of their performance during the last three years;

(d) whether even in metropolitan cities such Tribunals have not been established so far;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the steps proposed to be taken for strengthening/upgrading/expanding debt Tribunal network in the country to deal with the problem of debt recovery effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that though Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks have increased in absolute terms over the last three years, it has been showing a declining trend as a percentage of total advances over the same period. The increase in the amount of NPAs of public sector banks during the three year period 1994-95 to 1996-97 was Rs. 5192 crore as against the increase in advances to the extent of Rs. 46812 crore during the corresponding period. According to RBI the NPAs most FIs have also come down over the years in percentage terms.

(c) Under the provisions of Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 nine Debts Recovery Tribunals have been established at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi, Jaipur, Chennai, Guwahati, Jabalpur and Patna. An Appellate Tribunal has also been established in Mumbai. The performance of these Tribunals for the last 3 years is as under:

	Apr' 94 to Mar' 95	Apr. 95 to Mar '96	Apr' 96 to Dec '97
1. No. of cases filed	2036	6768	5685
2. Amount involved (Rs. in crores)	1468.46	4526.58	5690.00
3. No. of cases settled	61	224	1556
4. Amount recovered	21.15	86.51	74.39

(d) and (e) Government had approved setting up of Debts Recovery Tribunal at 10 places in the country. Nine Tribunals have already been set up. The only Tribunal yet to be set up is at Mumbai. The Tribunal at Mumbai is also likely to be set up shortly.

(f) RBI has recently constituted a Working Group which is going into various problems associated with Debts Recovery Tribunals including legislative amendments. After the recommendations of the Working Group are available, a decision would be taken whether there is any need for amending of any provisions of the Act for making Debts Recovery Tribunal more effective and also about setting up of more DRTs in the country.

[Translation]

#### Coal Depots in Bihar

1517. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to make available the fuel to peasants and rural people with objective of reservation of forests;

(b) if so, whether as per the decision, coal depots in the block headquarters of Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribagh districts of Bihar have been opened;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the effective steps to be taken by the Government in this regard to ensure check on illegal felling of forests for want of fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) Earlier coal companies have been producing and supplying soft coke to meet the domestic fuel requirements. The production of soft coke has however been declining over the years, since the process adopted is not free from pollution hazards. However, to meet the demand for this product, especially in some of the Northern States, where people use soft coke as a domestic fuel, efforts are being made to encourage SSF technology, which produces a fuel which is an ideal substitute for soft coke. Necessary coal linkages are being provided by CIL. CMPDIL is offering necessary technical assistance for installation of these plants. Coal India Limited is also providing linkages to briquetting units, the product of which is also a substitute of soft coke. Furthermore, steps have been taken to offer coal through the Liberalised Sales Scheme.



*[English]***Funds for Infrastructural Development**

1518. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial institutions such as IFCI, ICICI, IDBI, etc. are funding to different States for the infrastructural development in backward areas;

(b) if so, the names of States which received Financial Assistance from these financial institutions during the last three years for the said purpose alongwith the amount of assistance received by each State from each institution;

(c) whether the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) has any Plan to disburse over Rs. 5,000 crore for the infrastructural development in the next years; and

(d) if so, the areas identified for this purpose State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Promotion of Export by Air and Sea**

1519. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed any Export Committee to suggest measure to remove infrastructural bottlenecks and to create an environment conducive for promotion of exports by Air and Sea;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made by the Committee and action has been taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any blueprint for creation of minimum facilities at the air cargo complex;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether any special facilities have been provided for items of agricultural, horticultural and floriculture exports; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Government has not set up any Expert Committee recently for exports by Air and Sea. However, two Standing Committees on Promotion of Exports by Air and Sea (popularly known as SCOPE-AIR and SCOPE-SHIPING) are functioning under the Ministry of Commerce to suggest measures for removal of infrastructural bottlenecks. These Committees meet periodically and Ministry of Commerce co-ordinates follow-up on the decisions arrived at these meetings.

(c) and (d) The minimum facilities at the Air Cargo Complexes are provided as per recommendations stipulated in Annex 9 of the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) Document.

(e) and (f) In order to promote exports of perishable items, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Airports Authority of India for setting up perishable cargo terminals at IGIA, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Chennai. The facility at IGIA has been commissioned recently. Besides, APEDA has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Kerala State Industrial Enterprises for a perishable cargo terminal at Trivandrum. APEDA has already provided walk-in-type cold storages at IGIA, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta.

**North Eastern Development Financial Corporation**

1520. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the progress of the North Eastern Development Financial Corporation established at Gauhati in 1995:

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government have provided adequate funds for extending financial assistance to the local entrepreneurs and industrialists;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government contemplate to

encourage and sponsor bankers to set up any private bank in Assam;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) At the instance of the Government, the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), the largest shareholder in North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFI), conducted a review of operations and functioning of NEDFI last year. After considering the report of IDBI, IDBI has been requested to initiate speedy remedial measures to ensure that NEDFI is able to improve its performance and achieve the objectives for which it was set up. IDBI has also been asked to review and monitor the performance of NEDFI on a regular basis.

(c) and (d) NEDFI was incorporated in 1995 with an authorised capital of Rs. 500 crores. The initial paid up capital of Rs. 100 crores has been subscribed by the promoting institutions. IDBI has reported that the fund position of NEDFI is quite comfortable at present.

(e) and (f) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), consequent on issue of guidelines on setting up of new banks in the private sector gave an 'in-principle' approval in October 1995 to a company to set up a new bank with its Headquarters at Guwahati. However, as the said company could not complete the formalities connected with the setting up of the bank even after a period of more than one and half years, the approval was withdrawn by RBI in May 1997.

#### Import of Wheat from Australia

1521. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian wheat has been "Over Priced":

(b) the criteria of STC contract in this regards; and

(c) the programme for taking delivery, the target fixed and actual delivery received?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The contract with Australian Wheat Board has been concluded by STC keeping in view its

price competitiveness on C & F cost basis, its conformity to health standards and Phytosanitary norms laid down as per Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955 and PFS (Plant, Food, Seed) Order, 1989.

(c) At the time of finalising the contract, the delivery period for 1 million MT was stipulated as March-April 1998 and 0.5 Million MT for May-15 June 1998 extendable to 31st July, 1998. As per present indications 10.5 lakh MT will be shipped from Australian Coast by end June '98. The balance quantity will be shipped in the post monsoon period commencing from 15th August-15th October, 1998 as per the directors of the Deptt. of Food & Civil Supplies and FCI. As on 25.5.98, a quantity of 3.14 lakh MT has arrived at Indian ports.

#### Security Scam

1522. SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special court to dispose of security-scam related cases was set up; and

(b) if so, the number of cases charged and disposed of so far and the details of the funds which were lost by various banks and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) A Special Court was set up in 1992 under the provisions of Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992 for trial of offences relating to transactions in securities and the matters connected therewith.

(b) Office of the Custodian have reported that 104 suits and 31 criminal cases were filed between 1992 and 1998 (upto 31st March, 1998). Out of these, 37 suits and 3 criminal cases have so far been disposed off.

The value of attached properties of 41 out of 42 persons notified under the Act as at July 1997 prices is Rs. 3037 crores. The Custodian has filed applications before the Special Court praying directions of the Court to enforce disclosure of assets by the remaining 11 notified persons. The Special Court has passed orders directing these parties to disclose their assets. The claims lodged by the banks, financial institutions and others with the Custodian/Special Court against Harshad Mehta Group, Dalai Group and Fairgrowth Financial Services are to the tune of Rs. 3478.93 crores.

### Pilferage of Coal

1523. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale pilferage of coal at the mine sites from the rails wagons and at the pitheads;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents came to the notice of the Government during 1997-98 till date, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop the pilferage of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL), theft or pilferage of coal from railway wagons at the sidings and colliery pit heads is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. The number of incidents of pilferage or theft of coal during the year 1997-98 and in April, 1998 is given below State-wise:-

State	No. of incidents of pilferage or theft of coal in 1997-98	No. of incidents of pilferage or theft of coal in April, 1998
West Bengal	390	62
Bihar	301	21
Orissa	32	7
Madhya Pradesh	3	Nil
Assam	11	Nil

(c) Following steps are being taken by CIL to prevent theft or pilferage of coal;

(i) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

(ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

(iii) Construction of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area, erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pit head depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours, escorting of loaded rakes upto railway weighbridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway Protection

Force in the long railway tracks which are prone to wagon looting.

(iv) Sealing of illegal mining spots.

(v) Close coordination with RPF and district police officials and carrying out surprise checks/raids.

(vi) Stringent action against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.

(vii) Monthly review meeting with district authorities for drawing out plan to eliminate the menace, carrying out surprise checks/raids in cooperation with the State Police at sensitive points and lodging of FIRs with the local police.

(viii) Engagement of Jady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

In the Eastern Coalfields Limited road challans on security paper having water mark has been introduced.

For strengthening the security set up, training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits is security discipline is carried out at periodic intervals.

### Foreign Bank Branches

1524. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government accorded permission to any foreign bank for opening their branches in Inida during the current financial years:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the policy of the Government to allow the foreign banks to open branches in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUŔ M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) In terms of the provisions of Sec. 22 of the Banking Regulations Act, Reserve Bank of India has the power to issue licences to foreign banks for opening their branches in India. During the financial year 1.4.97 to 31.3.98 the following approvals have been given by RBI to new foreign banks/existing foreign banks for opening their branches in India:-

(i) **Approval given to new foreign banks**

Bank Muscat Al Ahli Al Omani Bangalore

(ii) **Approval given to existing foreign banks for additional branches**

Deutsche Bank	Chennai
Bank International Indonesia	Chennai
ING Bank	New Delhi
Commerzbank	New Delhi
State Bank of Mauritius	Hyderabad
British Bank of the Middle East	New Delhi
Citibank	Pune
Bank of Nova Scotia	Bangalore
Credit Lyonnais	Calcutta
ABN Amro Bank	Baroda

(c) Reserve Bank of India considers the request of the foreign banks to open their maiden branch in India by laying emphasis on certain criteria which inter-alia include financial soundness of the bank, international presence, economic and political relations between the two countries, standard of supervision in home country etc. Further, the country of the incorporation should not discriminate against Indian banks.

The minimum capital requirement for a new bank is US \$ 25 million spread over three branches as under :

- (i) US \$ 10 million for the first branch
- (ii) additional US \$ 10 million for the second branch
- (iii) Further US \$ 5 mn for the third branch

The applications of existing foreign banks to open additional branches are considered on merits taking into account the bank's financial position and track record.

**Vacancies In Customs**

1525. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of vacancies of Assistance Commissioners of Customs are lying vacant in Gujarat State for long time:

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

(c) the time by which all the vacancies are proposed to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Four posts of Assistant Commissioners in Gujarat - 2 each in Ahmedabad and Kandla Customs, are lying vacant for the last few months on account of administrative reasons and these posts are likely to be filled up within a fortnight.

**Role of Statutory Bodies**

1526. SHRI INDRAJEET GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the role of statutory bodies which are supposed to monitor the activities of the private financial institutions is not very encouraging;

(b) if so, whether State Governments particularly Delhi Government have written letters to the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken, if any, by the Union Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs) are regulated by the RBI under the provisions of RBI Act. Additional powers were vested in RBI in January, 1997 and RBI has recently framed extensive regulations for regulating NBFCs. Lt. Governor of Delhi has written a letter to Ministry wherein he has made observations and suggestions concerning regulation of NBFCs.

(c) The letter of Lt. Governor of Delhi along with suggestions from other sources constitute valuable inputs in the ongoing efforts by Government and RBI to ensure increasingly improved regulation and supervision of the NBFC sector.

[Translation]

**Compensation to the Workers of CCL**

1527. SHRI RAVINDAR KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons and their dependents who have been provided compensation any jobs on compassionate ground by the CCL during the past three years till April, 1998;

(b) the number of such cases still pending under the Central Coalfields Limited;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of such pending cases so far; and

(d) the time by which such pending cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) During the past three years and till April' 98, 593 persons have been paid compensation against land acquired under CBA Act, C.C.L. has also provided 432 employments to the land losers during this period.

(b) Approximately 625 awardees under C.B.A. Act have not been paid compensation due to dispute over ownership of the land, proper land records and dispute regarding the number of legal heirs. In addition to above, 537 cases for revision of compensation, settling ownership disputes etc. are pending with the Tribunal.

(c) Steps taken by the CCL for early payment of compensation to displaced persons are as under:-

(1) CCL is holding camps in each village at regular interval for making payment of compensation to the awardees.

(2) The awardees are personally contacted and persuaded for taking payment after producing land records.

(3) At times local state authorities, respected citizens as well as NGOs are also requested for convincing the awardees for accepting the payment.

(4) The cases pending before the tribunal for revision of compensation amount are regularly followed up for early disposal.

(d) The cases pending for payment of compensation are vigorously pursued to facilitate payments within a reasonable time. However in respect of cases pending with the tribunal, disposal of cases depends on the Presiding Officers.

[English]

#### Withdrawal of Cess on Coal

1528. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have *withdrawn* the cess on coal;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the effect of the said decision on the coal producing States; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the financial position of the coal producing States are not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Several State Governments had in the past imposed cesses on coal. The Supreme Court and various High Courts have struck down the Cess Acts of Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The Governments of Assam and Meghalaya had withdrawn their cesses on Coal. West Bengal is the only coal producing State which is still continuing to levy the cesses on the strength of a stay order obtained from the Supreme Court on an appeal filed by them in the Supreme Court against a Judgement of the High Court of Calcutta striking down the Cess Acts of West Bengal. The main reason for enhancing the rates of royalty in 1991 was to compensate the State Governments for the loss of their cess revenues due to the Courts striking down their levy of cesses.

[Translation]

#### Sick Units

1529. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of sick units in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to sick units;

(c) if so, the financial assistance provided to sick units during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether some of the proposal for providing financial assistance to sick units are pending with the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

#### Patent by US

1530. SHRI K.L. SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "American COS robbing India's natural wealth SJM" appearing in the Observer of Business and Politics dated April 4, 1998;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Patents are granted by respective governments under their patent laws. Whenever information is received about patents being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged. When sufficient material is gathered, steps are taken for filing a petition for re-examination and ultimate revocation of patents in that country.

#### Foreign Direct Investment

1531. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) made in the country during each of the last three years as on date, State-wise;

(b) the areas in which the investment made;

(c) the details of the countries which have come forward to make this investment;

(d) the number of proposal of FDI pending with Foreign Investment Promotion Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Sir, the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment approved for the last 3 years i.e. 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto March) is as follows:

Year	Proposals (Approved)	Total FDI amount (In crores)
1995	1355	32071.72
1996	1559	36146.81
1997	1665	54891.35
1998 (upto 31st March)	298	8187.61

The details of such proposals viz. Name and country of Foreign collaborator, percentage of equity, items of manufacture/activity and location of the project are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated, including the Parliamentary library.

(d) and (e) A total number of 97 proposals are pending before FIPB. The proposals, complete in all respects are considered by the Board keeping in view the time frame of 6 weeks for communicating Government decision as per notified guidelines.

[Translation]

#### Revival of Textile Mills

1532. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various state Governments in consultation with Textile Unions have presented any project report named as Textile Mill Project to make provision of 150 crore rupees in the Union Budget to make these textile mills financially viable and for reviving them;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(c) whether this project has been cleared;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken for the revival of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No such report has come to the notice of Ministry of Textiles.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Recruitment of Group 'D' Employees of RBI

1533. SHRI KARIYA MUNDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6063 on May 14, 97 and state:

(a) whether candidates who were interviewed in August, 1997 and declared selected are still awaiting in queue for joining their duties after completing all selection formalities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of candidates who have been not offered jobs so far; and

(c) the time by when all such candidates are likely to be recruited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that out of 80 candidates declared selected after interview held in August, 1997 for appointment in the cadre of Mazdoor/Khitmatgar, 18 have already been appointed. Six more candidates have been issued appointment letters. The RBI has further reported that remaining 56 candidates would be offered appointment as and when vacancies arise in the said cadre.

#### Import of Basmati

1534. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian traders are importing basmati rice from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the quantity being imported and at what rate;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the strong resentment of Indian farmer over the said import which is adversely affecting them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Production and Export of Black Pepper

1535. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the production and exports of black pepper during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the activities made by the Technology mission on Black pepper for the improvement of productivity of black pepper till date;

(c) the main competitors of black pepper in the International market;

(d) major constraints affecting pepper production in the Country;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of black pepper?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Details of Production and export of Black Pepper are given in the attached Statement.

(c) While Indonesia, Malaysia, Brazil and Vietnam are the main competitors, Thailand, Sri Lanka, China and Madagascar are also producing and exporting Black Pepper.

(d) The major constraints identified in the production of black pepper in the country are (i) Low productivity; (ii) Prevalence of pests and diseases; (iii) Non adoption of scientific crop production practices; (iv) Existence of large number of unproductive senile/diseased vines; and (v) Lack of disease resistant/tolerant varieties.

(b) and (e) In order to increase production and productivity of various spices including black pepper, a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Programme for Development of Spices (IPDS) is being implemented. The measures being implemented for development of black pepper are:-

- (i) Production of rooted pepper cuttings of high yielding varieties;
- (ii) Rehabilitation of old pepper gardens;
- (iii) Distribution of input kits;
- (iv) Plant protection measures against Quick Wilt disease;
- (v) Eradication of Little leaf disease;
- (vi) Establishment and maintenance of demonstration plots in farmers' fields; and
- (vii) Area expansion

Out of the total allocation of Rs. 30 crores under the IPDS for the year 1997-98, about Rs. 11.34 crores were earmarked for black pepper development. These programmes are proposed to be continued during 1998-99.

#### Statement

##### (i) Statewise Production of Black Pepper

States	('000 Tonnes)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
(i) Karnataka	0.76	0.88	0.87
(ii) Kerala	59.26	59.94	53.77
(iii) Tamil Nadu	0.64	0.67	0.64
(iv) A & N Islands	0.08	0.08	0.08
(v) Pondicherry	neg	0.01	0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.74</b>	<b>61.58</b>	<b>55.37</b>

Source : Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi

##### (ii) Export of Black Pepper from India

Year	Qty. (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	26,244	196.30
1996-97	47,893	412.32
1997-98 (Estimates)	34,250	479.56

Source : Spices Board

Note : State-wise statistics are not maintained.

[Translation]

#### Export of Vehicles

1536. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various types of vehicles including cars exported during 1997-98 and total value thereof;

(b) the number of vehicles imported during the said period;

(c) the estimated total number of persons employed in the said industries;

(d) whether these industries imported spare parts of various vehicles during the said period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the value of import?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) A total of 1,89,684 of different types of vehicles were exported to various countries during 1997-98 at an estimated value of Rs. 1421.72 crores.

(b) Data relating to number of vehicles imported during 1997-98 is not maintained centrally by the Director General of Foreign Trade.

(c) Automobile sector provides direct employment to 2 lakh persons and indirect employment to one crore.

(d) and (e) Imports of spare parts are under Open General Licence and thus their imports do not require Government approval. Therefore, such data is not maintained centrally by the Director General of Foreign Trade.

[English]

#### Lignite Reserves in Tamil Nadu

1537. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge lignite reserves has been identified by the geological experts in Mannargudi area in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the quality and quantum of reserves identified; and

(c) the time by which mining activities likely to be taken up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quality of lignite in Mannargudi is as follows:-

(a) Moisture	—	40 – 50 %
(b) Ash	—	4 – 12%
(c) Volatile matter	—	18 – 23%
(d) Fixed carbon	—	17 – 22%
(e) Calorific Value	—	2200 – 3200 k.cal./kg.
(f) Bulk density	—	1.15 – 1.20 gm/cc
(g) Total sulphur	—	0.7 – 1.4

The total quantity of reserves identified is around 19,500 million tonnes.



(c) Exploration in the area is not yet complete. The reserves are located under built up and agricultural areas making exploitation difficult. Steps are being taken to accelerate exploration and identify blocks which can be exploited in Mannargudi.

[Translation]

#### Coal Production in Maharashtra

1538. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal produced in Maharashtra during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) the amount incurred on the development of the adjoining areas of these mines during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Coal produced in the mines of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) in the State of Maharashtra during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:

	(in million tonnes)	
1996-97	24.858	
1997-98 (Provisional)	26.173	

(b) The amount incurred on the development of the adjoining areas of the mines of WCL on social overhead (capital expenditure) in the Maharashtra State is as under :-

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
1. Residential Building	960.29	1,741.29
2. Water Supply	170.90	173.50
3. Medical	111.02	86.96
4. Education	64.49	103.50
5. Roads & Culverts	342.56	360.43
6. Others	14.83	68.56
Total	1,664.09	2,534.24

The expenditure on SC/ST and community development in the State of Maharashtra is as under :-

	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
1. Community development	15.00	4.18
2. SC/ST (amount spent on peripheral areas predominantly populated by SC/ST Communities)	22.00	0.82
Total	37.00	5.00

[English]

#### Assistance by Public Sector Financial Institutions

1539. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance given by public sector Financial Institutions like LIC, NABARD, Industrial Financial Corporation of India, IDBI, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India to Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the assistance is proportionately very low as compared to other States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Foreign Exchange and Gold Reserves

1540. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of Foreign Exchange and Gold Reserves in the country as on January 1, 1995 and at present;

(b) the Foreign and Internal loan liability of the country during the above period;

(c) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the Foreign Exchange and Gold Reserves of the Country; and

(d) the target fixed for Foreign Exchange and Gold Reserves during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) India's foreign exchange reserves, including gold held by the RBI and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), amounted to US\$ 23.42 billion as on January 1, 1995 and US\$ 28.72 billion as on May 22, 1998.

(b) The outstanding internal debt and other liabilities and external debt liabilities of the Central Government as on 31.3.1995 and 31.3.1998 are as under :

(Rs. crore)		
As on	Internal	External*
31.3.1995	487682	50929
31.3.1998 (RE)	718299	55242

\*Based on historical rates of exchange

(c) and (d) The movements in foreign exchange reserves during any period reflect the developments in the overall balance of payments, which are continuously monitored both by the Government and the Reserve Bank. The policy in regard to the management of foreign exchange reserves requires that the level of foreign exchange reserves at any time is adequate to meet any unforeseen contingency arising from India's international trade and payments, to provide a cushion for short-term demand-supply mismatch in the foreign exchange market and to provide the RBI with greater flexibility in the conduct of exchange rate policy. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the level of foreign exchange reserves does not lead to excessive domestic money supply, which in turn may have an adverse impact on maintenance of price stability. The foreign exchange reserves are held at levels consistent with the above criteria.

#### Handicraft Export

1541. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government envisaged the improvement in handicrafts export during 1998-99 in comparison to 1996-97 and 1997-98 and whether the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has also been asked to devise means for correcting the regional imbalance in export of Indian handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the handicrafts exporters have suggested some measures to boost exports to meet the target;

(d) if so, the main points suggested by the Handicrafts exporters;

(e) to what extent the Government have agreed to implement their suggestions; and

(f) the efforts being made by the Government to achieve the target set for handicrafts exports?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Against export of handicrafts

(including handknotted carpets) to the tune of Rs. 5628.62 crores and Rs. 6457.69 crores during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively, the export target for 1998-99 has been fixed at Rs. 7776.00 crores.

The Government has also directed Export Promotion Council for handicrafts to take fresh initiative to promote more exports from the Regions which have potential for augmenting further export.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The main suggestions of the handicrafts exporters to boost exports include: introduction of flexible labour laws to suit seasonal work load; appropriate classification of artmetalwares for duty draw back purpose; appropriate duty draw back on artwares manufactured with the combination of different non-ferrous and metal and other materials; dispense with the requirement of certification regarding non-availment of MODVAT facility; and improvement in infrastructural facilities etc.

The Government is seized of the problem and is making concerted efforts to solve them.

(f) The efforts being made by the Government to achieve the target set for handicrafts exports include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; participation in international fairs and exhibitions; organisation of buyer-seller's meets; overseas publicity and publication of catalogues; conducting of seminars and workshop; and holding of Indian Handicrafts Gift Fair and Indian Carpet Expo as an annual feature.

#### Co-operation with Japan

1542. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have expanded economic cooperation with Japan during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the assistance/loans sanctioned by Japan to Indian Government during the current financial year; and

(c) the details of the investment made by Japan during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Government of Japan have frozen new Yen Loans/Grants consequent upon nuclear tests by India. However, grants for emergency and humanitarian aid grants for grass-root projects, on-going loan and grant, projects and project-type Technical Assistance would continue. Second and subsequent tranche loans for on-going projects would be decided on a case to case basis.

(b) Nine projects have been appraised by the

Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan for 1998-99 loan package, out of which four projects are of 2nd Tranche. The commitment for the 2nd Tranche projects will be made at the next India Development Fourm Meeting.

(c) Disbursement under ODA during the last three years State-wise is as under :-

State	(Million Yen)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	11011.6	8566.7	10993.3
Assam	6290.5	4603.7	1981.7
Bihar		9.1	
Gujarat	6033.9	4264.3	5886.6
Haryana			2991.3
Karnataka	1190.6	1096.5	2544.1
Kerala	3608.3	5830.2	2617.9
Madhya Pradesh	77.3	265.1	340.8
Maharashtra	1239.9	1919.4	1253.9
NCT of Delhi	882.0	2111.4	2172.6
Orissa	600.9	674.4	1084.7
Punjab			63.3
Rajasthan	2328.9	2390.6	2665.1
Tamil Nadu	2518.4	703.3	2566.4
Uttar Pradesh	3685.6	11940.0	13287.3
West Bengal	705.6	6456.1	17338.5
All Over India (Multi States)	40261.8	17161.4	24612.6

#### Cement Industry

1543. DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up cement projects in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh during 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Exports of Grapes

1544. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grapes export from Andhra Pradesh has been increased as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Countries to which exports were made;

(c) whether Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority has been imparting training to farmers for the new techniques of production of grapes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether APFPDA is planning to conduct new programmes for farmers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which these programmes are likely to increase the production of grapes in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exports of grapes from Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98 has increased to 440 MTs as against 15 MTs during 1996-97. Grapes from Andhra Pradesh have been exported mainly to Europe.

(c) and (d) APEDA has conducted a training programme for production of quality and disease-free grapes during 1996-97 to grape growers of Andhra Pradesh in association with the State Horticulture Department and other active exporters of grapes and with technical help to National Research Centre (NRC), Pune and A.P. Agriculture University.

(e) to (g) During 1997-98, APEDA has initiated an integrated approach for production of quality and disease free grapes from identified belts of Andhra Pradesh. It has drawn up a long term strategy for variety specific, integrated, pre harvest, harvesting and post harvest management. The strategy to be adopted in this regard includes identification and appointment of a technical coordinator who will be overall incharge and will monitor the programme. Orchards will be selected with the assistance of technical coordinator in consultation with organisations involved in the programme such as research institutions and State Government agencies. Training will be imparted at different stages of the crop at the

various institutions. Prepared literature of activities on pre-harvest, harvesting and post harvest processing will be distributed to the progressive farmers in the form of leaflets. These measures are likely to result in production of quality fruits and improved handling practices to help protect the harvest.

### Export of Marine Products

1545. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of marine products during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The total export of marine products during each of the last three years are as follows :-

	Quantity (MT.)	Value (Rs. in crore)	Value (US\$ million)
1997-98	385818*	4697.48	1295.86
1996-97	378199	4121.36	1152.83
1995-96	296277	3501.11	1111.46

\*Provisional Figures

Source- Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

(b) Following steps have been taken by the Government for boosting the export of marine products:

- (1) Implementation of various subsidy schemes through MPEDA for helping the fishery product processing units to produce quality fish and fishery products for exports namely schemes for establishing captive peeling sheds, cold storages, mini laboratories, generator sets, for providing insulated fish boxes and flake/chip/tube ice making machines, Individual quick freezing (IQF) units, refrigerated trucks and procurement of equipment and machinery for modernisation and for export of value added products etc.
- (2) A scheme has been sanctioned for subsidising portion of interest charged by the banks/financial institutions on loans taken by the fishery product processing units for upgradation of their facilities.

(3) A number of incentives have been announced in the current years' Exim Policy including the following :

- (i) The threshold Limit for zero import duty under Exprot Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been reduced from the earlier Rs. 20.00 crores to Rs.1 crore for importing essential machinery and equipment.
- (ii) With a view to encourage the exporters to attain the internationally accepted standards of quality, the fishery product processing units having HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) based Quality Assurance Systems have been made eligible for grant of additional 5 percent Special Improt Licence (SIL).
- (iii) The Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for export of marine products have been notified.

(4) Implementation of a subsidy scheme through MPEDA to encourage exploitation of under exploited resources in sea by assisting the mechanised fishing vessel owners to install equipments like fish finders, global positioning systems, radio communication sets etc.

(5) Relevant market information is being made available by MPEDA to the sea-food Industry for entering new markets and for exporting value added products. For this purpose, MPEDA alongwith Seafood Industry participates in trade fairs abroad and also sends and receives trade delegations. Two representative offices of MPEDA located at New York and Tokyo also help the exporters by providing them with necessary market information/enquiries.

(6) The procedures of Export Inspection Council (EIC) and its Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) for inspection and monitoring of the fishery product processing unit have been revamped which has made the fishery product processing units to conform to standards of food hygiene and safety. Also a number of training programmes have been organised for the officials of EIC, EIAs, MPEDA and the persons from

the fish product processing units for training them in HACCP based Quality Assurance Systems.

- (7) Encouraging eco-friendly and sustainable aquaculture and diversification of aquaculture through various training programmes and by extending financial assistance through MPEDA for the development of aquaculture farms and by making available healthy seeds from the assisted hatcheries to the aquafarmers.

#### Capital Support to Cooperatives

1546. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government plan to direct the Reserve Bank of India to give support of capital adequacy to the cooperatives also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action of the RBI thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to strengthening of the capital base of co-operative banks. Unlike public sector commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks where the Central Government directly contributes to the share capital, shareholding of State Co-operative Banks and District Co-operative Banks is contributed by their members and the State Government. To some extent, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) assists State Governments towards contributions to the share capital of District and State Level co-operative Banks.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is not responsible for extending financial support for recapitalisation of cooperative credit institutions.

[Translation]

#### RBI Building, Bhopal

1547. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of office building of Reserve Bank of India, Bhopal has been completed,

in May, 1992 and the office is housed in the same building since December, 1992;

(b) whether the important department as Issue department, Banking loan accounts department (BAD), Deposit accounts department (DAD), Public loan accounts Department (PAD) etc. have not been opened in this branch till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether a year ago the Government of Madhya Pradesh had made request to the Governor of RBI in this regard;

(e) if so, the time by which above departments are likely to be opened in the Bhopal office; and

(f) the reasons of delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the construction of RBI office building at Bhopal was completed in August, 1992 and the office of RBI is housed in the same since December, 1992. Some Sections had moved into the building even before its completion.

(b), (c), (e) and (f) According to RBI, the process of opening the Issue Department at Bhopal is at advanced stage. Meanwhile Currency Chest and Small Coin Depot have started functioning from 1st June, 1998. Further partial functioning of Deposits Accounts Department (DAD) has started from 1st June, 1998. As the existence of the Issue Office is a pre-requisite for opening of Banking Departments, RBI have already initiated steps in this direction. RBI have further reported that opening of Public Accounts Department (PAD) and public Debt Office (PDO) is not contemplated at present.

(d) Yes, Sir.

[English]

#### Purchase of Machines by BCCL

1548. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the machines purchased by BCCL particularly for Amlabad and Munidih projects during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on the purchase of each machine;

(c) the number of machines out of these purchased from abroad;

(d) the number of machines out of them are lying unused;

(e) the capital blocked in unused machines as on March 31, 1998; and

(f) the size of the coal in terms of thickness than can be cut from these machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) There was no purchase of machinery by BCCL in the last three years for Amlabad and Munidih projects.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) on the question.

#### National Institute for Fashion Technology

1549. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of branches of National Institute of Fashion Technology set up so far State-wise;

(b) whether any request for setting up any National Institute of Fashion Technology is pending with this Ministry;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government of Kerala have also sought for setting up of branches of this Institute in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) In addition to its centre at New Delhi, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has set up 6 centres at Mumbai, Chennai, Gandhinagar, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

(b) to (e) There have been requests from State Governments of J & K, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Goa for setting up of centres of NIFT in their States, which are under examination.

#### DPCs of JCI

1550. SHRI MO'NUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down 43 Departmental Purchase Centres (DPCs) of the Jute Corporation of India in the Country;

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

(c) the steps taken to redeploy over 400 employees working in these centres?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Government have recently decided to close down 43 uneconomic Departmental Purchase Centres of JCI after an analysis done of the procurement made by all the purchase centre of JCI for over a decade where it was seen that the procurement by 43 Centres have remained consistently well below the desired level both under Price Support Operation and Commercial Operations.

(c) the action initiated to redeploy around 200 regular employees posted in these purchase centres suitably is in progress.

#### Performance of HMT, Hyderabad

1551. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present financial status of Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. at Hyderabad;

(b) whether HMT is facing major problems at present;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) HMT Lt.d. has three major units at Hyderabad: viz Machine Tools Unit, Press Unit and Lamp Unit. The Machine Tool Unit and the Press Unit have made marginal profits in the last year. The Lamp Unit has been perennially loss making unit since inception.

(b) and (c) Yes, HMT has been facing problems on account of surplus manpower, high interest burden, working capital constraints, and obsolete technology in certain units.

(d) The performance of HMT is regularly monitored and reviewed by the Government.

#### Resin Industry

1552. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI ANNASABEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic Resin, Turpentine and Camphor Industry is facing crisis due to acute shortage of basic raw material (forest based) and imported raw material is available at inflated prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of units closed as a result thereof;

(d) whether any representation has been received from Members of Parliament and industrialists in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) The indigenous production of Oleo Pine Resin, the basic raw material for Rosin, Turpentine and Camphor falls short of the demand. However, the shortfall is being met through imports of Oleo Pine Resin at 10% custom duty. The import duty on Resin, Turpentine and Camphor has been kept at 30% for protecting the interests of domestic industries producing these items.

(d) to (f) Representations from Members of Parliament and Chamber of Indian Trade & Industry have been received requesting for abolition of custom duty on Oleo Fine Resin. Accordingly, the import duty on Oleo Pine Resin has since been brought down to the level of 10%.

#### Jalan Committee Report

1553. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received Jalan Committee report on the interest policy;

(b) if so, the details of main recommendation made by the Committee and the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI

KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Neither Government nor Reserve Bank of India are aware of any Committee known as the Jalan Committee on interest policy.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Concession to Boost Export of Agriculture Based Products

1554. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of concessions have been announced under the new EXIM policy to boost the export of agriculture based products;

(b) if so, whether 100 items out of 340 items announced under this policy are agriculture based products; and

(c) if so, the details of these products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The threshold limit for Agriculture and Allied Sectors under zero duty EPOG Scheme has been brought down from Rs. 5 Crores to Rs. 1 Crore. At the same time in the Agriculture and Allied Sectors, EOU/EPZ Units will be permitted on the basis of positives Net Foreign Exchange earning only. Accordingly, for this sector, the requirement of minimum Net Foreign Exchange earning of 20% has been done away with.

(b) and (c) 51 items out of 340 items, which have been shifted from Restricted to Free list as part of this year's EXIM Policy announcement made on 13.04.98, would come in the category of agricultural products. The list of these 51 items is given in the enclosed statement.

#### Statement

S.No.	Exim Code	List of items Description	Policy
1	2	3	4
1.	06031000	Fresh cut flowers and flower buds	Free
2.	06039000	Other	Free
3.	06041000	Mosses and lichens	Free

1	2	3	4
4.	06049100	Fresh	Free
5.	06049900	Other	Free
6.	07099004	Green pepper	Free
7.	07111000	Onions	Free
8.	07112000	Olives	Free
9.	07113000	Capers	Free
10.	07114000	Cucumbers and gherkins	Free
11.	07119001	Green pepper in brine	Free
12.	07119002	Assorted canned vegetables	Free
13.	07119009	Vegetables provisionally preserved in brine/in sulphur water/other preservative solution but unsuitable for immediate consumption	Free
14.	07123001	Mushrooms (including morels)	Free
15.	07123002	Truffles dried	Free
16.	07129001	Asparagus dried	Free
17.	07129005	Marjoram, oregano	Free
18.	07129009	Others, dried	Free
19.	07141000	Manioc (cassava)	Free
20.	07149001	Sago pith	Free
21.	08012100	In shell	Free
22.	08012200	Shelled	Free
23.	08029009	Others	Free
24.	08105000	Kiwifruit	Free
25.	13019031	Balsam of Tolu/Peru/ Copaiba/Gurjan	Free
26.	15156000	Jojoba oil and its fractions	Free
27.	15159002	Chul moogra oil	Free
28.	15159003	Mowra oil	Free
29.	15159004	Kokam oil	Free

1	2	3	4
30.	15159013	Chillies/capsicum oil	Free
31.	15159014	Turmeric oil	Free
32.	15159016	Ajwan seed oil	Free
33.	15159017	Garlic oil	Free
34.	170220 00.90	Other	Free
35.	17049001	Sweetmeat	Free
36.	19041002	Pawa, mudi etc.	Free
37.	19053001	Communion wafers sealing wafers etc.	Free
38.	20083009	Other citrus fruits prepared or preserved	Free
39.	20084000	Pears prepared or preserved	Free
40.	20085000	Apricots	Free
41.	20086000	Chorrios	Free
42.	20087000	Peaches	Free
43.	20088000	Strawberries	Free
44.	20089912	Grapes, prepared or preserved	Free
45.	20089913	Apples, prepared or preserved	Free
46.	20089914	Guava, prepared or preserved	Free
47.	20089919	Other fruits, prepared or preserved	Free
48.	20091100	Frozen	Free
49.	20091900	Other	Free
50.	20097000	Apple juice	Free
51.	20098001	Mango juice	Free

[English]

**Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana**

1555. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:  
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :  
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :



Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achievement made during each of the last three years under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for not achieving the target;

(c) the number of SC/ST entrepreneurs out of the total entrepreneurs granted loans under PMRY, State-wise; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Government under PMRY, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) State-wise targets fixed and achievements made during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana are enclosed as Statement-I. In most of the States/UTs targets in terms of sanctions have been achieved; in some cases there is slippage due to lower

participation by youths, lower sponsoring to Banks by States/UTs and lower sanctions by Banks.

(c) A statement showing State-wise number of SC/ST entrepreneurs out of total entrepreneurs granted loans under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) The Central Govt. releases funds for training, preparation of project profiles, market survey, concurrent evaluation, contingency funds for operative purposes etc. to the State Governments. A statement showing State-wise funds allocated by the Central Government to State Governments under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is enclosed as Statement-III.

In addition, the funds for subsidy @ 15% subject to an upper ceiling of Rs. 7,500/- per beneficiary are released to the Reserve Bank of India by the Central Govt. The RBI distributes funds to various banks which may be operating in one or more States.

#### Statement-I

*State-wise target and achievement under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 as reported by States/UTs*

Sl. No.	State/UT	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Target	No. of Applications Sanctioned	Target	No. of Applications Sanctioned	Target	No. of Applications Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31900	32556	31900	30754	34200	29618
2.	Assam	9900	9852	15000	13550	13400	12364
3.	Bihar	22150	17924	22150	18818	21500	10229
4.	Delhi	4550	4143	4550	735	4700	668
5.	Goa	550	499	550	461	600	306
6.	Gujarat	8500	10190	8500	9815	12600	10912
7.	Haryana	7200	9353	7200	8420	6300	6395
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2100	2578	2100	2405	2300	2315
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	3100	2586	3500	1598	3500	2452
10.	Karnataka	17700	17000	17700	17363	22000	18346
11.	Kerala	15000	14337	15000	15099	16000	14598

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Madhya Pradesh	27050	31568	27050	33604	31500	33174
13.	Maharashtra	35900	40392	35900	39174	42600	42502
14.	Manipur	4000	1753	3000	2082	1300	933
15.	Mizoram	250	242	375	335	400	281
16.	Orissa	8250	8267	8250	7989	9250	8092
17.	Punjab	15000	15603	8600	9402	9000	10192
18.	Rajasthan	10400	10273	10400	10632	14300	13266
19.	Tamil Nadu	21800	19304	21800	19438	27700	16362
20.	Tripura	1300	1238	1950	1676	1300	965
21.	Uttar Pradesh	35813	37324	35813	37490	45200	43620
22.	West Bengal	22900	10184	22900	7900	23000	3620
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	100	101	100	60	100	81
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	300	287	450	409	300	217
25.	Chandigarh	150	171	150	162	200	169
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	150	157	150	151	50	59
27.	Daman & Diu	100	116	100	99	50	53
28.	Nagaland	300	309	450	427	450	30
29.	Lakshadweep	50	35	50	36	50	48
30.	Meghalaya	550	561	550	591	550	407
31.	Pondicherry	500	513	500	502	500	505
32.	Sikkim	200	169	200	132	100	93

**Statement-II**

*State-wise progress of SC/ST under PMRY during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98\**

S.No.	States/ UTs	Number of cases sanctioned					
		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST	Total	SC/ST
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32556	3425	30754	2928	29618	2712
2.	Assam	9852	2217	689	31	—	NR

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bihar	17924	902	18818	858	6526	276
4.	Delhi	—	NR	—	NR	668	NR
5.	Goa	499	2	461	2	306	NIL
6.	Gujarat	10190	1312	9815	1659	10912	2322
7.	Haryana	9333	666	8420	632	6395	500
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2578	354	2405	377	628	94
9.	Karnataka	17000	1858	17363	2214	10758	978
10.	Kerala	14337	590	15099	737	8801	674
11.	Madhya Pradesh	31566	4127	33604	3970	33174	4005
12.	Maharashtra	40392	4450	39174	4594	5978	698
13.	Manipur	1753	700	2082	851	NR	NR
14.	Mizoram	242	242	337	835	175	175
15.	Orissa	8267	975	7989	1047	23	08
16.	Punjab	15550	1702	9279	1231	10196	1274
17.	Rajasthan	10273	1933	10632	1931	6465	981
18.	Tamil Nadu	19304	1368	19438	1518	3471	351
19.	Tripura	1238	176	1676	171	222	27
20.	Uttar Pradesh	37324	4833	37490	3612	43482	4143
21.	West Bengal	—	NR	3720	108	2059	42
22.	Andaman & Nicobar	97	18	60	01	81	NR
23.	Chandigarh	171	2	162	12	21	02
24.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	156	76	151	77	41	23
25.	Daman & Diu	116	12	34	04	53	09
26.	Nagaland	309	309	427	427	NR	NR
27.	Meghalaya	561	550	563	557	407	390
28.	Pondicherry	513	64	502	64	505	49
29.	Sikkim	173	65	39	21	68	16

NR : Not reported.

\*The total sanctions in this Statement-II may vary with Statement-I as herein sanctions are tabulated only where corresponding reporting of SC/STs beneficiaries has been made.

**Statement-III**

*Central Grant released to the States/UTs under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 under entrepreneurship Development\**

(Rs. in thousands)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30399.45	23403.00	18247.50
2.	Assam	9848.00	10443.63	5717.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	268.50	332.35	342.65
4.	Bihar	11047.70	11188.88	3395.00
5.	Delhi	3362.60	854.25	Nil
6.	Goa	388.75	228.73	180.00
7.	Gujarat	6971.35	5052.75	1957.50
8.	Haryana	6642.50	5700.05	4204.25
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2275.90	571.00	484.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2863.40	1733.75	186.50
11.	Karnataka	16190.65	10727.03	11985.25
12.	Kerala	10121.90	3515.15	3125.25
13.	Madhya Pradesh	26737.70	24754.06	17199.09
14.	Maharashtra	19276.10	7911.45	6934.75
15.	Manipur	4515.55	1638.80	536.75
16.	Meghalaya	449.25	897.08	420.75
17.	Mizoram	164.85	267.08	312.42
18.	Nagaland	21.20	377.75	282.00
19.	Orissa	7145.70	4814.85	6850.40
20.	Punjab	13015.40	3802.45	8613.10
21.	Rajasthan	9262.55	4738.60	8196.50
22.	Tamilnadu	15965.20	7912.85	11806.50
23.	Tripura	1173.30	2003.08	680.25
24.	Uttar Pradesh	40371.80	26040.04	36894.91
25.	West Bengal	8002.75	7820.70	8095.75
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	108.50	72.10	83.25
27.	Chandigarh	189.05	159.40	91.00
28.	Daman & Diu	84.20	236.45	190.50

1	2	3	4	5
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	129.40	141.95	48.75
30.	Lakshadweep	34.20	24.48	37.25
31.	Pondicherry	453.50	404.03	266.47
32.	Sikkim	75.80	132.23	57.50

\*Subsidy under the scheme is released to RBI which distributes it to the banks.

### Cotton Export/Import

1556. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton exports have virtually come to a halt during the month of January, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the recent sharp rise in cotton prices in the domestic market is one of the main reasons for this halt;

(c) if so, whether India has decided to import cotton if the prices do not come down;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total import made so far and to what extent the cotton price rise has been arrested?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) While some cotton exports from the country did take place during the month of January 1998, the pace of shipment was slow mainly due to the fact that the prevailing international prices of several varieties were generally lower than domestic prices.

(c) to (e) The import of cotton is under OGL with zero duty. Even though India is an exporter of cotton, every year some spinning mills do prefer to import a limited quantity of cotton, depending on their particular requirement. The quantity of imports is seen to vary from year to year and depends on a number of factors including demand for and domestic availability of particular varieties, differential between domestic and international prices of cotton, etc. The Cotton Advisory Board in its last meeting held on 6.3.1998 had estimated that the import of cotton would be 5 lakh bales during the cotton year 1997-98 (i.e. October, 97 to September, 98).

### Quotas of Janata Cloth

1557. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether quotas for Janata Cloth are allocated to different States for proper employment of the weavers belonging to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly for Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether no such quota has been allocated to Madhya Pradesh for 1996-97 and 1997-98, despite massive population of weavers therein;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the Janata Cloth quotas allocated to Maharashtra, Gujarat and other States during each of these years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) The quotas allocated to the State of Madhya Pradesh for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 were 3.75 million sq. metres and 1.75 million sq. metres respectively. The Janata Cloth Scheme has been phased out with effect from 1st April, 1998.

(e) The quotas of Janata Cloth allocated to various states during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows:-

S.No.	State	(Quotas allocated ) (million sq. metres)	
		1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.72	—
2.	Assam	14.43	9.00
3.	Bihar	3.40	3.00
4.	Gujarat	1.27	0.20
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.50	0.50
6.	Karnataka	19.48	14.00

1	2	3	4
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3.75	1.75
8.	Maharashtra	15.66	8.00
9.	Orissa	14.85	1.00
10.	Punjab	0.68	0.25
11.	Rajasthan	2.33	0.80* (*woollen items)
12.	Tamil Nadu	22.91	18.00
13.	Tripura	1.65	0.80
14.	Uttar Pradesh	37.76	2.00
15.	West Bengal	10.77	6.00

#### Non-Recovery of Fund under IRDP

1588. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 70 percent of the loan financed by various Banks all over the country under the integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during last five years have not been recovered;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any evaluation study in regards to the benefits derive from the finance on IRDP and the total quantum, of subsidy allocated by the Government loan financed by banks and the amount recovered since 1980 and its implications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), recovery under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) by banks during the past five years has been of the order of 30%. Some of the reasons for low recovery are:-

- i) Non creation of assets/non-utilisation of loans for the purpose by the borrowers;
- ii) Disposal of assets created/acquired without repaying the loan;

iii) Borrowers in the absence of effective follow-up and because of their own disinclination do not repay loans promptly;

iv) Loan waivers also adversely affect loan repayment;

v) Absence of supporting infrastructure, backward and forward linkages, resulting in the projects turning into non-starters.

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

#### STC Official in Urea Import

1559. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints of the corrupt practices involved in the urea and edible oil import deals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any STC official is involved in the above case;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith amount of losses to exchequer as a result thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government against corrupt STC official?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (e) In 1997-98 some complaints on urea and edible oils imports were received in the Ministry of Commerce.

CBI also conducted discreet verification in regard to the import of urea by STC in 1997 which did not establish any prima-facie case and the matter was closed by CBI.

One complaint about edible oil imports is presently under examination.

#### Credit Deposit Ratio of Commercial Banks in Rajasthan

1560. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force to ascertain the reasons for low C:D ratio and to suggest measures for improvement in C:D ratio was constituted by the RBI for the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Commercial banks operating in the State followed the recommendation of the Task Force;

(c) if not, the action taken by the Government and RBI against the defaulting banks;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan requested the Union Government and RBI to impress upon the banks to increase the investment in the State so that Credit Deposit ratio of the State could be improved as per norms; and

(e) if so, the action taken by RBI and the Government on the request of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Task Force are being regularly followed up by the commercial banks operating in the State of Rajasthan and improvement of the C.D.Ratio is discussed in the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Task Force set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are discussed and the progress of implementation of these recommendations are monitored in the SLBC/Steering Committee on an ongoing basis. As reported by the SLBC Convenor Bank for Rajasthan, the CD Ratio has shown some increase from March 1995 onwards.

#### Smuggling of Goods

1561. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL .

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of landing/smuggling of contraband containing gold, Silver, heroin, foreign currency and fire arms detected and seized, separately, since January 1998 till date;

(b) the value of such landed/smuggled goods;

(c) the number of arrests made in each case and action taken against them;

(d) the cases in which the neighbouring countries were involved;

(e) whether there has been spurt in the smuggling of automatic weapons;

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check the smuggling of weapons; and

(g) the manner in which the seized goods are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The details of number of cases of landing/smuggling of contrabands i.e. gold, silver, heroin, foreign currency and fire arms detected by officers of Customs and Central Excise Department during the period from 1.1.1998 to 27.5.1998; value of such landed/smuggled goods and number of persons arrested in each case and action taken against them are shown in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The reports available do not indicate involvement of any neighbouring countries in smuggling. However, some foreign nationals have been arrested in connection with smuggling of gold, heroin and foreign currency. In two cases, relating to seizure of gold, one Srilankan and one Malaysian national were found to be involved. Similarly, in a seizure case of heroin, one Srilankan national was found to be involved. Five Nepalese have also been arrested in connection with smuggling of gold and silver.

(e) The reports available do not indicate any spurt in the smuggling of automatic weapons.

(f) 'Nil' in view of (e) above. However, all field formations are put on alert to prevent & detect smuggling of contrabands including smuggling of automatic weapons.

(g) After following the processes of law, the seized gold/silver etc. will normally get confiscated under provisions of the Custom Act, 1962. Thereafter only these will be disposed of in accordance with Government's policy laid down. Thus, confiscated gold/silver will be sold through customs retail-shops to the eligible buyers. The confiscated foreign currency will be deposited in the Reserve Bank of India. Heroin will be destroyed after obtaining the orders from the designated Courts. As regards fire arms, non-prohibited bore weapons are normally given to the departmental officers on loan basis for anti-smuggling purposes. On request and depending upon the availability, the same are also sold to the Members of Parliament, for their personal use, subject to 'no-sale' condition. The prohibited bore weapons are disposed of to the Ordnance factories.

#### Statement

(Figures are provisional)

S. No.	Name of the Commodity	No. of seizure cases	Value of smuggled goods seized (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of persons arrested
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Gold	579	907.32	67
2.	Silver	5	9.33	4

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Heroin	26	999.61	30
4.	Foreign Currency	487	1013.08	65
5.	Fire Arms	5	3.28	Nil
Total		1102	2932.62	166

#### Action taken against the persons arrested

The persons arrested were produced before the designated Magistrate and were either remanded to judicial custody, or were enlarged on bail, in some cases. Adjudication proceedings under Customs Acts, 1962 are also being initiated against the persons arrested in connection with smuggling of gold/silver/foreign currency. The persons arrested in connection with smuggling of heroin will be prosecuted under the provision of NDPS Act, 1985.

#### Listed/Unlisted Equity Shares

1562. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the aggregate cost of unlisted equity shares/convertible debentures purchased by Unit Trust of India and ICICI, separately, during April 1, 1992 to March 31, 1996;

(b) the aggregate cost of listed equity shares/convertible debentures purchased through private placement or bought-out deals by UTI and ICICI, separately, during the above period; and

(c) the aggregate dividend received by these companies, separately, during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) UTI have informed that the aggregate cost of various instruments purchased and dividends received by them during 1.7.1992 to 30.6.1996 are as follows:

	(In Rs. crores)
(i) Unlisted equity shares	75.23
(ii) Unlisted convertible debentures	0.00
(iii) Listed equity shares purchased through private placement/bought-out deals	1258.60
(iv) Listed convertible debentures subscribed through private placement/bought-out deals	462.27
(v) Dividend in respect of (i) above	0.10
(vi) Dividend in respect of (iii) above	58.99

ICICI have informed that the aggregate cost of various instruments subscribed to and dividends received by them during 1.4.1992 to 31.3.1996 are as follows:

(In Rs. crores)

(i) Unlisted equity shares	385.00
(ii) Unlisted convertible debentures	136.77
(iii) Listed equity shares purchased through private placement/bought-out deals	131.75
(iv) Listed convertible debentures subscribed through private placement/bought-out deals	0.00
(v) Dividends in respect of (i) above	4.98
(vi) Dividends in respect of (iii) above	1.12

#### Export Defaulters

1563. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take any action against the export defaulter for not fulfilling the export obligations so far;

(b) whether the defaulters have demanded one time extension in this regard; and

(c) if so, the loss to the exchequer in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Such action is taken regularly as per procedures prescribed in the EXIM Policy.

(b) Yes, Sir. In response to this demand, the Government has issued Public Notice No. 7 (RE-98), 1997-2002 dated 24.04.1998 in terms of which one time extension in export obligations period has been allowed upto 30.09.1998 for regularisation of pending advance licences on payment of prescribed composition fee. This facility has been made available only to those licencees who have fulfilled at least 50% of the export obligation.

(c) The question of recovery of customs duty arises only in cases where export obligation is not fulfilled against duty free imports. In the default cases referred to in Part (b) if exporters do not fulfil their export obligation within the extended time allowed to them recovery of customs duty alongwith interest thereon shall be enforced against such defaulters besides imposition of a penalty under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 and the rules made thereunder.

[Translation]

#### Bank Loans to Small Farmers

1564. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :



SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided as loan to small farmers by public sector banks during the last three years and the number of farmers benefited therefrom;

(b) whether the Government have issued any instructions to public sector banks regarding fixation of any target amount for providing loans to small farmers; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to provide more credit to small farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The amount of loans disbursed to small and marginal farmers by scheduled commercial banks together with number of agriculture accounts as on the last Friday of June 1994, June 1995 and June 1996 (latest available), as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is as under :

As on last Friday	No. of A/cs	Amount (Rs. crores)
June 1994	3227442	2487.31 .
June 1995	3550062	3166.25
June 1996	3713138	3953.40

(b) and (c) With a view to ensure timely and adequate flow of credit to Small Farmers (SF) and Marginal Farmers (MF), a number of relaxations have been extended which include, inter-alia, the following:-

- i) Banks should not take margin money for crop loans/ term loans granted to small and marginal farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-;
- ii) Banks should not insist upon collateral security/ third party guarantee for crop loans upto Rs. 25,000/-. Hypothecation of crops can be taken as security;
- iii) Payment of interest should be insisted upon only at the time of repayment of loan instalments fixed;
- iv) Banks should not compound interest on current dues in respect of crop loans and

instalments not falling due in respect of term loans and the interest should be calculated only at annual rests;

v) Total interest debited to the accounts of small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount;

vi) Thrust has been provided by NABARD in extending refinance to the SF/MF. NABARD has been ensuring that not less than 60% of its refinance under schematic lending operations is channelised for financing SF/ MF.

[English]

#### Amendment in Patent Act, 1970

1565. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to appoint an arbitrator to gain sometime to amend its patent Act of 1970;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard and promote the country's fundamental economic rights in international trade and commerce?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India protects and promotes her economic and commercial interests through bilateral discussions and negotiations with other countries, through diplomatic contacts and through active participation in deliberations in WTO as well as other international fora.

[Translation]

#### Improvement of Tourist Places

1566. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deplorable condition of tourist places in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Governments have formulated any action plan to improve the condition of these tourist places;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the above action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The development of specific tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments as most of the delivery systems are within their control. The Union Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance under various schemes for the improvement of facilities at tourist places based on specific proposals received from the State Governments and availability of funds. These schemes include development of pilgrim centres, refurbishment of monuments, tourist complexes, yatriniwases, wayside amenities, etc.

[English]

#### Tourism Policy

1567. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the long awaited Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Policy; and

(c) The contemplated target fixed under the new policy for the ensuing three years as against achievements made during each of the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Financial Irregularities in CCI

1568. SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of

the financial irregularities/bungling at a large scale in Cement Corporation of India from 1984 to 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to fix the responsibilities;

(d, if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Certain incidents of financial irregularities have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (f) Government has conducted an enquiry and prima facie fixed responsibility. Departmental action is being taken against some officials of CCI.

#### Increase in Foreign Debt

1569. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have paid more amount as against the pre-estimated amount in respect of repayment of foreign debt due to devaluation of rupee during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details of the pre-estimated dues alongwith the amount of interest accrued thereon, separately;

(c) the actual amount of foreign debt due for payment and the interest thereon, separately, due to devaluation of rupee; and

(d) the plan of the Government to repay the debt and to avoid burden of more debt?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Against repayment of Principal of External loans of Rs. 7464.45 crore during 1997-98 in the budget estimates, the actual repayment was Rs. 6885.50 crore in the revised estimates.

(c) The amount of repayment of principal of external loans on government account and interest pay-

ments thereon during 1997-98 was Rs. 6885.50 crore and Rs. 4150.12 crore, respectively as reflected in the revised estimates of 1997-98.

(d) Government is following a prudent strategy for managing country's total external debt. The ratios of external debt to GDP and debt service to current receipts have been declining.

[English]

### Integrated Rural Development Programme

1570. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks in Maharashtra have adopted some villages under integrated Rural Development Programme to meet their credit needs;

(b) if so, the achievements made by these banks during the last three years;

(c) whether any difficulties have been experienced by above banks in implementing the programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the credit plans of the nationalised banks for Maharashtra during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) : (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) As reported by Bank of Maharashtra, the Convenor Bank for State Level Bankers' Committee in Maharashtra, all villages in Maharashtra have been allotted to banks, including nationalised banks under Service Area Approach for intensive development. The achievements made by these banks i.e. financial assistance during the last three years are indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	All Banks		Nationalised Banks (Including State Bank Group & RRBs)		
	Target	Achieve- ment %	Target	Achieve- ment %	
1995-96	178.82	160.00	89	134.67	120.49 89
1996-97	200.00	174.64	87	150.70	136.42 90
1997-98	226.30	188.37	83	170.90	143.62 84

(c) and (d) Banks have experienced certain difficulties in implementing programmes like Integrated Rural Development (IRDP). These includes—

i) inadequate sponsoring of proposals in phased manner resulting in bunching of applications towards the end of a financial year;

ii) Sponsoring of applications covering traditional activities, which are found to be not viable and bankable; There appears to be a lack of coordination among the implementing agencies to identify innovating activities to avoid concentration on the same traditional activities;

iii) infrastructural deficiencies in forward and backward linkages; Non-availability of market tie up for finished products has also been one of the major difficulties;

iv) Poor recovery.

(e) The credit projection for Maharashtra, based on potential linked plan of NABARD, under the Annual Credit Plan 1998-99, are as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

	Annual Credit Plan 1998-99	
	All Banks	Nationalised Banks (including State Bank Group & RRBs)
Maharashtra	4939.75	1921.57

### Imposition of New Duty Rate by European Union for Import

1571. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought United Kingdom's support to tackle the issue of European Union's new duty which is hitting badly the export of basmati rice from the country;

(b) If so, the details of new duty imposed by European Union;

(c) whether any meeting with U.K. Government has been held in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the meeting; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the rice exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Govt. of India has made its position

known to the European Union (including the United Kingdom) through diplomatic channels on the issue of new import regime for basmati rice made effective from 01.07.97. The

schedule of import duty structure of EU for import of Indian husked basmati rice which enjoys a duty abatement of ECU 250 per MT is as under :-

C N Code	Description	Rate of duty valid upto 31.12.97	Date of duty from 1.1.98 to 30.6.98	Rate of duty 1.7.98 to 31.12.98
10062017	Long grain husked brown rice. length/width ratio>=3(parboiled)	Variable not exceeding 338.5 ECU/MT	Variable not exceeding 338.5 ECU/MT	Variable not exceeding 313.7 ECU/MT
10062098	Long grain husked brown rice. length/width ratio>=3(excluding parboiled)	Variable not exceeding 338.5 ECU/MT	Variable not exceeding 338.5 ECU/MT	Variable not exceeding 313.7 ECU/MT

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Some of the steps taken to protect the interest of rice exporters include, inter-alia challenging the various Trademarks registrations similar to Basmati filed by International compains, in Greece, U.K., conducting publicity compains, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and holding buyer seller meets.

#### Development of Sabarimala and Erumely as Pilgrim Centre

1572. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any Tourism Project to the Union Government for financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government for developing Sabarimala and Erumely, the famous pilgrim centres from Tourism point of view; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala

submitted 11 projects for financial assistance during 1997-98. These included upgradation of Nalukettu Heritage building, tourist complex at Kumarakom, Yattrinwas at Nelliampathy, wayside amenities at Thannurmukkom, Nehru Centenary Pavillion at alapuhza, Purchase of Rice Boat, Floodlighting of Secretariat building, signages, etc. These projects have been sanctioned.

(c) and (d) The Govt. of Kerala is developing amenities for the pilgrims at Erumely through District Tourism Promotion Council, Kottayam under State Plan Budget providing Rupees 25.00 lakhs.

#### World Bank Aided Projects

1573. SHRI D.S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "World Bank comes to aid of Delhities" appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated May 9, 1998;

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

(c) the details of proejects being implemented in the country with the assistance of World Bank, State-wise;

(d) the funds involved in each projects;

(e) the details of projects pending with the Union Government for clearance, State-wise;

(f) the reasons for delay;

(g) whether the Government of Delhi has set

up some other projects with World Bank assistance; and

(h) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Government of Delhi have been exploring the possibility of World Bank assistance for Delhi to various sectors. A series of meetings have been held between the Government of NCT Delhi, Department of Economic Affairs and the World Bank to discuss possible World Bank assistance to Delhi Government. One project for Water Supply and Sewage Disposal for Delhi has been posed to the World Bank which is now being considered by the Bank. Besides this, the World Bank is also undertaking a study of the finances of Delhi with the assistance of NIPFP.

(c) and (d) The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(e) Every project that is received in the Department of Economic Affairs with all requisite clearances is expeditiously posed to the World Bank by the Department of Economic Affairs.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Government of Delhi have indicated interest for World Bank assistance in the area of Water Supply, Sewage Disposal, Roads Improvements, Slum Improvement, Solid Waste Management, Power sector Restructuring and Reforms, Water Pollution with the special reference to Treatment of Sewage and Air Pollution.

(h) One project for Water Supply and Sewage for an investment of Rs. 1000 crores has been posed to the World Bank.

#### Statement

Ministry of Finance (DEA)  
Aid Accounts & Audit Division

#### State wise Monthly Disbursement Statement

DC Figures In Millions & Rs. in Crores

Sl. No.	Sector	Source	Loan Description	Currency	Loan/Grant Amount	Terminal Date of Disb.	BE for the year	Utilisation			Undrawn Balance	
								During Month in DC in Rs.	Upto Month in DC in Rs.	Cumul/ Drawal in DC	in DC	In Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>												
<b>As on 31/03/1998</b>												
1.	Agri.	IDA	2950-IN AP Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Cyclor dt. 09/07/1997	US Dollars	100.000	21/07/2000	0.000 0.00	0.249 0.98	8.595 31.41	8.595	91.405	360.50
2.		IDA	2573-IN A.P. Forestry Project. dt. 09/03/1994	US Dollars	77.640	30/09/2000	15.143 54.00	6.867 27.05	15,909 60.72	38.018	39.622	156.27
3.	Roads	IBRD	4192-IN A.P. State Highway Project dt. 30/7/1997	US Dollars	350.000	31/01/2003	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	12.347 45.95	12.347	337.653	1331.70
4.	Irr.	IDA	*2115-IN Hyderabad Water Supply & Sanitai on (R.F.) dt. 25/05/1990	US Dollars	89.365	31/03/1998	12.058 43.00	2.500 9.86	9.950 37.13	75.146	14.219	56.08
5.	Irr.	IDA	2952-IN AP Irrigation -III dt 03/06/1997	US Dollars	150.000	31/01/2003	0.000 0.00	2.034 8.03	58.831 216.60	58.831	91.169	359.57
6.	Soci.	IDA	2663-IN A.P. Referral Health System dt 22/12/1994	USDollars	125.679	12/04/2002	7.992 28.50	7.618 30.02	18.628 70.79	26.737	98.942	390.23
<b>Total :</b>							<b>125.50</b>	<b>75.94</b>	<b>462.60</b>			<b>2654.35</b>

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
<b>Assam</b>													
<b>As on 31/03/1998</b>													
1.	Agri.	IDA	2733-IN Assam Rural Infrastructure dt 06/08/1995	US Dollars	112.185	31/12/2003	17.947 64.00	0.000 0.00	1.628 6.23	5.674	106.511	420.08	
Total :							64.00	0.00	6.23				420.08

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

### Bihar

As on 31/03/1998

1.	Agri.	IDA	2439-IN Bihar Plateau Development dt 07/12/1992	US Dollars	112.425	30/06/1998	18.508 66.00	0.976 3.85	13.597 50.08	35.868	76.557	301.94	
2.	Soci	IDA	3012-IN DPEP-III dt 23/02/1998	US Dollars	152.000	31/03/2003	0.000 0.00	4.500 17.75	4.500 17.75	4.500	147.500	581.74	
Total :							66.00	21.60	67.83				883.68

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

### Gujarat

As on 31/03/1998

1.	Soci	IDA	2930-IN (Environmental Mangmt. Capacity Building dt. 14/03/1997	US Dollars	48.000	30/06/2003	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	3.000 10.73	3.000	45.000	177.48	
Total :							0.00	0.00	10.73				177.48

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

### Haryana

As on 31/03/1998

1.	Power	IBRD	4271-IN Haryana Power Restructuring Project dt 16/01/1998	US Dollars	60.000	31/12/2000	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000	60.000	236.64	
2.	Irri.	IDA	2592-IN Water Resources Consolidation dt 06/04/1994	US Dollars	262.148	31/12/2000	38.699 138.00	6.565 25.86	28.441 105.46	91.567	170.581	672.77	
Total							138.00	25.86	105.46				909.41

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

### Karnataka

As on 31/03/1998

1.	Irri	IDA	2483-IN Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation. dt. 04/06/1993	US Dollars	92.401	31/12/1999	36.736 131.00	2.761 10.88	8.134 30.75	30.659	61.742	243.51	
2.	Irri.	IBRD	3050-IN Upper Krishna Phase III dt. 16/06/1989	US Dollars	45.000	30/06/1997	29.445 105.00	0.000 0.00	3.460 12.36	6.818	38.182	150.59	
Total							236.00	10.88	43.11				394.10

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

### Madhya Pradesh

As on 31/03/1998

1.		IDA	2700-IN Madhya Pradesh Forestry dt 11/04/1995	US Dollars	54.919	31/12/1999	15.984 57.00	3.905 15.40	10.467 39.50	20.641	34.278	135.19	
Total							57.00	15.40	39.50				135.19

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Maharashtra</b> As on 31/03/1998												
1.	IDA	2328-0 Maharashtra forestry dt 29/01/1992	US Dollars	109.059	30/09/1998	29.725 106.00	1.378 5.43	8.507 30.99	54.579	54.480	214.87	
2.	Power IBRD	*3096 IN Maharashtra Power (R.F.) dt 11/09/1989	US Dollars	337.330	31/12/1998	42.064 150.00	3.602 14.22	62.513 230.34	294.685	42.645	168.19	
3.	Power IBRD	3489-IN Maharashtra Power Project dt 08/07/1992	US Dollars	350.000	31/06/1998	117.218 418.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	112.254	237.746	937.67	
4.	Inds. IDA	2838-IN Industrial Project dt 10/07/1996	US Dollars	4.703	30/09/2001	0.561 2.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000	4.703	18.55	
5.	Irrig. IDA	*2234-IN Mah. Rural ater Supply (R.F.) dt. 05/06/1991	US Dollars	107.461	30/06/1998	24.117 86.00	3.058 12.06	13.024 49.96	77.616	29.845	117.71	
6.	Irrig. IDA	2763-IN Bombay Sewage Disposals dt. 28/12/1995	US Dollars	22.884	31/12/2002	35.334 126.00	0.000 0.00	0.070 0.25	22.885	-0.001	-0.00	
7.	Irrig. IBRD	3923-IN Bombay Sewage Disposals dt 28/12/1995	US Dollars	167.000	31/12/2002	0.000 0.00	7.096 27.98	26.803 100.07	31.714	135.286	533.57	
8.	Urdev IDA	2594-IN Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Recon. Pj dt 06/04/1994	US Dollars	250.669	30/06/1998	50.477 180.00	4.979 19.65	44.686 165.20	197.441	53.228	209.93	
Total :							1068.00	79.34	576.81			2200.48

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

**Orissa**  
As on 31/03/1998

1.	Power IBRD	4014-IN Orissa Power Sector Restructuring dt 10/07/1996	US Dollars	350.000	31/12/2002	24.537 87.50	0.000 0.00	4.279 15.66	16.389	333.611	1315.76	
2.	Irrig. IDA	2801-IN Orissa Water Resources Consolidation dt 05/01/1996	US Dollars	270.578	30/09/2002	34.492 123.00	17.005 67.01	40.767 153.53	74.993	195.585	771.39	
Total :							210.50	67.01	169.19			2087.15

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

**Punjab**  
As on 31/03/1998

1.	Irrig. IDA	*2076-IN Punjab Irrigation PJ(R.F.) L/W 31440c-IN dt 09/02/1990	US Dollars	161.679	31/03/1998	35.053 125.00	6.657 26.26	16.402 61.39	139.509	22.170	87.44	
Total :							125.00	26.26	61.39			87.44

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

**Rajasthan**  
As on 31/03/1998

1.	Agri. IDA	2433-IN A.D.P. Rajasthan Agriculture Development dt 17/12/1992	US Dollars	104.015	30/09/1999	15.423 55.00	5.934 23.39	11.155 42.38	67.059	36.956	145.75	
Total :							55.00	23.39	42.38			145.75

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>												
<b>As on 31/03/1998</b>												
1.	Agri.	IDA	*2215-IN Tamilnadu Agril. Dev. (R.F.) dt	US Dollars	91.249	30/09/1998	25.799 92.00	2.173 8.57	11.094 41.33	85.405	5.844	23.05
2.	Agri.	IBRD	*3300-IN Tamilnadu Agricultural Dev. (R.F.) dt.	US Dollars	20.000	30/09/1998	4.767 17.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000	20.000	78.88
3.	Irri.	IDA	2745-IN T.N. Water Resources Consol. dt. 22/09/1995	US Dollars	252.303	31/03/2002	40.101 143.00	0.043 0.17	1.939 7.41	16.441	235.852	930.24
4.	Irri.	IBRD	3907-IN IInd Madras Water Supply dt 20/11/1995	US Dollars	86.500	30/06/2002	0.000 0.00	3.303 13.02	9.713 36.79	16.646	69.854	275.50
5.	Soci.	IDA	*2158-IN 2nd Tamilnadu Nutrition Project (R.F.) dt 14/09/1990	US Dollars	72.844	31/12/1997	10.011 35.70	0.216 0.85	4.552 16.54	72.801	0.043	0.17
6.	Urdev	IDA	*1923-IN Tamilnadu Urban Development (R.F.) dt. 16/09/1988	US Dollars	255.667	30/09/1997	0.000 0.00	2.676 10.55	25.467 97.56	255.157	0.510	2.01
Total :							287.70	33.17	199.64			1309.85

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

**Uttar Pradesh**  
**As on 31/03/1998**

1.	Agri.	IDA	2510-IN U.P. Sodic Land Recl. Project dt 24/06/1993	US Dollars	55.527	31/03/2001	7.572 27.00	2.629 10.38	8.076 30.43	29.737	25.790	101.72
2.		IDA	3018-IN Uttar Pradesh Forestry Project dt 30/12/1997	US Dollars	52.940	31/07/2002	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000	52.940	208.80
3.	Irri.	IBRD	4056-IN Rural Water Supply & Envl. San. Proj. Dt 22/07/1996	US Dollars	59.600	31/05/2002	4.487 16.00	0.000 0.00	0.703 2.62	3.106	56.494	222.81
4.	Soci.	IDA	2509-IN U.P Primary Education dt 07/07/1993	US Dollars	165.398	30/09/2000	22.995 82.00	10.680 42.16	32.636 124.90	122.306	43.092	169.95
5.	Soci.	IDA	3013-IN U.P. Basic Education-II dt. 03/03/1998	US Dollars	59.400	31/03/2000	0.000 0.00	7.500 29.58	7.500 29.58	7.500	51.900	204.69
Total :							125.00	82.12	187.52			907.97

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

**West Bengal**  
**As on 31/03/1998**

1.		IDA	*2341-IN West Bengal Forestry (R.F.) dt 25/03/1992	US Dollars	35.014	30/09/1997	3.926 14.00	0.000 0.00	3.474 13.75	33.856	1.158	4.57
Total							14.00	0.00	13.75			4.57

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

**Others**  
**As on 31/03/1998**

1.	Agri.	IDA	New Agreements dt	US Dollars	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00
							0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2.		IDA	New Agreements dt	US Dollars	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000	0.000	0.00
3.	Coal	IBRD	New Loans dt	US Dollars	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000	0.000	0.00
4.	Power	IBRD	New Agreements dt	US Dollars	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000	0.000	0.00
5.	Soci.	IDA	Women & Child Development dt	US Dollars	0.000	0.000	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000 0.00	0.000	0.000	0.00
Total							0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00

\* Disbursement Figures shown include advance deposit received from World Bank under Revolving Fund.

[Translation]

### Fake Import Licence

1574. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI;  
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the racket of bogus import licence is in full swing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken or propose to take any step to check it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir. However, the office of the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence have detected some cases of import of various restricted items on the basis of forged/ bogus Special Import Licences and have interrogated some brokers in this regard.

(b) and (c) on receipt of this information the Director General of Foreign Trade held detailed discussions with the DRI, Zonal Licensing Authorities and India Security Press, Nashik in the meantime it was decided to initiate action as follows:-

- (i) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence would intensify investigations and all DGFT Offices would assist in identifying whether the licences in question had been issued by them.
- (ii) The format of Special Import Licence be redesigned incorporating other security measures, which could be verified. These security measures would ensure that no coloured photocopying of these licences would be possible as

these security measures incorporated in the redesigned Special Import Licence will not be visible in the photocopied Special Import Licence; these licences should be serially numbered by the Govt. Printing Press and distribution of these licences should be centralised at DGFT Headquarters.

[English]

### Jute Gunny Bags

1575. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some jute mills are not supplying the adequate gunny bags;

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

(c) the steps taken against those mill owners who ignored to supply such bags; and

(d) the precautionary steps taken by the Government to avoid crisis in gunny bag supply?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHI RAM RANA) : (a) to (b) There was delay in supply of B.Twill Gunny bags by some jute mills during November, 1997 to March, 1998 to FCI and other States Govt. procuring agencies for Rabi procurement season. While no jute mill had ignored to supply gunny bags totally, the delay was caused because of variety of reasons like Massive volume of piecemeal orders placed, problems of manufacturing branded bags due to labour trouble in some mills, suspension of ISI licence of some mills for manufacture of ISI marked bags, delay in payment, inspection problem etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To avoid crisis in gunny bag supply, matter was constantly reviewed at the highest level in the Ministries of Textiles, Food & Supply through series of meetings. Supply position of mills were closely monitored on day to day basis through regular interaction with them and defaulting mills were advised by the Jute Commissioner to supply the backlog expeditiously under threat of launching penal action against them as per provisions of Essential Commodities Act in case of their failure to do so. In order to ensure that supplies are expected, orders under Jute (Licensing & Control) Order, 1961 were issued on 26.2.98 and 12.3.98 directing jute mills to produce only B. Twill bags on DGS & D account and no other sacking item till the backlog was liquidated and not to sell or deliver whole or any part of the stock of any item of sacking cloth or bags in their possession to any person without the written permission of the jute commissioner. All these stringent measures produce the desired effect and almost entire requirement of these agencies stood despatched within extended delivery period upto 30.4.1998.

[Translation]

#### Tourism Projects

1576. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent some tourism projects to the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in each case;

(c) whether the Government propose to develop hot water springs in Vanachal (Bihar) as tourist spots; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Ministry of Tourism sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 233.07 lakhs for the implementation of 11 projects in Bihar during 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism provide financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of

specific proposals received as per guidelines and availability of funds. No such proposal has been received in respect of Vanachal.

[English]

#### Procuring of Iron by MMTC

1577. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MMTC has been procuring iron from the different Iron ore producing States for export purpose;

(b) if so, the quantum of Iron ore procured by MMTC during each of the last three years from those States;

(c) the ports through which MMTC has exported Iron ore to different countries during the above period;

(d) the quantum of Iron ore procured from different mineral sectors in Orissa and exported through Paradeep port during the said period; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantum of iron ore procured by MMTC during each of the last three years the following States is:-

(Qty. in lakh MTs)

State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Orissa	7.37	9.49	6.09
Bihar	2.01	2.94	4.63
M.P.	39.84	38.73	37.18
Karnataka	46.87	54.79	63.00
Goa	4.72	2.33	4.22
Total	100.81	108.28	115.12

(c) MMTC has exported iron ore to different countries through the ports of Chennai, Vizag, Goa, Hazira and Paradeep.

(d) and (e) The quantum of iron ore procured from different mineral sectors in Orissa and exported

through Paradeep Port during the last three years is as follows :-

(Qty. in lakh Mts)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Barbii Banspani Sector	6.00	8.24	5.98
Gandha-Mardhan Sector	0.43	0.09	—
*Other Mines in the State of Orissa (Daitari)	0.94	1.16	0.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.37</b>	<b>9.49</b>	<b>6.09</b>

**Misuse and Forgery of Special  
Import Licences**

1578. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about misuse and forgery of the special import licences issued for restricted items;

(b) if so, the number of special import licences that have been detected as forged at various Custom Houses during the last three years modus-operandi thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken against the defaulters; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to prevent misuse and forgery of special import licences in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fifty seven cases (Provisional) have been detected of forged Special Import Licences (SILs). Some of the modus-operandi adopted are;

- i) use of fake Licence number;
- ii) same number of SILs being reused/forged; and
- iii) use of colour photocopies of the SILs.

(c) Eleven arrests have been made so far. Other action is taken by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for suspension/cancellation of licence and/or imposition of penalty.

(d) The fields formations have been alerted about the malpractices. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has decided to take following steps:

- i) re-design the format of licence to prevent forgery by preventing colour photocopy being done;
- ii) use of serially numbered licences; and
- iii) centralised distribution of these licences at DGFT Headquarters.

**Visit by Foreign Tourists**

1579. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited India during the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned due to influx of tourists during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any new scheme to attract the tourists so as to earn more foreign exchange;

(d) whether Government have any scheme to encourage the tourism in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Governments for the development of Tourism during the last three years; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) and (b) Total number of foreign tourists who visited India and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the year 1995, 1996 and 1997 are as given below:-

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals	Estimated Foreign Exchange Earnings (Rs. crores)
1995	2123683	8633.30
1996+	2287860	10049.95
1997	2374094	11051.43

(c) The development of tourism is a continuous process and a number of schemes involving improvement of infrastructural facilities, publicity and promotion and development of human resources have been taken up.

(d) and (e) The development of tourist facilities at any particular place is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Department of Tourism provide financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them as per guidelines. During the year 1997-98, a sum of Rs. 169.84 lakhs was sanctioned to the State of Maharashtra and Rs. 111.84 lakhs for Gujarat for the implementation of various projects.

(f) The details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Ministry of Tourism to the State Governments for the development to tourism during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows:-

Sl. No.	State	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	14.52	125.90	206.70
2.	Assam	70.24	155.96	288.88
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.26	2.00	271.00
4.	Bihar	115.84	72.53	233.07
5.	Goa	221.55	101.46	144.62
6.	Gujarat	7.98	82.21	111.84
7.	Haryana	126.91	146.23	108.24
8.	Himachal Pradesh	485.91	196.93	119.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	99.09	88.47	293.35
10.	Karnataka	229.36	356.86	130.78
11.	Kerala	209.94	235.59	282.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	119.31
13.	Maharashtra	63.75	187.69	169.84
14.	Manipur	75.81	51.90	186.11
15.	Meghalaya	4.08	88.81	85.70
16.	Mizoram	100.86	107.18	142.45

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Nagaland	51.58	100.62	116.90
18.	Orissa	108.86	453.28	557.05
19.	Punjab	140.49	47.83	52.87
20.	Rajasthan	230.75	103.89	80.36
21.	Sikkim	29.61	93.09	65.20
22.	Tamil Nadu	250.11	190.20	59.74
23.	Tripura	25.60	105.40	126.68
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31.10	237.78	221.10
25.	West Bengal	184.88	199.72	157.76
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	45.00	2.00	60.00
27.	Chandigarh	17.20	3.00	3.00
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	84.66	5.20
29.	Delhi	28.23	6.28	229.43
30.	Daman & Diu	48.21	15.00	60.17
31.	Lakshadweep	24.65	123.81	5.00
32.	Pondicherry	28.12	4.00	35.64
Grand Total		3122.49	3769.88	4728.99

#### Development of Tourism in Rajasthan

1580. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Rajasthan for the development of some districts into tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The projects received and sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Tourism during 1997-98 include:

i) Upgradation of Castle Jhoomer Baori, Sawai Madhopur

- ii) Wayside facilities at Mangalwar
- iii) Refurbishment of Deeg Fort, Bharatpur
- iv) Refurbishment of Sunehri Kothi, Tonk
- v) Refurbishment of Rani Ka Mahal, Jaisalmer Fort
- vi) Refurbishment of Palace complex (Amer)

#### Disinvestment Commission

1581. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are not serious about diversifying its shares in the public sector companies;
- (b) whether the Disinvestment Commission in its first report and recommended the Disinvestment Fund comprising proceeds from Public Sector Undertaking Disinvestment;
- (c) whether inspite of the fact that the Disinvestment Commission recommended an overhaul of the existing Voluntary Retirement Scheme and converting it into a pension or an insurance scheme to make it more viable and effective, a provision on the PSU Board and several PSUs to non-statutory Government control in the matter of pricing products and services;
- (d) whether all these recommendations have not so far been implemented;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether constituting of Disinvestment Commission has not been helpful?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Government is disinvesting its shares in Public Sector Companies from time to time.

(b) The Disinvestment Commission in its first report recommended setting up of a Disinvestment Fund out of the proceeds from Public Sector Undertaking Disinvestment.

(c) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended a voluntary Retirement Scheme of the nature of a pension or an insurance scheme, professionalisation of the PSU Boards and granting more autonomy to the boards on certain PSUs in decision making.

(d) Some of the recommendations have been implemented.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission forms the basis of Disinvestment Policy of the Government.

[Translation]

#### Financing the Small Scale Industries

1582. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many banks have not been following the direction of the reserve bank of India regarding financing the small scale industries;
- (b) whether the Government have identified such banks;
- (c) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government against such bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that studies conducted by it have brought out that all the banks are following guide lines issued by RBI regarding financing the small scale industries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Provision of Facilities to Tourists in Rajasthan

1583. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that tourists are facing lot of difficulties due to non availability of Hostels and Hotels in Historic and world fame town, Jaisalmer of Western Rajasthan;

(b) the number of foreign tourists visited Jaisalmer during the last three years; and

(c) the action propose to be taken by the Government to increase foreign tourists to this historic and desert district, Jaisalmer?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAL LAL KHURANA) : No, Sir.

(b) The number of foreign tourists who visited Jaisalmer during the last three years are as follows :-

1995	48,001
1996	49,486
1997	51,465 (Est.)

(c) The responsibility of developing the overall facilities and tourist dedicated infrastructure in Jaisalmer rests with the State Government. Ministry of Tourism supports projects proposed in this regard by the Government of Rajasthan subject of financial procedures and availability of resources. Jaisalmer, along with other destination in Rajasthan and the country gets due priority in promotion and publicity efforts of the Government of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad.

#### Excise Evasion by Cosmetics Manufacturers

1584. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken against some leading manufacturers of cosmetics for excise evasion during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Directors of these companies have since arrested; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Upto date information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Action Plans for Development of Tourism

1585. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) number of action plans included in Eighth Five Year Plan for promotion and development of tourism in West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim, separately;

(b) the amount allocated for this purpose, State-wise;

(c) the achievements made in this regard, State-wise;

(d) the steps beign taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the details of ongoing Centrally sponsored tourism projects in the country, State-wise?

THE MINSITER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) to (e) The Action Plans for the development of tourism in each State is prepared and implemented by respective State Governments. The Union Ministry of Tourism however, provides financial assistance for the implementation of specific projects received from them subject to availability of funds. The number of such project sanctioned in the States of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim alongwith details of amount sanctioned/released and number of projects ongoing are given below:-

State	No. of Projects		Amount	
	Sanctioned	Ongoing	Sanctioned	Released
			(Rs. in Lakhs)	
West Bengal	35	25	726.42	307.66
Assam	25	19	437.37	184.41
Meghalaya	10	07	110.36	43.39
Sikkim	26	17	321.79	194.31

[Translation]

#### Export of Leather Items

1586. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to promote the export of leather items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has chalked out plans to promote the export of leather products.

National Leather Development Programme was

launched in June 1992, with the financial assistance of US\$ 15 million from UNDP. The major objectives of the programme were:

1. Upgradation and augmentation of training facilities for human resource development.
2. Strengthening components industry and support services.
3. Enhancing export capabilities.
4. Addressing the environmental issues.
5. Strengthening the machine building capabilities in the country.

Several programmes for integrated product development and marketing campaign, promotion of joint ventures, exploring new markets, sponsoring high level Market Study Team etc. were undertaken. Presently, Latin American countries are being targeted for market expansion.

Inherent strengths of the Indian Leather Industry, especially in the tanning sector, have been taken into account, to formulate suitable strategies and increase India's share in the global market. Concerted efforts are afoot to modernise the leather industry for quality enhancement and quantitative improvement in production capacity to enable cost-competitiveness in the international market.

Recently a review of the performance of the leather industry for the last 20 years was undertaken, by the Working Group on Leather and Leather products, for the Ninth Five Year Plan. Export Projections have been estimated as US \$ 4.5 billion for the year 2001-2002.

- (c) Does not arise.

#### **Lalmatia-Chitrad Colliery**

1587. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government had ever taken a decision to make Lalmatia Chitrad Colliery a separate region;
- (b) if so, the reasons for withdrawing the said decision later on;
- (c) whether the Government are considering again to make it a separate region;

(d) if so, the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (e) The Rajmahal Project of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) is situated at Lalmatia in Bihar. A proposal for a new company with Rajmahal Coalfields and Deogarh Coalfields of ECL was palced before the 124th meeting of the Board of Directors of Coal India Limited held on 29.8.1992. The Board did not agree for creating a separate company because of inadequate volume of output from the mines.

[English]

#### **Development of Tourism in Uttar Pradesh**

1588. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tourist places proposed to be developed with the central assistance in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for delay in according approval to such projects;

(c) the time by which the work on these projects is likely to be started and the project-wise cost involved therein;

(d) the total amount spent on the tourist places being developed with central assistance during the last year;

(e) whether the Government of Japan had offered financial assistance to link the famous Bodh pilgrimages i.e. Kushinagar and Lumbini in Uttar Pradesh by rail; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) to (d) During 1997-98, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has sanctioned the following projects in Uttar Pradesh based on proposals received from the State Government:

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount Released
1.	Tourist Complex at Vrindavan, Mathura	38.22	11.50
2.	Tourist Complex, Paliya	34.62	11.50
3.	Tourist Reception Centre at Mathura	23.50	8.00
4.	Visitors Centre, Agra	20.92	6.27
5.	Tourist Reception Centre, Haridwar	23.50	10.00
6.	Visitor Centre at Kushinagar	39.84	13.40
7.	Tourist facilities at Patna Pakshi Vihar, Etah	10.50	5.50
8.	Beautification & landscaping of Kapilavastu (Piprahwaha) Sidharthanagar, Uttar Pradesh	20.00	5.00
9.	Jhansi Mahotsav	2.00	1.00
10.	International Yoga Week	2.00	1.00
11.	Lucknow festival	2.00	1.00
12.	Kumaon festival	2.00	1.00
13.	Garhwal festival	2.00	1.00
Total		221.10	76.17

These projects have to be implemented by the State Government.

(e) and (f) The on-going OECF assisted project of infrastructure Development of Buddhist Circuit in U.P. does not cover linking of Kushinagar and Lumbini by rail.

[Translation]

#### Coal Production/Consumption

1589. SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of annual production and consumption of coal in the country, separately;

(b) whether the annual production of coal is not adequate to meet the annual domestic consumption; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the annual domestic consumption of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Annual coal production during 1997-98 in the country and off-take of coal by various consumers in 1997-98 are as follows:-

	(in million tonnes) Provisional
Production	295.93
Off-take coal by various consumers	294.64 (3.59)

(Fig in bracket-middlings)

(b) and (c) There is a gap between demand and supply of coking and superior grades coal and the Government is taking steps to close this gap. The steps taken to increase production inter-alia include opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, upgradation of technology, ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities, better capacity utilisation, improvement in productivity and maintaining good industrial relations. Captive coal mining by power, steel and cement sectors will also help increase coke/coal production.

[English]

#### Audit System of Banking Sector

1590. SHR MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the commercial nature of the banking sector, the present system of auditing by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India is insuitable for the banking industry;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plans to authorise the Board of Directors of the respective public sector banks to select their auditors; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) There is no system of auditing of public sector banks by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) at present. Having regard to the nature of operations of the banking sector, Government are of the view that auditing of public sector banks by the CAG would not be appropriate.

(b) and (c) Statutory auditors of public sector banks are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the relevant statutes. In the case of Nationalised Banks such auditors are to be appointed by the bank concerned with the previous approval of Reserve Bank of India. For SBI such auditors are to be appointed by the Reserve Bank in consultation with Central Government, while in the case of associate banks of SBI these are to be appointed by the State Bank with the previous approval of RBI.

#### Trade Barriers by the Developed Countries

1591. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have expressed concern over the increasing propensity towards erecting new trade barriers by the developed countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate new strategy to face the increasing trade barriers by the developed countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Our strategy for encouraging other countries to remove trade barriers consists of the following elements:

- (i) The procedure of dispute settlement through the World Trade Organisation;
- (ii) Bilateral contracts, especially through the mechanism of Joint Commissions;
- (iii) Diplomatic activity through our Missions abroad;
- (iv) Raising the issues in the appropriate WTO Committees.

#### Heavy Industry in Punjab

1592. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that there is a pressing demand from the people of Punjab for setting up of Heavy Industry in Public Sector in the State particularly at Jullandar, Nawan Shehar districts;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal to set up Heavy Industry in Public Sector in the State particularly at Jullandar, Nawan Shehar districts.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Merger of MMTC and STC

1593. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to merge the State Trading Corporation with MMTC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a huge loss have been incurred recently in comparison to income;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to cover up such huge losses and make the Corporation profitable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) STC is a profit making Corporation and the trading profit earned by it during the last three years is as under:-

	(Rs. in Crores)	
Year	Trading Profit	
1995-96	36.00	
1996-97	48.00	
1997-98 (Provisional)	29.00	

#### Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre

1594. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre for small scale units in rural and backward areas of the country, particularly in Karnataka to provide basic facilities;

(b) if so, the areas chosen for such development and the amount sanctioned under the scheme;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to included some more areas of the State under the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir, the Government launched Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme in 1994 to provide basic infrastructure facilities, on cluster basis, for setting up small scale and tiny units in the rural/backward areas of the country.

(b) On the basis of the proposals received from Government of Karnataka, 3 IID Centres have been sanctioned for Karnataka one each in the districts of Belgaum, Bijapur and Kolar. The Central Government provides subsidy upto Rs. 2.00 crores for each IID Centre. Out of the 3 centres being set up in Karnataka full amount of grant of Rs. 2.00 crores has been released for each IID Centres in district Belgaum and Bijapur and Rs. 1.00 crore for IID centre at Kolar as the work on this project started only recently.

(c) and (d) No such proposals is pending with the Union Government.

#### Foreign Investment in Kerala

1595. PROF P.J. KURIEN :

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign investment in the tourism sector in the last three years in Kerala, year-wise;

(b) The steps taken by Union and State Government to attract more tourists;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study on the impact of foreign tourists on the culture and tradition of our countrymen;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the time by when Government conduct such a study;

(f) the amount sanctioned to Kerala for development of tourism during the 8th Plan Period, year-wise;

(g) the amount actually utilised by the state, year-wise; and

(h) whether any plan has been drawn up to tap adequately the tourism potentialities of Kerala and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) :

(a)	Year	Amount in Lakhs
	1994-95	Rs. 24.00
	1995-96	Rs. 600.00
	1996-97	Rs. 5.10

(b) To attract more tourist good infrastructure facilities like accommodation and transportation have been provided in various part of Kerala.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government of Kerala has proposed the study during this year.

(f) Central Financial Assistance sanctioned to Kerala During the 8th Plan Period.

	Year	Amount sanctioned by Govt. of India (Rs. in Lakhs)
	1992-93	128.89
	1993-94	133.40
	1994-95	289.40
	1995-96	212.44
	1996-97	235.59
(g)	Year	Amount utilised including State Share (Rs. in Lakhs)
	1	2
	1992-93	96.89
	1993-94	65.95

1	2
1994-95	231.05
1995-96	79.00
1996-97	116.28

(h) The Government of Kerala have initiated a project for preparing a comprehensive tourism master plan for Kerala for optimal utilisation of the tourism potential of Kerala.

#### Coffee Plantation in Andhra Pradesh

1596. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of coffee in the country;

(b) the fresh initiative proposed to increase coffee plantations in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Coffee Board has identified some suitable areas in Andhra Pradesh for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Coffee Board has already identified suitable areas for coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh and around 10,000 ha. of area has been brought under coffee till date. The Board has set up necessary infrastructure to support research, extension and developmental activities for coffee in Andhra Pradesh.

2. The Coffee Board will be supporting a special package scheme to expand coffee cultivation in 3000 ha. of area in Andhra Pradesh during the Ninth Plan by providing a one time grant of Rs. 15,000 per ha. to the prospective tribal coffee growers. Further, for stepping up productivity in the tribal coffee sector, the Board will also be extending the same amount of one time grant for rejuvenation/consolidation of coffee areas to the tune of 3,000 ha. during the Ninth Plan.

#### Janata Cloth Scheme

1597. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to discontinue to Janata Cloth Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such decision;

(c) whether any other alternative scheme is proposed to be introduced to provide cloth to the people below the poverty line at reasonable prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) A Committee constituted in the year 1991, to review the Janata Cloth Scheme observed that it has contributed to the de-skilling of the weavers by producing cloth of low unit value and therefore, recommended for phasing out of the scheme. The Government after examining the recommendations of this Committee, introduced Package-II under Janata Cloth Scheme in the year 1993-94 with the objective of enabling handloom weavers to graduate to production of higher value textile goods and to provide alternate employment to handloom weavers displaced on account of phasing out of Janata Cloth Scheme and also decided to phase out the scheme by 1996-97. The Government, however, extended the scheme for the year 1997-98 so as to facilitate the transition.

(c) and (d) Consequent to gradual phasing out of Janata Cloth Scheme, the Govt. introduced two major development scheme – the Project Package Scheme w.e.f 1991-92 and the Handloom Development Centre Scheme w.e.f. 1993-94 to provide critical support in an integrated and coordinated manner to the handloom weavers, including the marketing support for sale of all their products to the people, including those below the poverty line.

#### Venture Capital Fund

1598. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Enterprises Selection Board had suggested for setting up of a Rs. 100 crores venture Capital Fund to help Indian Companies and scientists to get patents in the USA and other developed countries; and

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

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**HURRA Scheme under Rajmahal Project**

1599. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start Hurra Scheme under the Rajmahal Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) At present there is no proposal to start Hurrah 'C' OC project under Rajmahal area of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

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

(c) Coal at Hurrah 'C' OC project is of inferior quality (Grade F & G). With this grade of coal the project is not economically viable and, as such investment decision for implementation of this project could not be taken. This project can only be taken up for mining if any consumer agrees to pay the cost plus price to make the project viable.

**Pay Scales of Assistant**

1600. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the representation of employees working as Assistants in Central Government regarding the increase in revised pay scales; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

**Jute Reservation Order 1987**

1601. SHRIAMTI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any detailed plan to implement the Jute Reservation Order 1987;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken up by the Government for implementing the 50% of Cement Packaging in Jute Bags; and

(c) the measures taken up by the Government to advise the Ministry of Fertilizers for strict compliance of Jute Reservation Order 1987?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Implementation of Reservation Order for Cement Packaging in Jute Bags upto 50% of Cement production has remained unsatisfactory for various reasons. There have been spate of litigation numbering about 30 in various High Courts filed by Cement Workers Unions, Consumer bodies etc. Steps have been taken to contest these cases appropriately. At the same time application for transferring to these similar matters have been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) Under this Ministry's directive, Deptt. of Fertilizers under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers have issued appropriate instructions to all the Urea Manufacturing Units in the Country for strict compliance with the Jute Reservation Order, 1987.

**Deaths in Coal Mines**

1602. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed and injured in the accidents in coal mines in the country during the last three years, mine-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the amount of compensations paid for the deceased and injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The number of people killed and injured in accidents in coal mines in Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last three years are given below :

	Company	No. of fatalities	No. of injuries
1995	CIL	192	612
	SCCL	21	191
1996	CIL	110	505
	SCCL	29	147
1997	CIL	112	437
	SCCL	35	125

Colliery-wise details are given enclosed Statement.

(b) The amount of compensation paid for the deceased families and injured persons is given below:

Year	Compensation paid (in Rs. lakhs)	
	CIL*	SCCL
1995	138.92	290.69
1996	128.12	379.33
1997	157.67	380.13

\* Paid to deceased families.

### Statement

*The Number of People killed and Injured in fatal accidents the Coal Mines of Coal India Limited during the last three years mine-wise and year wise*

Name of Colliery	ACCIDENTS					
	1995		1996		1997	
	K	I	K	I	K	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>BCCL</b>						
Angarpathra	-	-	-	-	2	-
Akash Kinaree	1	-	1	-	1	-
Angarpatra	-	-	1	-	1	-
Alkusa	-	-	2	1	-	-
Amlabad	-	-	2	-	-	-
Bararee	1	1	1	-	-	-
Bararee	1	-	-	-	-	-
Basanti Mata	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bera	3	1	-	-	-	-
Buragarh	1	-	1	-	-	-
Benedih OCP	-	-	1	-	-	-
Block-II	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bhowra South	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bhowra (S) OCP	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bhowra North	-	-	-	-	1	-
Block-IV OCP	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bhalgora	-	-	-	-	1	-

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Busseriya	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Damoda OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dobari	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Dahibari	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Dhansar	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
East Basuria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Bhuggatoih	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Gaslitand	64	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ganoodih	1	-	-	-	-	3	-
Govindpur	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Godhur	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Gondudih	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Gopalichak	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hariladih	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kankari	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Katras Chuatudih	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Katras Ghoitudih	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kesalpur	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
Kusunda OCP	4	4	-	4	5	-	-
Khas Kusunda	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kachchi Balihari	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kharkharee	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kooridih	-	-	-	3	1	-	-
Lodna	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loyabad	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
Lohapatti	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Madhubandh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Muraidih	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
Murulidih 2C/21 PIT	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Narulidih	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nichitpur	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
North Tisra OCP	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Patherdih	-	-	1	-	1	-
Phularitand	1	1	-	-	1	-
Pootkee	-	-	2	2	-	-
Rankanali	3	1	-	-	1	-
Rajapur OCP	-	-	-	-	1	-
S Govindpur	3	0	-	-	-	-
Sudamdih INC.	1	1	-	-	-	-
Simlabahal	-	-	1	-	-	-
Sandra Bangora	-	-	-	-	1	-
Tetulmari	-	-	-	-	2	-
Victoria West	-	-	2	-	-	-
West Mudldih	-	-	1	-	-	-
Jealgora	-	-	-	-	1	-
Joyrampur	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>CCL</b>						
Ashoka OCP	-	-	2	-	1	-
Ara	-	-	-	-	3	2
Bhurkinda OCP	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bokaro	1	-	-	-	-	-
Churi	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dakra Buk Buka	1	-	2	-	-	-
Govindpur	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hutar	1	-	-	-	1	-
Hendegir	-	-	1	1	-	-
Jarangdih	-	-	-	-	1	-
Karo Special-li	3	-	-	-	-	-
Kathara OC	1	-	1	-	-	-
KD Haslong	1	-	-	-	1	-
KD OC	-	-	2	-	-	-
Kuju	1	-	-	-	-	-
Kaiyani	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kargali OC	-	-	1	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kargali UG	-	-	2	2	-	-
Karo OCP	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kedla OCP	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kabribad OCP	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pindra	2	-	-	-	-	-
Piparwar	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pundi	-	-	-	-	1	-
Rajrapapa OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
Raybachra	2	-	-	-	-	-
Saunda AK	1	-	-	-	1	-
Saunda 'D'	1	-	-	-	1	-
Selected Dori OC	2	-	-	-	-	-
Sarubera	-	-	1	-	-	-
Sialdih	-	-	1	1	-	-
Sirka	-	-	1	-	5	1
Sirka UG	-	-	1	1	-	-
Tarki	-	-	1	-	-	-
Urimari OC	-	-	1	-	2	-
Urgada	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>ECL</b>						
Bejdih	1	-	-	-	-	-
BC-INC.	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bhanora	-	-	1	-	-	-
Chakbalaupur	1	3	-	-	-	-
Chora	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chapui Khas	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chinakuri Mine No. 1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chinakuri No. 3 PIT INC.	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chapapur-II	-	-	-	-	1	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dalurband	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dhemomain	1	2	1	-	1	3
Dabor	-	-	2	-	-	-
Dalora Ban	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ghusick	-	-	-	-	1	-
Haria Jam	1	3	-	-	-	-
Jambad	1	1	-	-	-	-
Jamuraia	1	2	-	-	-	-
JK Nagar	-	-	-	-	2	-
Khudia	1	1	-	-	-	-
Kuardih	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kottadih	1	-	-	-	3	4
Kumardubi 5R NCL	-	-	-	-	1	-
Khairabad	-	-	-	-	2	-
Kapasara	-	-	-	-	1	1
Madaipur	1	-	1	-	-	-
Madhusudhan- pur	-	-	1	-	-	-
Manderboni	-	-	-	-	1	-
Madhujore	-	-	-	-	1	-
New Kenda	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nutundanga	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nabakajora	-	-	1	-	-	-
North Searsole	-	-	1	-	1	-
Ningha	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hingra	-	-	1	3	-	-
Paraskoley	1	-	-	-	-	-
Parasia	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pathorona	-	-	1	-	1	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sangramgrh	1	3	-	-	-	-
Shankarpur	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sodepur	3	-	-	-	-	-
Sonepur Bazari	1	-	2	-	-	-
Satgram INC	-	-	4	-	1	-
Satgram Project	-	-	1	-	-	-
Sripur	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>MOL</b>						
Deolbera	-	-	-	-	2	-
Jagannath OCP	1	-	-	-	3	-
Lingraj OCP	1	-	2	-	1	-
Balanda OCP	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bharatpur	-	-	1	-	-	-
Shamleshwari OCP	-	-	3	-	-	-
Ananta OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
Beipahar	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hingrapur	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lachkura OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
Orient OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
Talcher	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>NCL</b>						
Amlohri OCP	-	-	1	-	-	-
Jhingurdah	-	-	1	1	1	-
Khadia OCP	-	-	-	-	2	-
<b>NEC</b>						
Ledo	1	-	-	-	1	-
Tipong	-	-	2	1	-	-
Tirep OCP	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>SECL</b>						
Gevra	1	-	-	-	2	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jainagar New	-	-	-	-	2	-
Jamuna OC	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kotma OC	1	-	-	-	1	-
Meera INC	-	-	-	-	1	-
Rajnagar OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rajnagar OLD INC.	-	-	1	-	1	-
Surakachar 5/6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surakachar Main	-	-	-	-	1	-
Amlai UG	-	-	1	-	-	-
Chirimiri OC	2	1	2	-	-	-
Jainnagar 3/4	-	-	1	-	-	-
Jamuna 9&10	-	-	1	-	-	-
Korea	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kusmunda OCP	1	-	1	-	-	-
Laxman OC	-	-	3	2	1	-
North Chirmiri	-	-	2	2	-	-
Surakachar 3&4	-	-	1	1	-	-
Bhadra UG	-	-	-	-	2	-
Kotma West	-	-	-	-	1	-
West JKD	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kotma OLD	-	-	-	-	1	2
Manikpur OC	1	-	-	-	1	-
Dipka Augmentation	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pandavpara	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kapildhara	2	-	-	-	-	-
Balgi	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bisrampur OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
Kapildhara	2	1	-	-	-	-
Katkona	1	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mahmaya	1	-	-	-	-	-
Navegoan	1	-	-	-	-	-
NCPH	1	-	-	-	-	-
Oid Jimhan	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rajendra UG	2	-	-	-	-	-
Rajgamar 6/7 INC.	1	1	-	-	-	-
West Chirimiri	2	1	-	-	-	-
West Chirimiri 7/8	1	-	-	-	-	-
West Jhagrakhand	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>WCL</b>						
Chandra Meta	1	1	-	-	-	-
Chhinda	1	-	-	-	1	-
Dhamuan	1	-	-	-	-	-
EDC	1	1	4	-	-	-
Gori OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sasti OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sasti UG	2	1	-	-	-	-
Sukri	1	-	-	-	-	-
Umrer OCP	1	1	-	-	-	-
Ambara	-	-	1	-	-	-
DRC	-	-	1	-	-	-
Gori 1 OC	-	-	1	-	-	-
Groi 2 OC	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pench East OC	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pimple Gaon OC	-	-	1	-	-	-
Shobhapur	-	-	1	-	1	-
Tava	-	-	1	-	1	-
Damua	-	-	-	-	1	-
Bhatadi OC	-	-	-	-	1	-



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mahadeopuri	-	-	-	-	1	-
Durgapur OC	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ganpati	-	-	-	-	1	-
Nandan	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ballarpur 3/4 PIT	-	-	-	-	1	-
DRC Rayatwari	-	-	-	-	1	-
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>13</b>

K=Killed I=Injured

*The number of people killed and injured in the coal mines on Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., during the last three years mine-wise and year-wise.*

Name of Colliery	ACCIDENTS					
	1995		1996		1997	
	K	I	K	I	K	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>KOTHAGUDEM</b>						
5 Inc.	-	4	1	3	-	-
5B Inc.	-	1	-	1	-	-
VK. 7 Inc.	-	2	1	-	-	2
HCP Mine	-	2	-	2	-	1
GK. OCP	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>YA</b>						
21 Inc.	-	1	-	4	-	2
PP Mine	-	2	-	-	2	1
JK. 5	-	2	-	6	1	4
JK. OCP	1	2	2	-	-	-
<b>MNG</b>						
PK.1 Inc.	1	-	-	-	-	1
PK.2 Inc.	-	1	-	2	-	1
PK. OCP. I	1	2	-	3	-	-
PK. OCP.II	-	2	-	4	-	4
CENT. OCP.	-	1	-	1	-	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>BPA</b>						
M.Pit	-	1	-	3	-	1
Boipalli	-	-	-	-	-	-
SK Mine	-	2	1	-	1	1
MVK.1	-	2	1	2	1	4
MVK.2	-	-	-	1	-	-
MVK.3	-	6	-	-	-	-
MVK.5	-	6	-	5	-	3
MVK.6	-	3	-	2	-	2
Gol.1	-	-	1	3	-	6
Gol. 2	-	4	-	-	-	-
BPA OC	-	1	-	1	-	1
<b>MM</b>						
SMG.1	1	5	-	3	4	-
SMG.3	1	4	-	1	2	-
KK. 1	-	5	-	3	-	2
KK. 2	-	7	1	3	1	2
KK. 2A	-	-	-	-	-	-
KK. 5	-	9	2	2	3	2
KK. 5A	2	2	-	3	-	-
Kasipet	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>RKP</b>						
RK.1	-	2	-	-	-	1
RK. 1A	-	3	1	1	-	2
RK.3	-	-	-	1	-	-
RK.4	1	2	-	-	1	1
MK. 4	-	2	-	1	-	1
RK.5	-	6	-	2	-	1
RK.6	-	1	1	-	1	-
<b>SRP</b>						
RK.7	-	2	-	4	-	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
RK. NT	-	3	-	3	-	3
RK. 8	-	4	-	4	-	1
SRP.1	-	1	1	-	1	1
SRP. 2	1	-	-	2	-	2
SRP. 2A	-	1	-	3	-	-
SRP. 3& 3A	-	1	-	1	1	3
IK. 1	-	1	1	1	-	-
IK. 1A	-	1	-	-	-	1
CHNR.1& 1 A	-	1	-	-	-	-
<b>RG.I</b>						
GDK.1	2	3	-	1	1	-
GDK.2	1	3	-	1	-	5
GDK. 2A	-	3	-	5	1	1
GDK. 3	-	2	-	1	-	1
GDK. 5	2	2	1	1	-	1
GDK. 5A	-	-	1	2	1	4
GDK. 6	-	3	-	1	-	1
GDK. 6A	-	1	1	-	1	4
GDK 6 B	1	4	-	-	-	-
GDK. 7 LEP	-	1	-	1	-	1
<b>RG.II</b>						
GDK. 9	-	13	2	11	2	9
GDK. 10A	-	7	-	9	1	4
GDK. 11A	-	8	2	3	2	1
<b>RG. III</b>						
OCP. I	-	2	1	2	-	5
M. OCP	-	-	1	4	2	2
OCP. II	-	1	1	3	-	1
OCP. III	1	2	-	-	3	-
<b>RG. IV</b>						
GDK. 8	2	1	-	4	1	4
GDK. 8A	-	8	1	1	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GDK. 10	-	16	-	4	-	8
KTK. 1& 1A	-	1	-	3	-	3
KTK. 5	-	-	-	-	-	1
KTK. 2A	1	-	-	1	-	-
Mines Total :	20	191	25	139	35	115
Depts Total :	1	-	4	8	-	10
Total (Mines+Depts)	21	191	29	147	35	125

K=No. of people killed I=No. of people injured.

[Translation]

### Demand and Supply of Cement

1603. SHRI DATTA HEGHE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and supply of cement in the country; and

(b) the quantum of cement imported/exported during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The production and consumption of cement in the last two years is as under :-

(In Million tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption/Demand
1996-97	76.22	74.39
1997-98	83.15	80.35

(b) The quantum of cement & clinker imported/exported during last two years is as under :-

Year	Import (In metric tonnes)	Export (In million tonnes)
1996-97	2942	2.7
1997-98	643	4.2

(April-June, 97)

[English]

### Drinking Water Project for Karnataka

1604. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Karnataka had sought aid for the Cauvery IVth Stage Drinking Water Supply Project from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF), Japan;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has written directly to OECF against sanctioning of aid to the above project;

(c) if so, whether any State Government can plead to a foreign agency against sanctioning of funds to another State;

(d) whether the Government have clarified the position of OECF, Japan; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to get aid from OECF for the above project?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan have extended a loan of Yen 28,452 million signed on 25.1.1996 for Bangalore Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Programme of Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Tamil Nadu has since been requested that all such issues should be taken up through Ministry of Finance rather than directly with the funding agency i.e., OECF.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Water Resources have been requested to hold the meeting with the authorities of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu after which necessary action will be taken.

#### Bank Lending Rate

1605. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has announced a package of measures including a one percent cut in bank lending rate, to kick-start the economy is general and industrial growth in particular; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) : (SHRI

KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) In the monetary and credit policy for the half of 1998-99 announced on April 29, 1998, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have introduced a number of measures both of long and short term nature in order to ensure availability of sufficient credit for improving economic growth. The long term policy measures were undertaken with a view to widening and deepening the financial markets, providing greater flexibility to banks in regard to their deposit and lending operations, improving credit delivery mechanism particularly for agriculture, medium and small sectors and strengthening the health of the banking system.

In addition, the following important credit policy measures were also introduced:

(i) Reduction of Bank Rate by one percentage point from 10.0 per cent to 9.0 per cent effective from April 29, 1998.

(ii) Reduction of interest rates on refinance facilities (Export Credit Refinance and General Refinance) from RBI by one percentage point effective from April 29, 1998.

(iii) Reduction of interest rate on pre-shipment export credit upto 100 days from 12.0 per cent to 11.0 per cent with effect from April 30, 1998.

Following the reduction in the Bank Rate by the one percentage point, a number of scheduled commercial banks have been also reduced their Prime Lending Rate.

[Translation]

#### Land Acquired by SECL

1606. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SECL, Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh has acquired land on lease for coal mining in Telwadih, Bhejinara, Singhali and Makatipur areas of Bilaspur and Visharampur area of Ambikapur;

(b) if so, whether the company had made an agreement to provide compensation and employment to the land-owners in lieu of their land;

(c) if, so, whether the company has violated the said agreement;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has also held that the company is violating the agreement;

(e) If so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the time limit fixed for implementation of the Supreme Court's directions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) S.E.C.L. has acquired land for coal and mining of village Dhelwadlh (not Telwadih), Bhejinara and Manikpur (not Makatipur) of Bilaspur and Bिरampur of Ambikapur.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, no such agreement has been signed between SECL and the land owners.

(c) to (f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

[English]

#### Market Borrowing by State Governments

1607. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to offer State Governments more flexibility in their market borrowing programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State Governments gross market borrowings during 1997-98 in comparison to 1996-97; and

(d) the extent to which the flexibility in market borrowing schemes is likely to help State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the flexible approach for borrowing, State Governments would be provided the option for raising an part of the amount allocated to individual States, in the range of 5 per cent (minimum) and 35 per cent (maximum) on an optional basis for the fiscal year 1998-99.

(c) The gross market borrowings of State Governments for 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97 are:

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Amount
1996-97	Rs. 6,536
1997-98	Rs. 7,749

(d) The flexibility in market borrowing would provide, freedom to State Governments in regard to, inter-alia, timing, interest and maturity.

#### Lumbini-98 Festival at Visakhapatnam

1608. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day Lumbini festival was organised by the Department of Tourism on March 11, 1998 at Buddhist sites near Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, whether a national seminar/problems and prospects for development of tourism potential of Buddhist heritage sites in Andhra Pradesh was organised by the State Government and Department of Archaeology;

(c) if so, whether the 17 Buddhist have been identified for historical and cultural Buddhist monuments in the State which are located in North Coastal Andhra;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government is also considering these sites and make them tourist centres to attract more tourists in the area of Visakhapatnam; and

(e) if so, by when the Government is likely to provide assistance for development of these centres as tourist spots?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The identification and development to tourist sites is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Department of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance on the basis of specific proposals received and availability of funds.

The Union Ministry of Tourism has provided funds, for the development of various Buddhist sites in Andhra Pradesh. The details of assistances sanctioned during the last two years are as given below.

S. No.	Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Water Sports Equipment, Hussain Sagar	26.00
2.	Lumbini Festival	1.25
3.	Launches for Nagarjuna Sagar	75.00
4.	Yatrinivas, Nagarjuna Sagar	35.00
5.	High Mast Lighting at Araku	8.70

**Show Cause Notices to Plantation Companies**

1609. SHRI S. S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has issued show cause notices to certain plantation companies for collecting huge fund from public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some companies have refused to cooperate with auditors appointed by SEBI to get them their accounts audited;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against these companies; and

(e) the total fund collected by these plantation companies from public and the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the public money?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) SEBI has informed that a show cause notice has been issued to the following 11 plantation companies who failed to produce required information/documents for the special audit:

- (i) Helios Plantation & Developers Ltd.
- (ii) Arrow Global Agrotech Ltd.
- (iii) DSJ Agrotech Ltd.
- (iv) Vijetha Agro Farms India Ltd.
- (v) Pagoda Forests Ltd.
- (vi) Green Gold Horticulture Ltd.
- (vii) Surbhi Forests (India) Ltd.
- (viii) Vasundhara Mann Products Ltd.
- (ix) SPG Green Gold Plantations Ltd.
- (x) Advantage Agro India Ltd.
- (xi) Young Farmers Forests Ltd.

(d) SEBI has initiated action for prosecution against these companies under the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992.

(e) As per the documents filed with SEBI till 31st March, 1998, a total of Rs. 2500 crores approximately has been mobilised by 478 plantation companies. Government has mandated SEBI to regulate collective investment schemes including instruments issued by plantation companies.

**Development of Handloom Textiles Industry**

1610. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have conducted any study regarding exploring the possibilities for further development of handloom textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance proposed to the given to entrepreneurs involved in the handloom industry, during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the names of schemes formulated by the Union Governments for development of handloom sector and the budgetary provisions made for each of such scheme last year and the figures of the actual expenditure incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Studies to promote development of handloom textile industry are undertaken from time to time based on requirements. The recent studies include studies on Market Development Assistance Scheme and Handloom Development centre Scheme.

(c) The assistance to Handloom weavers is generally routed through State Government for provision of support for skill upgradation, marketing infrastructural assistance and technical know-how etc. The allocation is scheme-wise and not state-wise.

(d) A Statement showing scheme-wise budgetary provision and release during 1997-98 is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Statement showing Scheme-wise Budgetary Provision and Release during 1997-98*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Budgetary Provision 1997-98	Release 1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Mill Gate Price Scheme	300.00	300.00
2.	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	1302.00	1302.00

1	2	3	4
3.	PPS/IHVD/HDC/QDU/ MMDW	4380.00	4397.00
4.	Group insurance Scheme	125.00	39.61
5.	Health Package Scheme	300.00	281.09
6.	Thrift Fund Scheme	300.00	390.48
7.	Loans to State Govts.	600.00	600.00
8.	New Insurance Scheme for Handloom	50.00	36.27
9.	Market Development Assistance Scheme	3550.00	3409.65
10.	Janata Cloth Scheme	2800.00	2459.18
11.	Hank Yarn Scheme	14.00	12.13

### NABARD

1611. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has formulated comprehensive plan to meet the credit requirements of farming community;

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

(c) the new projects proposed during 1998-99 and Ninth Plan Period in Maharashtra by NABARD; and

(d) the details of fresh policy initiatives under consideration to improve performance of NABARD particularly in Maharashtra during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has formulated a comprehensive credit plan, State-wise, indicating the credit requirements of the agriculture, allied and other priority sectors. The plan is co-terminus with the five year plan period and would be updated/revised each year taking into account changing economic scenario,

new developments and priorities of the Government. Sector-wise/activity details of such plan for 1998-99 for Maharashtra are given below :-

(Rs. crore)	
Sector/Activity	Potential for credit
Agriculture	3579
Allied Activities	643
Non-farm sector	1126
Other Priority Sector	669
	6017

(c) and (d) NABARD has identified non-traditional sectors which have considerable potential for establishment of new projects during the year 1998-99 as also during the Ninth Plan period. These include, inter-alia, agro-processing units/units for manufacture of value added products, pre-cooling units for horticulture produce, etc. which have tremendous export potential, mushroom cultivation, sericulture, floriculture, cashew, oil palms and rubber cultivation.

NABARD has taken fresh initiatives to improve its performance in Maharashtra. Some of these are as follows:-

- i) Increase in refinance support to all banks from Rs. 332.61 crores (1997-98) to Rs. 390.9 crores (1998-99);
- ii) A higher limit of Rs. 187 crores during 1998-99 as against a limit of Rs. 156.5 crores (1997-98) under short term refinance to cooperatives and Regional Rural Bank (RRBs);
- iii) According priority to schemes related to infrastructure created out of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund assistance;
- iv) According priority to schemes for construction of rural godowns, market Yards, production of biofertilisers etc.;
- v) According priority to schemes benefitting small/marginal farmers and weaker sections of the rural society and poverty alleviation programmes like IRDP, PMRY, etc.;
- vi) According priority to financing of SC/ST action plants and other schemes directed towards specialised category of beneficiaries.

### Performance of Coal India Limited

1612. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during 1997-98 as compared to the previous two years;

(b) the performance of new projects taken up with technical/financial assistance from international Organisations/foreign countries and the foreign loans and grants utilised by the Public-Sector Undertakings during the last three years and the achievements made by PSUs, Project-wise;

(c) the total financial/technical assistance availed so far during the Eighth Plan and estimated funds committee/likely to be available to Coal India Limited during 1998-99 and the Ninth Plan for on-going/new projects;

(d) the role of privatisation and private investment in coal Sector as per Government's policy during 1998-99 and the Ninth Plan; and

(e) the details of cost cutting exercises undertaken by the Coal India Limited and results achieved by each subsidiary and target of cost cutting set for CIL for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The performance of Coal India limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is given below. In regard to 1997-98, the accounts have not been finalised.

(Profit/Loss during the year)

(Rs. in crores)

Company	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	154.67	(-) 341.15
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	102.26	(-) 322.81
Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	(-) 1.43	(-) 15.82
Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL)	179.47	(+) 728.65
Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL)	98.59	(+) 525.21

#### Statement-I

*Environmental and Social Mitigation Project (EMSP) funded by Internation Development Association*

(Figures in Rs. million)

(i) Total Project cost for Environmental and Social Mitigation Project (ESMP) for the period 1996-97 to 2001-02	2913.50
(ii) Actual Expenditure incurred upto March, 1998	156.50

	1	2	3
South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	76.96	(+)	580.72
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)	24.75	(+)	326.65
Central Mining Planning Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)	3.37	(+)	2.91
Coal India Limited (CIL)/ North Eastern Coalfields (NEC)	(-) 27.20	(+)	442.06
Overall Coal India Limited (CIL)	(+) 611.44	(+)	1137.42

(b) and (c) The desired information is given in the Statement - I and II respectively.

(d) Captive coal mining by companies, both in public sector and private sector including state power utilities, has been allowed for power generation, iron and steel production and cement production. Since the investment decision is taken by private parties, it is not possible to quantify it.

(e) It is the constant effort of coal companies to reduce costs through improvement in capacity utilisation, rationalisation of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other schemes, increase in productivity etc. The cost of production of coal in different subsidiaries, except in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), are well within the inflation rate in the last 3 years. Secondly, as a measure of cost cutting, reduction of wages cost through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has been taken up. During the year 1997-98, 1231 persons in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and 3081 persons in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) had opted for the scheme. The approximate impact of these reductions in these two companies will be around Rs. 43 crores per annum. In 1998-99, target has been set for reduction of manpower through VRS of 3800 persons each in Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). Measures recently undertaken for cost reduction will continue during 1998-99 also. The actual impact of these in the current year would be known at expiry of current year i.e. 1998-99.

(iii) Project cost for IXth Plan period	2757.00
(iv) Likely fund availability during 1998-99	850.40

Details of foreign assistance projects/country which provided technical/financial assistance are given below:

Name of the Project/Country which provided Technical assistance and or loan/grant.	Financial assistance provided	Quantum of assistance	Loan/Grant utilised during the last three years (i.e. 1995-96 to 1997-98)	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1. Kottadih U/G project in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) From France.	Loan	FRF 233.709 Million	FRF 14.743 Million	The project was completed in August, 95. At present there is no coal production, due to the collapse of powered support in the third face.
2. Burradhermo Training Centre, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) from France.	Grant/Credit	FRF 3.944 Million FRF. 6.158 Million	FRF 0.634 Million	The training Centre was commissioned in 1995.
3. Feasibility Study of Briquetting of Coal. From France.	Grant	FRF. 1.20 Million	FRF. 1.20 Million	Feasibility Report submitted in 1995.
4. Introduction of PSLW mining in the 4 South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) projects namely Balrampur Project, New Kunda Project, Churcha West Project. From China.	Commercial Credit provided by Chinese Bank for 85% of the contract value for the four projects i.e. US \$ 27.766 Million	US \$ 6.181 Million US \$ 7.113 Million US \$ 6.181 Million US \$ 8.291 Million	US \$ 6.181 Million US \$ 7.113 Million US \$ 6.181 Million	Four contracts were signed in September, 1995. Production commenced in Balrampur in May, 1998. Production from Rajendra and New Kunda is scheduled to start in July and August, 1998. Due to non-availability of DGMS approval for hard roof control technology, contract for Churcha West is yet to come into force.
5. Refurbishment of Ex-Churcha West Equipment South Eastern Coalfields Limited from U.K.	Grant	Pound Sterling 5.525 Million	Pound Sterling 4.425 Million	Refurbished equipment is expected to become operational shortly.



1	2	3	4	5	
6.	Piparwar Mine-cum-Beneficiation Project Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). From Australia.	Loan	Aus \$ 206.6 Million	Aus \$ 21.137 Million	The mine and CHP/CPP have been completed.

## Statement-II

Name of the Project	Total financial/technical assistance availed during VIII Five Year Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97)	Funds committed likely to be available to CIL during 1998-99 and IXth Five Year Plan period for on-going/new projects.
1. Kottadih U/G Eastern Coal fields Limited (ECL)	FRF 223.744 Million	Project completed
2. Burradhemo Training Centre, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	FRF 4.802 Million	—do—
3. Piparwar Project, Central Coalfields Limited	Aus \$ 137.351 Million	—do—
4. Rajmahal Project, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	US \$ 17.701 Million	—do—
5. Feasibility Study of Briquetting of Coal, Coal India Limited (CIL)	FRF 1.20 Million	—do—
6. Supply of 4 sets of PSLW equipment for South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).	US \$ 19.475 Million	US \$ 8.291 Million
7. Refurbishment of Churcha West PSLW equipment.	Pound Sterling 4.125 Million (utilised in 1997-98)	Pound Sterling 0.40 Million to be utilised in 1998-99
8. Procurement of 4 nos. Hydraulic Shovel.		FRF. 17.678 Million
9. Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project (CSRP) US \$ 1.06 billion	NIL	Rs. 959.63 crores likely found availability during 1998-99 Rs. 3,372 crores (likely expenditure during IX Plan)

In respect of the following four mines of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), 50% of the equipment cost (tentative) shown against each mine would be available through suppliers' credit:

Project	Equipment Cost	
	Imported (in Mill. \$)	Domestic (in Rs. Mill.)
1. Kapildhara*	6.174	2.200
2. Vindya	7.841	—
3. Pinoura**	4.998	96.877
4. Chinmin	7.712	—

\*Cost of indigenous equipment in case of Kapildhara is not included in the supplier's credit.

\*\* Supplier's credit for Pinoura will be obtained in Indian rupees.

### Misuse of Funds by Companies

1613. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies who made their Public issue during April, 1992 to March, 1996 and did not get their issues listed;

(b) the number of companies out of them have vanished; and

(c) the number of Listed companies against whom action has been taken during the last five years for misuse of funds by not applying the money for the purposes stated in the offer document at the time of their Public/Rights Issue?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) SEBI has informed that there were 814 companies which entered the market during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 and where the money was refunded.

(b) No such information is maintained by SEBI.

(c) The information is being collected.

### Shares of Public Sector Undertakings

1614. SHRI MADHVARAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has recommended the PSUs shares be offered to small investors at a discount price;

(b) the nature and details of the PSUs whose shares are proposed to be offered at a discount price to small investors; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has, in principle decided to offer shares of Public Sector Undertakings in which disinvestment of Government equity takes place to the small investors at a discount. The details of offering is to be worked out at the relevant time with reference to prevailing market conditions, PSUs own plan to issue new shares and other factors.

[Translation]

### Land Utilised by HEC

1615. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi has not been able to fully utilise the land acquired by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to return this surplus land to the farmers from whom the land was acquired;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the efforts are being made by the Government to dispose of this land to the private persons which is not justified; and

(f) if so, the clarification of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Out of 6883.34 acres of land with HEC, 4138.08 acres of land has been fully developed and utilised, 1642.87 acres earmarked for future schemes and the balance pertains to open space as per Town Planning.

(c) to (f) No, Sir.

[English]

### Alapuzha Nehru Trophy Boat Race

1616. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government undertake extensive campaign in foreign country to promote Alapuzha Nehru Trophy Boat Race in Kerala, a unique event which has immense tourist potentialities;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government sanctioned Rs. 5 lakhs to the State Government of Kerala as Central Financial Assistance to organise the Alapuzha Nehru Trophy Boat Race in 1996-97. This event is promoted in the niche markets overseas through distribution of brochures, direct mailing, advertising and fam tours, along with similar events in other parts of the country.

[Translation]

**Procedure for FDI**

1617. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the industrialists from United States have requested to the Union Government to simplify the procedure for investment in the broadcasting sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from the industrialists from United States.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Investment Limit of SSI**

1618. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the investment limit for Small Scale Industries from 3 crore to 1 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the affect on the SSI as a result thereof?

(d) whether the Government propose to continue the reservation of items meant for small scale sectors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister had announced on 29th April, 1998 in the Seminar organised by Laghu Udyog Bharati that investment limit for small scale industries will be reduced from Rs. 3 crore to Rs.1 crore. Necessary follow-up action, based upon the announcement of the Prime Minister, is being taken.

(b) and (c) A large number of SSI Associations have been demanding lowering down the investment ceiling as they were apprehending cornering away of credit by new segment of SSI Sector and competitions therefrom.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The reservation policy of the Government will continue. However, the reserved item list is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the prevailing economic and other factors.

**Death Claim Cases Pending with LIC**

1619. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of death claim cases pending for settlement with the Life Insurance Corporation of India for more than three years, zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in settlement of such cases; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for speedy settlement of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) LIC have reported that the total number of death claim cases pending for settlement with them for over three years on 31.3.1998 is 917. Zone-wise details are as follows:

	Name of Zone	Cases
1.	Northern	44
2.	North-Central	122
3.	Central	2
4.	Southern	29
5.	South-Central	177
6.	Eastern	72
7.	Western	471
	<b>Total</b>	<b>917</b>

(b) The reasons for delay in settlement of such claims are generally non-receipt of requirements from the claimants, legal dispute regarding title to the policy moneys, non-availability of latest address of the claimant, early claim investigations etc.

(c) LIC has a system of regular follow up of pending claim cases by the Managers (Claims) and Marketing Managers at the Divisional Offices and by Regional Managers (Mktg) at the Zonal Offices. The follow up is through letters to the claimants at periodic intervals as also through personal contacts wherever necessary through LIC's Branch Officials with a view to assisting the claimants for compliance of claim requirements.

#### **CBDT Turns Attention to "Economic Criteria"**

1620. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the success of Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has turned its attention towards making economic criteria scheme a paying venture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme which ended on February 28, aimed at enrolling 30 lakhs new tax payers during the last financial year;

(d) whether the scheme was targetted for 12 major cities in the country in an effort to bring on the rolls of income-tax department new tax assesseees and broaden the tax base; and

(e) If so, to what extent the scheme has been successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The primary objective of the Economic Criteria Scheme is to cast an obligation on tax payers to file returns of income and thereby widen the tax base. The underlying presumption of the scheme is that, any-body fulfilling the prescribed economic criteria should be having either taxable income or should be a potential tax payer. The scheme is expected not only to increase the number of tax payers but also bring in additional revenue.

(c) to (e) The object of the economic criteria scheme which aimed at enrolling new and potential tax payers, was to widen the tax base. The scheme was first introduced in 12 major cities and their urban agglomerations. The first year for which return was to be filed under this scheme was assessment year 1997-98 and the last date for this year was 28th of February, 1998. In the year a growth of approximately

20% was recorded in the number of returns filed as against the earlier year.

#### **Export Processing Zones**

1621. SHRIMTI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of export processing zones set up in the country so far;

(b) the location of those export processing zones; State-wise

(c) whether the Government propose to set up some export processing zones (EPZ) during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) if so, the States where these EPZs are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAM KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The seven Export Processing Zones (EPZs) functioning in the country are located at Kandia (Gujarat), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Export Processing Zones, there is no proposal at present for the Central Government to set up new zones in the country. However, Export Processing Zones can now be established by State Governments or in joint/private sector.

#### **Re-opening of Closed Coal Mines**

1622. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reopen the closed mines of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the coal mines closed in Coal India Limited since nationalisation till March 31, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Coal India Limited (CIL) decides on closure and opening of mines on techno-economic considerations. CIL has no proposal at present to re-open the closed mines which were closed due to exhaustion of mineable reserves, difficult geo-mining conditions, techno-economic unviability and safety considerations. Several coal mines of CIL which were

closed on considerations other than exhaustion of reserves were subsequently reopened or amalgamated with the adjacent coal mines.

(c) The names of coal mines of CIL closed since the nationalisation of coal mines upto 31st March, 1998 are given in the attached Statement.

#### Statement

##### *Eastern Coalfields Limited*

1. Sanctoria, 2. East Jamehari, 3. Ratibati 5 & 6, 4. KLS Chalbalpur, 5. Chalbalpur Khas, 6. New Jamehari Khas, 7. Pure Searsole, 8. Damoda, 9. Seetaldash, 10. Belrui Dishergarh, 11. North Brook, 12. Gogla/ Adjoy Bank, 13. Manderboni 1, 2 & 4, 14. Deoli, 15. B. Dhemo/Ranjilpur, 16. Bank Simolia 7 & 8, 17. Brights Rana, 18. Madhusudanpur 1 & 2, 19. Central Jamuria, 20. Nabakajora Ghanasyam, 21. Jote Janki, 22. Ratibati OC, 23. Purushottampur OC, 24. Nimcha OC, 25. Sheebpur OC, 26. Mahabir OC, 27. New Central Satgram, 28. Alkusha Gopalpur OC, 29. Benalee, 30. Kenda/Dobrana, OC, 31. Darula, 32. Krishnagar, 33. Seetalpur, 34. Shankarpur, 35. Girimint, 36. Rana, 37. Mahabir, 38. Kankartalla 1 & 2, 39. Tara, 40. Dhandadih OC, 41. Barmondia, 42. Dabor OC, 43. Gangaram Chak, 44. Poidih OC, 45. Ranipur, 46. Dalurband OC, 47. Palasthali, 48. Chapapur-I, 49. Badina/Pusai OC, 50. Kapasara OC, 51. Lalmatia UG, 52. Lalmatia OC, 53. Shampur-A, 54. Dalmiya OC 55. Bhanora, 56. Damra, 57. Sangramgarh OC.

##### *Bharat Coking Coal Limited*

1. Murilidih, 2. Bera OC, 3. ENA, 4. Basdeopur OC, 5. Laxmi OC, 6. Tasra OC, 7. Jhunkundar OC, 8. Victoria, 9. Kankanee, 10. Kenduadih, 11. Dharmaband, 12. South Tisra, 13. Kujam, 14. Gaslitand, 15. Bhurungia, 16. Teturiya.

##### *South Eastern Coal Fields Limited*

1. Domnara OC, 2. Burha No. 3, 3. Rungta, 4. North Jharakhand, 5. Burhari No. 1, 6. Pure Chirimiri, 7. Korba 1 & 2, 8. Korba 3 & 4, 9. Chachai OC, 10. Banki 5 & 6, 11. Jarwahi OC, 12. New Jhimar, 13. Banki 7 & 8, 14. S. Jharkhand Old, 15. Ramnagar, 16. Jhimar Old, 17. Rajgamar 8 & 9.

##### *Western Coalfields Limited*

1. Barkuhi UG, 2. Barkuhi West UG, 3. Bhamori Jhantachapa, 4. Datla East UG, 5. Datia West, 6. DHAO, 7. Shibpur OC, 8. Ghorawari Hirdagarh, 9. Ghorawari Kalan, 10. Ballarpur OC, 11. Kallchapar, 12. Newton Chikli, 13. N. Chandametta, 14. Nandora, 15. Seal Ghogris, 16. Nakoda OC, 17. Sasti PIT,

18. Ballarpur 1 & 2, 19. Robartson Inc/Bellora Inc/Ghughus, 20. Kumda OC, 21. New Majri No. 1, 22. Dhuptala OC, 23. Shibpuri-2 OC, 24. Taroda OC, 25. Sethia OC, 26. Bellorra OC, 27. N.Dhuptala RRR OC, 28. Rakhikole, 29. Chikalmau, 30. Umrer, 31. Satpura-I UG, 32. Sukri UG, 33. Chincholi UG.

##### *Central Coalfields Limited*

1. Semra 2. Pakri Barwadhi, 3. Sugia OC, 4. Pure Dhori, 5. Mael UG, 6. Chalkari, 7. Karkatia, 8. Dhodidih, 9. Gidhania, 10. Rauta.

##### *Northern Coalfields Limited*

1. Gorbi.

#### Quantitative Restrictions

1623. SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

PROF. P.J. KUREIN :

SHRI C.D. GAMIT :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United States have agreed to settle phasing out of quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, whether both India and US had earlier agreed to six years schedule for phasing out of the restrictions at an informal official level talks in Geneva;

(c) if so, to what extent India and US have agreed; and

(d) the extent to which India has been able to convince the US in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) India agreed to 6 years time schedule starting 1 April, 1997 for the removal of all the residual import restrictions maintained on agricultural, textile and industrial products for balance of payment purposes and during formal bilateral consultations held under the dispute settlement mechanism reached a mutually satisfactory solution each with Australia, Canada, the European Communities, New Zealand and Switzerland as well as with Japan which was a third party to the disputes. Settlement could not be reached only with the United States and at its request a dispute settlement panel has been constituted in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to examine the US allegation that the continued maintenance of quantitative restrictions on import by India is inconsistent with India's obligations under the WTO agreements.

**Funds by Financial Institutions  
to Industrial Units**

1624. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of industrial units which have been advanced more than Rs. 25 crores in the four zones of the country by the financial institutions such as IDBI, ICICI and others;

(b) the location of such industrial units and the amount advanced to each industrial unit;

(c) the names of defaulter units in the repayment of the loan;

(d) whether some of these defaulters have against been advanced some amount;

(e) if so, the amount advanced in each case and the reasons therefor;

(f) the criteria and the policy under which such loan were granted; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (g) As per information made available by IDBI, zone-wise details of assistance outstanding of more than Rs. 25 crores as on 31.03.1997 by all India financial institutions (FIs) are given in the enclosed Statement. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity to the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to

individual constituents cannot be divulged. As at end March 1997, the total arrears of these FIs aggregated Rs. 885 crore which works out to around 2% of the total outstanding loan Rs. 43,236.5 crore.

Term loans are granted by FIs to economically, commercially, financially viable and technically feasible projects. Important parameters to assess the financial viability include debt equity ratio, debt-service coverage ratio, internal rate of return etc. Technical feasibility is assessed from the angle of suitability of technology, its comparative cost, product quality etc. Also, commercial viability is assessed in respect of proposed products and economic justification of the project is examined.

IDBI has further reported that in terms of RBI guidelines assets are classified as standard, sub-standard, doubtful and loss assets. The sub-standard, doubtful, loss assets are treated as non-performing assets. RBI has issued guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions on 23rd April, 1994 with regard to disclosure of information regarding defaulting borrowers of banks and financial institutions. These guidelines inter-alia, provide for submission by banks and financial institutions to RBI the details of borrowal accounts which have been classified as Doubtful, Loss and Suit-filed with outstanding (both funded and non-funded) aggregating to Rs.1. crore and above, and circulation by RBI to banks and financial institutions of this information which they may make use of while considering on merits the requests for new additional credit limits by existing and new constituents. With a view to facilitate expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions, Government have enacted the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 to facilitate quicker recoveries of loan arrears.

\*FIs covered are IDBI, ICICI, IFCI and Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI)

**Statement**

*Zone-wise and State-wise details of Loan Outstanding above Rs. 25 Crore in respect of AIFIs (IDBI, IFCI, ICICI & IIBI) as on 31.3.97*

(Rs. crore)

State/U.T.	IDBI		IFCI		ICICI		IIBI	
	No. of Units	O/S	No. of Units	O/S	No. of Units	O/S	No. of Units	O/S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>East Zone/N.E. Zone</i>								
Assam	1	80.36	2	229.78	2	121.90	0	0.00
West Bengal	19	1475.15	6	541.28	9	619.73	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar	4	514.59	3	149.30	5	259.41	0.	0.00
Orissa	6	781.41	6	343.80	3	199.36	0	0.00
Total	30	2851.51	17	1264.14	19	1200.40	0	0
<i>North Zone</i>								
NCT of Delhi	14	1232.51	8	212.49	3	136.38	0	0.00
Haryana	3	202.96	6	131.84	5	281.89	0	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	1	25.74	1	37.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Punjab	1	31.84	12	514.74	3	139.26	0	0.00
Rajasthan	5	297.37	14	800.69	13	761.98	0	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	13	997.86	29	1637.61	16	1487.76	0	0.00
Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	31.49	0	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0.00	1	10.61	0	0	0	0.00
Total	37	2788.28	71	3344.98	41	2838.76	0	0
<i>South Zone</i>								
Andhra Pradesh	32	2286.03	13	459.78	17	1087.50	0	0.00
Karnataka	11	717.95	11	507.16	12	999.97	0	0.00
Kerala	2	144.72	0	0.00	2	118.53	0	0.00
Pondicherry	1	31.03	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Tamil Nadu	11	673.67	13	792.42	26	1433.96	0	0.00
Total	57	3853.40	37	1759.36	57	3639.96	0	0
<i>West Zone</i>								
Dadra	6	241.60	2	102.96	1	52.62	0	0.00
Diu	1	28.59	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Goa	1	37.33	0	0.00	3	105.18	0	0.00
Gujarat	40	3977.41	23	1479.99	33	3076.35	0	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	13	676.66	11	646.92	8	802.85	1	19.86
Maharashtra	36	2266.70	21	1460.70	71	4686.54	1	33.35
Total	97	7228.29	57	3690.57	116	8723.54	2	53.21
Grand Total	221	16721.48	182	10059.05	233	16402.66	2	53.21

**Bank Loans to SCs/STs**

1625. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes/programmes under which SCs/STs of rural areas may avail the benefits of loan facilities of Central Government and the limits of such loans if any;

(b) the number of SCs/STs beneficiaries under different schemes during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the target fixed for providing bank loans to SCs/STs during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) There are schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation administered by different administrative Ministries of the Central Government. These Ministries are responsible for administering the schemes by providing various inputs that are needed including inter-alia, training, market linkage and subsidy. Banks are required to provide the credit component in these credit linked schemes. The essential details of a few important schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) State-Union Territory-wise information of number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries under these schemes for the last three years as furnished by Reserve Bank of India is given in the enclosed Statement II, III, IV and V.

(c) According to RBI the targets for the current year have not been indicated the banks by the Ministries administering the Schemes.

**Statement-I***Details of Schemes*

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Administrative Ministry/implementing agencies
1	2	3
1.	Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) : The objective of the scheme is to provide sustained employment to educated unemployed youth in Micro Enterprises in the age group of 18 to 35 years, whose family income does not exceed 24,000/- and upto Rs. 24,000/- per annum of parents of beneficiary and the resident of the area for more than three years are eligible for assistance. While the beneficiary would be required to bring in 5 per cent as margin money, Government would provide a subsidy at 15 per cent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 7,500/- and project upto Rs. 1 lakh will be eligible for finance by banks. A reservation of 22.5 per cent for SC/ST and 27 per cent for other Backward Class (OBCs) has been provided, in the Scheme.	Department of Small Scale Industries & Agro Rural Industries, Ministry of Industry
2.	Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) : The objective of the programme is to assist target group consisting of families of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans etc. whose family income is below Rs. 11,000/- per annum. The present pattern of subsidy under the Scheme is as given below :	Ministry of Agriculture, Deptt. of Rural Areas and Poverty Alleviation
3.	Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS) : The scheme is to liberate and rehabilitate scavengers and dependants from their existing hereditary and obnoxious occupation of manually removing night soil and filth and to provide them with alternative and dignified occupation. Subsidy under the scheme is upto 50 per cent of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/-. Projects costing upto Rs. 50,000/- will be financed under the scheme.	Ministry of Welfare



1	2	3
4.	Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme : The scheme is to provide bank finance at a concessional rate of interest of 4.0 per cent per annum to the weaker sections of the community for engaging in productive and gainful activities so that they could improve their economic conditions. The maximum assistance per beneficiary has been fixed at Rs. 6500/-. Banks are required to ensure that atleast 40 per cent of their DRI advance flows to SCs/STs.	Commercial banks

<i>Present Rate of Subsidy</i>			1	2	3	4
Category	Percentage	Monetary Ceiling				
Small Farmers	25 percent	Rs. 1000 in normal area and Rs. 5000 in Drought Prone areas	3. Assam	1304	1212	58
Marginal Farmers	33.33 percent	Programme and Desert Development Programme Areas.	4. Bihar	2095	1506	95
Agricultural Labourers			5. Goa	19	5	1
Non-agricultural Labourers and Rural Artisans			6. Gujarat	1132	1027	260
Of these-			7. Haryana	581	491	66
1. Scheduled Castes	50 percent	Rs. 6000	8. Himachal Pradesh	370	243	28
2. Scheduled Tribes			9. Jammu & Kashmir	54	74	7
3. Physically Handicapped			10. Karnataka	1647	1450	143
Educated Unemployment Youth upto Class-VIII (pass or fail)	50 per cent	Rs. 7500 or 50 Percent of the project cost whichever is less.	11. Kerala	1230	1228	149
			12. Madhya Pradesh	3232	2827	88
			13. Maharashtra	4695	3887	543
			14. Manipur	184	257	
			15. Meghalaya	174	329	1
			16. Mizoram	106	197	
			17. Nagaland	172	189	
			18. National Capital Territory of Delhi	253	86	22
			19. Orissa	853	504	17
			20. Punjab	1626	965	94
			21. Rajasthan	1086	817	325
			22. Sikkim	22	88	
			23. Tamilnadu	1808	1084	265
			24. Tripura	150	312	8

**Statement-II**

*State/Union Territory-wise number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries under the scheme of Prime Minister Rojgar Yojana*

Name of the States/ Union Territories	Loan disbursed to SC/ST (No.)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	3048	1737	333
2. Arunachal Pradesh	48	267	

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
25. Uttar Pradesh	3341	2766	445	29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	79	35	1
26. West Bengal	1066	734	94	30. Daman & Diu	6	—	
27. Andaman & Nicobar Island	10	38		31. Lakshadweep	35	36	13
28. Chandigarh	15	6		32. Pondicherry	37	24	6

## Statement-III

*Number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families assisted under Integrated Rural Development Programme*

(In number)

State/Union Territory	1995 -96		1996-97		1997-98*	
	No. of SC families assisted	No. of ST families assisted	No. of SC families assisted	No. of ST families assisted	No. of SC families assisted	No. of ST families assisted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	43594	12827	70861	20624	41423	10513
2. Arunachal Pradesh		14381		10695		5018
3. Assam	8894	14201	3196	5383	4006	6536
4. Bihar	82045	47113	74640	36310	42902	25663
5. Goa	18		6		11	
6. Gujarat	9894	15188	7394	12047	5759	8664
7. Haryana	14560		8424		3332	
8. Himachal Pradesh	2705	585	2930	870	1973	448
9. Jammu & Kashmir	1769	1361	95	122	199	150
10. Karnataka	36157	9021	33115	9036	24133	7598
11. Kerala	17498	1262	18068	1225	11898	829
12. Madhya Pradesh	52025	69801	33095	51243	18863	28312
13. Maharashtra	43786	28205	36362	25124	28321	18148
14. Manipur	77	4222	122	5191	42	839
15. Meghalaya	15	4519	7	6815	8	3734
16. Mizoram		5085		3059		1514
17. Nagaland		2531		1997		835

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>18. National Capital Territory of Delhi</b>						
19. Orissa	30814	35843	23499	24474	11062	12581
20. Punjab	6287		3702		2648	
21. Rajasthan	30326	18748	21862	14515	12505	9096
22. Sikkim	153	1090	87	637	57	249
23. Tamilnadu	82792	3800	68807	2098	71355	2580
24. Tripura	2351	5327	2139	5047	924	1522
25. Uttar Pradesh	180165	3300	196326	3404	161093	1817
26. West Bengal	55591	9804	36656	8287	23725	3718
27. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		57		36		82
<b>28. Chandigarh</b>						
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	265	7	161	1	92
30. Daman & Diu	58	102	33	51	18	66
31. Lakshadweep		18		30		26
32. Pondicherry	555	40	425	2	262	
<b>All India</b>	<b>705132</b>	<b>308696</b>	<b>635860</b>	<b>246543</b>	<b>466520</b>	<b>150630</b>

\* Upto Feb. 1998.

**Statement-IV**

*State/Union Territory-wise number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries under the scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers*

State/Union Territory	Year Ending	
	March 1996	March 1997
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	252	477
2. Arunachal Pradesh		
3. Assam	140	56
4. Bihar	90	126
5. Goa	2	
6. Gujarat	521	1174

	1	2	3
7. Haryana		1253	583
8. Himachal Pradesh		212	126
9. Jammu & Kashmir		27	48
10. Karnataka		1148	1121
11. Kerala		10	1
12. Madhya Pradesh		7137	2501
13. Maharashtra		1469	985
14. Manipur			
15. Meghalaya			
16. Mizoram			
17. Nagaland			

1	2	3
18. National Capital Territory of Delhi	303	
19. Orissa	512	695
20. Punjab	471	302
21. Rajasthan	1351	1919
22. Sikkim		
23. Tamilnadu	3155	2596
24. Tripura	2	
25. Uttar Pradesh	19495	17030
26. West Bengal	81	81
27. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		
28. Chandigarh	19	
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		
30. Daman & Diu		
31. Lakshadweep		
32. Pondicherry	2	

#### Statement-V

Statement showing advances to SCs/STs under differential rate of interest (DRI) by all Indian Scheduled Commercial Banks

Name of States/ Union Territories	(No. of Accounts)		
	March 1993	March 1994	March 1995
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	25998	119585	31218
2. Arunachal Pradesh	18	163	6
3. Assam	349	695	429
4. Bihar	12597	9061	5002
5. Goa	50	230	186
6. Gujarat	5886	5367	962
7. Haryana	1118	1104	544
8. Himachal Pradesh	1600	1439	823

1	2	3	4
9. Jammu & Kashmir	25	47	124
10. Karnataka	9501	6698	7362
11. Kerala	36034	9173	7811
12. Madhya Pradesh	2581	1497	2729
13. Maharashtra	11497	12616	7684
14. Manipur	261	203	22
15. Meghalaya	155	371	42
16. Mizoram	—	25	—
17. Nagaland	315	59	12
18. National Capital Territory of Delhi	315	702	191
19. Orissa	39939	1876	2098
20. Punjab	3572	3389	1818
21. Rajasthan	3073	1699	956
22. Sikkim	29	20	19
23. Tamilnadu	18498	21395	6819
24. Tripura	275	62	24
25. Uttar Pradesh	15647	19055	4750
26. West Bengal	5144	1827	910
27. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	776	40	20
28. Chandigarh	120	89	64
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
30. Daman & Diu	13	45	—
31. Lakshadweep	11	10	34
32. Pondicherry	200	130	48

#### Vittal Committee on PSUs

1626. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report of the Vittal Committee which was set up to review public sector guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the recommendations made by the Vittal Committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee for Review of Guidelines for Public Sector Enterprises (known as Vittal Committee) was constituted on 28th May, 1997 to review guidelines issued by erstwhile BPE and DPE for Public Sector Enterprises and to recommend cancellation, redrafting and/or simplification with the objective of eliminating of modifying guidelines which are no longer necessary or relevant. The Committee was desired to complete its work and to give recommendations within three months or earlier, if possible. The Committee submitted its report within the stipulated period on 20th August, 1997.

(c) The Committee, recommended to delete 762 guidelines, to modify 25 guidelines and to retain 105 guidelines.

(d) Government has examined the recommendations and decided to cancel 696 guidelines and to retain 196 guidelines.

[Translation]

#### Export of Soya Food

1627. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of Soya food products exported to China during each of the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of Soyafood products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) There have been no exports of soya food products to China during 1995-96 and 1996-97. However, during 1997-98, 33.44 MT of flours and meals of Soyabeans (ITC(HS) Codé No. 12081000) valued at Rs. 4.83 lakhs (Provisional) have been exported to China.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to boost exports of processed foods including soya food products are providing financial assistance to exporters, growers, cooperative societies and food processing units for development of infrastructure facilities, setting up expansion/modernisation of food processing units, arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important International Fairs and Exhibitions,

assisting in development of data base dissemination of market information.

#### Use of Hindi

1628. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the setting up of modern device are causing obstacles is the use of Official Language in his Ministry;

(b) whether the Hindi speaking States are being compelled to prepare their budget and projects in English as most of the work in Secretariat is carried out in English only;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Chairman and members of Official Language Implementation Committee also do their original work in English only; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to ensure to promote the use of Official Language?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) All Officers and staff including the Chairman and members of the Official Language Implementation Committee who have a working knowledge of Hindi are constantly encouraged to do original work in Hindi. All persuasive means are employed to increase the use of Hindi in the day to day work.

[English]

#### Export of Fish and Its Products

1629. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned through the export of fish and its products during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the extent to which fish export from the State of Kerala has been affected due to the power shortage;

(c) whether fish/marine product consignments exported from India had been rejected/returned by any countries during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the details with reasons and remedial steps taken by the Government?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) :** (a) The foreign exchange earned through the export of fish and fishery products during 1996-97 and 1997-98 has been Rs. 4121.36 crores (US \$ 1152.83 Million) and Rs. 4697.48 crores (US \$ 1295.86 Million) respectively.

(b) The Seafood exports from Kerala ports during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 have been 92288 Metric Ton valued at Rs. 936.22 crores (US \$ 261.88 Million) and 89366 Metric Ton valued at Rs. 943 crores (US \$ 261.53 Million) respectively. Whereas there is a slight decline of 3.17% in quantity and 0.13% in value of exports in dollar terms in 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97, there has been a slight increase of 1.26% in value of exports in rupee terms.

The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) and MPEDA have informed that their export of processed fishery products was affected to a certain extent as they became somewhat uncompetitive due to the higher expenditure that they had to incur on running the diesel generator sets to overcome the power shortage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the last two years (1996-97 & 1997-98), as per the available information, 40 fishery product export consignments belonging to Indian fishery product processing units, were rejected at the receiving ports in Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Belgium, United Kingdom and Denmark due to decomposition or defective grading or short weight or failure in bacteriological tests due to microbiological contamination or detection of one of the bacteria namely, Salmonella, Staphylococci, Vibrio, Parahaemolyticus, Coagulase positive Staphylococci, Paocal Streptococci, Vibrio Cholerae and Vibrio Alginolyticus.

The fish products processing units whose consignment were rejected at the foreign ports were instructed to identify the causes of contamination and take effective steps to fully conform to the prescribed standards of food hygiene and safety. The inspection and monitoring of the fishery product processing units by the officials of Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) was also revamped and the frequency of monitoring of such units was increased so as to ensure that all the exporting units conformed to international standards of food hygiene and safety. The other remedial steps taken by the Government include training programmes for the concerned technical officials working in Export Inspection Council (EIC)/EIAs and MPEDA, circulation of comprehensive guidelines and instructions for the guidance and use of the inspecting officers and the fishery products processing units and

implementation of various subsidy schemes through MPEDA for helping the fishery product processing units to produce quality fish and fishery products for exports.

#### Short Supply of Coal

1630. **SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that almost all the States are suffering from short supply of coal;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ever assessed the requirement and supply of different quality of coal to each State;

(c) if so, the details thereof in regard to supply and demand of Coal of each State during the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to supply the desired quantity of different quality of Coal to each State?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) :** (a) No, Sir. Power Sector is the bulk consumer of coal in the States. Adequate coal supplies had been ensured and as a result almost all thermal power stations in the country are having comfortable stocks. Coal India Limited have reported that they are not aware of reported shortage of coal in any of the States in the country during the year 1997-98.

(b) The requirements of coal are not assessed State-wise. They are assessed industry/sector-wise for the country as a whole. Coal India Limited (CIL) supplies coal to consumers based on the programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with the sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to power and cement industries are made based on short-term linkages established by Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) for these sectors.

(c) Total quantity of coal supplied to the States from CIL during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Coal Companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of all consumers in the country by increasing production of coal by opening new mines and augmenting production from the existing mines. In addition coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the liberalised Sales Scheme under which coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships.

**Statement**

(in "000" tonnes)

States	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
1. Bihar	21778	19862
2. West Bengal	24413	21616
3. Uttar Pradesh	43318	44013
4. Orissa	15483	17543
5. Madhya Pradesh	42521	44009
6. Maharashtra	32898	32297
7. Gujarat	15967	17249
8. Rajasthan	6608	6560
9. Delhi	4927	5437
10. Punjab	8614	10081
11. Haryana	4095	4223
12. Tamil Nadu	11737	14186
13. Andhra Pradesh	10303	11589
14. Karanataka	2877	2308
15. Kerala	183	145
16. J & K	154	145
17. Himachal Pradesh	362	579
18. Assam	779	479
19. Others	495	449

**VBAL Scam**

1631. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "value based advance licence scam; 2 Customs officials in dock" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated May 10, 1998;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto and the present status of the case; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to inquire the number of such more cases which are unreported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE INSURANCE): (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) CBI has registered a case against an Additional Commissioner of Customs and others on the charge that over involved the export to increase the benefits of duty free import of raw material under Value Based Advance Licencing Scheme. This Scheme has been discontinued with effect from 31.03.1997.

**NTC Marketing Divisions**

1632. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Marketing Divisions the National Textile Corporation at present time;

(b) the profit or loss incurred by these divisions during the last five years, division-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to reorganise all these National Textile Corporation Marketing Divisions into a single separate subsidiary to make them more profitable;

(d) if so, by when such reorganisation is likely to take place; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The nine subsidiary corporations of NTC have under them 17 Marketing/Divisional Offices located at different places. Statement indicating the location of these offices and the profit /loss incurred by them during the last five years is enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The subsidiary corporations of NTC are separate companies and marketing is a integral part of their individual operations.

**Statement**

*Provisional Profit (+)/Loss (-) incurred by the Marketing Divisions of NTC  
Subsidiary Corporations for the past 5 years.*

Sl. No.	Subsidiary/ Divisions	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97
<i>I. NTC (APKKM) Ltd.</i>						
1.	Bangalore	+16.87	+12.36	+33.64	+20.06	+12.15
2.	Hyderabad	+20.92	+15.40	+24.12	+2.01	-62.31
<i>II. NTC (DPR) Ltd.</i>						
3.	Delhi	+40.76	+39.55	+33.58	+12.24	+11.15
4.	Chandigarh	+28.11	+22.12	+12.14	-4.47	-8.45
5.	Jaipur	+11	+18.04	+35.77	+22.67	+9.77
<i>III. NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.</i>						
6.	Ahmedabad	+3.65	+5.59	+3.46	+17.48	+3.59
<i>IV. NTC (MP) Ltd.</i>						
7.	Indore	+1.84	+35	+1.44	-3.95	-7.68
<i>V. NTC (MN) Ltd.</i>						
8.	Mumbai	+7.11	+8.27	+5.09	-6.03	-25.09
<i>VI. NTC (SM) Ltd.</i>						
9.	Mumbai	+18.90	+36.53	+25.94	+9.09	+34.80
<i>VII. NTC (TNP) Ltd.</i>						
10.	Coimbatore	+22.89	-71.27	+1.80	+53.92	+9.49
<i>VIII. NTC (UP) Ltd.</i>						
11.	Kanpur	-28.79	-39.05	-4.53	-31.41	-46.38
12.	Varanasi	-30.52	-29.97	-34.53	-31.76	-32.39
13.	Ghaziabad	-23.77	-21.25	-26.86	-13.44	-26.93
<i>IX. NTC (WBABO) Ltd.</i>						
14.	Calcutta	-105.34	-116.31	-117.92	-115.70	-134.74
15.	Patna	-15.25	-31.81	-75.52	-58.01	-72.08
16.	Bhubaneshwar	-8.04	-8.33	-11.80	-13.33	-12.07
17.	Guwahati	+9.94	+2.16	+7.06	+3.31	-9.54

[Translation]

**Proposal to set up Export Hosue, Bareilly**

1633. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up

an export house in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh to promote the business of filigree, chicken and carpet in Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Mirzapur, Varanasi and Lucknow of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the location where it is likely to be set up; and



(c) if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government looks after the development and promotion of the handicrafts sector through schemes which include areas like training, design development, domestic and international marketing etc.

[English]

#### Setting up of Spinning Mills

1634. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provide grants for setting up of spinning mills in States;

(b) if so, the number of spinning mills set up in the country with Central assistance, State-wise; and

(c) the details of amount provided by the Union Government for the purpose State-wise, particularly to Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Setting up of Hotels at Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar

1635. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some luxury hotels at Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar during the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether some hotels/guests houses are also proposed to be set up for the middle class tourists visiting these places; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) ITDC is a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Tourism. ITDC's Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) does not envisage any scheme/provision for construction of new hotels at Puri, Konark and Bhubaneswar. Presently ITDC is operating and managing the following two 3 Star Category hotels in the state of Orissa :-

1. Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar.

2. Hotel Nilachal Ashok, Puri (Joint Venture in collaboration with the Orissa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.)

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to State/U.T. Governments based on project proposals received from them for the construction of accommodation facilities like Yatri Niwases, tourist bungalows, tourist complexes etc. for the benefit of budget and middle class tourists. The Projects/Schemes for which Central Financial Assistance has been sanctioned by Govt. of India, Ministry of Tourism to State Govt. of Orissa for the year 1997-98, do not contain any hotel/guest house project.

#### Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.

1636. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of industrial relations with the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., Kothagudem;

(b) the financial status of the company for the last three years;

(c) the mines from where the coal is being excavated by the company at present;

(d) whether the company has any coal deposits in Warangal district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) In view of the multiplicity of Trade Unions and the influence of extremist activities in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., the industrial relations are not satisfactory. The 5 Trade Unions affiliated to National Trade Unions having membership on Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) and another Federation of Craft Association viz. Singareni. All Associations Joint Action Committee (SAJAC) have given separate notices over several demands proposing to go on strike on or after 25.5.98. In spite of so many conciliation proceedings held during the month of April/May '98, intervention by the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh and Labour Commissioner (C), Hyderabad until end of May, 98 no understanding could be reached. The workers' unions are presently on strike, though three open cast mines are working partially.

(b) SCCL have incurred a loss of Rs. 190.81 Crores. and Rs. 246.95 crores in 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively, and the company could earn a profit of Rs. 102.76 crores (Provisional) during 1997-98.

(c) SCCL is exploiting coal from 4 districts in Andhra Pradesh, viz., Khammam, Karimnagar, Adilabad and Warangal. As on 1.06.1998, SCCL had 61 underground Mines and 12 Opencast Mines.

(d) and (e) SCCL has got proved coal deposits as well as working mines Warangal district, known as Mulugu coal belt. As on 1.1.98, 10 blocks have been explored covering 49 Sq. Kms. having 584 million tonnes of proved coal reserves. Out of the proved blocks KTK-1, 1A, 2A, 5 and 5A inclines have already been opened in the Geological blocks of Bhoopalapalli Block-I and III.

[Translation]

#### Pay Packages to Central Silk Board Scientists

1637. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of scientists working in the Central Silk Board throughout the Country;

(b) whether the scientists of Central Silk Board have been requesting for pay package at par with terms offered by the ICAR; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) A total number of 839 scientists are working in the Central Silk Board throughout the Country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

[English]

#### Trade Relations with Latin American Countries

1638. SHRI A. C. JOS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Latin American Countries have signed any trade agreement regarding trade relations among these countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Trade agreements have been signed by India with the following Latin American countries.

Country	Date of Signing
Brazil	3rd Feb. 1968
Colombia	14th July 1970
Peru	4th Nov. 1971
Cuba	9th July 1979
Guatemala	23rd April 1981
Argentina	28th July 1981
Trinidad & Tobago	24th Jan. 1997

The trade agreement are signed with a view to enhance bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

#### Restructuring the Patent System

1639. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for restructuring the patent system in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia the objectives to be achieved thereby;

(c) whether any Expert Committee has been appointed to consider the problem thread-bare;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the restructured Patent System is likely to start functioning in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) The government has been taking steps to modernise the patents system in the country. Steps are now underway to modernise and strengthen the patent office through a plan which would provide the required qualified personnel, infrastructural facilities, optimisation of available resources through reorientation of functions between offices, computerisation of procedures and elimination of backlog of patent applications. The plan, which is proposed to be implemented in a period of five years, has been prepared after intensive consultations with the Ministries/Departments/ Organisations concerned of the Government and other national/international consultants.

#### World Heritage City-Agra

1640. SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finally drawn a scheme for making Agra 'World Heritage City';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be accomplished;

(d) the major directions of the Supreme Court Decision in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which these have been complied with?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Supreme Court has not given a final decision.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Technology Upgradation Fund for Textile Sector

1641. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up Technology Upgradation Fund for the textile sector with an investment of Rs. 25,000 crore and proposed to be implemented soon and the financial institutions have agreed to provide the financial assistance;

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

(c) the status of revival plan for NTC and decision taken on mobilisation of resources through sale of surplus land with the consent of State and Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh of the 35 textile units and 25 textile units are to be rehabilitated in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation, through technological upgradation, of the textile industry. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for the textiles and jute industries are being worked out.

(c) On account of net worth erosion, 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC have been referred to and declared sick by the Board for Financial and Industrial Reconstruction (BIFR). Govt. approved a revised turn around plan for NTC in May, 1995 involving modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs. 2005.72 crore and placed the same before the BIFR. The funds for rehabilitation were to be raised from sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. The BIFR found the rehabilitation plan not viable in case of four subsidiary corporations viz., NTC (MP), NTC (Guj), NTC (WBAB & O) and NTC (UP) and issued show cause notice for winding up of these four subsidiary corporations. In respect of the remaining four subsidiaries viz. NTC (DPR), NTC (APKK & M), NTC (MN) and NTC (SM),

the BIFR published draft rehabilitation schemes seeking certain reliefs and concessions. However, the rehabilitation plan could not be implemented in the absence of approval of BIFR and availability of funds from sale proceeds. More than 80% of the sale proceeds accrue from the sale of lands in Maharashtra, and the approval of State Govt. has not been received.

In view of the above constraints, Government are considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC on the basis of the unit-wise viability study made by NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the 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.

#### Disinvestment Fund

1642. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has recommended for setting up a Disinvestment Fund as a first step before any disinvestment scheme is implemented;

(b) if so, the precise nature and magnitude of the fund and its main objectives; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Disinvestment Commission recommended that the proceeds of disinvestment be placed separately in a Disinvestment Fund.

(b) and (c) Government has decided that each year 10% of the revenue generated through disinvestment, may be kept earmarked for an Investment Fund which is to be used for strengthening of public sector enterprises. The operational modalities to be followed for this Fund are being worked out.

#### Disinvestment Policy

1643. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status regarding implementation of disinvestment policy during 1997-98;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations from Trade Unions on reversal of the policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) During the year 1997-98, forty million shares held by the Government in the Mahanagar Telephone

Nigam Limited (MTNL) have been disinvested in the GDR Market.

(b) to (d) Trade Unions of some Public Sector Undertakings have given representations against some of the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission. These are examined and the Government keeps in view the interests of the employees while deciding about disinvestment in any PSU.

#### Free Trade Area

1644. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia had reached an agreement to forge a free trade area, which may also include other CIS countries, at the Joint Indo-Russian Commission meeting held in December, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the other CIS countries which are likely to join the Free Trade Area arrangements?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Export Oriented Agriculture Policy

1645. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new Export Oriented Agricultural Policy and to ensure reasonable prices for agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the agricultural items likely to be included in this policy;

(c) the time by which this policy is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether any export target has been fixed for farm products during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) The policy of the government to permit exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security,

maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural export increasingly viable.

Export policy is being constantly updated and export regime in respect of agricultural products has been liberalised. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports or their restricted or are subject to quantitative ceilings. Major items for which the exports are banned include wheat and wheat products and sugar except under preferential quota to EU/USA.

The agricultural products exported from India include tea, coffee, raw cotton, rice (basmati and non-basmati), coarse grains, tobacco, spices, cashew, sesame and niger seeds, oil meal extractions, sugar, horticulture and floriculture products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices.

(d) and (e) No Sir. as the Ninth Five year Plan is still to be finalised. However, during the Ninth Five Year Plan exports of agriculture and allied commodities are proposed to be given special attention as this area offers vast potential for increasing farm incomes, tackling unemployment and earning foreign exchange.

#### Setting up Industries in Backward Areas

1646. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to set up industries in the backward, hilly and desert areas of the Country for their development;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to implement the said scheme; and

(c) if so, the names of areas alongwith the types of the industries likely to be set up, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Three centrally sponsored schemes, namely (i) the Growth Centre Scheme (ii) the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme and (iii) the Transport Subsidy Scheme are being implemented by the Ministry of Industry for promoting industrialisation of backward, hilly and inaccessible in the country. Backward areas of Rajasthan are also included in the first two schemes.

(b) and (c) 71 Industrial Growth Centres have been announced to be set up under the Growth Centre Scheme spread over 25 States and one Union

Territory. 50 Centres are proposed to be set up under the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme in backward areas. The selection of site for these Centres is done on the recommendations of the State Government and on the basis of a combined criteria of the backwardness of the region, availability of infrastructure and population etc. The Transport Subsidy Scheme is applicable to the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Darjeeling District of West Bengal, eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Generally, resource and demand based industries are set up in these areas.

[Translation]

#### Performance of PSUs

1647. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings have shown more profit during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the names of those undertakings and the amount of profit earned by each undertaking during the above period;

(c) the names of Public Sector Undertakings which have suffered losses during the above period; and

(d) the reasons for incurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Public Sector Undertakings have shown more profit during 1995-96 (latest year for which the information has been collated) as compared to previous years.

(b) and (c) The undertakings and the profit earned by each undertaking during 1995-96 and in the previous four years is given in the Statement 7A (S-49 to S-54) and the undertakings and loss incurred during 1995-96 and in the previous four years is given in the Statement 7B (page S-55 to S-59) of the Public Enterprises Survey, 1995-96 which was laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 5th May, 1997.

(d) Reasons for making losses are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons are obsolete and outdated plants and machinery, surplus manpower, high interest burden, lack of suitable market, etc.

#### Export of Computers to Russia

1648. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the computers exported to Rus-

sia and the foreign exchange earned from it during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of the major exporters;

(c) whether the Government have permitted any Indian company to carry out its business from Russia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The details of computers exported to Russia and foreign exchange earned from it during each of the last three years are as under:-

Year	(Value Rs. lakhs)
1994-95	3666.92
1995-96	1423.37
1996-97	22.97
1997-98	Not available

(Source : Electronics & Computer Software EPC)

(b) The major exporters of computers to Russia include Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, HCL, Infosystems Ltd., Modi Olivetti Ltd., PCL India (P) Ltd., etc.

(c) and (d) Government has given approval for setting up joint venture/wholly owned subsidiary in computer related activity in Russia to M/s. Computer Aided Learning Systems (P) Ltd. and KEI Systems (P) Ltd.

[English]

#### Janaki Raman Committee

1649. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the recommendations of the Janaki Raman Committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that necessary action has been taken by RBI for implementation of various recommendations of the Janaki Raman Committee which looked into securities transactions in banks and financial institutions. The steps taken by RBI include among others pre-

scription of adequate safeguards in ready forward transactions, streamlining the functioning of Public Debt Offices in RBI and the Portfolio Management Scheme operations of banks, strict enforcement of rules regarding use of Bank Receipts, issue of guidelines regarding inter-bank securities transactions, laying down norms by individual banks for dealing with approved brokers and review of internal control systems in banks.

#### Asian Financial Crisis Impact on Tourism

1650. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian financial crisis had its impact on tourism activities world-wide with growth rate suffering a setback in 1997;

(b) if so, whether in 1996 there was an increase of 5.5% in international tourism;

(c) if so, whether in 1997-98 there was a great setback in the growth rate;

(d) to what extent it affected the Indian tourism industry; and

(e) the steps being considered by the Government to improve the tourists arrival during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) to (d) According to WTO, there was much smaller growth 2.8% in international tourist arrivals during 1997 worldwide in comparison to the growth of 5.6% in international tourist arrivals during 1996 due to the financial crisis in Asia. The tourism receipts during 1997 also showed a declining trend. The growth of international tourism receipts reduced from 8.1% in 1996 to 2.2% during 1997. According to the WTO forecast, this setback will influence tourism worldwide over at least the next three years. The tourist arrivals in India also recorded a lower growth of 3.8% in 1997 as compared to 7.7% in 1996 due to various reasons including Asian financial crisis.

(e) Steps being taken to improve the tourist arrivals include improvement of infrastructural facilities, diversification of tourism products, strengthening of publicity efforts and sustained human resources development.

[Translation]

#### NTC Showrooms

1651. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are very few NTC Showrooms in each state as a result thereof textiles manufactured by NTC Mills are not sold wholly; and

(b) if so, the State-wise, number of NTC Showrooms opened so far and the action being taken by the Government to open more NTC Showrooms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) NTC has 361 showrooms located in different States as indicated in the enclosed Statement. Considering that the cloth of NTC is sold through other channels including dealers, wholesalers, sub-wholesalers, etc. and that NTC has been reducing its uneconomic weaving activities and there is cessation of activities due to shortage of working capital, the number of showrooms under NTC are considered adequate and there is no proposal to open any more showrooms.

#### Statement

##### Statewise List of Showrooms

State	No. of Showrooms
Andhra Pradesh	26
Karnataka	22
Kerala	18
Chandigarh (Union Territory)	2
Delhi	16
Haryana	8
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Punjab	5
Rajasthan	10
Gujarat	8
Daman & Diu (Union Territory)	1
Madhya Pradesh	10
Maharashtra	26
Tamil Nadu	62
Pondicherry (Union Territory)	1
Uttar Pradesh	46
Assam	3
Bihar	24
Meghalaya	1
Orissa	7
West Bengal	63
	<b>361</b>

[English]

### Handicraft Export Target Achievement

1652. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and achieved during the last three years in regard to handicraft export;

(b) the target fixed for the current year and target achieved so far;

(c) whether some important lesser known-craft in the international market like Zari work, Shawls, Cane and Bamboo-craft and Chiken Kari Craft needs special attention to boost export of handicrafts;

(d) if so, whether the Government have asked Handicraft Commissioner to prepare strategy to boost the export of this craft; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The target fixed and achieved during the last three years on export of handicrafts (including hand-knotted carpets) is as under :-

(Rs. in crores)			
S.No.	Year	Target	Achieved
1.	1995-96	4850.00	4980.15
2.	1996-97	5660.00	5682.62
3.	1997-98	6500.00	6457.69 (Provisional)

(b) A target of Rs. 7776.00 crores has been fixed for the export of handicrafts (including handknotted carpets) during the current financial year i.e. 1998-99. The achievement during the month of April 1998 has been to the tune of Rs. 514.55 crores.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. In consultation with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, Development Commissioner for Handicrafts has initiated action to promote some lesser known crafts through measures like seminars/workshops, training and marketing programmes etc.

### Boosting Export

1653. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's policy for boosting export sector has been greatly opposed by the small exporters;

(b) if so, whether the small exporters have pointed out that the Reserve Bank of India has turned down the long pending demands of the Exporters;

(c) if so, whether the new credit policy measures would boost large corporations and tripple A rated companies but the policy is a complete let down for small medium sized exporters who contribute direct exports of nearly 40%;

(d) if so, whether the Government has considered the views of the small exporters; and

(e) if so, to what extent their demands are being considered?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no discrimination for small or large exporters in the credit policy dated 29th April 1998 announced by Reserve Bank of India.

(d) and (e) In the recently announced Export Import Policy, the Government has addressed the long standing demand of the small and medium exporters such as simplifying and expanding the scope of Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme. The threshold limit has now been reduced from Rs. 20 crores/Rs. 5 crores to Rs. 1 crore. Further the private bonded warehouse scheme has been initiated to facilitate supply of imported raw materials to exporters importing raw materials in small quantities. In addition, a number of issues relating to credit needs of small scale sector has been addressed in the budget for the current financial year. Policy review is a continuous process and is based on inter-action with trade and industry associations.

[Translation]

### Development of Coal Mines

1654. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop some coal mines with World Bank loan;

(b) if so, the number of coal mines identified for the development; and

(c) the amount of World Bank loan expected to be obtained for the development of those coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project of Coal India Limited comprising of 24 projects in five of its coal

producing subsidiaries namely, Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL), South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) envisages investment of US \$ 1697.06 million as per the financing plan indicated below :-

(in US & million)	
Source of finance	Total cost
IBRD	530.00
IDA Credit	2.00
JEXIM	530.00
Coal India Limited	581.06
Suppliers' credit	54.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1697.06</b>

The above investment will be utilised to meet the requirement of equipment for expansion programmes, replacement of existing equipment to sustain production, providing equipment to mines under development to reach target production etc. in the above 24 coal projects. The IDA Credit of US \$ 2 million will be utilised for a study of regulatory reforms in coal sector of India.

[English]

#### Export from Andhra Pradesh

1655. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items that are mainly exported to other Countries from Andhra Pradesh during each of the last two years; and

(b) the amount of Foreign Exchange earned for the Country through export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Export data is maintained for the country as a whole and not, State-wise. However broad categories of commodities exported from Andhra Pradesh for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 are agriculture and agro-based products, forest products, leather and leather products, animal and marine products, mineral and mineral products, handlooms and textiles including yarn, handicrafts, drug, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and allied products, engineering items and electronics items, computer software. As per the preliminary estimates of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, exports in 1996-97 were of approximate Rs. 6700 crores.

#### Investment by LIC

1656. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the business transacted by the Life Insurance Corporation of India during each of the last three years;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the LIC on administration i.e. salaries, rents, office expenses, separately, during the above period; and

(c) the amount invested by the LIC so far outside the Corporation and annual income earned therefrom during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) The information is given in the Statement-I, II and III.

#### Statement - I

*New Business Transacted by LIC during the last three financial years for which the accounts have been finalised are as under*

(i) *Individual Assurances :*

Year	Policies (Nos. In lacs)	Sum Assured (Rs. in Crs.)	Annual Prem. Income (Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	122.81	56993.94	3360.78
1995-96	110.34	52071.53	2829.26
1994-95	108.88	55468.82	2548.83



(ii) *Individual Annuities :*

Year	Policies (nos. in lacs)	Annuity per Annum (Rs. in Crores)	Annual Prem. Income (Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	1.82	647.27	144.94
1995-96	0.11	10.80	1.83
1994-95	0.11	9.62	3.49

(iii) *Group Insurance :*

Year	No. of Schemes	New Schemes No. of Members (in lakhs)	Sum Assured (Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	8381	18.89	3237.59
1995-96	9078	11.77	2657.22
1994-95	6772	10.49	2773.06

(iv) *Group Superannuation Scheme :*

Year	No. of Schemes	No. of Members	Annuity per Annum (Rs. in Crores)
1996-97	373	125272	78.42
1995-96	353	75692	49.34
1994-95	328	31299	14.85

**Statement -II**

*The Expenses of Management by the LIC are as under*

	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95
	(Amount in Crores of Rupees)		
1	2	3	4
(i) Commission etc. to Agents	1450	1201	1064
(ii) Salaries etc. to employees	1628	1396	1072

	1	2	3	4
(iii) Other Management Expenses		425	351	330
Total		3504	2948	2466

Other Expenses of the Management (C) above include Rent, Office Expenses, such as Telephone Charges, Electricity Charges, Postage and Telegrams, Printing and Stationery, Advertisement and Publicity Expenses etc.

**Statement-III**

*Investment made by LIC at the end of the last three years and Investment Income are as follows*

		(Rupees in Crores)		
Category		As on 31.3.1997	As on 31.3.1996	As on 31.3.1995
1		2	3	4
(i) <i>Govt. Securities</i>				
i) Central Govt. (Incl. N.H.B.)		38291.75	30300.75	24037.99
ii) State Govt.		5860.73	4600.92	3665.48
iii) K.V.P		142.50	142.50	142.50
iv) Special Deposit		2140.41	1970.41	1839.41
v) Other Govt. Guaranteed Market Securities		3818.90	3760.42	3644.38

1	2	3	4
(ii) <i>Socially Oriented Sector</i>	12139.93	10810.55	9516.39
(iii) <i>Corporate Sector</i>			
i) <i>Debentures</i>	7086.45	5200.28	3685.58
ii) <i>Preference Shares</i>	15.45	15.55	19.04
iii) <i>Equity Shares</i>	4739.59	4113.53	3173.84
iv) <i>Special Unit (M.F.)</i>	—	—	—
v) <i>Term Loans</i>	3178.62	2782.33	2552.92
vi) <i>Short/Mid Term Loans</i>	456.61	335.53	159.52
(iv) <i>Other Investments (including Policy Loans)</i>	4794.23	4242.83	3745.39
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>82665.17</b>	<b>68275.60</b>	<b>56182.44</b>
<b>Investment Income of the Corporation</b>	<b>9396</b>	<b>7713</b>	<b>6336</b>

**Withdrawal From In International  
Jute Organisation**

1657. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that India should pull out from International Jute Organisation;

(b) if so, the reasons, therefor;

(c) whether Government's decision has been adversely commented by various interests representing jute industry in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to review their decision to continue the membership of international Jute Organisation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India has given notice for its withdrawal from International Jute Organisation (IJO), in April, 1998.

The step was taken as no consensus could be reached amongst IJO members for election of Indian candidate for the post of Executive Directors, IJO, following pressure from the importing countries to get their candidates elected to the post. Moreover, it was felt that IJO has of late failed to live up to its main objectives and India as a major jute growing country stands to gain more from its own diversification and R & D Programme than from IJO.

(c) and (d) The Government has not received any representations from Jute Industry commenting adversely on the decision.

(e) and (f) The Government can review its decision to withdraw from International Jute Organisation if there is a change in the stand of other member countries within the notice period of 90 days in favour of India's candidate for the post of Executive Director, IJO. However no such proposal is at present under consideration of the Government.

**Conversion of Outstanding Rupee Debt  
into Hard Currency**

1658. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Two Member Inter Counting Panel to look into the issue of converting India's outstanding rupee debt into hard currency loan;

(b) if so, whether the Panel has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Panel;

(d) the present status of decision taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government have received some proposals in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Panel thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise;

(e) and (f) A proposal was made by the Russian Government suggesting consultations be held to work out a revised basis for repayment of state credits granted by the former USSR and the Russian Federation on a mutually acceptable basis. However the question of reaction of an Indo-Russian Panel thereto does not arise in view of (a).

#### Money Generated Through Disinvestment

1659. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have targetted to generate Rs. 7000 crores through disinvestment of its stake in various undertakings during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details of disinvestments effected and the amount of money generated thereby; and

(c) the reasons for the shortfalls?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of (approximately) Rs. 910 crores was realised during 1997-98 through disinvestment of 40 million shares in MTNL.

(c) Disinvestment as planned during 1997-98 could not be undertaken due to highly volatile and adverse market conditions.

#### Cotton Yarn Export Policy

1660. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have effected major policy changes during 1997-98 for manufacturing as well as export of cotton yarn;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of State-wise quota of yarn released for export purposes vis-a-vis actual exports made in terms of volume and export earnings;

(d) the new changes envisaged by the new Government regarding export of yarn during 1998-99; and

(e) the details of reaction of cotton producing States to the proposed changes in cotton yarn export policy?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) In December '97, Government have announced policy and procedures to enable 100% EOUs producing cotton yarn to plan timely imports of cotton wherever necessary to meet the export obliga-

tions. Accordingly, the Letters of Permission for setting up 100% EOUs for manufacture of cotton yarn of 40 counts and below are being issued subject inter-alia to the following condition:-

"The extent of domestic cotton, which will be permitted to be used for the project, shall be determined separately on annual basis depending upon the availability. For rest of the requirements, imported cotton shall be used".

There is, however, no change in the policy of allowing exports of cotton yarn of 40 counts and below within the annual quantitative ceiling limits, fixed on a calendar year basis.

(c) The quota (i.e. the ceiling) is fixed annually for allowing exports of cotton yarn from the country as a whole and not released State-wise. Hence, the question of monitoring the exports State-wise also does not arise.

(d) At present, the Government is not considering any major changes in the policy for manufacturing and export of cotton yarn.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

#### Import of Consumer Items

1661. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently liberalised the import of various consumer items;

(b) if so, the details of these consumer items and reasons for import; and

(c) the impact of this liberalised policy on promoting Swadeshi Cult and its likely effect on domestic workers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Of the 340 items shifted from the Restricted list to the Free list of imports, a large number would fall in the category of consumer items. Details are shown in the enclosed Statement.

The Quantitative Restrictions have to be gradually phased out by the year 2003 as per the Agreements entered into with the trading partners.

The Customs duty on such imports provides sufficient safeguards to the domestic industry and the workers employed therein.

**Statement**

(To be Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary)

Part II, Section 3, Sub-Section (ii)

Government of India  
Ministry of CommerceNotification No. 3 (RE-98)/97-02  
New Delhi : Dated the 13th April, 1998

S.O. (E)-In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (No. 22 of 1992) read with paragraph 4.1 of Export and Import Policy, 1997-2002, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import items, 1997-2002 published on 31st March, 1997 and as amended from time to time. In respect of following Exim Code Nos., policy indicated in columns 3, 4 and 5 shall be amended to read as under.

Exim Code	Item Description	Policy	Conditions relating to the Policy	Import under SIL/Public Notice
1	2	3	4	5
03061301	Shrimp (scampi) macrobactlum frozen	Free		
03061302	AFD shirmp frozen	Free		
03061303	Prawns frozen	Free		
03061400	Crabs	Free		
03061900	Other, including flours, meals and pellets or crustaceans, fit for human consumption	Free		
03062900	Other, including flours, meals and pellets of crustaceans, fit for human consumption	Free		
03071000	Oysters	Free		
03072100	Live, fresh or chilled	Free		
03072900	Other	Free		
03073901	Clams-clam meat (bivlvs-victoriaia spp. etc.)	Free		
03073909	Other mussels excluding fresh or chilled	Free		
03074101	Cuttle fish, live, fresh or chilled	Free		
03074109	Others (including squid, fresh)	Free		
03074901	Squid tubes frozen	Free		
03074902	Whole squids frozen	Free		
03074903	Dried squids	Free		
03074909	Other squids	Free		
03075900	Other	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
03076000	Snails, other than sea snails	Free		
03079100	Live, fresh or chilled	Free		
03079909	Others	Free		
06031000	Fresh	Free		
06039000	Other	Free		
06041000	Mosses and lichens	Free		
06049100	Fresh	Free		
06049900	Other	Free		
07099004	Green pepper	Free		
07111000	Onions	Free		
07112000	Olives	Free		
07113000	Capers	Free		
07114000	Cucumbers and gherkins	Free		
07119001	Green pepper in brine	Free		
07119002	Assorted canned vegetables	Free		
07119009	Vegetables provisionally preserved in brine/in sulphur water/other preservative solution but unsuitable for immediate consumption	Free		
07123001	Mushrooms (inclusive morels)	Free		
07123002	Truffles dried	Free		
07129001	Asparagus dried	Free		
07129005	Marjoram, oregano	Free		
07129009	Others, dried	Free		
07141000	Manioc (cassava)	Free		
07149001	Sago pith	Free		
08012100	In shell	Free		
08012200	Shelled	Free		
08029009	Others	Free		
08105000	Kiwifruit	Free		
13019031	Balsam of Tolu/Peru/Copalba/Gurjan	Free		
13021400	Of pyrethrum or of the roots of plants containing rotenone	Deleted		
15156000	Jjoba oil and its fractions	Free		
15159002	Chul moogra oil	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
15159003	Mowra oil	Free		
15159004	Kokam oil	Free		
15159013	Chillies/capsicum oil	Free		
15159014	Turmeric oil	Free		
15159016	Ajwan seed oil	Free		
15159017	Garlic oil	Free		
170220 00.90	Other	Free		
17049001	Sweetmeat	Free		
19022000	Stuffed Pasta, whether or not cooked or otherwise prepared	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence(SIL)
19023000	Other Pasta	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence(SIL)
19041002	Pawa, mudi etc.	Free		
19053001	Communion wafers sealing wafers etc.	Free		
20083009	Other citrus fruits prepared or preserved	Free		
20084000	Pears prepared or preserved	Free		
20085000	Apricots	Free		
20086000	Cherries	Free		
20087000	Peaches	Free		
20088000	Strawberries	Free		
20089912	Grapes, prepared or preserved	Free		
20089913	Apples, prepared or preserved	Free		
20089914	Guava, prepared or preserved	Free		
20089919	Other fruits, prepared or preserved	Free		
20091100	Frozen	Free		
20091900	Other	Free		
20097000	Apple juice	Free		
20098001	Mango juice	Free		
21069004	Compound preparations for making beverages (non-alcoholic)	Free		
22011000	Mineral waters and aerated waters	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
22019009	Other waters (including natural water)	Free		
22021001	Lemonade	Free		
22021009	Other than lemonade	Free		
220290 00.10	Diabetic beverages including Diabetic Syrup	Free		
29173905	Trimellitic Anhydride	Free		
29173906	ISOPOR ATLC Acid	Free		
<i>The Items against Exim CODES 31039000 and 31049000 shall be under State Trading The Canalising agency, MMTC of India Ltd., shall follow the normal commercial practice in regard to import of these items.</i>				
32081002	Nitrocellulose lacquers	Free		
32081009	Others	Free		
32082002	Varnishes	Free		
32082003	Natural resin enamels	Free		
32082009	Other paint varnish based on acrylic/vinyl polymer	Free		
32089002	Synthetic enamel, ultra white paints	Free		
32089003	Synthetic enamel, other colours	Free		
32089009	Other paints, varnishes (including enamel & lacquer)	Free		
32091001	Plastic emulsion paints, all types	Free		
32091009	Other paints based on acrylic/vinyl polymer	Free		
32099001	Dispersion paints	Free		
32099002	Emulsion, paints, nes	Free		
32141000	Glaziers, putty, grafting putty, resin cements, caulking compounds and other mastics; painters' fillings	Free		
32149001	Non-refractory surfacing preparation for facades etc.	Free		
32149002	Adhesive cement	Free		
<i>The Exim Code 33013002 and 33013003 are replaced by new codes 33013000 and 33013001 respectively</i>				
33012927	Sandal wood oil in bulk form	Free		
33012944	Agar Oil	Free		
33012945	Resinoids	Free		
33013000	Resinoids	Deleted		
33013001	Agar oil	Deleted		
33019019	Aqueous distillates of natural perfumes	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
33049904	Sindur, bindi, kumkum	Free		
33049905	Turmeric preparation oil types	Free		
33052000	Preparations for permanent waving of straightening	Free		
33071001	Shaving cream	Free		
33079001	Depilatories (soap, other hair removing substances)	Free		
33079009	Others	Free		
34011101	Medicated soaps	Free		
34011103	Toilet soaps other than dental soaps	Free		
340290 01.10	Washing preparations (including auxiliary washig preparations) and cleaning preparations, having a basis of soap or other organic surface-active agents	Free		
340290 01.20	Cleaning or degreasing preparations not having basis of soap or other organic surface-active agents of a kind classified as consumer goods	Free		
340510 00.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
340510 00.20	In consumer packs	Free		
340520 00.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
340530 00.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
340540 00.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
<del>340590</del> 01.10	<del>Of a type classified as consumer goods</del>	<del>Free</del>		
340590 09.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
381900 01.10	Brake fluids upto 20 lts in consumer packs	Free		
38190009	Others	Free		
39181000	Of polymers of vinyl chloride	Free		
39189001	Floor coverings of linoxyn	Free		
39189009	Floor covering etc of others	Free		
39229000	Other	Free		



1	2	3	4	5
39251000	Reservoirs, tanks, vats and similar containers, of a capacity exceeding 300 ltrs	Free		
39252000	Doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors			
39253000	Shutters, blinds (including Venetian blinds) and similar articles and parts thereof	Free		
39259000	Other	Free		
39261001	Plastic sticker whether or not printed embossed/impregnated	Free		
39263001	Cellulose adhesive tapes	Free		
39263009	Others	Free		
40169200	Erasers	Free		
40169903	Rubber bands	Free		
42022909	Others	Free		
42023909	Others	Free		
42029900	Other	Free		
45041001	Sheets	Free		
45041002	Slabs	Free		
45041009	Others	Free		
46011000	Plaits and similar products of painting materials, whether or not assembled into strips	Free		
480260 09.90	Other	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
48091001	Manifold paper	Free		
480910 09.10	Thermal paper for fax machines	Free		
480910 09.90	Other	Free		
<i>The entries at Column No. 3 against heading 48.11 and Exim Code 48111000 shall be deleted.</i>				
48112109	Other self adhesive paper and paperboard	Free		
48112900	Other	Free		
48113100	Bleached, weighing more than 150 g/sq. m.	Free		
48113901	Surface decorated plastic laminated paper	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
481139 09.90	Others	Free		
48114001	Waxed paper (including waxed manifold paper)	Free		
48114009	Others	Free		
48119001	Hand made paper and paperbord rules lined or squared but not otherwise printed	Free		
48119003	Building board of paper of pulp impregnated	Free		
48119005	Paper impregnated with chemicals or insecticides (eg. litmus/DDT coated paper paper)	Free		
48119006	Raw base paper for sensitising coated	Free		
48119007	Surface marbled paper	Free		
48161000	Carbon or similar copying papers	Free		
48162001	Duplicating papercut to size	Free		
48163000	Duplicator stencils	Free		
490700 00.20	All documents of title for use of software issued by software company	Free		
580410.00	Tulles and other net fabrics	Free		
58042100	Of man-made fibres	Free		
58042900	Of other textile materials	Free		
58043000	Hand-made lace	Free		
58061000	Woven pile fabrics (including terry towelling and similar terry fabrics) and chenille fabrics	Free		
580620 00.90	Others	Free		
58063100	Of cotton	Free		
58063900	Of other textile materials	Free		
58064000	Fabrics consisting of wrap without weft assembled by means of an adhesive (bolducs)	Free		
580810 00.90	Other	Free		
58101000	Embroidery without visible ground including Fusible Embroidery motiff	Free		
58109100	Of cotton	Free		
58109200	Of man-made fibres	Free		
58109900	Of other textile materials	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
630790 00.20	Umbrella cloth panels	Free		
65051000	Hair-nets	Free		
65069200	Of furskin	Free		
67041100	Complete wigs	Free		
67042009	Others	Free		
67049000	Of other materials	Free		
68010000	Setts, curbstones and flagstones of natural stone (except slate)	Free		
68022102	Marble monuments	Free		
68079002	Other articles of asphalt/of similar materials	Free		
68101101	Cement bricks	Free		
68109100	Prefabricated structural components for building or civil engineering	Free		
69010002	Blocks	Free		
69041000	Building bricks	Free		
69059000	Other	Free		
69071000	Tiles, cubes, and similar articles, whether or not rectangular, the largest surface area of which is capable of being enclosed in a square the side of which is less than 7 cm.	Free		
70101000	Ampoules	Free		
70109200	Exceeding 0.33 litre but not exceeding 1 litre except bottles	Free		
70109300	Exceeding 0.15 litre but not exceeding 0.33 litre except bottles	Free		
70109400	Not exceeding 0.15 litre except bottles	Free		
70179003	Other hygeinic glass-ware	Free		
710420 00.90	Synthetic or reworked precious or semi-precious stones other than synthetic ruby, unworked or simply sawn or roughly shaped	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
71049000	Other	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
71171100	Cuff-links and studs	Free		
73090003	Pressed steel tanks	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
'73090004	Pressure vessels	Free		
73090009	Reservoirs, tanks, vats, etc. of iron/steel n.e.s.	Free		
'73130002	Twisted hoop/single flat wire barbed or not & loosely twisted double wire used for fencing	Free		
'73141200	Endless bands for machinery of stainless steel	Free		
'73141300	Other endless bands for machinery	Free		
'73141909	Others	Free		
'73144200	Coated with plastics	Free		
'73144900	Other	Free		
'73239401	Ghamelias	Free		
'74170001	Oil pressure stove	Free		
'74170009	Others stoves	Free		
'74170019	All other cooking & heating apparatus	Free		
'74170021	Burners of stove	Free		
'74170029	Other parts of stove	Free		
'74181100	Pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like	Free		
'741991 00.10	Other articles of copper, cast, moulded, stamped or forged, but not further worked, of a kind classified as consumer goods	Free		
'741999 01.90	Other	Free		
'76101000	Doors, windows and their frames and th resholds for doors	Free		
'76109001	Finished structure	Free		
'76121000	Collapsible tubular containers	Free		
82021002	Wood working & similar hand saw, all type	Free		
82029103	Hack saw frames	Free		
82029900	Other	Free		
82031000	Files, rasps and similar tools	Free		
82034001	Perforating punches & pipe cutters	Free		
82034009	Others	Free		
82042000	Interchangeable spanner sockets, with or without handles	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
82051000	Drilling, threading or tapping tools	Free		
82055902	Metal working hand tools	Free		
82055903	Hand tools for specified uses, such as, watch making tools, goldsmith tools	Free		
82055909	Other	Free		
82056000	Blow lamps	Free		
82057000	Vices, clamps and the like	Free		
82058001	Anvils & portable forges	Free		
82058002	Grinding wheels with frameworks hand/pedal operated	Free		
82100000	Hand-operated mechanical appliances, weighing 10 kg. or less used, in the preparation, conditioning or serving of food or drink	Free		
82119500	Handles of base metal	Free		
82121001	Twin type shaving system	Free		
82121009	Other razors	Free		
82122001	Safety razor blades	Free		
82122002	Safety razor blade blanks in strips	Free		
82122003	Disposable cartridge blade	Free		
82149001	Handles of cutlery of base metal	Free		
83013000	Locks of a kind used for furniture	Free		
83030000	Armour or reinforced safes, strongboxes and doors and safe deposit lockers for strong-rooms, cash or deed boxes and the like, of base metal	Free		
830890 03.90	Other	Free		
83099001	Aluminium caps, seals capsules & closures	Free		
83099002	Seals of all kind (including mechanical seals)	Free		
83099009	Others	Free		
84142000	Hand of foot operated air pumps	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
84191101	Non-electrical (domestic type)	Free		
84191901	Non-electrical (domestic type)	Free		
84244000	Bonpet fire extinguisher	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
84471101	Hand-knitting machines for wool	Free		
84471201	Hand knitting machines for wool	Free		
84471219	Knitting machines, n.e.s.	Free		
844720 01.10	Flat knitting machines of the domestic type	Free		
844720 09.10	Flat knitting machines of the domestic type	Free		
844720 11.10	Flat knitting machines of the domestic type	Free		
844720 19.10	Flat knitting machines of the domestic type	Free		
84719007	VGA Monitor	Deleted		
84719008	CGA Monitor	Deleted		
84797000	Garbage Compactor	Free		
85044005	Electrical inverters having automatically controlled variable frequency and variable voltage	Free		
85068002	Nickel-cadmium, chargeable (pencil battery)	Free		
85072000	Other lead-acid accumulators	Free		
85073000	Nickel-cadmium	Free		
85074000	Nickel-iron	Free		
85075000	Lithium Iodine battery	Free		
85078000	Other accumulators	Free		
85093000	Kitchen waste disposers	Free		
85232004	CD Recordable	Free		
85249909.6	Stamper for CD Audio, CD Video & CD Rom	Free		
85254000	Video camera/Camcorders	Free		
853931 00.10	Compact fluorescent lamps	Free		
853931 00.20	Triphosphor energy efficient fluorescent lamps	Free		
853931 00.90	others	Free		
85399001	Parts of fluorescent tube lamps	Free		
87119001	Side cars	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
87161000	Trailers and semi-trailers of the caravan type, for housing or camping (non-motorised)	Free		
87162000	Self-loading or self unloading trailers and semi-trailers for agricultural purposes	Free		
87163100	Tanker trailers and tanker semi-trailers	Free		
87163900	Other	Free		
87164000	Other trailers and semi-trailers	Free		
87168001	Hand propelled vehicles (e.g. handcarts) rickshaws, etc.)	Free		
88040000	Parachutes (including dirigible parachutes and paragliders) and rotochutes; Parts thereof and accessories thereto	Free		
90019001	Optical calcite crystal	Free		
90031100	Of plastics	Free		
90031900	Of other materials	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
90328905	Voltage stabilizer (other than domestic type)	Free		

*The entry "Import of wrist watches above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)" against Exim Code 91.01 and 91.02 shall be deleted.*

91011100	With mechanical display only	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.
91011200	With opto-electronic display only	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.
91011900	Other	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.
91012100	With automatic winding	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.
91012900	Other	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.

1	2	3	4	5
91019101	Pocket watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
91019109	Other watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
91019901	Pocket watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
91019909	Other watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
91021100	With mechanical display only	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.	
91021200	With opto-electronic display only	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.	
91021900	other	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.	
91022100	With automatic winding	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.	
91022900	Other	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely.	
91029101	Pocket watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
91029109	Other watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)



1	2	3	4	5
91029901	Pocket watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
91029909	Other watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
91061000	Time-registers; Time recorders	Free		
91062000	Parking meters	Free		
91069000	Other	Free		
91099000	Other	Free		
94033001	Cabinetware	Free		
94033009	Others	Free		
94034000	Wooden furniture of a kind used in kitchen	Free		
94035001	Bed stead	Free		
94035009	Other wooden furniture used in bedroom	Free		
94036000	Other wooden furniture	Free		
94037000	Furniture of plastics	Free		
9404100	Matress supports	Free		
94042100	Of cellular rubber or plastics, whether or not covered	Free		
94042900	Of other materials	Free		
94043000	Sleeping bags	Free		
940600 09.10	Prefabricated housing material	Free		
95010001	Wheeled toys designed to be ridden etc.	Free		
95021001	Dolls of wood	Free		
95021002	Dolls of metal	Free		
95021003	Dolls of plastic	Free		
95021009	Others	Free		
95031000	Electric trains, including tracks, signals and other accessories therefor	Free		
950330 00.10	Educational games and functional/technical toys/models/kits.	Free		
950330 00.90	Other	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
95043001	Carrom board (whether or not with coins & strikers)	Free		
95044000	Playing cards	Free		
95049001	Chess set, all type	Free		
95049009	Others	Free		
95051000	Articles for Christmas festivities	Free		
95059001	Magical equipments	Free		
95059009	Others (carnival & entertainment articles etc.)	Free		
95066204	Football	Free		
95066205	Volley ball	Free		
95066206	Basket ball	Free		
95066209	Others	Free		
95066903	Rugby ball	Free		
95066904	Cricket ball	Free		
95066909	Others	Free		
95069901	Badminton shuttle cocks	Free		
95069903	Cricket requisites	Free		
95069904	Football requisites	Free		
95069905	Hockey sticks and blades	Free		
95069906	Polo sticks including blades, shafts & heads	Free		
95069907	Sports nets	Free		
95080000.10	Amusement park equipment	Free		
96039000	Other	Free		
9604000	Hand sieves and hand riddles	Free		
96089901	Pen holders & similar holders	Free		
96091000	Pencils and crayons, with leads encased in a rigid sheath	Free		
96099001	Slate pencils	Free		
96099009	Other pencils	Free		
96099011	Pasteis, drawing charcoals and writing or drawing chalks and tailors chalks	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
96110000	Date sealing or numbering stamps and the like (including devices for printing or embossing labels), designed for operating in the hand; Hand-operated composing sticks and hand printing sets incorporating such composing sticks.	Free		
97040000.10	Used postal stamp	Free		
97040000.20	Used or unused first day covers for philatelists	Free		
97040000.90	Others	Free		

This Issue in public Interest

Sd:

(N.L. Lakhnapal)

Director General of Foreign Trade  
and Ex-Officio  
Additional Secretary to the Government of India

Copy to all concerned :

By Orders etc..

Sd/-

(Ranjan Sudesh Ratna)

Deputy Director General of Foreign Trade

Issued from File No. IPC/4/5 (667)/97-02)

[Translation]

**Rubber Cultivation**

1662. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under rubber cultivation in each state in the north eastern areas:

(b) whether the Rubber Board had conducted any survey about the cultivation of rubber in the north eastern areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to develop the cultivation of locally available rubber and its processing in this area?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The total area under rubber cultivation in the different States of North-East at the end of 1997-98 is as under:

		(in hectare)
i)	Tripura	23,000
ii)	Assam	10,500

iii)	Meghalaya	4,400
iv)	Manipur	1,225
v)	Mizoram	950
vi)	Nagaland	1,200
vii)	Arunachal Pradesh	110
Total		41,385

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Rubber Board has conducted exploratory surveys in different States in the North Eastern Region to assess the extent of agro-climatically suitable land available for rubber cultivation. The areas suitable for rubber cultivation in that region, is estimated as under:

		(in hectare)
i)	Assam	2,00,000
ii)	Tripura	1,00,000
iii)	Meghalaya	
iv)	Nagaland	1,00,000

v)	Manipur	
vi)	Andhra Pradesh	} 50,000
vii)	Mizoram	
Total		4,50,000

(d) The Rubber Board has been assisting small growers to set up processing facilities by supplying rollers and other estate equipments at concessional rates, assisting construction of smoke houses by providing technical and financial assistance in addition to special assistance being given to tribal/SC groups for community processing. The Rubber Board also conducts Entrepreneur Development Programme and Training Classes and offers technical advice to local entrepreneurs to start rubber goods manufacturing units in this region.

[English]

#### Foreign Direct Investors

1663. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a comprehensive law to attract foreign investors;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the persistent demands of institutional financial investors; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Debt Recovery Tribunals

1664. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of debt recovery tribunals have not been satisfactory in the present legal system;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the RBI Act, Banking Regulation Act, Nationalisation of Sick Industrial Undertaking (Special Provision) Act and Bankers Book Evidence Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which these Acts are likely to be amended; and

(e) the other steps taken by Government to recover debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) The Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act) received assent of the President on 27th August, 1993 and was deemed to have come into force with effect from 24th June, 1993. The Act was declared unconstitutional and void by Delhi High Court in the matter of Delhi High Court Bar Association Vs. Union of India on 10th March 1995. The Government by then had set up five Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) at Calcutta, Delhi, Jaipur, Bangalore and Ahmedabad. Immediate steps were taken by the Government to move the Supreme Court by way of a Special Leave Petition (SLP) and the Hon'ble Court admitted the SLP and stayed the order of the Delhi High Court. Thereafter, vide its order dated 18th March 1996, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed that, notwithstanding any stay order passed in any of the writ petitions, the Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) established under the DRT Act shall resume their functions. The DRTs have started functioning in right earnest only after the said Supreme Court order. As on 31st December 1997, 1841 cases have been disposed of by them and an amount of Rs. 182.05 crores was recovered. The performance in respect of the number of cases settled and the quantum of amount recovered, though not significant, can be considered reasonable considering the initial problems such as arrangements of accommodation, selection of Prosiding Officers, recruitment/deputation of necessary officers and staff and provision of other necessary infrastructure.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently constituted a Working Group which is going into various problems associated with DRTs including legislative amendmens. The Working Group has not yet submitted its report. It is only after the recommendations have been received from the Working Group have been processed by the Government, that a decision will be taken whether there is any need for amending of any existing laws for making DRTs more effective.

(e) Government and RBI have been emphasizing upon Bank Managements the need for improving recovery of loans and reduce the level of NPAs. In this direction, RBI have already advised banks to have documents on Loan Policy and Loan Recovery Policy prepared and vetted by their Board of Directors. Recovery Cells have also been set up by each bank at its headquarters under the charge of a General Manager. Branch-wise targets for recoveries are

fixed. The recovery position is reviewed by Chairman and Managing Director and also by the Board of Directors on regular basis.

#### **Status of Tourism as a Industry**

1665. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tourism Industry have requested the Union Government to grant Industry status to this sector and bring it on par with the exporters by extending incentives to travel business units;

(b) If so, whether the Government are considering to take necessary steps in this regard;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) It has not been possible to grant Industry status to tourism by amending IDR Act as there is no manufacture or production of any of the articles mentioned in the First Schedule of the Act.

#### **Infrastructures Development of Kutch for Tourism**

1666. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government has submitted proposals for infrastructures development of Kutch District for promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, whether the Mandavi an unknown destination unexplored sea beach is an ideal place for youth tourists for sea border and infrastructure facilities;

(c) if so, whether the Government have gone through the Study Report submitted by the Gujarat Government in this regard; and

(d) If so, the time by which the projects are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : During the year 1997-98, the Govt. of Gujarat submitted proposals for providing tourist facilities at Dholavira and for the construction of a Tourist Reception Centre at Bhuj in Kutch District. Both these projects have been sanctioned.

(b) and (c) The Tourism Master Plan prepared by

the Gujarat Government has identified Mandavi as a beautiful beach for development.

(d) The Master Plan has to be implemented by the State Government. The Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance on the basis of specific project proposals and availability of funds.

#### **Disposal Land of NTC Mills**

1667. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have disposed of any land belonging to any NTC Mills as part of the revival/modernisation of these mills;

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

#### **Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra and National Productivity Council India, New Delhi etc.**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 398/98]

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear

- Training Institute, Agra, for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-399/98]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process cum product development Centre, Meerut, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.  
(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Process cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-400/98]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council India, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.  
(ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Productivity Council India, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-401/98]
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Indo German Tool Room, Ahmedabad, for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-402/98]
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Indo German Tool Room, Aurangabad, for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-403/98]
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Indo Danish Tool Room (IDTR), Jamshedpur for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-404/98]
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Indo German Tool Room, Indore for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-405/98]
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of Central Tools Room and Training Centre (CTTC), Calcutta for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-406/98]
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) Bhubaneshwar for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-407/98]
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Central Institute of Tool Design (CITD), Hyderabad for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-408/98]
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Central Tool Room (CTR), Ludhiana for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-409/98]
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Ramnagar for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-410/98]
- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts\* of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-411/98]
- (16) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-  
(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Cables Limited and the

Department of Heavy Industry Ministry of Industry for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-412/98]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Andrew Yule and Company Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-413/98]

- (17) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :-

- (i) S.O. 356(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 1998 notifying the M/s. Ellora paper Mills, Bhandara, as a Mill producing newsprint.
- (ii) S.O. 357(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 1998 notifying M/s. Rawal Papers Limited, Raibareli as a Mill producing newsprint.
- (iii) S.O. 358 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 1998 notifying the M/s. Shah Pulp and Paper Mills Limited, Valsad, as a Mill producing newsprint.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-414/98]

**Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, India for the year 1996-97 and Indian Diamond Institute, Surat for the year 1996-97**

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, India, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, India, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT-415/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond

Institute, Surat, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-416/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-417/98]

- (4) 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 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Mumbai for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-418/98]

**Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board Bangalore and Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai etc.**

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 706 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 1998 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 472 (E) dated the 30th July, 1997 relating to Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-419/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore for the year 1996-97.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts, (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.  
[Place in Library. See. No.LT-420/98]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai for the year 1996-97.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 421/98]
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited for the year 1996-97.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-422/98]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.  
[Placed in Library See No. LT-423/98]

**Exemption to the "The Maharashtra State Council for Child Welfare, Mumbai" under section 10(23c) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and Sarva Seva Sangh, Sevagram Maharashtra etc.**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : 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) S.O. No. 2542 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Sarva Seva Sangh, Sevagram, Maharashtra" under section 10 (23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Year 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. No. 2543 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Year 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. No. 2544 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Maharashtra State Council for Child Welfare, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Year 1989-90 subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) S.O. No. 2545 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Maharashtra State Council for Child Welfare, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Year 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (v) S.O. No. 2546 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "the Maharashtra State Council for Child Welfare, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.



- |        |  |        |   |
|--------|--|--------|---|
| (vi)   | S.O. No. 2547 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Sight Savers-Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions. | (xii)  | S.O. No. 2553 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Shri Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1991-92 to 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.                             |
| (vii)  | S.O. No. 2548 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Association of Physically Handicapped, Bangalore," under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.       | (xiii) | S.O. No. 2554 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Indian national Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions. |
| (viii) | S.O. No. 2549 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Ramakrishna Sarada Mission, Dakshineswar, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.        | (xiv)  | S.O. No. 2555 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Shri Ramachandra Mission, Shahjahanpur, U.P." under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.                        |
| (ix)   | S.O. No. 2550 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1994-95 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.               | (xv)   | S.O. No. 2556 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Raja Ram-mohan Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1994-95 to 1996-97 subject to certain conditions.                    |
| (x)    | S.O. No. 2551 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Bharat Scouts and Guides, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.                       | (xvi)  | S.O. No. 2557 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The India International Centre, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.                        |
| (xi)   | S.O. No. 2552 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Gurudev Siddha Peeth, Ganeshpuri, Maharashtra" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.             | (xvii) | S.O. No. 2558 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies (CASS), Pune" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.             |

- (xviii) S.O. No. 2559 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Maharashtra State Women's Council, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xix) S.O. No. 2560 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Pirojsha Godrej Foundation, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xx) S.O. No. 2561 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Bombay Humanitarian League, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) S.O. No. 2562 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Indore, (M.P.)" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxii) S.O. No. 2563 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Medical Research Foundation, Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiii) S.O. No. 2564 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiv) S.O. No. 2565 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "The Servants of India Society, Pune" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxv) S.O. No. 2566 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Swami Shukdevanand Trust, Rishikesh" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1989-90 to 1991-92 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvi) S.O. No. 2567 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Swami Sukhdevanand Trust, Rishikesh" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1992-93 to 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvii) S.O. No. 2568 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Delhi Council for Child Welfare Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxviii) S.O. No. 2569 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Sree Ramakrishna Satyananda Ashram, Jirakpur, West Bengal" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxix) S.O. No. 2570 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

- (xxx) S.O. No. 2571 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxi) S.O. No. 2572 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Sath Sampradya Samrakshani Sabha", Chennai under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxii) S.O. No. 2573 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Jnana Prabodhini Samshodhan Sanstha, Pune" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiii) S.O. No. 2574 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Sri Aurobindo Society, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiv) S.O. No. 2575 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Dakshineswar Ramakrishnasanga Adyapeeth Dakshineswar, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1998-99 to 2000-2001 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxv) S.O. No. 2576 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Krishnamurti Foundation India, Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvi) S.O. No. 2577 published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1997 regarding exemption to "Jnana Prabodhini (JP), Pune" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvii) The income-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 171(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1998.
- (xxxviii) The income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 390(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 1998.
- (xxxix) The income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 395(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1998.
- (xl) The income-tax (First Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 34(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 1998.
- (xli) The income-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 50(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 1998.
- (xlii) The income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. S.O. 102(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 1998.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-424/98]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions), under subsection (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act 1994:-
- (i) G.S.R. 165(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 44/98 Service tax, dated the 22nd January, 1998 so as to include the names of Diplomatic Missions of 9 more countries.
- (ii) G.S.R. 205(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 1998 toge-

ther with an explanatory memorandum exempting the taxable services provided to the United Nations

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 425/98]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-
- (i) G.S.R. 486(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying all goods of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 to which the provisions of the sub-section (2) of the said section shall apply.
  - (ii) G.S.R. 487 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum allowing forty per cent of the retail sale price as abatement in respect of goods of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.
  - (iii) G.S.R. 488 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying footwear as the goods to which the provisions of sub-section (2) of the said section shall apply.
  - (iv) G.S.R. 489 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide fifty per cent of the retail sale price as abatement for the purposes of determining the assessable value on which excise duty of footwear.
  - (v) G.S.R. 494(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 22/97-CE, dated the 29th April, 1997.
  - (vi) G.S.R. 495 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying aerated water as the goods to which the provisions of

subsection (2) of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 shall apply.

- (vii) G.S.R. 496(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum allowing fifty per cent of the retail sale price as abatement in respect of aerated water of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.
- (viii) G.S.R. 516 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain notifications mentioned therein.
- (ix) The Central Excise (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 517(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) G.S.R. 518(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 28/96-CE, dated the 31st August, 1996.
- (xi) G.S.R. 554 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying all goods as the goods to which the provisions of sub-section (2) of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 shall apply.
- (xii) G.S.R. 555(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to allow thirty per cent of the retail sale price as amount of abatement in respect of goods of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 556(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying all goods of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1995 as the goods to which the provisions of the said section shall apply.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 557(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1997

together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to allow thirty five per cent of the retail sale price as amount of abatement in respect of goods of the schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.

- (xv) The Central Excise (Eleventh Amendment) Rules 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 558 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-426/98]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R. 371(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/97-Cus. dated the 1st March, 1997.

- (ii) G.S.R. 452(E) and G.S.R. 473(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th and 20th August, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/97-Cus. dated the 1st March, 1997.

- (iii) G.S.R. 525(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 13/97-Cus. Dated the 1st March, 1997.

- (iv) G.S.R. 538(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96 Cus. dated the 23rd July, 1996.

- (v) G.S.R. 583 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 11/97-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-427/98]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 432(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India, dated the 30th July, 1997 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duties on acrylonitrile butadiene rubber when originating in or exported from Germany or Republic of Korea and imported into India under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT.428/98]

- (6) 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 Chairman (certain Terms and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 124(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1998.

- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India, The Managing Directors (revision of certain Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 1998, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 125 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1998, together with a corrigenda thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 156 (E) dated the 31st March, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-429/98]

- (7) A copy of the General Insurance (Nationalisation of Pay Scales and other conditions of Service of Officers) Amendment Scheme, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 168 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1998 under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation), Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-430/98]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1996:-

- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. F-2(11)

- Ins. III/97 in Gazette of India dated the 21st February, 1998.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. F.No. 81 (1)/Ins. II/97 in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 1998.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-431/98]
- (9) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions under article 151(1) of the Constitution:-
- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 1 of 1998) for the year ended the 31st March, 1997 (Civil) Accounts of the Union Government.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-432/98]
- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 2 of 1998) for the year ended the 31st March, 1997 (Civil) Transaction Audit Observations.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-433/98]
- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 5 of 1998) for the year ended the 31st March, 1997 (Scientific Departments).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-434/98]
- (10) A copy of the Union Government Finance Accounts for the year 1996-97 (Hindi and English versions).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-435/98]
- (11) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for the year 1996-97 (Hindi and English versions).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-436/98]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding review by the Government of the working of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-437/98]
- (14) A copy of the detailed Demands Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice President for the year 1998-99.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT-438/98]
- (15) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 714 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1997 specifying Industrially Backward Districts of the Country for availing the benefit of tax holiday, issued under section 80-IA of the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-439/98]
- Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited Kothagudem and Coal India Ltd. etc.**
- THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : 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) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library See. No. LT-440/98]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Coal India Limited for the year 1996-97.

- (li) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited (Volumes I and II) for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.  
[Placed In Library. See No. LT-441/98]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Coal Mines Family Pension and Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Reveiw (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Coal Mines Family Pension and Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Schemes for the year 1995-96.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-442/98]

**A copy of the Statement showing action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Ninth, to Eleventh Lok Sabha.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Naik, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy fo the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabha :-
- (1) Statement No. XLIII-Second Session 1990 Ninth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-443/98]
- (2) Statement No. XXXV-Third Session, 1992 Ninth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-444/98]
- (3) Statement No. XXXIII-Fourth Session, 1992 Ninth Lok Sabha

- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-445/98]
- (4) Statement No. XXVIII-Fifth Session, 1992 Ninth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-446/98]
- (5) Statement No. XXX-Sixth Session, 1993 Ninth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-447/98]
- (6) Statement No. XXVI-Seventh Session, 1993 Ninth Lok Sabha  
[Placed In Library. See No. LT-448/98]
- (7) Statement No. XXV-Eighth Session, 1993 Ninth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-449/98]
- (8) Statement No. XXIII-Ninth Session, 1994 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-450/98]
- (9) Statement No. XVIII-Eleventh Session, 1994 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-451/98]
- (10) Statement No. XVI-Twelfth Session, 1994 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-452/98]
- (11) Statement No. XIV-Thirteenth Session, 1995 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-453/98]
- (12) Statement No. XI-Fourteenth Session, 1995 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-454/98]
- (13) Statement No. IX-Fifteenth Session, 1995 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-455/98]
- (14) Statement No. VIII-Sixteenth Session, 1996 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed In Library. See No. LT-456/98]
- (15) Statement No. VI-Second Session, 1996 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-457/98]
- (16) Statement No. V-Third Session, 1996 Tenth Lok Sabha  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-458/98]

- (17) Statement No. IV-Fourth Session, 1997  
Eleventh Lok Sabha

[Placed in Library .See No. LT-459/98]

- (18) Statement No. II Fifth Session, 1997  
Eleventh Lok Sabha

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-460/98]

- (19) Statement No. II-Sixth Session, 1997  
Eleventh Lok Sabha

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-461/98]

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I am on a point of order. Eight years back, in the year 1990, an assurance was given about this statement and that is being laid on the Table of the House today. The rule is that once an assurance is given to the floor of the House, that has to be implemented within three months from the date the assurance is given.

MR SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharai, in what regard you are speaking ?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They have taken eight years to implement this particular assurance.

PROF. RITA VERMA (DHANBAD) : Earlier, it was your Government.

*(Interruptions)*

#### **Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of the Nepa Limited**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Nepa Limited for year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Nepa Limited for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed In Library. See No. LT-483/98]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1998.

[Placed In Library. See No. LT-484/98]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry for the year 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-485/98]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Industry, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-486/98]

**12.04 Hrs.**

#### **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 8th June, 1998 will consist of :-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bills replacing these Ordinances, as passed by Rajya Sabha :-
  - (a) The Representation of the People ( Amendment) Ordinance, 1998.
  - (b) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998.
3. General Discussion on General Budget for 1998-99.
4. Discussion and Voting on Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1995-96.
5. Consideration and passing of the Chemical Weapons Convention Bill, 1998, as passed by Rajya Sabha.



12.05 hrs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION UNDER RULE 357

SHRI JAG MOHAN (NEW DELHI) : Sir, while speaking in the House on May 29, 1998, on recent nuclear test in Pokhran, Shri I.K. Gujral made following observations about me :

"If Jag Mohan is your advisor, then God help you because then Kashmir will go to the United Nations and then you will have to go to New York. It will not stay in this sub-continent."

This part of his speech was published prominently in some newspapers including *The Indian Express* in the box item.

On May 31, 1998, I wrote to Shri I.K. Gujral saying, *inter alia*, as under :

" I cannot understand what made you say what I have quoted above. There is not even a shred of evidence to support your contention. May be, you said it in the heat of the moment. If so, kindly withdraw your observation, in a day or so, in the House. In case you do not agree to this suggestion, I would request you to kindly indicate to me the evidence on which you have based your observations."

You had, Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly called me to speak on this on June 3, 1998. I had requested you to kindly defer this for a day or so because I was still awaiting Shri Gujral's reply. Last night, I received Shri Gujral's reply which I would like to read. It reads :

My dear Jagmohan Jee,

Since I was travelling to Punjab and Tamil Nadu, I have seen your letter of 31st May, just now.

I have not seen the Indian Express in which my speech was published, but obviously this is out of context.

As you know, I have high regards for you and respect for your intellect and knowledge. My remarks in the speech were in the spirit of parliamentary lighthearted reports and not meant in any way to hurt you. I deeply regret if I have in any way embarrassed you.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely...

In view of this kind letter for which I am very

grateful to him, I do not wish to pursue the matter any further and treat it as closed.

12.06 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS  
1995-96-GENERAL\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1995-96.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mallikarjuniah.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : What about Submissions, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : We will take it up, Mr. Chavan.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is present. We would like to convey our views to him before he leaves ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a magazine has published a detailed article titled Ayodhya bomb. Our colleague, Shri Banatwalla raised a question yesterday... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : Please allow the members to speak only on their turn. We have also given our names for making submission and for the zero hour. Let the members speak by turn ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Goel, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : If the Hon'ble Minister is going to reply, I have no objection ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of our colleagues, Shri Banatwalla raised a question yesterday...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mallikarjuniah will speak now.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (TUMKUR) : Sir, an overbridge is required to be constructed on the railway track running between Someshwar Extension and Channanjappa Hostel in Tumkur, Karnataka. If the said bridge near Channanjappa Hostel is constructed, the two gates of 500 ft on the left side and 500 ft on right side can be removed. The gates lead to the residential extension where more than 25,000 people reside. Massive traffic jams can be seen at these gates when they are closed. Construction of an overbridge at this place is a necessity. I request the Government to look into this and have an overbridge constructed there. ....*(Interruption)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, he is reading out his statement.

[Translation]

Matter under rule 377 are not being taken up right now. This is the zero hour.

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH): Sir, he was the Deputy Speaker in this House. He should know the rules.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : I know that there is a prohibition on reading out statements during 'Zero Hour'. But I only wanted to save the time of house. I can also speak.

A track is running across Someshwar Extension. A population of 50,000 is residing in this area. A number of schools is located in this area. Therefore, construction of an over-bridge is absolutely essential in this area. Two railway gates have to be opened because everyday a large number of trains run on this track. I would request the Government to look into the matter and to see that an over-bridge is constructed in this area. .... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our friend Shri Banatwalla raised a question in the House that a nation wide debate is going on and we said so the day this government announced its national agenda. Hon'ble Mr. Prime Minister spoke from this bench and Shri Advani also spoke. There were contradictions in the language used by the two leaders. Shri Advani had stated openly that they have not forgotten all those issues. Later on, it appeared in the newspapers as well. We said so the same day that there is a hidden agenda in this national agenda. Now the magazine 'Week' has written about your entire plan and brought it out in the open that you are making preparations for construction of the temple. The VHP President, Shri Singhal has given a statement that it is proposed to construct the temple at the same site with in two years. This statement is giving rise to speculation throughout the country. The Minister of Home Affairs is present in the House today, hence he should tell the country very clearly as to whether you'll wait for the judgement of the court or not and whether you'll honour the verdict of the court or not. You are making preparations as per your hidden agenda. Do you propose to construct the temple using the V.H.P. and the sages as a shield? You should make it clear to us and you should not keep the country in dark. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should clarify the position in the statement he is going to make today. As 320 pillars are being made. All the measurements are given very clearly in the magazine 'week' that there is a requirement for coverage of one lakh and seventy five thousand cubic feet and material for the coverage of forty thousand cubic feet is ready. The rest of the work is proposed to be completed in the next two years. If such preparations are being made, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should tell the countrymen...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to speak on the same subject?

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (BIKANER) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Khurana had stated in the House very clearly with regard to the construction of the temple that there is no such proposal, however it is hard to believe in view of the past history. Hence hon'ble Shri Advani should clarify the position and assure the House .... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir, I will take one minute.

The matter which has been raised is very important. The detailed account that has been published in a responsible journal calls for an immediate intervention by the Government. Government have to make the position clear because one of the important religious functionaries, Mahant Nitya Gopal Das, has said that Ram will not wait for the BJP. We want to know whether the Government will wait for the temple or not because on an earlier occasion, even the assurance and the undertaking given to the Supreme Court was not kept. The same political personage is again occupying the important position of Chief Ministership of Uttar Pradesh now, during whose regime, according to us, the shameful incident had happened. We want a very categorical reply from the Home Minister, specially, when his party is in power in Uttar Pradesh. Would the Government give an undertaking to the House and through the House to the nation that nothing like this - as has been stated here - is being done or proposed to be done? What is the response of the Government to it?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (HAJIPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Paswan to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the way. If you keep on giving them a chance, it will be unfair. A chance should be given to the members from our side as well. A large number of muslim brethren are living in my constituency. I would like to convey their sentiments to the House. Please also give me time to speak ..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Goel, please sit down. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Goel, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : This is the zero hour. There is no point of order in the zero hour. Kindly sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on one hand, the country is passing through the period of financial crunch and grappling with the basic problems and on the other hand, the government are drawing the attention of the people of the country deliberately towards the nuclear tests and construction of Rama temple so that attention may be diverted from the basic problems facing the country .... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Do you oppose it ?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Yes, we oppose both the nuclear tests as well as the construction of Rama temple.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anand Maurya, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anand Maurya, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You have no face to oppose because you have been reduced from 100 members to 2...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are national interests, political interests as well as personal interests. If it is a question of national interests, we are ready to lend our support in each and every way, however, if political or personal interests are floated and termed as national interests, we'll oppose it at every level, be it the issue of nuclear tests or the construction of Ram temple. We would like to submit that all this is being done keeping in view the political interests.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request respected Minister of Home Affairs to make it clear to the countrymen as to what is proposed to be done and whether you'll

accept the verdict of the court or not. We have heard such statements many times that they are not afraid of impeachment by the court, rather they fear the wrath of God. If you had read it properly, such a statement would not have been made. Would you follow the rule of law or the construction of temple is your rule of law? This House is the supreme body. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should kindly make it clear in the House as to whether a conspiracy is going on to construct the Rama temple and it is being constructed elsewhere and it is proposed to make an announcement in this regard during elections?

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DAR-BHANGA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the issue raised by Shri Rajesh Pilot here. The Rashtriya Janata Dal is of the view that in the country ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA) : Which Janata Dal?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Rashtriya Janata Dal, i.e. the Janata Dal formed by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav whose mention makes you nervous. You are unnerved even at the mention of this name... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me .... *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I remember that this point was discussed in this House a number of times. Shri Atal stood up to say that he expresses his regret for what has happened in Ayodhya.

Shri Atal said so and he is the Prime Minister today. However you might recall that thousands of people have been killed in the country over this controversy. There was a time when country was burning.

This issue is being raised again today and that is why mention is being made of hidden agenda. Different components and concretes are being precast in different cities. Their intention is to build the temple overnight by collecting all the elements in the name of a yagna or on any other pretext. My party feels that something wrong is being done. I would like to know from Shri Advani, the Minister of Home Affairs as to whether any plan has been chalked out to expose this conspiracy and to seize the pre-cast concrete and other pre-components, so that the atmosphere of tension and fear arising in this country can be removed. If this is not done, we have to come out on the streets and RJD which is my party...*(Interruptions)* Why not?

What is your problem?.....*(Interruptions)* They should honour the order of the court and the ruling given by the Parliament.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to speak.... *(Interruptions)* Please give me the time to speak... *(Interruptions)* I would like to speak on behalf of the Samajwadi Party.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Home Minister, would you like to say something?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is related to us. I am the convener of Babri Masjid .... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. C. JOS (MUKUNDAPURAM) : Sir, Shri Banatwalla wants to say something.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHAMAN BARQ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is related to Babri Masjid. Three and half crore Muslims live in this country.... *(Interruptions)* Injustice is being done to the Muslims. This is against the law.... *(Interruptions)* The issue raised by Shri Rajesh Pilot .... *(Interruptions)* An attempt has been made to construct a Ram Temple there, which is against the law.... *(Interruptions)* The country cannot be run in the name of a particular faith.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. The hon. Home Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that this is not a debate. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Shaifqur Rahman Barq, please take your seat. Please understand that this is not a debate.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this should not go on record...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Shaifqur Rahman Barq, please take your seat. This is not good.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Home Minister will make a statement on this.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI LARANG SAI (SARGUJA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should also be given an opportunity to speak .... *(Interruptions)* This should not be one sided .... *(Interruptions)* We should also be given an opportunity to speak....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a debate. Please understand that this is not a debate. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a debate.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of the Home Minister.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, this is not a debate.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, this is too much. Please take your seat. This is not a debate. Except the hon. Home Minister's speech, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Order please.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since we are not being heard, the Members of Samajwadi Party are walking out of the House *(Interruptions)*

12.26 hrs.

*(Dr. Shaifqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members then left the House.)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat. Please hear me first.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of the Home Minister.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat. I am requesting you to please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you to please take your seat. You are a senior Member. Please understand the procedure also, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS ( SHRI L.K. ADVANI ) : Shri Banatwalla, I would take notice of your feelings also. I can assure you.

I can understand the concern expressed by certain hon. Members of the Opposition about the site in Ayodhya, which has been a matter of debate all over the country as to what should happen there and what should not happen there. For the last six years, there has been scrupulous adherence to the Court's direction that the status quo there should be maintained. I can assure this House that so far as this Government is concerned, it is scrupulously watching the situation to ensure that the Court's orders in this regard are maintained. There will be no negligence..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : This is no answer. ....*(Interruptions)* It is no answer....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Next is submission. Shri Hannan Mollah, please.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that he has already replied. Shri Rajesh Pilot, he has already replied.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Let me ask a question...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramachandran, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members are aware of the fact that Ayodhya issue was mentioned in the election-manifesto of the Bhartiya Janata Party. After the formation of this Government, a national agenda was prepared and after much consideration, the issue of Ayodhya was to included in it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is in the hidden agenda.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. Let him complete.

*[Translation]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The hidden agenda which went unnoticed by you was the point of nuclear deterrence which was there in the election—manifesto of BJP and was included in the national agenda. You did not pay any attention towards that. I would have accepted if any one had mentioned about it at that time. However, I would repeat that so far as this government is concerned, it will work according to the national agenda only.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FEROZABAD): Everyone has expressed his views in the House, so what is there for objection? What has been printed in the magazine is not important, they keep on printing such things...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR (TENALI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we praise the statement made by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, but the thing is that we have asked about the preparations being made, as has been reported in this magazine and it has been clearly stated by Shri Indrajit here that

*[English]*

they are going ahead with the construction of the Ram Temple.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Alongwith this, Mahantji is also saying that they have no concern with BJP and they will construct the temple... *(Interruptions)* I would like to ask from the Minister of Home Affairs as to whether he is going to take any action against these activities or be a silent spectator? I have only this much to ask.

*[English]*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Let me please say one sentence.

[Translation]

Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Advani may please excuse me, but why we are concerned ? You were here on 3rd of December. I was the then communication Minister and I had told something. I had told that I am coming from Lucknow and the mosque will be demolished. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and you both were sitting here and none uttered a word...*(Interruptions)* So, I would like to ask from you that being the Minister of Home Affairs, could you promise that till the decision of the court, you will not let the temple to be constructed..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (DARBHANGA) : Shri Advani, I would like to ask one thing.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK): How can you allow them again and again? I am not going to sit. How can you allow them, why I am not called, they are speaking repeatedly. The Minister of Home Affairs has given his reply.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have no objection in having a full discussion on this issue, but it is a different matter if some people are interested in creating tension in the country and thereby raising their vote bank yet again... .... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Please take your seat. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : This kind of attitude will not be tolerated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is going to answer. He is answering.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. Shiv Shanker, please ask your Members to sit down. The hon. Home Minister is going to reply.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is going to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : It is unbecoming of the hon. Home Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (CANNANORE) : We cannot go by the assurances given by the hon. Home Minister. Similar assurances were given by him in the past also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : As part of the Government and as incharge of the Ministry of Home Affairs, I can assure the House that this Government will see to it that no court orders are flouted by anyone...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Except the speech of Shri Hannan Mollah nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI) : As a protest against the unsatisfactory reply given by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, we are walking out. *(Interruptions)*

12.38 hrs.

*(Shri P. Shiv Shanker and some other hon. Members then left the House.)*

12.39 hrs.

*(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman and Shri Shailendra Kumar came and stood near the table)*

12.39½ hrs.

*(At this stage, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman and Shri Shailendra Kumar went back to their seats)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my party RJD is staging walk-out from the House, as our views are not being heard in the House.

12.40 hrs.

*(Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Members then left the House)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Except the submissions for the next week business, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) \**

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir, we are also walking out in protest...*(Interruptions)*

12.41 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Sir, since the Home Minister has made a misleading statement, the Muslim League also walks out in protest.

12.42 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri G.M. Banatwalla left the House.)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. What is this that you are going and coming back.

*(Interruptions)*

12.43 hrs.

#### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI) : The construction work of Gola, Chandil Bhaya, Banta and Barendra road under the Ranchi Parliamentary Constituency is going on for the last forty years, but has not been completed so far. The Union Government is requested to take over this national highway, so that it could be constructed at the earliest in public interest.

SHRI RAJENDRAAGNIHOTRI (JHANSI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I requested that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. The Government should provide special economic package for backward areas to do away with their backwardness, hunger and to promote industrial development, provide drinking water, education and medical facilities for the regions like Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh which have an area of land and population equivalent to any state or such regions should be accorded the status of a state.

2. The Government of India should make special allocation of funds and launch some programme to reclaim uneven and wasteland of Bundelkhand region into cultivable land.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (PATIALA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. The need for Government's action to utilize the non-performing assets of banks worth 43 thousand crores in productive activities.
2. Problem of safety for citizens of Indian origin due to internal problems of Afghanistan.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in next week's agenda :-

1. Atrocities of all kinds on women, beginning from rape to harassment at working place, in the family and in society.
2. Relations with China.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan. What is this ? You are going and coming back!

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Relation with China.
2. White Paper on economic sanctions due to India's Nuclear Tests.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULLBERIA) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Serious problems arising out of non-availability of drinking water and power in Delhi. The continuous load-shedding has made life impossible in the Capital which needs immediate action.
2. Problems faced by patients due to strike at Safdarjung Hospital in the Capital. The work should be immediately resumed in the Hospital.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-



1. Stopping of the shifting of Foreign Exchange Dealing operations in State Bank of India's Foreign Exchange Department from Calcutta to Mumbai.
2. Withdrawal of the closure notice from some Natundanga, Kankortola, Sripur, Sangramgarh and Pure Sarsole under ECL and opening of these coal mines in the interest of the country.

DR. C.P. THAKUR (PATNA) : I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda :

Due to bad roads, there is an increase in Naxalite activities in Patna district and whole of mid-Bihar. I submit to the Government that a special sanction of Rs. 400 crore should be made for Patna and mid-Bihar to improve the roads so that naxal activities could be curbed.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR) : Sir, I request that following items may be included in the next week's agenda :-

1. Need to implement guarantee scheme to provide unemployment allowance to educated unemployed youths in case they are not absorbed in governmental services.
2. The amount of funds provided as aid and treatment of destitutes, handicapped, deaf and dumb, blind and helpless people should be increased.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (KAROL BAGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi is the capital of the country and has its own history and glory. The whole country looks towards Delhi with hopes but now people find that Delhi is reeling under acute shortage of electricity and water. People are not getting electricity continuously for eight days. Whether it is jhuggi-jhonpries of middle class people or houses of rich persons, people are not getting electricity to light bulb or run fans. The other day, I noticed that even Parliament House did not get adequate supply of electricity. Almost all the transformers are out of order. The Minister of Energy says that Delhi is being given adequate supply of electricity whereas the Chairman of Delhi Vidyut Board says that adequate quantity is not being given and so they are unable to do so. Due to this conflict, in this scorching heat, people of Delhi are facing problems. It is unprecedented. 50 years ago the situation was quite better. You people have not done anything. Vijay Goeiji you

are M.P. from Delhi why are you not raising this issue? Why the other hon. Members from Delhi are not raising this issue..... (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi was settled on bank of river Yamuna so that it could get Yamuna water but now people of Delhi are not getting water. Earlier these Members used to complain that Delhi is not getting sufficient water from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. But now as your party is in power in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and centre why Delhi is not getting water ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Dr. C.P. Thakur will speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : We are not getting drinking water . Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to show that ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, this is not permitted. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : It is a matter of shame that ..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not permitted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, arrangements should be made for proper supply of drinking water to the people of Delhi.

[English]

DR. C.P. THAKUR (PATNA) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a State in India, called Bihar. The economic condition of that State is in a total mess. If you scan the Plan allocations made to the State of Bihar for the last five or six years, you will find that it

\* Not Recorded.

has hardly utilised more than 30 per cent of the allocations. Then, most of the Central assistance given to the state is not being utilised. Therefore, I request that a special package of Rs. 10,000 crore should be given to that State to tide over its economic collapse. There should also be made an Action Group in the Planning Commission so that the monitoring of the development of that State could be done because...

**MR. SPEAKER :** Hon. Member, please conclude. Please understand. There are notices of 52 Members who want to speak.

**DR. C.P. THAKUR (PATNA) :** Besides that, there is another problem of that State that it is a landlocked State.

It has no port and there is no facility to export fruits and vegetables from Bihar. Therefore, a cargo facility and a dry-dock facility should be made available at Patna.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue regarding adulteration of kerosene and sugar and problems caused due to black marketing of these goods. Sir, even 50 years after independence, people of this country are compelled to buy these essential goods through some society or ration shop. They have to stand in long queue for a long time for getting kerosene and sugar even then they are unable to get these things properly. Kerosene is being mixed in petrol and as a result it is being sold at a rate of Rs.8 to 10 against its rate of Rs. 3.40. The sugar provided at a rate of Rs. 11.25 per Kg. is being sold at Rs. 18 to 20 in open market. I, therefore, request the Government to allow free sale of sugar and kerosene so that common man could get these things freely and could lead a better life.

**SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, last week two incidents of fire took place in jhuggies on Yamuna Pushpa in trans-yamuna area of Laxmi Nagar.

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Tiwari, you are not supposed to read that statement.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI :** Sir, alongwith the financial loss, some lives were also lost in these inci-

idents. Incidents of fire often take place in summer season and people suffer huge loss of life and property. During rainy season when river Yamuna is in flood these people take shelter on embankment for months and the Government has to spend crores of rupees on them. I request the Government that these people should be settled permanently to some other place to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

**MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM ( GARHWAL ) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problem of drinking water in my region. The river Yamuna and Ganges flow through my region, even then we face the problem of drinking water. At several places, water is supplied through pumping scheme. But due to shortage of electricity pumping sets are not working properly and for the last week the Pauri region which is also headquarter of the circle is facing acute shortage of drinking water. A big gravity facts scheme has also been formulated for this region. I would like to make a submission that with the assistance of World Bank, the Government of India should allocate funds for the gravity facts scheme.

**PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, injustice is being done in recruitment of employees and officers belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and backward classes. D.O.P.T. have specially issued orders that persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should not be recruited on the posts of class-IV and class III. In context of promotion also, I would like to say that promotion of SC/ST has been stopped in class II, class I and in super grade posts.

Mandal issue was also raised during the Sabarwal case. This issue was discussed in Supreme Court also. It was not concerned with the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities but they were also involved under creamy layer which is an injustice to them. My submission is that the Orders issued by the D.O.P.T. regarding the recruitment and promotion of scheduled caste and tribe officers should be cancelled. Previous method of their recruitment and promotion should again be restored.

**DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL ( BETTIAH ) :** Mr. Chaiman, Sir, 15 sugar mills acquired by the Bihar Government are closed since 1997, due to which 13 thousand workers are facing starvation. An amount of Rs. 75 crores due to them is not being paid. Injustice is done to sugarcane growers also. Bihar Government is

not paying their dues worth Rs. 22-23 crores. An amount of Rs. 2100 crores is lying in the Sugar Development Fund. I request the Government to allocate Rs. 500 crores out of this fund so that wages to the workers and payments due to the farmers could be made as last year the previous government had given 450 crores to Uttar Pradesh Government to revive the sick sugarmills there and to pay the farmers their dues.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, of late it has been found that a great agricultural scam has taken place in Orissa. The Department of Agriculture, Government of Orissa has purchased paddy seeds from the private firms of Andhra Pradesh..... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUWAHATI) : Sir, it is purely a State subject. He cannot raise this issue here.... (Interruptions). Sir, I want your ruling on this.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him be heard. There is no ruling because this is 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : This is 'Zero Hour'. How can you raise a point of order ?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, a matter relating to the State Government cannot be discussed here..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear him first. How can you object other Members?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, I am on a point of order.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order. Nothing will go on record except Shri Swain's statement.

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, they purchased paddy seeds which were uncertified. Even the Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh warned the Government of Orissa not to purchase it from the private firm of Andhra Pradesh. But the Government of Orissa purchased it. The Chief Minister of Orissa is also heading the Department of Agriculture.... (Interruptions)

\* Not Recorded.

I am having a report of the Financial Advisor of the Government of Orissa. He has found that about Rs. 500 crore have been swindled. I demand from the hon. Prime Minister to refer this case to the C.B.I. This is a bigger scam than even the fodder scam of Bihar. I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister that this matter should be inquired by the C.B.I.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, you please go through his statement and if there is anything objectionable, kindly expunge it.

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through his statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : If Rajasthan issue can be discussed in the House then why not Orissa....(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, You can go through the record and expunge the objectionable portions from it. .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Please take your seat.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : Sir, you may kindly see Rule 353 and decide whether it should go on record or not.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Why do you not allow it as a point of order? He raised a point of order. You may dispose that first and he can speak after that.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND): There is no question of point of order during Zero Hour.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : The House is run according to the rules. .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Vilas Muttemwar.

*(Interruptions) \**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Vidarbha region has always been neglected and the result is that 52 farmers committed suicide in Maharashtra.....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : This is not the way.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : Please refer to Rule 353. You can give a ruling and we will abide by it.

MR. SEAKER : Please cooperate. I have allowed shri Vilas Muttemwar and not anybody else.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : You may give the ruling and we will abide by it.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that there is no point of order during the 'Zero Hour' Hour.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : This is not 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER : This is 'Zero Hour'.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, please understand that this is 'Zero Hour' and there is no question of point of order in it. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me one minute.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Vilas Muttemwar. Shri Muttemwar, are you making your speech or not? Please make your speech.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, please take your seat. Please allow your Member, who is on his legs, to make his speech. Please allow him. I will come to you later, Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*\* Not Recorded.*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat. This is not good. This is too much. Please take your seat.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : This House is run according to some rules. There is a rule book and the hon. Member has quoted a rule. You can give a ruling on that.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muttemwar, are you making your speech or not ? Please make your speech. What is this ? I am allowing 'Zero Hour' related matters to be raised and you are raising a point of order. What is this? Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : kindly give a ruling on this.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jogi, please hear me first. Shri Chavan said that if there is anything objectionable in the matter, it should be expunged. I will go through the record. Please take your seat.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : He has quoted a rule and you have to dispose of the point of order. Then, the hon. Member can speak.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Prof. Kurien, I have already noted your point. You are a senior Member, please take your seat.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, this is a fundamental and basic issue..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that there are many new Members in the House. Prof. Kurien, please understand this.

.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. P.J. Kurien, please sit down.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am sitting down. I will obey your order. But I am very much hurt.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Vilas Muttemwar to speak.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am Chief Whip of the Congress Party. You please tell me up to what time the rule for raising point of order is not applicable here in this House....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : These matters have been raised in this House many times before. You know it also.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. P.J. Kurien, many times hon. Members have been raising this matter. I will give ruling later. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, I will give my ruling later.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request the Government that Vidarbha region has always been neglected. The consequences of such an apathy are before you. Out of 52 farmers who have committed suicide in Maharashtra 46, are from Vidarbha region. Due to such apathy, workers of this area are facing starvation. This indifferent attitude is giving rise to imbalance and resentment. Nagpur, Hingna, Butibori and Kalmshwar industrial estates are situated in Vidarbha region. Due to lack of attention, industries established there are closing down as a result of which workers are being rendered jobless. Butibari, the biggest industrial estate in Asia is closing down day by day. We find that such a situation is arising due to non-availability of water and electricity. Mr. Speaker, Sir, 4 thousand Megawatt of electricity is being generated in Vidarbha region which is supplied to Mumbai, Thane and Pune, on the same rate. No concessions are being given to entrepreneurs here. A very small amount of loan is given to them and that too is not provided on the right time. Besides, facilities which are being provided in other states, are not being given to these industries. Raw material required by the Public Undertakings is not being procured through the ancillaries. Such an opportunity is not given to these industries. W.C.L. is an undertaking which provides opportunity to outside industries instead of local industrialists. It should be banned. It is also a cause of closing down of industries. There is an industry, Indorama with a worth of Rs. 4 thousand crores in Butibari. There is an organisation of workers of ruling party which is staging an agitation there. Due to this agitation Indorama industry has been shifted to Aurangabad and Rajasthan. Similarly, Bajaj and Perth India industries are closing in Hingna. 2 lakh people will face the problem of unemployment if adequate attention is not paid towards it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request the Government to intervene in this matter. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is present here. People there are demanding a separate state. Therefore, to honour the

sentiments of the people of that area, I demand that the House should discuss the formation of a separate state for them and justice should be done to us.

*[English]*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : It means during 'Zero Hour', the rule for raising point of order will not apply....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : How can there be a point of order during 'Zero Hour'? The Hon. Speaker has already given ruling several times that there shall be no point of order during 'Zero Hour'. But the Opposition is again persisting in raising the point of order. Shri Ajit Jogi is showing the rule book about point of order. If the point of order is applicable to me, it should also be applicable to Shri Vilas Muttemwar because I am raising the point about the Government of Orissa and Shri Vilas Muttemwar is also raising a point about the Government of Maharashtra.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV (KANNAUJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a place 'Sakraba' in Kannauj Lok Sabha Constituency where river Arindra flows. Thousands of people are facing lot of problem as there is no bridge over this river. Therefore, a bridge should be constructed on this river as in its absence all the poor people, farmers and labourers have to walk several kilometers. They do not have any other alternative and hence they can't take their produce to the Mandi. At one time, the state government had approved that bridge and iron and cement was also dumped there but later on due to some unknown reasons, the government shifted that material.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you that Central Government should re-direct the State Government in this regard as it is a very important problem. Keeping in view the problem of the people, the construction work on this bridge should be restarted.

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (TAMLUK) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, regarding the improvement of the Calcutta and the Haldia Ports. You know, Sir, that the Calcutta Port is a riverine Port and the Haldia Dock Complex was considered as a subsidiary of the Calcutta Port Trust. Because the two Ports are riverine, they are facing heavy siltation problem in the river-bed. The important point is that sufficient fund is not alio-

cated for the improvement of the Calcutta and the Haldia Ports.

In the last year's Revised estimate, it was found that no fund was allocated for the development or improvement of the Haldia Port. So, through you, I would like to bring the matter to the notice of the Government so that proper attention is drawn regarding the improvement of the Calcutta and the Haldia Ports.

You know, Sir, the Port is the backbone of the economy of our State. So, all the industrial development is depending on the Port. That is why, I would request you to direct the Government to take proper steps for the improvement of the Calcutta and the Haldia Ports.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (MAYURBHANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government and the State Government of Assam towards the continuous communal riots between Santhal and Boda adivasis in Kokrajhar area of Assam state. No concrete steps have been taken by the Assam Government till date to solve this problem. Incidents of killing in this area are regularly reported in the newspapers. Also adequate arrangements of water, food and shelter are not being made to the affected people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second point which I would like to make is that though a large number of people from Munda, Uraon and Santhal tribes are inhabited in Assam but they have not been included in the list of scheduled tribes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third point which I would like to raise is that Santhal adivasis are inhabited not only in Assam but in the entire country in a large number. In 1992 Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali languages were included in 8th schedule of the Constitution. However, Santhali language has not been included in the same. It is an injustice to the Santhali people. Therefore, I would request the Central and State Government to include the Santhali language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Now statement by Shri L.K. Advani.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you. I will call all the names after the statement.

13.13 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

##### Situation in Assam

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the recent incidents of violence have affected the life and traffic in certain parts of Assam. This was raised yesterday by some of the Members in the House and some mention has been made today to a different aspect. I would like to present before the House the facts of these incidents and the present situation as it prevails. I would also mention the steps being taken by Government to bring the situation under control.

One Railway Bridge and two road bridges on NH 31 and 31C were damaged on June 2, 1998 by suspected Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) militants in separate incidents of blasts disrupting rail/road traffic. The Railway Bridge on broadgauge line near Gossaigaon in Kokrajhar district was damaged due to one of the blasts. Another bridge over river Bokro in Bongaigaon district was damaged on NH 31. Yet another bridge was damaged on Tihu River on NH 31 at Nathkuchi in Nalbari district. Though another crude bomb was exploded on the bridge on NH 52 at Powraputa in Darrang district in the night of June 2, 1998, no damage was caused. On the night of June 4-5, 1998, another culvert on NH 31 at Maiwatari in Dhubri district was partially damaged in bomb blast by suspected BLT militants.

The Central Government has been keeping a close watch over the situation and has been in regular touch with the State Government. Emergent repairs were carried out on the damaged Rail Bridge and the train services have been resumed. However, full restoration of train services would be possible in a day or so.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): It has already been done.

*[English]*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The Minister of Railways informs me that it has been done.

Army has been asked to undertake construction of Bailey bridge over River Bokro between Bongaigaon and Kokrajhar. The traffic through the bridge in Nathkuchi, Naibari is being diverted through a nearby old bridge, which can be used till the reconstruction of damaged RCC bridge. The restoration work on the culvert in Dhubri district, which was blown off last night, has started.

Security of rail and road bridges, rail tracks have been tightened and intensive patrolling and static guard arrangements have been made both on the North and South bank of Brahmaputra. Around 30 persons have been arrested in connection with the blasts. Government is closely monitoring the situation.

Ethnic tension cropped up in Kokrajhar district of Assam due to Bodo-Santhal violence. Various steps have been taken to bring the deteriorating law and order situation in Assam particularly in the Bodo areas under control. Additional units of para military forces and Army have been inducted in areas affected. 18 relief camps have been opened for providing shelter to those displaced in this violence. The State Government has also announced payment of Rs. 1 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs. 10,000/- to each of those whose houses have been burnt down.

The Central Government has also restarted the process of dialogue with moderate Bodo groups to resolve the various outstanding issues so that normalcy is restored. The Government is hopeful that through this process of taking strict action against the law-breakers and dialogue with political groups in Bodo areas, normalcy can be restored in this area.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUWAHATI) : This is a very important issue. I want a discussion on this subject in this House.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There should be no clarification on the statement. Please understand this. Shri Sultanpuri to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : We want a discussion on this issue.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (SHIMLA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Himachal Pradesh has asked for grant of funds for various schemes....(Interruptions) The Government of Himachal Pradesh was to get 7.19%

as royalty for power under the Re-organisation Act.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Sultanpuri is speaking.

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The Government has no objection for a discussion being permitted. Let them bring an appropriate motion.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied that the Government has no objection in having a discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, besides, the government has imposed surcharge on electricity.... (Interruptions) Thus, an amount of Rs. 1200 crore is due.... (Interruptions) That amount has still not been given to the government of Himachal Pradesh by the Union Government.... (Interruptions) No provision was made for Himachal Pradesh during our tenure also. The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh met Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Advani and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri Jaswant Singh to ask for the release of funds. They had assured that the funds will be given to the state, however the present government has not been able to provide funds to Himachal Pradesh so far.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Sultanpuri's speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Sultanpuri. - No more clarification please. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUWAHATI) : The hon. Home Minister has made a statement regarding the situation in Assam.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kalita, every time you are getting up and saying something without the permis-

\* Not Recorded.

sion of the Chair. He has already given a reply. This is not good, Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a support price of Rs. 5 per kg. should be given for apples to the farmers of Himachal Pradesh and monetary provision should be made for chennelisation so as to check land erosion caused by the rivers of Himachal so that the flood affected areas of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh may be benefited. The Virbhadra government has helped the farmers and since the BJP is in power in Himachal Pradesh, the Union Government will strive to assist the state government....  
*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I have already told you that you should give it in writing. We are prepared to discuss it.

*[English]*

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ (JORHAT) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a distressing situation in Assam and rest of the North-East where army and paramilitary forces have long been deployed to fight the terrorists. But instead it is the common men and women who are caught in the cross-fire and who have suffered the most. This is a society under siege. The Government must be held accountable for any excesses or any atrocities committed by the Army if Govt. fails to central them. But this is the situation now prevalent in Assam. Ironically, more and more people are now becoming victims of Army atrocities. There are atrocities on the people in villages, and in tea gardens. Women have been raped.

13.21 hrs.

*(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bijoy Handique, please conclude now. Let us accommodate others also.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ : Sir, I have just started.... *(Interruptions)* And consequently all are affected with a sense of alienation.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Now, Shri Bwiswmuthiary.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ : No, Sir. I have not yet started even. I have to finish my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You take only one minute and finish your point so that we are able to accommodate a number of other hon. Members also to raise their issues in the Zero Hour.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ : Sir, I want two or three minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is Friday today. Will the House not adjourn for lunch?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will adjourn at two o'clock.

*[English]*

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUÉ : Sir, in spite of all this, the Government of Assam as well as the Central Government remain quite indifferent. The people of Assam and North-East want the problem of terrorism to be resolved through a meaningful dialogue—may be a third country as reportedly suggested by a few terrorists. There are instances where talks were held in the third countries. Preliminary a talk for resolving the issue of Naga Sovereignty which was carried on with late Mrs. Phizo in the U.K. Similarly, the preliminary talk for resolving the issue of Mizo insurgency was carried on with Late Lai Denga in the Federal Republic of Germany. Now the Mizo Accord is one of the most effective Accords and Mizoram is one of the most peaceful States in the country.

That is what we want and I hope that the hon. Prime Minister will rise to the occasion and take the initiative so that there may be a dialogue, if necessary, in a third country too. It is because, we have to initiate the process of dialogue to save the society under siege. Unless you put an end to this massive sense of alienation which has gripped the society, I am afraid no development packages can help the situation improve. I hope that the Government will pay attention to it and resolve this problem.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR) : Hon. Chairman and hon. Members of this august House, I would like to draw the pointed attention of the Government of India to the burning Bodoland tangle which is mounting there in Assam. In this regard, a Statement has also been made by the hon. Union Home Minister today on the floor of this august House just a few minutes back. But I feel very sorry about it. This Statement is not at all satisfactory and the way the Government of India has been going



on to dilute the Bodoland question, they will never be able to resolve this burning Bodoland tangle without spelling out any concrete policy decision.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India very strongly to take a very clear cut, effective and positive political decision with a view to creating a separate State of Bodoland without any further delay in the best interest of the nation as a whole.

Today the whole nation has been observing that the entire north-eastern region has been cut off from the rest of the country because of some unwanted incident which took place a few days back. That is why I would like to appeal to the hon. Chairman to start a very very meaningful discussion on the floor of this august House on the entire tangle.

I once again would like to appeal to the Government of India to take up this Bodoland issue very seriously, with great sincerity and to have a clear cut policy decision to create the much long awaited separate State of Bodoland on the lines of Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chattisgarh. If the present Government of India could promise separate statehood to the Utatranchal people, to the Chattisgarh people and the Vananchal people, then why not to the Bodos? The alienation of Bodos from the regional stream of Assam has already been complete. Until and unless there is a separate State of Bodoland, the Government of India can never bring permanent peace, stability, normalcy and all round growth and development in the entire north-eastern India. That is why I would like to appeal to the Government of India to create a separate State of Bodoland without any further delay in the best interest of the nation as a whole.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REENA COUDHARY ( MOHANLALGANJ ): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Health towards the most serious problem being faced in my constituency, Mohanlalganj – that of death of women during delivery which is being caused in the absence of N.M. Centres in the entire constituency and the existing N.M. centres are also unmanned. There are no medicines available and these N.M. centres are being used as a dumping sites.

Through you, I would request Hon'ble Minister to consider this point seriously. Appointments of personnel should be made in the existing centres. Not even a

single N.M. Centre is functioning in my constituency and the major problem which is being faced is that there are no means of transport in the interior rural areas to take women to hospital. Once I reached at such a place in time and saved the life of the woman, however, I was unable to save her baby and I have felt distressed ever since. I would like it to be considered seriously so that death of women during delivery could be checked .... (Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : Is my name included in the list or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is not there in the list.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : I want to bring to the notice of this House the surreptitious use of Quinacrine as a pill for non-surgical sterilisation in women. This is a very serious issue and it is bringing health hazards to women in our nation. The All India Democratic Women's Association had gone to the apex court and filed a write petition. The apex court has disposed off the case on the assurance given by the Director-General of Drugs and Cosmetics that this pill, Quinacrine, would be banned and prohibit its import, manufacture, sale and distribution. Though the assurance was given to the apex court, it was not carried out by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

I urge upon the Government of India to get the notification issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare invoking the provisions of Sections 10 (A) and 26 (A) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1945 to prohibit or ban the import, manufacture, sale and distribution of this drug, Quinacrine, which is very dangerous to the health of women in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI ( REWA ) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is paving the way for privatisation and commercialisation of the Government Engineering colleges located in the state in the name of granting autonomy. Rewa Engineering College is also being privatised. The professors, teachers and the students of this college have been on strike for one month now. If this move is not withdrawn, the students belonging to poor families will be unable to study in this institution,

for they would be unable to pay the capitation fee. A Minister of Government of Madhya Pradesh has started the whole exercise to help run his own private college. Rewa Engineering college and other colleges are being privatised in the name of granting autonomy. On one hand, the Congress leaders are trying to take the private colleges and schools under the control of the government and on the other hand, the government colleges are being closed. They are being privatised. I request the Union Government to check this trend immediately.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me the opportunity to speak. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. The Amarnath Yatra will commence on 5th July. This issue has been discussed in the House many times. Several people died during the Yatra. There were no proper arrangements. The medical examination of the pilgrims was not conducted. They did not carry any identity cards and there was no information either. Now the government has made this arrangement that all the pilgrims will be required to fill up a form in Delhi, get a card and get themselves medically examined. Such an arrangement has not been made at any other place. People from all over the country go to Amarnath. They will have to come to Delhi to complete these formalities. If they are declared unfit after medical examination or they are unable to procure the card, they will not be able to go on this pilgrimage. If somebody from Southern India wishes to go to Amarnath, Delhi proves to be a very distant location. Similarly many people from Rajasthan also join the Amarnath yatra. The state of Rajasthan is inhabited by religious people. The temples of Govind Narayan Ji, Gopi Ji and the temple of Ganesh Ji are located there. These deities are worshipped there. Hence I request that an office should be set up at Jaipur in state of Rajasthan for providing such an arrangement so that people may submit their forms, procure the cards and get themselves medically examined. Similarly, such an arrangement can be made in other states as well so that people may find it easier to visit Amarnath. As this is required for religious purposes, such offices should be set up in capitals of all the states.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, I want to raise a matter relating to the reported statement by Mr. William Cohen, US Secretary of Defence after the Geneva P-5 Conference. He has reportedly

said : 'US will insist on internationalising the Kashmir issue.' It is a serious development. It sets back our fifty years of successful effort in keeping the Kashmir Issue out of the international agenda.

Also, Ms. Madeleine Albright has reportedly said :  
.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU ( MAHASUMUND):  
No, Hon'ble Member can read out from a newspaper or any newsitem.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He can refer to it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : I would like to draw your attention under rule 349.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is only referring to the report and not reading it out. He can refer to it.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : You should try to understand what I am saying. I have not said that I am quoting.

There is a reported statement of Ms. Madeleine Albright. She has said that the new set of leaders have tarnished India's glorious image. It is a direct attempt to break the foreign policy consensus arrived over the last fifty years and divide Indian political parties.

We deplore it. I would request the Government to launch a protest with the US Government. We welcome the Prime Minister's statement that India is willing to talk to Pakistan on Kashmir. We must not allow the western conspiracy to internationalise the Kashmir issue to succeed. I would request the Prime Minister to take initiative in order to take all the political parties into confidence to rebuild the national foreign policy consciousness to handle the political and economic fallout of Pokhran.

Finally, the Government must give a statement on the P-5 communique that has denied nuclear weapons status to India.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE) :  
Sir, Syndicate Bank was established eighty years ago

and is a pioneer bank in the public sector. It was established by Dr. T.M. A. Pai with the active support of Shri T.A. Pai who has been the Minister in the Centre. The Head Office of this Bank is situated in Manipal. All these years it has been functioning from Manipal.

Now, the new Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Shri Krishnamurthy, is planning to shift the Head Office to Bangalore. When there was a loud protest by the customers and the general public, he started saying that he would shift the Chairman's Secretariat. When the Head Office would continue to be situated in Manipal, the Chairman's Secretariat would be shifted to Bangalore. There is no meaning in it. This is a pioneer Bank. This Bank has taken a lead in lending finance to the weaker sections of the society and also to the agriculturists.

While addressing the staff meeting, the CMD had uttered some words which are highly derogatory. I would request the Government to take immediate action against him. He had the audacity to say that all the politicians, Members of Parliament and VIPs, except the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister, are exerting pressure on him in the matter of transfer of staff. Regarding the Prime Minister, he said that probably the Prime Minister is busy with Jayalalitha. Mr. Chairman, you can understand the audacity of this person. What does it mean?

The hon. Minister of Railways is present here. I would request him to take serious note of this matter and convey it to the hon. Minister of Finance in order to take suitable action against him. People of the region are upset and they are opposed to the idea of shifting the Bank to some other area. If the Chairman does not want to work in the Bank, then he can be shifted to some other bank. The Bank which has been working in Manipal for the last eighty years, cannot work under the whims and fancies of an individual. So, steps have to be taken immediately to stop the shifting of the Head Office, including the Chairman's Secretariat, from Manipal. I would request the hon. Minister to take severe action against this person.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak during the Zero hour.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. When the attention of the Manager of Union Bank, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh was

drawn by the employees and officials towards the need for preservation and touching up of the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, those portraits were removed. This is an insult to these great men. The Chairman and the Managing Director are supporting the manager. On the other hand, the Manager is hatching a conspiracy against the SC and ST. Such a treatment is being meted out to the great men and the officials and the employees. The Manager is being given promotion in scale 4. Besides high handedness is being exercised in the matter of promotion and posting in case of scale 2 and scale 3 officials. The officials belonging to dalit community and scheduled castes are being demoralised. Through you, I would request Hon'ble Minister of Finance to take effective steps in this regard. Also sweepers are not being appointed and instead they are being recruited on dally basis. No permanent appointment is being made. The manager is being unjust to dalit employees and is discriminating against them. They are being posted at far away places. Such an act of atrocity is being committed on the class IV employees. Will the government encourage such a Managing Director, General Manager and the Manager? I would request Hon'ble Minister of Finance to get an enquiry conducted and take strict action against the guilty Manager as the employees and the officers of Union Bank, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh are agitated.

Sir, a delegation had come to meet me. I promised to raise the matter in Lok Sabha. Through you and through this House, I would request Hon'ble Minister of Finance to hold an enquiry and take strict action against the Manager or any other person found guilty. With these words, I conclude. Jai Hind.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, today, a demonstration by a huge number of farmers is taking place before the Coconut Board in Cochin. It is with regard to some farmers' issue and lakhs and lakhs of farmers cultivating coconut are in great difficulty. There is no minimum price for coconut now; it has come steeply down and this matter was raised in this House several times. But the Government has not yet considered the matter very seriously and has not come out with a minimum price for coconut. This item is not even in the list of oil-seeds and hence, its cultivation is not getting due attention of the Government.

There was also a reply from the side of the Commerce Ministry saying that even now the import of

coconut oil is taking place. This should have been placed in the negative list and no import of coconut oil should have been taking place because coconut is now being cultivated in eight or nine States. My hon. friend, the former Deputy-Speaker Shri Mallikarjuniah, as also other hon. Members were raising this issue. But in spite of all this, the Government is not coming forward with a firm action.

So, I urge upon the Minister for Agriculture as well as the Prime Minister who is holding the charge of Agriculture to take immediate steps to declare the minimum price for coconut as Rs. 5 and that of copra as Rs.6 at least and also to take firm steps to safeguard the interests of farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FEROZABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards such regions of the country where water level is going down every year. It is a matter of great concern. The hon. Prime Minister in the national agenda, has given priority to this subject and stated that 'arrangements should be made to solve the farmers' problem of drinking water and irrigation.

I would like to say that a conference of Chief Ministers of all the states should be convened to discuss this issue because there are several such regions where ground water level is going down continuously. Farmers are not getting drinking water and there is no proper arrangement for irrigation. My Constituency is Ferozabad. Agra district comprises three assembly seats. It has a population of 20 lakh. Lakhs of acres of land is lying unirrigated there. This issue was debated here for three days. Hon. Prime Minister has given priority to this issue. I would like to make a suggestion that the Government should constitute a monitoring team for it which would conduct a survey and furnish areawise and region-wise details so that problem of drinking water and irrigation could be solved... (Interruptions)

Sir, I would like to make a suggestion regarding rainy water which goes waste. Water level can come up if arrangements for tubewells are made and annicuts are constructed in rural areas I request you that arrangements should be made for tubewells in Kheragarh, Fatehabad Baah, Ferozabad and Shikohabad in district Agra so that farmers could get water. I request you to convey my points to hon. Prime Minister so that these problems of farmers could be solved.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (ALMORA): I thank you for allowing me to speak. I have given a notice for constituting a separate Uttaranchal state. First of all I would thank the Government for including the issue of creating Uttaranchal and other new states in the national agenda. Our senior leaders have given assurance to take action on it within 90 days. Now resentment is rising among public. Several incidents like Muzaffarnagar incident have happened and agitations were held on this issue. Now people have apprehensions that the Government is not going to do anything in this regard. I request the hon. Minister to give an assurance for constituting a separate Uttaranchal State ... (Interruptions) The issue regarding Chhatisgarh should not be dropped. The hon. Minister should give an assurance here so that a message could be conveyed to public that action is being taken on it at the earliest. This issue should be taken up with hon. Prime Minister and action should be taken up within 90 days for constituting Uttaranchal state.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (JALESAR) : Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Railways towards a problem pertaining to Barhem railway station in Agra district which is also a junction. This junction links Agra, Ferozabad, Mainpuri, Etah, Badaun and Bareilly. I think this is the first railway junction of the country where no express train stops. I request you to provide stoppage to any two trains out of the Janata Express, Unchahar and Sangam express trains plying on this line. Neelanchal Express should be given stoppage at Tundia Station.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can raise this issue during the discussion on Railways budget.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Barhem railway station links five districts but not a single train has been given stoppage there. Please give stoppage to some mail train at this station.

SHRI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a problem of Gorakhpur. This problem has affected not only Gorakhpur but the whole of Uttar Pradesh. A fertilizer factory was set up here in 1969 by the Gorakhpur Fertilizer Corporation which was closed down on 10th June for petty reasons. Previous five Governments ignored this issue but now Union Government have asked KRIBHCO to set up a fertilizer factory there. I would like to know as to what

scheme has been formulated for employees of the factory. Sir, through you I demand that proper arrangements should be made to absorb those employees in the proposed factory of fertilizer in Gorakhpur. They should be given adequate financial package so that they could earn their livelihood.

**DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR)**

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has increased the support prices of wheat to encourage farmers. Farmers started selling their wheat to government agencies other societies and Food Corporation of the State. Farmers brought a large quantity of wheat to the market. Food Corporation has not made payment to farmers in time and thus procurement of wheat was stopped. Due to shortage of storage facility, the wheat purchased by the Government agencies is lying in open. Country is suffering loss due to it, on the one hand farmers are discouraged and are compelled to sell their wheat at low prices in the market and on the other hand already purchased wheat is lying in open. Agencies have their own problems. These are not getting funds from the Government. I request that proper arrangements should be made for timely payment to farmers and storage of wheat.

*[English]*

**SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (CONTAI)** : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must give thanks to the Chair for calling me for the notice which I have been giving consecutively for the last four days.

I am drawing the attention of the Government as well as the whole House to the plight through which the CGHS volunteers are passing through. They were employed a long time back in the rural areas to help the rural masses in the matter of their health care. These volunteers have been still serving the society to the best of their capacity. They are educated. They are helpful. There are cases where these people have saved the common ignorant people from the massive pollution of drinking water. They have been successful in preventing epidemic of a large-scale water-borne diseases. Though they are doing such good services, they are paid a paltry amount - too meagre to mention.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take proper steps to enhance their emoluments so that they can live a life of a civilised man and they can offer services to the society as best as they can.

Their service conditions should also be framed so as to enable them to serve the society.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (UDHAMPUR)** : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the issue regarding an accident that occurred in my area. There is a village in my area called Layasura. Boat is used as means of transport for going to Layasura II from Layasura I and vice versa because there is no road. This village is 60 km away from Riyasi. Normally C.P.W.D. operates boats on behalf of the Government. At the time of accident there were 50 passengers in the boat whereas only 25 passengers could be carried in a boat. Without proper safety measures they rowed the boat. As a result thereof the boat drowned after covering a small distance. 30 passengers died in this accident. They belonged to Kharikot, Snot and Kotaru villages. All the officials left the boat and swam to the shore. As a result 30 persons were killed. These boatmen ditched the passengers. I request that the family members of those killed should be given compensation. Proper arrangements should be made to stop recurrence of such incidents. There should be provision of safety measures in boats. Family members of deceased should be given compensation from the Prime Minister Relief Fund. The State Government should be asked to do so. An inquiry should also be conducted in this matter.

**SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (MIRZAPUR)** : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a serious matter. Foreign Minister of U.S.A. has given a statement in Washington condemning the policies of India. While citing the example of nuclear tests conducted in Pokharan he had stated that under the leadership of BJP Government, Gandhi's India is heading towards violence and disturbance. I have termed it a serious matter because it is an interference in our internal affairs, sovereignty and freedom. Sir, through you, I would like to suggest that through American embassy, the Government of India should register its protest in this matter that such type of statements should not be made about any country by the Cabinet Ministers and head of the country. I feel that it is an attack on self-reliance, sovereignty and freedom of the country. I would like to suggest and appeal to the Government to register its objection to this statement through American embassy that interference in our internal matters would not be tolerated. I think that it

is a serious matter and the whole House would be unanimous on this issue because it pertains to unity and integrity of the country.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (KOTA) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a fact. We talk about alleviation of poverty, but the descendants of Maharana Pratap — the Gadia Lohar do not have any houses. Most of the people from this community are living below poverty line. They have requested the Government to provide them a place where they could live.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also support his point that houses should be provided to these people.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : They have requested the Government to give them patta (lease). I have got proof in this regard. No grant is being released for housing in Rajasthan. Hundred applications are received and only two persons get the grant while the rest are put to unnecessary trouble. Whenever I visit my constituency or Bundi or Kota, I receive a stream of visitors. They are living in a very bad condition. They are somehow making both ends meet working as blacksmiths. I would give you an example. An application was submitted in 1994 to the Sarpanch of village Panchayat Morukala, District Kota in Rajasthan. The Development Officer, Sangod wrote on 31.8.95 but not even a single person out of 60 has got a lease of house so far and these people are still living in village Dara. The District Collector wrote to the Sarpanch of village Panchayat, Morukala (Dara Station) on 18.9.96 that ration cards should be issued to them so that they get kerosene and sugar at minimum rate, but no ration cards have been issued so far. Hence, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that such is the situation there and the Government of Rajasthan is not paying any attention towards the poor, hence, the Union Government should pay attention in this regard. I have also written to the Minister of State of the Ministry of Welfare, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi. It is a very serious matter. Gadia Lohar is the poorest community in the country. No attention has been paid towards them to ensure their upliftment and progress. Their children are not educated. Not a single child from this community would be found literate. They had vowed not to settle anywhere permanently till they regained the control of Chittor. We have a duty towards them. Late Shri

Jawahar Lai Nehru had done a lot for them. The rules drafted under the regime of Jawahar Lal ji are still in force. Announcements are made in the newspapers but nobody has ever thought about these people. Hence, through you, I would like to submit that the children of Gadia Lohar Community are illiterate and there is a need to educate them and ensure that they are permanently settled. The Union Government should take action at the earliest and should provide help to ensure their settlement. The lease for houses should be given to them and their needs should be attended to on priority basis. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch  
till Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Nine  
Minutes past Fifteen of the clock.*

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA in the Chair)

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF STATUS PAPER  
ON RAILWAYS

RAILWAY BUDGET 1998-99—GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS 1995-96  
RAILWAYS - Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is one announcement to make.

As there are many hon. Members to speak on the Railway Budget, if the House agrees, we may sit till 9 p.m. today.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Let us adjourn at 6 p.m. today and take it up again on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are a large number of Members, who want to participate in the debate. Those who want to speak today can speak after 6 p.m. and those who want to speak on Monday can speak on Monday. So, today, after

Private Members' Business, again the discussion on Railway Budget will be resumed and continued upto 9 p.m.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR) : Sir, make it upto 8 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us see.

[Translation]

Those who stay here, will be given a chance to speak. Those who leave, may speak on Monday, if they wish.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (THANE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, will a chance be given on Monday to such members who could not put forth their views today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Surely.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, most of the members are interested in the Railway Budget and they wish to speak on it. It would be better if the time of the House. is extended beyond 6 p.m. after the Private Members' Business is over. It is Friday today and some members wish to put forth their views. It is proposed to hold discussion till late in the night on Monday but I would like to make a request that I would reply immediately after the discussion is over in the night. It is not as if the discussion would be continued throughout the night and I'll reply the next day. I am prepared to reply the moment the discussion is over.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (RAIGARH) : It means that the Members will have to sit in the House throughout, the night.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon'ble Members should sit here. It should not be the case that they leave after making their speech. That is why I have said that I would like to reply immediately. All the Members who speak, should remain present to listen to the reply also.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Hon'ble Minister, this would be an injustice.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Is it not injustice when the Minister has to sit throughout the night to take notes?

SHRI AJIT JOGI : You are the Minister.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY (CHHAPRA) : Hon'ble Mr.

Chairman, Sir, I hail from Bihar. Hon'ble Members have spoken at length regarding the position in Bihar. Much has been said ever since the rail budget has been presented by the Minister of Railways and some have gone to the extent of saying that since the Minister of Railways belongs to Bihar, hence this rail budget sounds very much like budget for Bihar. I regret such statements. I would like to submit that when the Railways used to have seven zone, it had an A.C. Zone which was referred to as iron railways. One fourth of the entire rail budget used to be spent on it. A.C. Railway was also known as power Railways as it used to supply coal to the power stations and iron factories set up throughout the country and it used to connect all the station, be it Bhilai, Durgapur, Raurkela or Bokaro. I would like to submit that much less expenditure is being incurred on it now in proportion to the expenditure incurred and the provision made earlier in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similar in the case of the Eastern Railways. It is not a new Rail network. It starts from Howrah and passes through the eastern part of Bihar. Its position is still the same as it was 10 or 20 years ago. There has been no change all these years. Situation is more or less the same in case of N.E. Railways also. A few new trains have been introduced. Vaishali is considered to be the best train of this Railway It has a capacity of carrying barely 1000 passengers, however, it carries 6000 passengers. This section does not have as many trains as are required.

I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister of Railways for having given us a new train, but it is not sufficient. It is a densely populated area. Many labourers travel to Haryana, Punjab and Delhi from Bihar and other parts of the country. This is a delicate issue. Poor people have to travel to some or the other place to seek employment, hence even if six trains are provided, the heavy rush of passengers is not likely to be eased much. I would request the Hon'ble Minister that since you are the follower of Shri Jai Prakash Ji and Chhapra is your birth place, hence I would request that you should introduce a new super fast train—" Lokmanya Express " for Chhapra. You are aware that the erstwhile districts of Chhapra fall under Gopalganj and Siwan. The people of that area are now living in various countries all over the world and are also settled in Arab countries. There won't be any other area in our country from where the people have settled abroad in

[Shri Hira Lal Roy]

such a large number. Hence I would like to submit that we need more trains and it would be better if a train named after Lokmanya Jai Prakash Narayan Ji is introduced immediately. We'll be highly grateful.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, people say that much work has been done in Bihar as six Ministers of Railways have been from Bihar. Except one or two, all the Railways Ministers so far have been from Bihar. We are fortunate in this respect but the misfortune is that nothing spectacular has been done in Bihar till date. When Shri Rajendra Prasad was the Member of Parliament, he used to raise this issue in the Parliament time and again that Patna should be connected with Sonapur so that North and East remain connected.

About this project hopes were raised at the time, when the, then Minister of Railways and hon. Prime Minister Devegowdaji had gone there on 22nd December, 1996 and Rs.15 crore .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI): This project was taken up in 1996, 1997 and twice in 1998. Even then why it could not be done.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (BANKA) : Foundation stone was laid without conducting any survey.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : No, you cannot give the huge amount of Rs. 15 crore of the country in this way.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Two years ago, the then Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the bridge .... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Let him speak.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The copy of Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's speech at present and during the interim budget should be given to him.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I would like to know as to whether this laying of foundation stone was proper or fake? Hon. Minister can say if it is not proper ... *(Interruptions)* The foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister in 1996 but the work on this project has not started.... *(Interruptions)* Now he says that inquiry on it may take three years.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Alright, please give him the copy of his speech.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was surprised to know about this project. Earlier also I had requested the Hon. Minister of Railways to include this project in railway budget, so that a big project of Bihar could be completed. Bihar was in news due to hon. Minister of Railways but during this period nothing spectacular was done in Bihar. I would like to say that survey has been conducted about this railway bridge now but the former Minister of Railways made propaganda about it and former Prime Minister Shri Devegowda laid the foundation stone quite earlier. Was it proper? Is it not mockery of public of Bihar? Now you are delaying this project and not taking it seriously. It is our insult. I would like to say to hon. Minister that project to link South and North should be implemented.. It is becoming intolerable now.

I would like to say one more thing that the history of Rome is virtually the history of ruin. You are well aware of the destruction which took place there. In childhood we used to study that platform of Sonapur Railway station is the longest platform in the country. It is a religious place and famous in Asia for its fair. Now trouble is being created for this station. There is a washing pit in Sonapur.... *(Interruptions)*

The washing pit for carriage is lying vacant. It is really a mockery that staff is taken to Barauni for this work. I want to tell the hon. Minister of Railway that expenditure is not involved in this work. Washing pit is already there and this work can be done in Sonapur. This problem is before you as it has been ruined recently. No attention is being paid with regard to railways. There is no other station like this especially in North Bihar but injustice has been done to it.

In 1978, the then Minister of Railways, Shri Madhu Dandavate laid the foundation stone of a railway college which is functioning very well. Commerce and Science streams are there and the children of railway employees study there. It is considered a very good college under Jaiprakash University. Recently, hon. Minister and officers in Railway Board have said that this college will be taken over. Papers in this regard are with the Ministry of Railways. I request the hon. Minister to pay attention towards it.

In the same way locoshed is lying vacant in Sonapur. It can be converted into diesel shed without any expenditure, but it is not being done. I would request that this locoshed may be converted into a diesel shed.



A train should be introduced from Sonapur to Misrekh via Teraiya. The people of this area have to go to Chhapra for going to Misrekh and the distance becomes 150 km. whereas by laying a 30-35 km. rail line, the train can go upto Thave and Gopalganj... (Interruptions)

Throughout Gorakhpur trains are run on a single track and sometimes trains are delayed for 4-5 hours. I demand that this rail line should be doubled.

Now I would like to raise an important issue which relates to your department and portion of it goes beyond its jurisdiction. Cases of looting are being reported from all over U.P. Suppose a trader of cows goes with a truck load of cows, his truck is looted. Hundreds of such trucks have been looted. In Gorakhpur itself, 43 trucks of jersey cows have been looted. Earlier a goods train with 72 wagons used to go to Calcutta twice a week which benefited traders as well as common man. Due to these incidents of looting, the price of jersey cows has increased from Rs. 7000/- to Rs. 15,000/- or Rs. 20,000/-. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to pay attention towards it. From Punjab improved breeds of cows are sent to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal. These are looted on the way. It is really shameful that 43 such trucks have been looted in Gorakhpur. There is no law and order. I request that attention should be paid towards it and trains should be started from Jalandhar and Amritsar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : I am just concluding. A train runs between Patna and Cochi via Asansol and Kharagpur.

SHRI ADITYANATH : These are stopped under cow slaughter (prohibition) Act. The Hon. Member is misleading the House. You cannot load more cows in a truck than the fixed limit. Old and useless cows are transported in these trucks, that also as per the capacity of the truck. Sometimes they do not have licence..... (Interruptions)

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : He is blaming me. The cows transported thus are milch-cows and not for slaughtering.

SHRI ADITYANATH : Cows are stopped at Gorakhpur for their protection.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : The train running between Patna and Cochi is a weekly train. As you may be aware of the situation that people are facing difficulties

due to heavy rush. I demand that frequency of this train should be increased to thrice a week because it is the only train for this place.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI):  
Cows are taken to another place without any permit.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : Raise the issue of permit later on. You were instrumental in getting 43 trucks looted there.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him speak, you may speak about the permit later on. Shri Hira Lal, please wind up.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY : Many adivasi labourers from Tata Nagar come to work in tea estates but they have no train to go. I demand that a direct train from Tata Nagar to Jalpaiguri be introduced so that labourers from Chhota Nagpur could go direct to the tea estates. A.C. bogie is not being attached to the train from Chhapra to Tata Nagar. Hon'ble Railway Minister is requested to do the same. Foundation stone for the laying of railway line between Hajipur and Vaishali has been laid. As you are aware that the first republic was born in Vaishali. Therefore, Hajipur-Vaishali should be connected by rail.

With these words, I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Railway Minister has not listened. Foundation Stone for Hajipur-Vaishali railway line has been laid and even survey has also been conducted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad may be allowed to speak on railways while Private Members Bill will be discussed in the House.

SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI (BHAGALPUR):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget. I hail from the State of Railway Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhash Chandra, you can continue after 6 O'clock, now P.M.B. has started.

15.30 hrs.

#### PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

#### National Housing Policy-Contd

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Dr. Laxminarayan

Pandey on the 2nd June, 1998. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

**DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM) :**  
Sir, after 50 years of Independence, we find that the conditions of the people are most miserable in the country, particularly in the rural areas. When we go to the slums and villages, we get actually tears in our eyes after seeing the pathetic condition of the people who are living in huts, under the trees and in the platforms. We see their tragic life in the modern society of our country.

15.31 hrs.

(SHRI KHAGAPATI PRADHANI *in the Chair*)

If we see the statistics, we will find that there is a shortage of 33 million units out of which there is a shortage of 23.5 million units in the rural areas and 9.5 million units in the urban areas. But surprisingly, even though in the First Plan about 35 per cent was allocated for housing, it was gradually reduced to a large extent. In fact, in the Seventh Plan, it had come down to 9.6 per cent and in the Eighth Plan it had come down to 12.2 per cent. I do not know how it is going to be in the Ninth Plan. So, this is the situation we find in the country.

From the very beginning, we have been dreaming of *Roti, Kapda aur Makan* in this sovereign country. Every citizen should be provided with drinking water nearer to his house. However, we have not been able to provide drinking water to 70 to 80 per cent poor people of this country. Then, what is the solution? What is the methodology? How is the Government going to do it? We know that our Government definitely cannot afford to provide this to all the needy people overnight, but still when there is determination, dedication, concentration, devotion, planning and practical approach, we can always achieve magnificent results. If we do it in a very systematic and planned way, we can achieve good results.

I really welcome our hon. Minister's idea of modifying urban land ceiling because the most important issue now is the availability of land. Secondly to construct houses, money is required. Even though we have got lakhs of hectares of surplus land available in the country, because of this law, which has been struck up for more than three decades, nothing is moving.

\* Now, the time has come when drinking water is available, but the poor man cannot drink. He will be

dying. What is the use? Therefore, we must use modern science, modern technology, and modern philosophy in a practical way to see that it is modified suitably to meet the present needs, and also to see that land is made available to all the needy people in India in such a way that they can construct more houses for the future of this country.

I would like to give one more good suggestion. In my opinion not only municipalities and corporations but also panchayats should be involved in identifying the surplus land. For instance, in villages and also in cities like Visakhapatnam, we find that so much of land is available. It is under the control of municipalities, corporations or some district collectors. So, now, the local MLAs, MPs, panchayats and also sarpanches must take an active part. They should be involved by the Government, to see that they take active part wherever the land is available. Now, how to do it? Suppose a land belongs to the Government. They must fix a nominal rate for that land and see that it is given to a poor man. The hon. Prime Minister, under his dynamic leadership, must try and see that the land is made available to the poor people in various ways. Not only the method of Urban Land Ceiling but other methods are also there. There is so much land belonging to Government and various other agencies still available. This must be made available to the poor people at a very reasonable and nominal rate. That is my first suggestion.

The second point that I would like to make is that we cannot expect the Government to provide money for constructing all the houses. So, the Government must involve banks, financial institutions and also private agencies to provide financial assistance to the poor people. I am happy that the Government is thinking of inviting direct foreign investment in order to encourage the construction of houses. That is a very good step but the Government should act seriously and inspire them, stimulate them and make them invest here and see that more houses come up.

Indira Awas Yojna is a good scheme started by the Congress Government a long time back, but today we need some improvement in the Scheme. When the Government is planning to make 20 lakh extra houses available, we fear how they are going to make the money available for it. Of course, they did not clearly mentioned how they are going to give it, but if they increase the funds for the Indira Awas Yojana substantially, the things will definitely improve.

Thirdly, you will be surprised, Sir, that even a Member of Parliament, representing seven Assembly segments in his constituency, has no role in allocating funds to needy persons. In the last Lok Sabha, almost 200 Members of Parliament had represented to the Government saying that they should be involved in the allocation of funds and other day-to-day affairs. Even though the then Prime Minister, Shri Devegowda agreed to this, yet nothing happened. The present Government should take it as a challenge and prove that they will be successful in doing it. A few days back, several Members of Parliament requested Shri Vajpayee also. We dream and we want to see a good day when the Government will take a decision in this regard and see that M.Ps. are involved in the implementation of *Indira Awas Yojna* in their constituencies so that they will be able to play a more active, crucial, permanent, important and unparallel role in making this scheme more successful.

Sir, I shall be completing my speech in another five minutes. I do not believe in making long speeches; I do believe in talking in a precise, useful, befitting and concrete manner.

My next suggestion is that the Government should allow the cost of construction of one's house to be written off so that tax reduction is there. If encouragement is given to the agencies helping in construction of houses for poor people, it might lead to more agencies coming up and helping the poor people.

One more suggestion I would like to make and that is about granting exemption in Capital Gains Tax. If the capital gain on the amount invested on the construction of a house is exempted from tax, a number of people would like to invest. So, that also will be an incentive to the people.

Another suggestion that I would like to make is to allow people to depreciate their houses over a period of ten years and also to allow a steep reduction in Stamp Duty. This also will be an encouragement to the people.

My next suggestion is to remove the present ceiling of one self-occupied house for exemption from Wealth Tax. Of course, the Government has already done it. We are very happy and we welcome it.

There were suggestions for making mortgage easier and to encourage foreign investment in housing. This Budget skips over this. Barring the World Bank's large

projects where taxable income of the promoter can be reduced by half, this concession is not given to others. The World Bank loans have, of course, become doubtful because of the sanctions imposed by it, but after everything is over, I think the suggestion will be accepted.

The housing finance firms have requested the Minister for making them eligible for various tax concessions for investing in the low income housing. But the Budget is silent about it. The Budget is not yet complete and I hope that the Minister of Urban Development will think about this point at the time of approval of the Budget.

Then, I am requesting our hon. Minister to see that 20 lakh houses are provided to people. My friend, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya is telling that in Hyderabad their Government is going to give houses. By such statements, we may make their dreams happy. But how are we going to give houses to them and make the poor man's life more glorious and memorable? Let us not make only statements, but make some practical, constructive and acceptable suggestions regarding how to do it. I do agree that we have limitation of funds and resources and the Government has got its own commitments. We do agree that the Government is also to look into various other aspects of people's life. At the same time, I would say 'When there is a will, there is a Way.'

We have to inspire banks and financial institutions like IDBI, IFCI and ICICI for this work. The RBI must give guidelines that these institutions should allocate some amount for housing schemes for lower income groups out of their profits. Even banks are today making so much of profits and some amount out of their profits should be allocated for this purpose so that it would not be a burden on the Government. In fact, I am giving good ideas to the Government. It is very easy to earn a good name if the Minister follows these ideas. In fact, the Finance Minister has done a good thing by inviting the NRIs to invest in housing here. It is a welcome thing.

But my suggestion is that the NRIs who are living in foreign countries should be given a clear-cut inspiration and stimulation to invest in this area. You must create a national spirit in them. Some people and committees should go and tell them that they should please help their country and we will give some exemptions, some good name, respect and recognition to them. By merely telling that we want foreign invest-

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

ment, nobody will come. They must make an effective and inspiring effort by inviting some NRIs.

Why should an NRI come here? If there is a profit, he will come. If there is no profit, he will not come. If he gets a good name or recognition, or if he feels that he must help his own country, only then, he will come. Therefore, nobody other than the NRIs will come here. So, let us make NRIs, who are having billions of dollars all over the world, to invest in this field. We must give a call through proper communication machinery to some recognised, smart, efficient and committed personalities, who could travel to all those countries and convince, inspire and stimulate them, by bringing them here and making them participate by investing their money in housing by helping in this noble cause..... *(Interruptions)*

In conclusion, what I would like to say is this. Firstly, it is a known fact that in our country, in villages, and in slum areas of big metropolitan cities, people are living without houses. Housing is the most burning problem there. Perhaps, there is no country like India where people are suffering so much for want of houses. You go to a railway station, you will find people sleeping on the platforms. Our hearts bleed when we see them living in such a pathetic condition. If you go to the slum areas, you will find that there is no road, no communication facility, no proper drainage facility and at the same place, they drink water, sleep and go to toilets. They are having a very tragic and pathetic life.

Till today, we are only thinking. Let us address this problem in a very constructive way. For this, the only way out is that the Ministry must take up this problem in a very serious and practical way, by avoiding red-tapism. Even if they decide, the implementation of our policies is not taking place properly. So, the Ministry must take active part in it. The Minister must immediately see to it that something is done here. There is so much of surplus land in our country. It is not only because of urban land ceiling, but also because of the fact that so much land is under the control of the District Collectors, State Governments, Central Government, Railways and various other Government agencies which are not using the land which belongs to them. For instance, there are so many acres of idle land in the areas belonging to Defence, port and with the Railways in Vishakhapatnam.

They will not allow it to be given to a poor man and they also will not be able to use it. Similarly, in many other cities also, the poor people have been

living in the land belonging to various Government agencies for the last 15 to 20 years by building small, temporary houses. Of course, the land belongs to various Central Government agencies and they cannot go out now. Since they are occupying the land belonging to the Railways or the Defence, the Government is not giving them the facilities like drainage, road, electricity etc., and make them to suffer miserably beyond human imagination in these modern days which is not really fair and reasonable. Therefore, the hon. Minister, Shri Ram Jethmalani has to look into this problem very seriously. The Government cannot make them vacate their temporary, semi-permanent houses without providing them with proper alternative houses and if the Government vacates them from that land, they do not have any alternative there because the Government is not giving them any facilities.

Sir, this is a burning problem in many cities of our country. This is not a political work or perhaps, even the Government should not feel that it is only their duty to look after them. This is a human cause, a noble cause. If you help a poor man by providing him with good housing facility, it is as good as serving the God. Therefore, irrespective of our political affiliations, we all must make a united effort, we all must come together, give full encouragement to them, give constructive suggestions, and extend our help to this noble cause.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : For the information of hon. Members I would like to state that the time allotted for this discussion is three hours and the time already taken is two-and-a-half hours. We have another half-an-hour left now.

Mr. Minister, how much time do you need to reply?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I need at least half-an-hour.

*[Translation]*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, one hour has been extended on this issue.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is still half-an-hour left. After that, we can extend the time for this discussion, if necessary.

*[Translation]*

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution on Housing presented by Shri Pandey. It is a matter of regret that even after 50 years of our independence, we are unable to provide housing facility for the people of this country. Food, shelter and clothing along with education and medicine are the basic needs of life. As far as the question of housing is concerned, lakhs of people in urban as well as in rural areas of our country do not have a shelter. Even today, we find many people with their families sleeping under the bridges, trees and on footpaths. This is the situation after 50 years of our independence. We have been unable to provide housing facility to the poor people belonging to any caste, creed or religion though slogans like "Mera Bharat Mahan or Garibi Hatao" are raised. A poet has rightly said "Sarey jahan say achcha, Hindustan hamara, Rehney ko ghar Nahi, Sara jahan hamara." There are many people in our country who do not have shelter to protect themselves from sun, rain and cold.

They have no shelter. It is the Prime duty of the Government to arrange houses for lakhs of such people. Many schemes like Indira Awas Yojana have been implemented in urban and rural areas but very small houses have been constructed under this plan. These houses are of poor quality. The area of these flats is too small to accommodate a family. A single bed can not be put there. Parents, children and even married children live there together. It is like making fun of the poor people. There are so many examples when these flats have been allotted to the persons who already have large bungalows and flats to live. Even their pet animals and tractors are kept in a separate place. These flats have been allotted to them under the Indira Awas Yojana, however many shelterless poor people are deprived of the houses. We have received complaints also in this regard.

Maharashtra Government had announced to provide 40 lakh houses to 40 lakh shelterless people. The details regarding the implementation of this scheme have not been received. It would be better if such schemes are implemented by State Government agencies through Central Government. A policy should be formulated under which colonies and multi-storey buildings could be constructed for those who are shelterless. Poor people should get houses under these plans.

Special provision for housing should be made for the downtrodden, SCs, STs and people belonging to

the backward sections of the society who are poor, socially oppressed and are discriminated.

Construction of houses is done by many organisations like DDA of Delhi and Nagpur Improvement Trust of Nagpur. Government should provide land to the people who do not have houses. These organisations were set up with a view to provide housing facility to poor people but now-a-days these have become profit making organisations. It is a matter of regret that these organisations provide land to rich people only. Shelterless poor people could construct a good house if loan facility on easy instalment through banks is provided to them. It would be better if loan is provided at lower rate of interest.

It is a problem which concerns the entire country. This problem concerns the whole country just like the problem of employment. We see that the people come to metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta from their villages in search of employment and start living in slums where no facilities of water, toilets, roads, electricity are available. It is very unfortunate that basic needs of the common man are not being fulfilled. Government should formulate a scheme under which we should have colonies and houses equipped with all facilities. On one side we see a small section of people who have good houses to keep their pets but on the other there are several people who are shelterless. What more can be shameful for us? Many of our friends have made special arrangements for their pets but the man who serves the country for whole life and the poor man help in making country prosperous, remains deprived of the housing facility. It is disgraceful even after 50 years of Independence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House but I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that there are still lakhs of people who do not have shelter. Hon'ble Minister is requested to pay more attention to provide this facility to the people of the country. One of our friend has suggested to make it compulsory for a person to construct a 5th storey if he wants to build a 4 storeyed building. Four Stories can be used by him and fifth floor could be provided to the poor people to live. In this regard, I would like to state that there are different organisations engaged in his task. Government should set up such organisations and more housing finance should be arranged. Needy persons should be provided loans through Banking Institutions on behalf of these organisations at lower rates of interest for construction of houses. Therefore, I request you and the House that

[Prof. Jogendra Kawade]

the housing is a very serious problem and Government should formulate different schemes to solve this problem.

I forget to mention here that one of our friends has given a suggestion that in our country we have separate colonies of Hindus, Muslims and of Dalits but today under new plans we should develop the housing colonies where people could live irrespective of their caste or religion and there should not be the monopoly of the people of one particular caste. People belonging to all castes should live friendly, why is it that people want to live in the colonies of their own cast. I would like to draw your attention towards this also. For safety reasons dalits prefer to live in dalit colonies, Hindus in hindu colonies and muslims in muslim colonies. They feel themselves secure there. People belonging to different castes and religions can live anywhere in India if we are able to provide them guarantee of safety. People of this country, especially poor people will be benefited if such a scheme is formulated under some Bill or legislation. Rich people do not face much problems regarding housing because they can afford to construct big houses.

16.00 hrs.

Actually the problem of housing is mainly faced by poor. They spend their life time's saving to raise a modest house or hut which are demolishe by government machinery in the name of encroachment. Sir, through you, I would like to say that the bill brought here should have a provision where owners of such modest houses and huts should be granted lease for ownership and their hutments should be regularised. The Government should consider its duty to provide housing facility to all citizens especially the poor and housing policy should be formulated keeping all these things in mind. The Minister of Finance has introduced a new scheme 'SaraI' for payment of income tax. In the same way an easy scheme should be introduced for housing so that poor people could construct houses for themselves. Attention should be paid towards removing hurdles in the process of constructing houses. Nothing is more sacred than providing shelter to poor people. With these words I conclude and thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a few days back golden jubilee of Independence was celebrated with great pump and show and today concern is being expressed about people living in villages and cities who do not have

houses to live in . Was golden jubilee celebration for this achievement? Food, shelter and water are the main problems of people living in rural areas. Not a single problems out of these three main problem could be solved during the last 50 years. So, I am unable to understand as to why this celebration was made. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that the problem of housing should not be considered for villages and cities separately but it should considered for the country as a whole. Kawadeji has rightly stated that in big cities like Calcutta and Delhi, in backside of big houses one or two rooms are constructed for dogs. I would like to raise an issue regarding Calcutta where people from different parts of the country come and settle down and most of them are from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Some of these people are engaged in business and others are rikshaw-puller, cart-puller and labourers. You will be pained to see their condition. They work very hard for the whole day but they do not get proper food and water. They are compelled to drink dirty water and live in small houses 10, 20 or 50 people live in such places. It is the situation of big cities. In villages also more than 50 percent people do not have houses to live in. Central Government provides funds for constructing houses for poor people under the Indira Awas Yojana. Under this scheme poor persons have been identified and fixed the percentage of housing units to be constructed for them. Under this scheme Central Government provides funds for constructing houses for identified poor people. The State Government acts as the working agency and villagers work as officials for it. Under this scheme, there is a provision to provide funds to these identified persons for getting their houses constructed. But what actually happens. The government officials and middlemen embezzle this money.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the estimate made for Indira Awas Yojana is quite off the mark. It does not seem rational at all. The houses constructed as per the estimate of Indira Awas Yojana may cause disaster for the family as it may fall anytime within a period of 5 or 7 years. This estimate should be rationalised if you actually want to provide housing facility to poor. Under Indira Awas Yojana only one room is provided to beneficiaries which is not proper. Even today government land is lying in abundance with Revenue officers and Collectors. If the Government actually wants to provide housing facility to poor and think for their welfare then it can ask the officials of Bihar to allot one or two acres of government land for building a colony for the poor. One or two-storey houses can be built where poor people from all the section of society could settle.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is not much land available in villages but big landlords get the governmental land allotted in their names by giving fake numbers and that land is used as a place for keeping cattle. How it happens when circle officer of rural areas give approval for it. They prepare fake lists which do not have names of actual persons. Sir, through you, I demand that inquiry should be conducted in this regard. I would like to say to hon. Minister that Central Government provides funds for this scheme, so it should be monitored properly. The Government should monitor and inquire into it as to whether this fund is being utilized properly or it is being embezzled by government officials and middlemen. I request the honourable Members of the House to think about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to suggest that for poor people of urban areas colonies should be developed outside the cities for their resettlement. In the same way in villages such colonies should be constructed on government land for settlement of poor villagers. At present, out of Rs. 20,000/- sanctioned for each unit, Rs. 10,000/- is usurped by middlemen and officials. You can well imagine how a room can be constructed with a meagre amount of Rs. 1000/- I would like to make a submission that for providing houses to poor and checking the misuse of public funds, monitoring of this scheme is essential. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Hon'ble Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey for having drawn the attention of the House towards such a significant matter which is of utmost importance for this nation. All the Governments and whichever Government was formed in this country in the last 50 years, raised the slogan of providing food, cloth and shelter to the people of this country, but these remained what they were—mere slogans and promises. Industrial policy and all sorts of policies were formulated in the country from time to time but housing policy was never formulated. A movement was launched for alleviation of poverty but attention was never paid towards the fact that shelter is one of the basic necessities of all the citizens of this country and it has an important role to play in his life. Just as food is essential for a human being and clothes are essential for a healthy person, similarly a safe accommodation is an essential requirement for a civilized human society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we formulate various policies for the welfare of the country while sitting in Delhi and

Lucknow, without paying any attention towards the extent to which such policies would prove effective for the 75% population of this country and whether those people will be benefited or not. When we visit the villages, we can see the results of such policies that the villages have not been benefited. We dream of achieving the position of the leaders of the world, but have we ever paid attention towards improving the economy of this country or towards improving the condition of the poor living in this country. Have we ever helped them? That is why, I would like to present certain statistics on the occasion of 50th anniversary of Independence which is being celebrated as Golden Jubilee of Independence. These statistics have been furnished not by any private institute but by the National Council of Applied and Economic Research of the Government of India. This data reveals a very terrifying picture. The Hon'ble Members of the highest panchayat of the country i.e. the Parliament might perhaps find it hard to believe that as per this data, 43% of the people of our country are living below the poverty line. 13% earn Rs. 3 per day and 18% have an income of Rs. 5 per day. 61% women are still illiterate. The literacy rate in villages stands at 20% and most of the people in the country do not have the facility of safe drinking water, 45% do not have a safe accommodation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have formulated all sorts of programme. I would like to draw the attention of the House first of all towards National Family Welfare Programme. You might be aware that programme was made applicable for a particular section, hence it remained restricted to that section only. Should the law of the land not be applicable to all the citizens? Why is discrimination being made in this respect? The population of the country is increasing at the rate of 2.1 percent which means that there is an addition of two crore people every year and hence the number of families goes up by forty thousand every year. How can accommodation be provided for forty thousand families? This issue is most important for all of us and we should consider it seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, quite clearly, all the programmes drawn up by the previous Government have been formulated. Keeping in view the interests of a particular section of society and that section has been benefited by all those policies. We should formulate a National Housing policy, link it with the economic and the industrial policy of the nation and undertake this work in the villages. So long as development does not take place in the villages, migration from villages to cities will not be checked. Besides, several issues have been raised

[Shri Adityanath]

here. One of them was that the urban land ceiling act was enforced. Hon'ble Minister is present here. I had pointed out earlier also that the land in metropolitan cities, land under ceiling and state land (nazul land) was occupied in connivance with the politicians and officials under the urban land ceiling Act and even the ponds were occupied in the villages. If such is the situation, how will you be able to allot land to the poor. The surplus land in the villages was forcibly occupied by the land mafias. Indira Awas Yojana was discussed here. 20,000 rupees are given to a family under Indira Awas Yojana. 10,000 out of these 20,000 rupees are spent as commission. Now you may calculate yourself as to how can even a room be constructed in ten thousand rupees. Definitely, it is a good trend that the present Government has made a provision in the budget for this purpose.

Obviously, the housing policy of the country caters to be interests of High class and middle class people. No provision has been made for lower class people. People migrate from villages to cities to work as rickshaw pullers, cart-pullers or labourers and are able to earn 50 to 100 rupees per day, but I have never seen any proper living arrangements for such people. They are forced to sleep on footpath. It has been more than 50 years since we gained Independence. We will definitely have to consider this that every citizen of our country should have a house. The B.J.P. led coalition Government has made a provision that additional houses will be constructed for 20 lakh families, out of which 13 lakh units will be constructed in villages and 7 lakh units in urban areas. A provision has been made to raise the amount under Indira Awas Yojana from Rs. 1144 crore to Rs. 1600 crore. Apart from this, the urban land ceiling act has been repealed and an assurance has been given to get the land freed from the clutches of the land mafia which is a commendable step. We would expect from this House that as Hon'ble Member, Shri Laxminarayan Pandey has moved a resolution for provision of a safe accommodation for all the citizens of the country and through this House, all the citizens of this country should be provided a house and their basic needs should be met. I thank him for moving this bill in the House. I thank you very much for giving me time to speak. Jai Hind.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Even the Members of Parliament have not been provided accommodation so far, whereas housing policy is being discussed here. We are concerned about the poor but what is the way out for those Hon'ble Members who do not have accommodation?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the issue of accommodation for the Members of Parliament is concerned, Sahuji is correct but this problem will be resolved shortly. There won't be much delay in this regard. The main problem is that of the poor. Mahatama Gandhi used to say that majority of the people of India live in villages and there are 7 lakh villages in our country. If we pay proper attention towards the economy of the villages of our country, the villagers will not be inclined to migrate to cities. When our first five year plan was started in 1950, we made an effort to implement this scheme in our predominantly agricultural country. Mahatama Gandhi was of the view that special attention should be paid towards those living in villages. The villagers should be able to live independently. There should be irrigational facilities for cultivation. They should have small scale industries and facility of primary health services should be available to all of them. There is no doubt about the fact that country has made a great progress in 50 years. At the time of gaining independence, our population stood at 35 crores which has now risen to around 98 crores. It is apprehended that our population will be around 100 crore at the end of this century. With regard to providing accommodation in this country having a population of hundred crore, I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that the housing boards of the State Governments construct such houses. Hon'ble Minister is one of the legal experts. He has been handed the charge of such a department, still he has handled it successfully. I would like to tell you that we will have to take into consideration the volume of requirement while formulating the housing policy for the country. If the issue is viewed from the perspective of population, our population has been rising. We are unable to check it. If we are unable to check the rise in population, we will not be able to have the same living conditions as we have now.

A very difficult position is going to be experienced in our country. The area of the houses would be insufficient for the residents even to sleep properly. I would like to thank Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey for raising such an important national issue. We have solved the problem of food and clothing to some extent. Sometimes we have to import food grains for which discussion also takes place. Over all there is no doubt that today we are self-sufficient in agricultural sector. The situation of the textile is that 233 cloth mills are on the verge of closure. That is a different matter. Today we are not concerned about clothing.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Motilal Vora, please take



your seat for a minute. We have to extend the time. The time allotted for this item is going to be over. If the House agrees, we can extend the time by another one hour because there are eight or ten more hon. Members to speak and the hon. Minister has to reply.

So, can we extend the time for this item?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, we can extend the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay. Thank you. The time is extended by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, today people are migrating from villages to cities. However, we never tried to find out as to why people are migrating. Attention should be paid towards it. Earlier only 18% of the people were educated. Today literacy rate has reached 54%. Though we can't claim that there is cent percent literacy but 54% literacy rate has been achieved. Thus, the educated people in rural areas are attracted towards cities in the hope of getting employment there. But they do not get the employment. A lot of money has been spent on housing. Housing Boards have been set up in every state. These Boards have constructed number of houses. Houses are constructed for big people. Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that thousands of houses constructed by Housing Boards in the states are lying vacant due to a number of disputes and have become ruins. These Housing Boards get loan from HUDCO. Therefore, accountability should be fixed as to how these loans would be recovered. State Governments should be directed in this regard as it is the only solution to the immediate problem. The State Governments do not have much money to build lakhs of houses. The Government has decided to construct 30 lakh houses. I would like to thank them for this. At least Government has taken a decision in this regard. However, this decision should not remain on papers only. Generally, it happens that many good decisions remain in files and are not be implemented for many years. Governments change but those decisions are not implemented. It is not an easy task to construct 30 lakh houses..... (Interruptions)

[English]

It is because your Government is taking all steps to have proper accommodation. I was earlier thinking

of a sum of Rs. 30 lakh. But you have reduced it by Rs. 20 lakh.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

We often talk about Indira Awas Yojana. However, if one gets a loan under this plan to build a house he has to pay commission to get its 1st instalment released. I do not know as to how long this malady of paying commission would continue in our society. We must get rid of it. Otherwise a day will come when out of the first instalment of Rs. 10,000/-, one will have to pay Rs. 5000/- as commission. If such practice continue then the beneficiary will not have the sufficient money even to lay the foundations of the house. Monsoon phys havoc and houses collapse. Therefore, our endeavour should be to construct a large number of houses under Indira Awas Yojana. Special attention should be given to the poor villagers. Communal harmony should be maintained and Harijans and Dalits must be accommodated in the colonies constructed. Therefore, I request to enhance the amount of loan. 30 thousand rupees is an insufficient amount to construct a house. Price escalation has gone to an extent that it is not possible to construct the house with such a meagre amount. Therefore, both the amount and number of houses under Indira Awas Yojana should be increased.

People in the rural areas have their own houses and the problem of housing is not so bad as it is in urban areas. You may notice that in every large city, 400-500 slum colonies are there. It is difficult even to imagine the condition of the people living there in the absence of civic amenities. As you belong to Bombay, you may be well versed with the situation there. People are compelled to live in hose pipes. It is difficult for a family to live and cook meal there. Therefore, adequate attention is required in this direction.

Our country is an agriculture based country. There is need to divert people towards agriculture. People should not migrate from villages. Small scale industries should be set up in rural areas which will solve the problem of unemployment in these areas and also help in solving the problem of slums in cities. Such slums are in every metropolitan city. No arrangements are there for water, electricity and other facilities to live. The question to give education to their wards does not arise. Crores of people are leading such an inhuman life. It can be confirmed through census but according to unconfirmed figures 30 crore people do not have shelter to live. What more can be disgraceful that out of 90 crore population of the country 30 crore do not have houses.

[Shri Motilal Vora]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate Shri Pandey for raising this matter in the House through a resolution. He can withdraw it on the request of hon'ble Minister but we should pressurise the Hon'ble Minister to get an assurance that Central Government will help in this regard. We can definitely achieve our target by constructing the houses in an organised manner. However, it is also a fact that this target can not be achieved in a day. This malady has not developed in a day. To solve this problem planning should be done on the five year plan basis. Also the mentality of the people in this regard should be changed. There are big industrialists and land mafias in the cities. The Government should get their co-operation in the construction of houses in big cities. These industrialists get lot of benefits from us. So they should also co-operate with the Government. It is a social work and big industrialists from all over the country should contribute a part of their earnings in this direction. They should present themselves as an example and show that they can do social service also alongwith running the industries. Social organisations should also be involved in this task. The Government alone cannot accomplish this work. People's interest should be motivated towards this direction. This national problem can definitely be solved by our joint efforts. Besides, I would also like to state that we should control our population in the coming years. Our population will be around 110 crores by the year 2000. We have not been able to control the population explosion. In the coming years we will be unable to cater to the needs of schools, colleges and hospitals due to increase in population.

I request Pandeyji not to pressurize hon. Minister for it because it is not a question of pressurizing anyone. Hon. Minister is well aware of this problem. He has seen Mumbai and many other cities of the country. This problem can be solved if Central Government takes this issue seriously and then discussion on this subject would not be required again.

With these words I conclude and thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, an important issue of public importance is being debated in this House through the Private member's resolution moved by Pandeyji. I feel that issue raised by him is very important. As we all know that food, clothing and shelter is the basic need of a person. In the context of housing I would like to say that the position is not up to the mark. Out of the total population, 32 crore people live below the poverty

line or we can say that 6 crore families live below the poverty line. For these six crore families the Government is required to construct 3 lakh to 20-25 lakh houses every year through Indira Awas Yojna or Minimum Need programme. It will take 12 years if 50 lakh houses are constructed every year by the Government and 24 years if every year 25 lakh houses are constructed. These people are living in miserable conditions. People are living with their children and cattle and all the household chores including cooking is done at the same place. Government should have willpower for providing housing facility and formulate a national policy. A provision for it should be made in the budget. The Government should show generosity towards these poor people for providing houses to them.

Sir, when we go to villages, people, especially women demand houses. Indira Awas Yojana has been included in the Minimum Needs Programme and a provision has been made for providing housing facility to poor people of all the castes, who live below the poverty line. I would like to say that 300-400 houses constructed under this scheme annually are divided in blocks. When we, the MLAs and MPs go to villages, people often complain that houses in certain blocks have been constructed but their houses in other blocks are lying incomplete which should be completed at the earliest. This work is done through State Governments which do not identify appropriate persons. Another problem is that earlier such a house used to cost Rs.14 thousand but now due to increase in prices of bricks and cement, this cost escalated to Rs. 20 thousand. In such a situation, with a grant of Rs. 14 thousand walls are constructed but for paucity of funds roof could not be constructed.

These poor people are not in a position to construct roof themselves and there is no provision to facilitate them to do it. So how their houses could be completed? There should be such a policy and provision in the budget to enable the poor people to construct their houses. The same problem would arise if a grant of Rs.20 thousand is provided. It takes two or three years time in construction of such houses and during this period prices of building material increase and the houses remain incomplete. I get feed back from every state that these houses remain incomplete. The Government should find a solution to this problem. The houses in cities are constructed according to their designs and there is also a provision for repair whereas no such provision is made for repair of houses of poor. Whether it is hutment or house with roof of cupels it

falls in rough whether. People demand that houses with concrete roof should be given to them. These houses take four or five years to complete. The houses which are not constructed as per specification are falling. Therefore, the national housing policy should have provisions for all these issues so that housing problem of poor could be solved.

Sir, I would like to cite two lines from the poem of late Gopal Singh 'Nepali'—

"Jab Chandra Kiran Se mahlon ki  
deewar Chamakti rahati hai,  
Chandni jhonpri se lipat kar  
raat sisakti rahati hai.

In these lines the poet had said that on the one hand moonlight illuminates the walls of palaces and increases its beauty but on the other hand there are broken huts of poor in dilapidated condition. Two or three generations are living together in the same dwelling unit, all the household chores are done there. They are living in subhuman conditions. In such a situation these people think about their share in the budget of the country. The Government should make special provision for them in the budget and should monitor the time period in which those houses are to be constructed.

I would also like to draw attention of this House towards one more point. In villages, people often lose their belongings and savings of their whole life in case of fire. In cities in such cases of fire, people are given assistance. In villages people cannot face such problems with an assistance of Rs. 100 or 200. The Government does not support them and they are left on mercy of God. Therefore, I would like to say that such a legislation should be formulated and implemented effectively. State Governments have several other problems and cannot solve these problems due to paucity of funds. So Central Government should support them and formulate a legislation if required. People whose houses perish in incidents of fire should be given assistance to rebuild them. The State Governments do not have sufficient funds for implementation of Indira Awas Yojana, Minimum Need Programme and providing relief from the Relief Fund. Such schemes can be formulated and executed with strong will power of the Government. The Britishers had a law named Relief Code under which relief was provided if someone's house was destroyed in case of fire, floods, cyclone or similar other reasons. Recently we have heard and

read in newspapers that 2500 jhuggi-jhonpris were gutted in Delhi. They lost all their belongings in it. What will happen to them if Government do not pay attention towards them. Shri Ram Jethmalaniji is the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment.... (Interruptions)

Sir, I do not know as to how much relief is provided to poor? He is also incharge of houses allotted to us. I have heard that he is a famous lawyer and charges Rs. 4 or 5 lakh as fees. I do not know as to whether he would fight our case in court without charging any fees but I request him to advocate the case of poor in this House. Now he has been given responsibility to solve the problem of housing. He is an expert of law and a famous lawyer. Pandeyji has raised the problem of housing regarding poor and emphasized the need to include it in the National Housing Policy. I would like to say that the Government and officials should not shirk their responsibility to make it a legal binding. A proper arrangement should be made for providing assistance to people of villages as well as in cities, who are rendered shelterless due to cyclone, flood, incidents of fire or due to any other similar reason. But I feel that in this also we should categorize people as rich and poor. I would like to say that even those who come under the definition of prosperous, become poor if their house is destroyed due to fire or any other natural calamity and all belongings and Bank Pass Book etc. get destroyed. The Government should immediately provide some alternate shelter to such families. Most of the people in Bihar live in huts. Due to fire all their belongings are gutted, no one is there to listen to their hues.

Sir, I submit that the administration which is unable to provide shelter to its people, is a maladministration. Housing facility should be provided to the poor people. Loans should be provided to middle class people to construct their houses. Government servants often pressurise the members of Parliament to get a house. Housing arrangements should be made for them also. Loan should be provided to the rural people also who like to construct a house. However, priority should be given to construct houses for the 6 crore families living below the poverty line. Such provisions should be made in the proposed national Housing Policy. With these words, I again thank the hon'ble Minister who listens us carefully. The hon'ble Minister charges so much fees in Supreme Court but I do not know whether this discussion will be put into practice, however, I am confident that the intellectuals sitting here will understand our feelings and efforts will be made for the welfare of the poor people.

**SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASAMUND):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, today in the House discussion is taking place on the Private Member's Resolution presented by hon'ble Shri Pandey for quite a long time. We all know that housing is our basic requirement. Keeping my views in brief, I would like to state that this problem is due to the ever increasing population and urbanisation. Swami Aatiyanath was expressing his concern about the rising population. The entire House is unanimous over this issue. There cannot be two opinions regarding National Housing Policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards page 21 of election Manifesto of Bhartiya Janta Party issued in the year 1998 in which this party has clearly mentioned its resolution and has stated:

"BJP is of the opinion that very soon 1/3 of our population will start living in cities and it is very important to ensure planned development of these centres into small cities and metropolitans."

BJP has further stated that a national level housing policy should be formulated as housing is the basic need of every human being. It is also there in the resolution that no person will remain shelterless by the year 2002 i.e. during the first decade of 21st century if Bhartiya Janata Party remain in power. It is the basic resolution of our manifesto. I request the hon'ble Members of the House to provide opportunity to BJP to rule not only for 5 years but upto the 1st decade of 21st century. Then Members like Shri Raghuvansh will never get the chance to complaint again.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the pointed suggestions. The housing problem is same in urban as well as in rural areas. There is problem of slums in cities. There is no proper arrangement for sewerage. In rural areas, there is land problem. Government is acquiring the grazing lands due to increase in population. 2.5 Bismil of land is the minimum need of a human being which he is not getting. On one hand he is not getting this minimum requirement while on the other bureaucrats, politicians and rich people are living in hundreds of acres of land. They live in the palace-like houses equipped with all the facilities. An hon'ble Member is present in the House, I would not like to name him, but he knows the situation in Madhya Pradesh. It is a feudal state. The availability of land is very less here and Government had to take a decision to allot the land on lease which was acquired by it through an ordinance.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards one more point. We should promote the low cost housing technology. To construct the houses we should use our local resources like soil, water etc. which are easily available in rural areas. The material used for constructing a house, like bricks etc. should be made available on cheaper rate.

As far as urbanisation is concerned, a new trend has been started in the world and in countries like Britain-rural orientation has started. There, a person is considered more resourceful if he lives in a village. The situation is just opposite in our country. People migrate from villages and are compelled to live in slums. We should find out the reasons behind it.

I would like to state one more point. The activities of HUDCO and other national level organisations in Delhi are confined only to urban areas. They do not even approach the towns. The work of Housing Societies and other co-operative societies is limited to cities only. Who will build houses in villages? We can't tackle this problem only by Indira Awas Yojana. There is lot of tussle along the blocks sarpanchs to get the allocated quota under Indira Awas Yojana. When the representatives of people visit the people, they are flooded with thousand of applications to get house under Indira Awas Yojana. Is it not possible to constitute a national level institute for this purpose. There is an organisation for building material research in Delhi. What functions are being performed by this organisation? Has it any role of play? The research going on in the field of building material should be useful for the development of infrastructure facilities and social structure of the country. This is the intention of the House and I hope hon'ble Minister is committed to fulfill our intention. With this view while concluding my speech, I support this resolution on behalf of all the shelterless people of the country.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) :** Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, a time limit should be fixed otherwise it will not conclude. We should conclude it today.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** All right. Not more than 5 minutes will be allowed to any speaker.

**SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (NANDURBAR):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey for moving this resolution regarding National Housing Policy. This House is expressing its concern about shelterless people in this country. Indira Awas Yojana,

Hudco, Housing Board and several other institutions have been engaged in the work of constructing houses but all these institutions construct houses for middle class and big officials. I demand from the hon. Minister that there should be reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in these houses.

The second point is that this year we are celebrating the golden jubilee of Independence. The voice of people, who are shelterless, does not reach the Centre as well as State Governments.

We, the representatives of public, including Government are responsible to raise their voice here. I, myself have seen the houses constructed in Maharashtra under the Indira Awas Yojana. Village Panchayats provide list of shelterless for allotment of these houses. The poor families of people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other categories live in dilapidated houses of 10'x10' or 15'x15' with their 2 or 3 children and sometimes with their married children. While preparing list of shelterless in Panchayat Sarpanch drops their name from the list on this ground that they had a house of their own. Thus injustice is done to poor. Therefore, State Governments are requested to pay attention towards it.

I request the hon. Minister that a meeting of the Ministers of Rural Development in all the States and Secretaries of the Department of Rural Development should be convened to discuss the Indira Awas Yojana. Indira Awas Yojana is also applicable to tribal areas. We have made a provision to allow construction of similar type of houses under Indira Awas Yojana as are occupied by us in the State. During 1998-99, 30 thousand rupees are proposed to be provided under Indira Awas Yojana but officers of State Government and district-level behave arbitrarily in this matter. Recommendation of MPs or MLAs are not given any importance, Gramsevaks, overseers and engineers prepare list of shelterless and then approval for Indira Awas Yojana is given for that village. Maharashtra is one step ahead in this matter. Members from Madhya Pradesh are well aware of Sardar Sarovar Project. The funds allotted for Indira Awas Yojana are being spent on rehabilitation of people displaced as a result of Sardar Sarovar Project. Central Government and Government of Gujarat are collectively responsible for Sardar Sarovar Project. The State Government may not be aware of the fact that officers of the State Government are spending the funds of Central Government on the rehabilitation of displaced persons, consequently the number of actual beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana is

declining. I, therefore, request the Government to look into this matter that employees of State Government are spending the funds meant for Indira Awas Yojana on rehabilitation of displaced persons of Sardar Sarovar Project. I have raised this issue in Lok Sabha two years ago and written to Accountant General and Chief Secretary of Maharashtra but no action was taken in this regard. Funds allocated for such a good scheme are being diverted to another project. Such arbitrary attitude of officials should be stopped. A few houses are constructed under Indira Awas Yojana in the areas inhabited by poor. As per the rules of State Government, all the scheme like scheme of electrification, drinking water or construction of road should be started from the areas inhabited by poor but actually it is not so. Electricity, drinking water facility and roads are provided in villages and such areas inhabited by poor are not provided with these facilities. Hon. Minister comes from Mumbai, I therefore request him to pay attention towards it. Maharashtra Government had made an announcement in 1995 that 40 lakh houses would be constructed in Mumbai, but so far this scheme could not be implemented. The land occupied by Jhuggi-Jhonpri dwellers had been given to builders.

17.00 hrs.

(SHRI P. M. SAYEED *in the Chair*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is planning to formulate a national housing policy and, therefore, this issue is being debated here but the State Governments are giving the land of Jhuggi-Jhonpri dwellers which was occupied by them for years to builders. The Government should pay attention towards this problem. I thank Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeyji for moving the resolution regarding national housing policy and conclude.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (SATNA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeyji for moving this resolution in this House. Housing is one of the major problems of our country. Acharya Narendra Dev and Jai Prakash Narayanji went to Satna in 1952 before the 1st general election. I was a student of class VI at that time. He had given a slogan at that time that—"Maang raha hai Hindustan, roti, kapda aur makaan" That problem is still there. Even 50 years after Independence this problem could not be solved but it is increasing day by day. People are living in inhuman conditions in the cities. In cities like Mumbai thousands of people are living in open. Sometimes 4 or 5 tiers are raised in a place barely sufficient to accommodate a single bed and people are forced to sleep in those enclosed places.

[Shri Rama Nand Singh]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, same situation prevails in rural areas. Hon. Motilal Vora had been a Governor and a Minister also. I am happy that he has sympathy for poor and shelterless. In his speech he has raised the issue of poor. Custom of 'Ghotul' is still prevalent in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh in which parents live with their small children and children above the age of 14 years live separately in a house built near the village. I feel that the custom of 'Ghotul' would be adopted in other villages and cities also because I have seen that in a room of 10x10 people are living with their married children in inhuman condition. You might have seen people defecating along the road side and in open places. Jai Prakash Narainji had once termed it unfortunate for the country that India has not been able to provide toilets for the females of the country. We have formulated several policies for providing toilet facilities to people but these have been implemented on papers only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is correct that the amount given for construction of houses under the Indira Awas Yojana is small. But it is not that small that nothing could be done by it. It can provide relief and support to a person if it is given properly and honestly. But actual position is quite different. People do not get the full amount of grant, even if their names are included in list of beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana. About 50 percent amount of grant is usurped by officials like B.D.O., district officials, Sarpanch, Secretary and others. A person can construct a house if he gets the full amount of grant honestly under Indira Awas Yojana. The houses constructed by Housing Boards in the urban areas are purchased by the rich people, but no such arrangements are there for poor people. Therefore, this issue is also required to be considered.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the feudal lords of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar have accommodated poor people in rear portion of their houses and farms so that those poor people could work in their fields and houses. Shri Vora is present here. He has been a Minister in the state and enacted many laws in this regard. Such laws have been enacted in many other States also but they are not followed. Even today people are not getting the lease of their ancestral land but these are being given to those influential people who have settled them on the back of their big houses and farms.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, farm houses are being developed in our country also. Rich people are developing farms outside the city though they already have 10-15

houses in the cities. On the other hand, Distt. Administration do not allot 10x10 feet plot to a poor man. Central Government should clearly instruct the State Government to do the same on priority basis. Population in villages has also increased. Plots are not being allotted to even those people in villages who are capable to build a house. They are living in the same old houses with their children and grand children.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of land mafia is also there. Many land mafias are operating in urban areas. Land mafias have grabbed Government ponds and pastures in rural areas also. They will use the land as grazing field. However, poor people do not have a house to live. Union Government should direct State Governments also in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Government has fixed a target of constructing 20 lakh houses. Hon'ble Minister is an expert in law and is one of the eminent lawyers. I hope that rules will be enacted without any loopholes and no unscrupulous person will be spared. A national level policy should be formulated for a country like India. State Governments should be directed clearly so that this problem could be solved.

In the end, I would like to say that we had listened to the speech of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan in 1974 at Boat Club when he launched an agitation against corruption. In the end of his speech he vowed to eradicate corruption. I would like to serve a warning..(Interruptions) Government should vacate the throne. It is applicable to all the Governments whether it is present or past.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : On behalf of the shelterless people of our country, I would like to serve the warning given by Shri Jai Prakash Narayan to the Central and State Governments that housing problem should be solved as early as possible. For the sake of poor, educated, unemployed and shelterless people, all such problems should be given consideration.

A decision should also be taken in regard to family planning. The MPs, MLAs having more than two children should not be allowed to contest election. Government servants with more than two children should not be given increment and promotion. Their wards should not be recruited on compassionate grounds. You have to take some strict steps for the implementation of the policy.

**SHRI NAKLI SINGH (SAHARANPUR) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue of housing. I support the resolution moved by hon'ble Shri Laxminarayan Pandey. I hope that this resolution will prove effective and housing problem will be solved. Because when Laxmi and Narayan both are at the back of this resolution then everything will go smoothly.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please come to the point, your time will be over.

**SHRI NAKLI SINGH :** It is a strange country where crores of people are living without any shelter. The labourers who construct the multi-storey building for rich people all over the country and also die while lifting the building material etc. are not allowed to enter the building after its completion. The labourer who spends his whole life constructing houses for others does not have a shelter for himself. When he goes to one of these houses and rings the bell, someone living there would ask him as to who he was. In a great hesitation he asked about the owner of the house. If he takes more time, the dog start barking. The plight of Jhugi-Jhonpri dwellers is more pathetic. Earlier these Jhugi-Jhonpri dwellers were skilled artisans and great artists. There were no takers of their art and they migrated to cities. These are the artisans who once use to make world famous mulmul of Dhaka. Their occupations were snatched away by mills and they became homeless.

Houses are build in rural areas under Indira Awas Yojana. In Uttar Pradesh perhaps Rs.20,000 are being given for constructing a house. out of which Rs.10,000 are to be paid as commission. Eucalyptus trees are planted in a row but their life span is only two-three years. Population is increasing rapidly in urban as well as in rural areas. What would be the condition of the people living in Jhughi-Jhonpries when it starts raining during the month of July? The Government of India has taken a very good step to construct 20 lakh houses. Hon'ble Minister is a very capable man. I hope that he will solve this problem. If housing problem is not solved then even the people living in big houses will not feel secure when neighbour's house is on fire. One should not think that it will not affect him. Therefore, concrete efforts should be made well in time. Central Government has taken a step. We wish that the resolution presented by Shri Laxminarayan is fulfilled. If this dream becomes true then people will live happily in their houses.

**SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (HAMIRPUR) (U.P.):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for having

*given me the opportunity to speak on the Resolution moved by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey regarding National Housing policy. The problem of housing is a major problem in our country, however, the solution of this problem is not as easy.*

Power has changed hands many times, but it is not as easy a task as it is thought to be. Such is the position in the country due to rising population that no Government can provide a house to all the poor people. I would like to deviate from the main topic. Whether it is the health policy, agricultural policy or the education policy, all the policies are bound to fail until we check the rise in population. Ever increasing population is the root cause of all the problems. I would briefly express my views regarding the housing policy. The rising tendency of encroachment is also a major contributor. There is no housing policy in the villages. When we visit small villages, we see that they construct houses wherever they wish. One is required to get the construction plans approved in cities and towns, however there is no such need in the villages. The villages have become so congested that there is no passage left between houses. Hence we should cover villages in the housing policy, whereas we tend to cover only cities and towns. It is true that poor people are unable to build houses. We will have to remove poverty to enable them. People will be able to own a house only if their purchasing power increases and they have surplus money. We are giving subsidy. There is Indira Awas Yojana and there are other schemes for building houses for the poor, but we have not had very good results so far. We are encouraging wrong tendencies in people. I am not in agreement with the proposal of providing houses to all the poor people. Tomorrow they will have children and again there will be a shortage of houses. How long will we continue providing houses to them. We can not solve the problem in this manner. We will have to develop infrastructure to solve it. First of all, five facilities are required to be provided. Electricity, Water, proper roads, health services and education is required to be provided to all. Then we should generate awareness among the people. The tendency of begging is rising among the people belonging to weaker sections. We'll have to remove that. The Scheduled Caste people say that they are given subsidy. Half the money is misappropriated by Bank Manager and the rest is embezzled by the officials. The subsidy does not reach the targeted beneficiaries because that section is still illiterate. The Government funds fail to reach the poor. His first requirement is literacy so that he may become self sufficient and join

[Shri Nakli Singh]

the mainstream of the nation. Our country holds the second position in the world in terms of population. China is at the top. However, if we take into account the density of population, we surpass China in this regard.

We should provide employment to all. I have been elected M.P. for the third time. Many times, I have pondered with regard to my constituency as to how development can take place there. If we set up a N.G.O. comprising of youth of the village and the funds being given at present to the Government machinery are given to such N.G.Os, training can be imparted to educated, diploma holders and engineers who are presently unemployed. The youth of that area should utilise the money. They should decide as to how good quality and airy houses can be constructed in villages and if the houses are built in systematic way, shelter may be provided to people. Houses can't be built in 10,000 or 20,000 rupees. The Government provides help and the machinery but in turns out to be a sheer wastage of time and the objectives of the Government are also not fulfilled.

50 years have passed since Independence. The Congress has been in power for 40-45 years, but the problem of housing is growing. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Ji and other Hon'ble Members have expressed their views on it. It is true that the poor people are living in small houses or huts along with their children and also their livestock. I have a suggestion for solving this problem that an experts' committee should be set up.

Population is rising in the villages every year. Arrangement will have to be made to build houses every year as per requirement in view of rising population. We will have to strengthen the villages units. People are migrating from villages to cities. Population is rising in Delhi and it is rising to such an extent that one can see a sea of vehicles or people all around.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this resolution is over. Now, is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this resolution by another half an hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the time for this resolution is extended by another half an hour.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Sir, I would suggest Hon'ble Minister to utilise the youth power and

the large number of unemployed youth in the country. There are four crore people in this country who are unemployed and lakhs amongst them are engineers, Doctors, Graduates and post graduates. The Government should tap this potential. The Government can utilise the youth power to solve this problem. I regret to state that I had raised this issue in the last special session also, but the youth policy is not being formulated. The Government is not announcing the youth policy.

Sir, I organised the unemployed youth in my constituency, set up NGO and inspired them to put in voluntary service. The drains were constructed in the villages and nullahs were repaired. What the Government could not achieve after spending lakhs of rupees, was achieved by the collective effort put in by the villagers. Hence I would like to submit that the Government should formulate some such policy. The youth of the country should be involved in building the nation. The villagers, prominent leaders and Hon'ble Minister should offer voluntary service and if they decide that they would offer voluntary service for just an hour in a day, the problem can be solved to a large extent. We decided to put in voluntary service in our constituency and completed all the work. If the people holding high offices the officers and other people also decide that they would offer one hour of voluntary service, this problem can be solved. We do not have money and we may formulate as many policies as we want, be it the education policy, foreign policy or agricultural policy but when we don't have the money, we should utilise the youth power. However we are not utilising it. We are formulating the policies but we don't have the money to implement them. I would also like to submit that as the superpowers—Japan, U.S.A., France etc. have imposed sanctioned against us, we will have paucity of money and hence will be unable to fully implement our programmes.

Hence I would like to say that the youth power must be utilised and such a policy should be formulated so as to enable every person to build his house. As regards the quality of the houses built under Indira Awas Yojana, these houses are not good enough to be used even as cattle sheds. Rs.1600 crore have been allotted for Indira Awas Yojana. I don't think that even 600 crore rupees would reach the poor. Hence I conclude with this point that the Government should seriously consider the proposal of utilising youth power.

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (HARDOL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak for two



minutes. Food, clothing and shelter are the basic needs of human beings. The Government has provided housing facility for people living below the poverty line through Indira Awas Yojana and Housing for Low Income Group. But unfortunately at block level in place of selecting the deserving people, such persons, who afford to grease the palms of officials are selected for allotment of houses through Indira Awas Yojana. It is a reality that at block level Block Development officer, Secretary and gram Sevaks do not identify persons properly. Transparency should be maintained in selection of persons for providing housing through Indira Awas Yojana but in reality this selection is made behind the closed doors. Officials at block level select only those people for it who afford to bribe them and names of actual needy persons are dropped.

Sir, under this scheme a grant of Rs.20 thousand is provided and Rs.10 thousand are given as 1st instalment. Names of beneficiaries are decided earlier and poor people are not included in it. In spite of implementation of Indira Awas Yojana, the problem of 'Kuchha' houses in village could not be solved. I would like to say that a Committee of experts should be constituted for selecting the beneficiaries among the people living below poverty line for allotment of houses.

SHRI GYAN SINGH (SHAHDOL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the issue of National Housing Policy is being debated here comprehensively. All the Members have participated in this debate and given their suggestions for providing housing facility to shelterless. Several hon. Members have raised the issue regarding 'commission' taken for it. Today we have resolved to provide housing facility to tribals and poor. I feel that those regions would also react in the same manner. It is ironical that houses constructed by tribals themselves with their own efforts by using 'Kachha' bricks are durable but houses constructed by the Government usually fall in a period of 2½, 3 or 4 years. There is a great difference. On the one hand in our country there are poor families and on the other hand are people like us who are politicians, IAS, or IPS. There is disparity between these sections of society-

'Ham adivasi harijan garibon ko baante

badal gal dunlya khall naam lekar.'

Sir, I wholeheartedly support the resolution moved by hon. Pandeyji regarding housing facility for poor. I would like to make a submission that procedure for it should be changed. People try to influence officials

and go there to get their names included in the list, when selection for it is made at block level. In such a situation actual needy persons do not get the benefit. We are celebrating golden jubilee of our independence this year. To some extent we are also responsible for the present situation of tribals and harijans. We are in politics and our interventions in these matters may harm interests of some tribal families.

It is my humble submission that participation of MPs should also be ensured in utilization of funds issued by Parliament or the Central Government. I also come from a tribal family. Shahdol is a tribal dominated area. We know that officials accept bribe. When we point it out they tell us to keep quiet as we are from opposition party.

One of our friend and hon. Member has also raised the issue to ensure participation and intervention of MPs in such matters. A legislation should be enacted for it. While concluding I thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I appreciate Laxminarayan Pandeyji for moving this resolution regarding formulating a concrete policy to solve the serious problem of housing. This issue is being debated here seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is correct that inspite of considering housing as an emotional issue, the required attention has not been paid towards it and now it has become a national problem. The new Government has given priority to this issue and made an announcement that 20 lakh houses would be constructed this year. It is a good sign and I welcome this step.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are very much concerned about the problems of unemployed and shelterless in the country. The issue of Indira Awas Yojana was debated here. Some concrete steps were taken by the previous Government in this regard. I appreciate the steps taken for strengthening the Indira Awas Yojana. A heart-rending picture has been unfolded about cities through this debate. In context of villages I would like to say that people do not get equal opportunities to work. Last week we discussed the issue of farmers that 500 farmers committed suicide in various parts of the country because timely and proper attention was not paid towards their justified demands. People migrate from villages for getting employment in cities. In cities they get some work because they are ready to

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

work for less wages. Somehow or the other, they also get shelter there. Hon. Minister has also given an assurance to solve the problem of housing in big cities that –

[English]

"What has not been done in ten years that will be done on priority."

[Translation]

This has also encouraged them. But in cities people are living in pitiable condition in jhuggi-jhonpris. Five or six people are living together in a house of 10x10. Just now Voraji was saying that after sometime people would not find any place to live. The target of 20 lakh houses fixed by the Government should be raised because it is not sufficient. The Government has invited NRIs and Private Sector to work in this field but at the same time the speed of the programmes launched by the Government should be accelerated. Only then all the people would be able to get housing facility.

Crime especially the incidents of theft and rape are on the rise in cities. Several new problems which are arising in the cities originate from jhuggi-jhonpries. In the absence of any control, these jhuggi-jhonpries have been developed into a breeding ground of crime. They do not observe any rule or law. They do not need to go to any Government office for any facility. Hon'ble Minister Shri Ram Jethmalani knows the condition of Mumbai very well. The people who migrate from villages to Mumbai for getting employment get the house but they have to depend upon land mafia for it and so remain in their clutches for ever. Attention should be paid towards it well in time otherwise people living in big houses will not feel secure. Similarly, other cities of the country will also be affected by this.

I represent Nagpur constituency. I would like to tell Shri Jethmalani that like Mumbai, Nagpur has also been expanded very much. The condition of housing in Nagpur is also deteriorating. People from Vidarbha region come to Nagpur daily to get an employment. Nagpur is an industrial area and 15 lakh people are leading an inhuman life there in three thousand authorised of unauthorised jhuggies. Electricity, toilet and drinking water facilities have not been provided to them. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious matter. Maharashtra Electricity Board does not provide electric-

ity easily. People themselves connect their wires on the passing M.S.E.B. line to get electricity. They do not need to apply for electricity connection. As far as water connection is concerned, they attach the unauthorised pipes to the main line for water. Such connections do not have any account and as a result, the corporation fails to provide water to those people to whom it is committed. Moreover, the number of jhuggi dwellers are not included in the census..(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we think that we have become powerful by conducting nuclear explosion but we have not been able to provide toilets to 30% people of our population living in villages and cities. Our own brothers and sisters have to defecate in the open. These people are living in inhuman conditions. It is a matter of grave concern. Therefore, I would like the hon'ble Minister not to discriminate between urban and rural areas while formulating a policy in this regard. Both should be accorded equal priority.

Maharashtra Government has given a proposal to Central Government to transfer all its lands under Railways, Income Tax, Airport Authority etc. on which jhuggi-jhonpries have been built to the State Government. Maharashtra Government has a plan to provide house free of cost to 40 lakh people. However, due to non-transfer of this land to State Government, this plan is lying pending. I would request the hon'ble Minister that there should not be any discrimination between cities and villages with regard to the development work. The Maharashtra Government's Project to construct 40 lakh houses in Mumbai free of cost does not include Nagpur and other cities of Maharashtra. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to include Nagpur city and other States also under this project. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH (BULANDSHAHAR):  
The resolution presented by hon'ble Shri Laxminarayan Pandey is commendable. Today, housing policies are formulated only for urban areas though jhuggi-jhonpri clusters are present not only in cities but in villages also. Agricultural labourers possess only one house in which they live with their parents and children. Moreover, they have to keep their cattle, cook the meals in the same place. They live in unhygienic conditions. Drinking water is not available in villages. People have to bring it from far off places. Ground water is polluted there. Therefore, the water which comes through hand pumps is also polluted and people fall sick after drinking it. A person who migrates from village to city in search of employment is compelled to live in jhuggi-

jhonparies which are too small for a man to live. They are forced to live there like animals live in their cages. No proper arrangement for water, air and sanitation is there. To maintain the cleanliness, public toilets should be made there. During last 50 years, Government never thought that the population explosion is one of the major reasons of poverty in our country.

Poverty could not be eradicated because of rising population in urban areas and inadequate employment opportunities in rural areas. When poor villager faces the problem of food there, he migrates to city. There he has to pull the rickshaw or he becomes loader. He works in the shops during day time and in the evening he rests in his Jhompri. After two years, he comes to know that he is suffering from T.B. and is on the verge of death. He does not get proper medical care in hospitals. Housing arrangements are not being made for them in the cities. Electricity is not provided to them. One of my colleague was rightly saying about the pilferage of electricity but they are compelled to do so as in the absence of their house number and ration card, legal connection for electricity cannot be issued to them. All these things are necessary for getting electricity connection. One room houses should be constructed for them. They face many problems in the cities. They face the problem of water and electricity. Ration cards are not being provided to them. Please pay attention towards it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, how long will you take to reply to this Resolution?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, I will take, at least, half-an-hour to reply.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FEROZABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important issue. Members both from ruling and opposition parties would like to express their views on this issue. Therefore, time may be extended. Every Member should be provided the opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister will take at least half-an-hour to reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It should be finished by 6 O'clock.

SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how is it possible to conclude it by 6 O'clock. I have to give reply also on it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are still so many speakers who want to participate. In that case, we may not be in a position to complete it today.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : It can be continued till next week also. What is the hurry to finish it now?.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri V.V. Raghavan is ready for his Resolution.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We may do one thing. We may call Shri V.V. Raghavan to introduce his Resolution and after that we will continue the Resolution which is going on. If we are not in a position to complete it, we will continue it next time.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (TRICHUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Resolution is an SOS to the Government of India..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wait, Shri Raghavan. I am told that according to the procedure laid down, the Resolution of Dr. Pandey should be completed first before I allow you to introduce your Resolution.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Sir, that Resolution has been discussed for about two days now.... (Interruptions) My Resolution is also listed for today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But we have to proceed as per the procedure of the Lok Sabha. In any case, your Resolution is not going to lapse and therefore, you do not have to worry on this issue.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Hon'ble Members should not have any objection on it. Many resolutions have

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

been taken up for four days continuously. If hon'ble Members want, the time can be extended for this resolution. It is not a new practice...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : The time of the House may be extended for today. It should be finished today.

[English]

We can sit till 8 o'clock today. What is the difficulty? Let us finish it today. What is the problem?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Direction No.9A by the Speaker says that the Private Members' Business must be over by 6 o'clock.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I am entirely in your hands. I think we will ask the discussion on the Railway Budget to be postponed so that we can extend the time for this discussion. In any case the discussion on the Railway Budget cannot be completed today. It will go on for a couple of days. They are going to sit till midnight on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the difficulty for you? Let it continue. It is a good subject. Many people can participate. His Resolution will also not lapse. Let it come on the next occasion also. People are very much interested. Let the Members continue. The hon. Minister should not come in the way.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : I have no desire that anybody should be prevented from speaking. But I am only anxious that we finish this business today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why? Can it not go for the next occasion? Let it go. After all it is a very interesting subject.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FEROZABAD): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Hon'ble Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey for having moved this Resolution and as per your instruction, I'll conclude within five minutes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the concern expressed by other Members is quite natural because disparity has grown between the rural and the urban areas in the last fifty years due to dual policy adopted in this regard. This is condemnable. Whichever party may have been in power, all the Governments have neglected the rural areas. This is truly condemnable.

I support this Resolution and would like more time to be given to discuss it. 65% of the population of the country is living in rural areas, hence it is essential to pay attention towards them. Just now a Member was expressing his concern that the father-in-law, mother-in-law, husband wife, sister, children, all of them live in the same house alongwith their livestock. They are living in the huts where even the animals can't live. 90% of the people do not even have huts. Tents are pitched and the entire family lives in these tents. Such a freedom of India has no meaning for the poor. They are shelterless even after fifty years. My friend here was talking of subsidy. The Government has announced that it will construct 20 lakh houses. I would appreciate the gesture of Hon'ble Prime Minister of having given 20 lakh houses at least, but who is to be held responsible for the corruption prevalent in the country. Who frames the law? We frame laws in Lok Sabha but we should also formulate a policy for the proper implementation of the law. Many people throughout the country are still forced to live at Railway Station and other such places. Women spend nights in such places with their newborn babies. What is the meaning of this freedom? The role of I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers is discussed. Who is responsible for this state of affairs? All such officers and politicians own palatial houses in Mumbai, Pune and Goa. An enquiry should be held in this regard. While one person owns five houses, the other does not even own a hut and still another is living in a tent. I would like to submit to Hon'ble Prime Minister that he must introduce a proper bill in this regard.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please. Already we are short of time.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : I would request the Government that if it sincerely wishes to do some work, it should introduce such a law so that one family possesses just one house and only then the situation would improve to some extent. If a rich person owns ten houses and his sons and wife own separate houses, things can not be systematised.

If the Government wishes to have such a system, it would be a great achievement for this Lok Sabha. We are the members of Lok Sabha. Our statements carry some weight. The entire country is watching us as to what we are saying and what we are doing. If we

don't utilise our time properly and simply waste it inanely, it won't leave a good impression. I would like to reiterate that if Hon'ble Minister wants the policy to be implemented also, he should introduce another bill in Lok Sabha to provide for one house for one family or one individual and secondly, 40 lakh houses should be constructed instead of 20 lakh houses. The corruption prevalent in the case of rural areas should be checked and the funds given should be utilised properly. As I understand, the Prime Minister has also said that corruption in Government sector will not be tolerated and whether it is any officer, employee, political person or any other person, legal action will be taken against them. They will be punished also. I was given five minutes' time and while concluding in the stipulated time, I would reiterate that such a provision should be made so that a family has only one house.

**SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (MOHANLALGANJ):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views. Besides, I would like to thank Shri Laxminarayan Pandey for having raised such a serious matter which is under discussion now. There are such schemes as Indira Awas and accommodation for the deprived under the housing policy but in reality the poor are not benefited by it as there is a lot of bungling at block level. The houses are allotted at the behest of Pradhan. Pradhan gets the houses allotted to such persons whom he favours personally and those who are actually entitled remain deprived of this facility. Loan facility is available for the poor for construction of their houses and they are entitled to receive a certain amount as loan, still they are unable to avail of this facility because most of the money is misappropriated by the middlemen and the loan amount is reduced so much by the time it trickles down to the beneficiaries that they are unable to build a house. Hence I would suggest that the land allotted on lease to the poor for building houses should be allotted on the basis of size of the family. At times, there are large families and the land allotted is insufficient to accommodate the entire family. At times, such problems also arise that powerful people demolish the huts of the poor and occupy their land. I request Hon'ble Minister to pay attention towards this problem also that the powerful people should not demolish the huts of the poor and construct their own houses on that land. At times, the houses of the poor are destroyed due to fire. The compensation amount paid by the Government is insufficient in comparison to the loss suffered by the poor. All his belongings are destroyed in the fire.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the compensation amount is sufficient. Not even a hut can be constructed in that

much amount. Hence I request that compensation amount should be raised. The loan amount is also required to be increased so that these persons are compensated to some extent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, several jhuggi dwellers were displaced in my constituency Mohanlalganj without any prior notice in the name of beautification of the area. Their huts were demolished by bulldozers. These people were living there for 20-25 years. If they were to be removed, they should have been served prior notice. The Government is implementing so many schemes, hence arrangement could have been made to rehabilitate them under some such schemes and after taking these steps, if their huts had been demolished, it would not have mattered much. However, these people were rendered shelterless all of a sudden without prior notice. Where would they go with their children and where would they live? Through you, I request Hon'ble Minister to pay attention in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have brought two-three points to the notice of Hon'ble Minister i.e., increasing the amount of compensation, not demolishing the houses without serving prior notice and providing the lease of houses to people on the basis of number of family members. I am hopeful that attention will be paid to all these points. With this, I conclude.

**SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (CANARA) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution presented by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey. I would like to give some suggestions rather than making a speech. My first suggestion is that a new scheme—'one child-one house' should be formulated for the people living below poverty line. While allotting the house, priority should be given to those who have only one child. My second suggestion is that a Committee should be set up to check the rising prices of house building material so that poor people could purchase the material easily to build their own houses. My third suggestion is same as many other hon'ble Members have stated that a quality control board should be set up to curb the creeping corruption in Indira Awas Yojana and probe should be made immediately against the defaulters if any. Efforts should be made to take other steps also. My fourth suggestion is that the land on which we are going to construct the houses in villages is totally a reserve forest land which is difficult to be acquired. A policy should be formulated for the next 25 years and a land bank should be formed. Only that much land should be acquired at present which would be sufficient to construct houses for the next 25 years. If such a

[Shri Anant Kumar Hegde]

step is taken, the land would be distributed properly in the villages. Steps should also be taken to curb the evil of corruption. More attention should be given towards the development of villages and rural areas.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Hegde, you can continue your speech when we take it up next time. You will get a chance to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Mr. Chairman, I would like to state the last point only.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, you can make that last point.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : In the end, I would like to state that the policy which would be formulated for poor should be such that the house allotted to a person should not be transferred to anyone else. A law should be enacted for this purpose otherwise they can sell the house for the sake of money and will come again on the footpaths. With these words, I conclude my speech. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

18.01 hrs.

MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF STATUS  
PAPER ON RAILWAYS

RAILWAY BUDGET 1998-99—GENERAL  
DISCUSSION

AND

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS, 1995-96—  
RAILWAYS—CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Private Members' Business is over. The House shall now take up further discussion on the Railway Budget. Shri Prabhaskh Chandra Tiwari was on his legs. He can continue now.

He is not present. All right, Shri Balram Jakhar may speak now.

18.02 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (BIKANER): When Railway Minister presented the Budget ..... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear Shri Balram Jakhar.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, the train started in time!

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (BIKANER) : Yes. I want the trains to be in time!

[Translation]

Three things are very important for the development of a country.... (Interruptions) One is transport, second is communication and the third one is energy. With the help of these three, the development of a country takes place. In absence of transport, it is difficult for the people and goods also to reach different parts of the country. Someone had rightly said that railway tracks and roads are the wheels on which the progress of a country moves. Same is the case of communication also. Telephone plays a major role in trade and business. While sitting at home, you can talk to anyone at any place. This is a mode to connect the whole world. Similarly, no pumpset or factory can run without energy. So, all the three things are the foundation of progress. Among them, railways has a major role to play because it is an old means of transportation and is cheaper also. A common man cannot buy a motor car, therefore, he travels in trains. I myself have seen it. I used to go by a train when I was in third class. It was the means of our movement from one place to another. Since then, a lot of progress has been made in railways. It is good but I would like to progress more. For this purpose, more funds should be allocated in this year's Budget. The need of the hour is that people should have faith and a sense of security towards this facility. Security itself generates

faith. India occupies first place in the matter of rail accidents. Therefore, I would like the Government to provide maximum safety to the passengers travelling in trains so that their confidence is restored in Railways.

Government has to look into the management of railways and to see how passengers can be made more comfortable by providing proper sitting arrangement and waiting rooms etc. Safety is more important as our country is most affected by it.

Late running of trains should be checked. If we visit the developed countries like Japan, we will notice that if a train gets late by only 15 minutes, it creates uproar in the Parliament. We have to opt for time management. Train drivers should be imparted training if needed. To ensure safety, the drivers should not be allowed to work over time. Trains should run on time. Trains are the best means of transport. Wheat, oil and other trade goods can be delivered through trains from one place to another. If the goods are delivered by trucks, it creates more pollution and goods become costlier. Rail transport should be made more comfortable so that people are attracted towards it for their own use and also for transportation of goods.

I would not like to speak much in this regard as you are already aware of it. You are active and experienced. I only want to say that the allocation made should be adequate. It helps to maintain effective and efficient management. You are a symbol of socialism, so kindly put everything on right track.

You have also mentioned the places where new railway line will be laid. In this connection, I had met you and had written a letter also with some suggestions regarding the condition of railways in Rajasthan. I feel that Rajasthan has remained one of the most neglected areas by the Government and God. The state has infertile and barren land. While sitting in the House, sometime I have stated that the people of Rajasthan should be given Paramveer Chakra for fetching the water from 10-20 miles. In spite of this, they are still living there and have not migrated to any other place. It shows their patience, capability and bravery that in spite of all such problems they are living there...*(Interruptions)* When a person weeps, tears flow down his eyes. Rajasthan is a state that requires immediate development. A motor car and a brand new truck could breakdown due to the worst condition of the roads. The State Minister of Rajasthan Shri Chaturvedi is my friend. I have written to him many times regarding this condition of the roads. The repair of the existing roads

should be done on priority and later on the construction of new ones may be considered. You can experience the situation only after visiting the state.

I would like to state about transport means in the state. Indira Gandhi Canal was extended upto Bikaner, Suratgarh, Ganganagar and Jaisalmer. Earlier this whole area was barren and no crop used to grow there. You will find the area upto 20-25 km. without any trace of tree or water. However, the places where this canal is passing through, have now become greener. People have started growing crops there and new markets have come up. I have been to those markets where different foodgrains, cotton and all other things are available. But transport means are not available there to carry them. Thus the area has not opened upto other markets. Therefore, I had said on that day that Bikaner is an old capital with a lot of scope for the tourism. But it has remained neglected for the reasons beyond my knowledge.

When I saw the condition there, I felt nervous. Therefore, I have brought this issue to the notice of the House. The metre gauge line between Rewari and Bikaner has not been converted into broadgauge and the same old train is running on the track. There are many mandis flooded with the foodgrains on the way between Suratgarh and Bikaner. On this route you can find big houses and factories. People feel that they would be much prosperous if adequate transport means are made available to them. A new railway track should be laid from Bikaner to Suratgarh and further upto Anupgarh. It is a long standing demand of the people to regularise the train running between Bikaner and Bandra. There is a train upto Anupgarh but there is no direct link from there to Delhi. The introduction of an inter-city train will open up the area for trade and business purpose and will also help the farmers. There are some other mandis like Gharsana, where in absence of a buyer, the farmers are compelled to sell their produce at a cheaper rate in these mandis. All these suggestions if implemented will go in favour of the country, farmer and Government.

You have cancelled some trains. The train between Anupgarh and Bhatinda has also been cancelled. A broadgauge train between Delhi to Bhatinda should be introduced. There is one workshop comprising of a large area for the narrow gauge. Some people are trying to shut down this workshop. Proper use of this workshop should be made. Only the railway track should be converted into broadgauge. Workshop people came to me and said that they have means and work to do

[Shri Balram Jakhar]

but the workshop is going to close and as a result they would be rendered jobless. Therefore, Hon'ble Minister may please pay attention towards it.

I had written you a letter with all my demands in this regard. I also met you and explained all these things.

18.14 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair)

There are three railway level crossings in Bikaner which most of the time remain closed because after every half an hour, a train passes from there. One of the railway level crossing is right in the middle of the city where traffic jam remains for hours which cause inconvenience to people. Either this railway line should be shifted out of the city or an overbridge or under bridge should be constructed there.

[English]

The train between Mumbai and Jodhpur should be extended upto Bikaner.

In the same manner, the train service between Suratgarh and Delhi, which had been discontinued, should be restored.

To facilitate transport without any obstacle in the city of Bikaner, it is necessary to construct an overbridge in the city over the railway lines.

[Translation]

That should also be done.

[English]

To ensure security, the railway crossing gates should be manned.

[Translation]

This should also be undertaken.

[English]

There should be attachment of an additional sleeper and ordinary coaches to the Bikaner-Howrah Express.

[Translation]

Many ordinary coaches are lying unused which can be attached to the trains.

[English]

A new train between Mumbai and Ferozpur via Ahmedabad-Jodhpur-Bikaner should be introduced.

[Translation]

It will facilitate the people.

[English]

A superfast train between Bikaner and Delhi via Suratgarh and Hanumangarh on broad-gauge may please be introduced.

[Translation]

It should also be done. I had requested to restart the train between Pili Banga and Jodhpur which was earlier discontinued. It includes the laying of new railway tracks. Barsana and other mandis are also on this track and may also be included in the project of laying railway lines. Conversion of Udaipur railway line into broadgauge is required to be done. Jaisalmer will be opened up and with the introduction of the new trains a new area in the field of agriculture will be developed. Farmers will get more work opportunities which will enhance their income.

Sir, I would also like to say that the local inhabitants are not provided the work in the department but the people from other areas are engaged for this purpose. Representatives of the local people came to me to complaint in this regard. I assured them that I would talk to Shri Nitish ji in this regard.

I would also like to mention one more thing. Please take note of whatever I have said. Rajasthan has remained neglected. So kindly take care of this state. If some new developments take place in the area, it will fulfil the expectations of the people from the new young minister to some extent.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (MACHHALISHAHAR):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is for the first time that a Railway Minister has presented a budget with full sincerity and has tried to explain the actual position of the railway network in the country. By bringing out the status Paper in the House, Railway Minister has not only added a new chapter to the history of railways but has also shown his dedication to the work. He has explained the progress of railways in the words of a common man which shows his commitment towards the development of railways. It seems from this Budget that Hon'ble Railway Minister has not only tried to put into it his political will power but has also linked national will power to the Budget.



Sir, we should not forget that the railways is not just a means of public transport but it acts as a bridge between various languages, cultures and customs. Railway acts as life of the nation. It motivates us and is a means of transport. But, unfortunately, even during the last 50 years we have failed to develop the railways as a means of national income. We should have developed the railways in such a manner so that nation would have been prosperous and cultural heritage would have been developed. It should have been developed as a symbol of national integration but we failed to think on these lines. But today we have got a person with a positive line of thinking and, therefore, through you, I would like to express my gratitude and thank him. If the development of Railways takes place with such a pace, the Railway Minister can become an Iron man of the country. I would like to submit that during the 50 years, only nine thousand km. of new lines have been laid and thus the average lines laid per year is less than 200 km. With such a pace, can we hope to march towards 21st century. By increasing 12 hundred crore towards the Planning amount, perhaps the Railway Minister has tried to convey that we have to increase the pace of development. It will help to increase the speed of wheels of progress. It is not that by introducing four express trains in the capital, we can move fast in this country. All the trains pass through some villages and these trains should not decrease their speed there. Just now Jakharji had raised the issue of desert in Rajasthan. We should not only increase the speed of trains but basic amenities should also be provided to facilitate the passengers. Only then achievement would be made in this field. There are several railway stations in this country which do not have drinking water facility. One cannot perform routine chores like easing oneself without water. Proper attention has not been paid towards it. Had proper attention been paid towards providing facilities, the number of railway average of passengers would not have fallen since 1951. Why this number is declining? Why people avoid travelling by trains?

The main reason for it is that proper attention has not been paid towards providing facilities to passengers. It has become a fashion to increase railway fare in every railway budget and sometimes even for compensating the losses incurred due to our own inefficiency and faults. Railway fare has been raised this time also but it is not much. Increase of Rs.35 for a long distance travel from Delhi to Guwahati cannot be considered as considerable. People criticizing it can study the previous railway budgets. in context of ex-

ploitation of resources, I would like to say that the hon. Minister of Railways has started that an additional amount of Rs.4400 crore would be raised through internal resources, it shows a resolve on the part of the Railway Minister. I would like to make some suggestions for raising funds. There are several opportunities which could be utilised for the development of Railways. Huge funds are spent on advertisements of various products and railways can be used for it. We can earn more revenue by advertising products and services through railways. Railway stations and coaches can be used for this purpose.

Sir, a large area of land belonging to Railways is lying idle. It is illegally occupied by some people and mafia. This land can be utilized for providing housing facility. It is a coincidence that after discussion on housing, the issue regarding Railways is being debated here. We were discussing the issue of housing just before it so that increasing population of the nation could be given shelter. We should also think of providing transport facility to them. So far we have been unable to increase transport facilities in proportion to growing population of the country. Everytime issues regarding development of particular constituencies are raised here. Several members have said here that like other former Ministers of Railways, Nitish Kumarji has also given preference to his home state for providing railway facilities. But while looking at the proposed rail map of his state, I noticed that he has proposed to lay rail line in backward and tribal areas of the state where people do not prefer even to go on foot. Now 50 years after Independence, those tribals would also get railway facility and reap the fruits of independence. They would get employment through railways and get an opportunity to link themselves with Delhi and developments taking place elsewhere in the country. Therefore it cannot be called development of a particular constituency but the area which has been neglected for years. He cannot be blamed like others who were confined to their own constituencies and provided railway facilities in only Bangalore and Banaras. He should be appreciated for his honest efforts of providing rail facility in backward areas which deserve it. I support this rail budget and praise the hon. Minister for it. I would like to say one more thing. The giant vehicle manufacturing companies like Hindustan motors and Maruti use trains for transportation of their manufactured vehicles. It is good because this reduces pollution on roads. It will benefit us double if in place of transporting these vehicles by trucks through roads, all the motor manufacturing companies use trains. On one

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

hand, income of railways would increase by it and on the other hand, country would not face the shortage of diesel. There is a higher risk in transportation of goods via roads, for which compensation is also paid. Compensation is also paid in case of theft of such goods. We have to build godowns for shortage of these goods. A large area of land is provided to be used for siding of the trucks.

All these problems arise when we use our own vehicles for transportation of manufactured goods. We would not require godowns and land for siding of vehicles if freight trains were introduced for it. Our Minister of state comes from a metropolitan city where a large area of land almost 40 square kms. of land is used for siding of vehicles and godowns. Leave aside the issue of development of Railways, we can earn a huge amount of revenue and repay the loan of the country if this land is used commercially. A journalist friend of mine has written a book on this subject and has presented it to the hon. Minister. I would like to say that this system should be changed. Railways have internal resources also but we have been poor in this field due to lack of will power. We would not have lamented for paucity of funds and resources if government had tried to do so with strong will power.

Now a days, we raise the issue of providing facilities to passengers. It is correct also but how can we spend beyond our means. Therefore, we should think of increasing the means and resources for railways. It is our duty but so far required attention has not been paid towards it.

I had seen that during the last two years, several advertisements regarding railways were published in various newspapers. There was hardly any day when such advertisement did not appear in newspapers. But for the last three-four months, I did not find any such advertisement. I do not know as to why Nitish ji does not want to get his photograph published in newspapers. I saw his photograph with the news of inauguration of Konkan railways only. We have seen almost daily the photograph of the previous minister of Railways in newspapers who took charge of this ministry for just 1½ or 1¾ years. Why so much funds are spent on advertisements? Is it for publicity of achievements or of a person? What were special achievements during those two years? We would have felt proud of Railways if these advertisement had contained figures regarding achievements of Railways. In the name of inauguration or laying foundation stone, they kept on

rolling stones. In the afternoon, one of my friends was saying that he performed a 'shilanyas' (laying of a foundation stone) which was actually 'nash of a shila' which means mere wastage of stone slate. What is the propriety of inauguration of a project for which we do not have adequate resources and will power. Some of my friends may complain that there is no proposal for laying new railway lines or conducting survey in their respective constituencies. But here, the question arises as to whether we would be able to develop railways by inauguration or laying foundation stones. As Jakhar ji was also expressing his concern over this issue. I would like to say as to what is the use of adding a few kilometer of new rail lines in every rail budget if adequate facilities are not provided to passengers.

He was saying that such a situation had arisen a few days ago that those travelling by trains would leave after telling their family members that if they make it to their destination safely, they will make a call from there otherwise preparation should be made for their last rites. What is required is that one should feel safe while travelling by train. One should have this feeling that so long as he is travelling by train, he is safe from all dangers, be it the danger of accident, robbery or any other mishap. A feeling of safety should be generated amongst the passengers. I feel that hon'ble Minister has shown his concern in the status paper and has clarified that he is concerned about it. Where there is a will, there is a way. Hence this concern is very much desirable.

When we discuss the position regarding transportation of goods, it is seen that 60% of goods earlier transported by train are being transported by road because people do not want to transport goods by train anymore. The reason being that entire consignment does not reach the destination. It is pilfered on way and also it takes too much time. I would not like to dwell on the position of the availability of wagons. Now so many rakes are available that nobody is interested whereas earlier the position was quite bad. Whether it is the case of amenities for passengers or transportation of goods, when a concern is shown regarding all these amenities, a resolve to bring reforms in Railways is very much noticeable. If we feel the need to bring reforms in Railways, we should pay attention towards this aspect also as to how we can generate and mobilise resources.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways has paid ample attention in this regard and we would like to make the suggestion that surplus land should be utilised. If the

Railways work in collaboration with the transport company transporting goods by road using trucks, the responsibility of paying compensation will be that of the transport company. That company will then be responsible for loading and unloading the goods at various points and it will be responsible for any damage caused. Thus the Railways will earn freight very safely. If there are no constraints in implementing the scheme, it should be taken up on experimental basis and expanded later on.

Catering should be improved. I have a different viewpoint regarding improvement. Improvement should be brought not to make the food more tasty but healthy. One is surprised to see that items served. Items are covered in silver foil. I am not aware as to how toxic it can be and to what extent, it affects the food? One should take into account all such factors. We are forgetting our old traditions. Water is now served in plastic and paper glasses. It is not a good practice. It is not good for health. It should be changed. I had written to Hon'ble Minister in this regard. Employment opportunities will be created by reviving the old traditions. People of those areas will be gainfully employed where new rail lines are proposed to be laid. Much better leaf-bowls and leaf plates are available now-a-days. Even Five Star Hotels are introducing them. If food is served in the leaf-plates and bowls, it will have three advantages. One advantage would be that it is bio-degradable unlike plastic and it will not affect the environment. It does not give rise to the problem of pile up of garbage as it disintegrates easily. Similarly Kulhars (earthen pots) should be provided for serving water. They will also disintegrate easily and dissolve in the soil. They won't give rise to any problem either. The second advantage would be that people growing leaves will be employed. The potters making earthen pots will be employed. These are the people for whom we do not have any job left. We have progressed so much that we have no job left to employ these people. Job opportunity will be created for such people at least by going ahead with this decision and several persons will be gainfully employed. Alongwith creation of job opportunity, food will be served to people in more hygienic and healthy manner and it will be beneficial for the environment as well. It won't be too costly. Shri Ram Babu might perhaps not be able to understand it as he belongs to Mumbai where 'pattals' (leaf plates) are not available. Nitishji might be aware of it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Please don't say like that. Today itself, while replying in the Rajya Sabha, I said that this was a very good suggestion and it will be implemented.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Thank you, I was trying to point it out only because the reply will be given right now. We must change this system. It will be beneficial. It is good that unemployed youth are being given the facility of travelling free of cost in case they are appearing for an interview. An unemployed person is an unwanted fellow in his own house and at times he is hungry and thirsty also. It becomes difficult for him to arrange the train fare. Our Railway Minister is an experienced man and he has lived amongst such people. He is aware of the hardships faced by them. I would like to thank him and pray for his well-being on behalf of all the unemployed people. The unemployed have been given the facility of travelling free of cost upon producing their call-letters. This is not just another ordinary programme, rather, it is a pious deed. This is a gesture of goodwill towards the impoverished. It should not be viewed as any other routine programme. It indicates that we are concerned about such persons also who have no support system. Several times, I have had such experience also that the ticket is bought at a particular station and if one decides to suspend the journey of the train is cancelled, one has to go back to the same station to return the ticket where it was purchased. This involved an additional expenditure of buying yet another ticket. One had to spend as much on ticket money as was expected as refund and only then he would get the refund. We are thankful to you that now we can get the refund from the station where we return the ticket. This denotes an understanding of the problems. It is only an indication, not a full fledged programme as yet. It shows that the government is aware of the problems and the Minister of Railways has been kind enough to understand such a problem.

Besides, I would like to request that more benefits should have been given to the senior citizens. Most of the Members are senior citizens and they are required to travel to and fro from their constituency. Hence more facilities should be given and such facilities should be given in second class coaches also. If some discount can be given, it should be given ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): It is 30% in all the classes of the trains including Rajdhani and Shatabadi trains. Right now, it is 25% to 30% and with your support, it may be increased further.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Thank you. Similarly, the hawkers operating in trains and on stations, have their own problems. The Minister of Railways is also

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

concerned about their plight and in the budget this concern is very much visible regarding the coolies who earn their livelihood by carrying heavy loads and Hon'ble Minister of Railways deserves our gratitude for this.

With this, I would like to make a point regarding my constituency. Eastern U.P. upto Varanasi has been benefited but the area falling west of Varanasi has not been benefited to that extent and we are not having high expectations either. Just as the intercity train runs from Lucknow to Allahabad which leaves in the morning and returns in the evening, a train should be introduced between Varanasi and Lucknow via Raebarely because as many people travel to Lucknow from that area as travel to Allahabad. Trains like Intercity trains have been withdrawn and I would urge upon Hon'ble Minister to re-introduce them.

So far as the issue of doubling of rail line is concerned, new routes are being taken up. The rail track from Delhi to Lucknow via Moradabad, Bareilly and Shahjahanpur is an old track. The rail track from Lucknow to Varanasi has a double line at some places and at some place it still has single line. The completion of these double lines will help in the transportation of goods. Varanasi is not only famous as a religious place but also known as a centre of art and production. It will be beneficial if Varanasi is connected like this. Electrification done on this line is also commendable, however, some gaps have been left on this track. It should be given priority. I hope, Hon'ble Minister will pay attention towards it.

There is a small railway station in my area from where people used to go to Ayodhya and Prayag. Earlier a train Saryu Express used to halt at Kohanaur station but now that train no longer halts at this station. Due to this people who used to go to Ayodhya and Prayag in the morning are facing difficulties. I have written to hon'ble Minister in this regard and I hope that he will consider the matter. It will facilitate the pilgrims.

It has also been mentioned in this year's Budget to lay double line between Lucknow and Sultanpur. However, a short distance between Sultanpur and Jaunpur has been left. Railway line from Lucknow to Varanasi via Jaunpur will become a double line if the distance between Sultanpur and Jaunpur is included in it. If possible it should be done.

With the implementation of all these suggestions, I would like the railways not to remain only as a Government undertaking but it should become a

cultural movement. It should be developed as a means to promote the cultural and national unity and to attract the foreign tourists. It should be promoted and protected in such a manner so that it could help in the national prosperity. Keeping in view his determination, I hope that hon'ble Minister is aware of all these things and during the ensuing time he will take care of all these proposals. Mr. Chairman, Sir, while paying my best wishes to the hon'ble Railway Minister through you, I thank you and conclude my speech with these words.

[English]

SHRI M. SELVARASU (NAGAPPATTINAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the Railway Budget for the year 1998-99.

Railways are a national symbol and a statue of national integration. All over India, we have different people. Our people's culture is different. They speak different languages. Railways are utilized by all of them. Railways do the unifying job.

Sir, I am sorry to say that the Railways go far away from the downtrodden people because the Budget has proposed a fairly high increase in the fares. This increase in fare is going to kick the common man. The increase is very high. But you have left the freight rates practically untouched. The poor people invariably prefer to travel by railways. It is the cheapest mode of transport. Even a small increase in fares is going to affect them.

In the case of passenger trains, you have proposed to increase the fare by one rupee to 50 kilometres; an increase of Rs.2 has been proposed beyond 51 to 100 kilometres; Rs.3 from 101 to 300 kilometres and Rs.5 after that. Passenger trains are mostly used by the poor and downtrodden people. The poor people are mostly affected by this Budget. That is why, I said that the Budget is kicking the common man.

The Railway Budget has not mentioned any significant measures to improve the safety, security and efficiency of the railways. The Minister has paid only a lip-service to the need for greater safety.

The fare of the season tickets has been increased steeply. I suggest to the hon. Minister that the students' season tickets may be exempted from this increase. Students mean even those who have no pocket money. When I was a student, I went to the school and to the college without anything in my pocket. I was

always depending on my father and mother for money, Therefore, I would request that exemption must be given to students.

The price of platform ticket has also been increased. It is very bad. Who purchases the platform tickets? If some guests come from the South, they request their relatives or friends to come to the platform to receive them. So this should also be considered by the Ministry of Railways. The Minister has, at his disposal, an account of Rs. 1,782 crore as a result of increase in the retirement age from 50 to 60.

This extra amount should have been used for completing the long overdue projects. But the Minister has promised only to open new lines. He has proposed 12 new lines only, in the Budget. I would like to point out this with a painful heart. Not only this Budget, even the last Budget had completely ignored the southern parts of the India, particularly Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Last time when the Railway Minister presented the Budget we had shouted and expressed our views as the poor people were completely ignored. The Railway Budget has left the southern parts untouched. The hon. Minister may consider the case of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

If we see Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the map we have only one line, for conversion into broad gauge. Now another is being constructed making it two lines. One line is from Chennai-Katpadi-Salem-Erode-Coimbatore and recently to Kerala. It is the border of Karnataka and Kerala. Now the broad gauge line covers parts of Tamil Nadu. Even after 50 years of independence some people in Tamil Nadu have not seen a broad gauge train. If those poor people want to see a broad gauge train they have to go to Chennai Otherwise they do not see any broad gauge line. That is our problem.

The hon. Minister has allocated meagre amounts for pending projects. It is the prerogative of each Railway Minister to introduce new projects without paying any attention to the pending projects.

I have seen the keynote in the Railway Minister's speech. Tiruchirappally-Tanjore-Nagore-Karaikal gauge conversion project is there. Tiruchirappalli to Tanjore has already been done. Tanjore-Nagore-Karaikal is a pending project. It is a long pending project. The former Railway Minister, Shri Jaffer Sharief had proposed a Budget allocation of Rs.120 crore in 1993 for this project but in 1998 still there is no progress. All the

materials are lying on the railway track. Gravel, steel, everything is stored up in the Railway Stations. One office is opened but there is no progress. The Railway Minister should consider that the people are very poor wedded to agriculture and production of foodgrains and allocate more funds. This is my humble request.

I request the hon. Minister to clear all the pending lines. Time-bound action should be taken to complete all pending lines.

I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to set the time-limit for completion of each pending proposals in the Railway Budget. The delay will hamper the plan because of the cost escalation. The hon. Minister should use the surplus amount of Rs. 1,782 crore for long-awaited proposals. I have already mentioned about the plan for conversion of Trichy-Nagore line.

The hon. Minister has increased the frequency of 11 trains. Here, I would like to mention that from the Southern part of Tamil Nadu, the frequency of train service to Chennai is less.

In my constituency, I have only one Express train, the Kamban Express connecting Karaikkudi, Thiruthuraiipoondi, Thiruvavur and Chennai. That train comes from Karaikkudi only in the evening and arrives in the morning in Chennai. We have only one train in night hours and nobody can travel by the train during day time. They have to wait for the train in the station throughout the whole day. So, please consider this point. It is my humble request to the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : I am the only speaker from my party.

Nagore is a major tourist spot in Tamil Nadu because of Velangkanni Church and Dargah. It is a very important national level pilgrimage centre. It attracts many foreign tourists also. The frequency of the train service between Nagore and Trichy, which is nearest to the airport city, may be increased.

My another important point is that instead of proposing new lines, the hon. Minister should have formulated the plan to revive the closed lines. On the one hand there is a new line, and on the other hand there is an abolition of the other lines. In my constituency, the line between Thiruthuraiipoondi and Vedharanyam

[Shri M. Selvarasu]

was closed. Vedharanyam is a very famous place. Gandhiji started Satyagraha movement there. It is a famous tourist centre. There the production of salt is more. In this section, Railways used to earn rupees two crore annually by transporting salt and fishes. On the one hand you are closing the lines and on the other hand, there is a proposal for new lines. This point should be considered by the hon. Minister.

A lot of waste land belonging to railways have been illegally occupied by public. Through many NGOs and other social organisations have approached the Railways to purchase the surplus land, but the authorities have failed to respond. So, the Ministry of Railways should help the social service organisations by giving them surplus land for social and educational purposes which will be very useful for the society.

There are so many organisations including the Department of Revenue approaching the Railways to give *pattas* to the downtrodden people. It is also a very valuable point. It will increase the revenue of the Ministry of Railways.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up now.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : Yes, Sir, I am concluding.

My next point is about the superfast transport system in metropolitan cities where lakhs of people travel everyday. The increase in fare is going to affect the daily commuters badly. Most of the persons using superfast transport system are salaried class people, working class people, poors and merchants. The train fare should be less than the bus fare otherwise the commuters may prefer to travel by bus which will result in lesser revenue for the Railways. So, the increase in fare is not justified.

My last point is about wagons. The availability of wagons for transport of items like paddy and salt is not sufficient. Foodgrains and other perishable goods should be transported on a priority basis.

Lastly, Sir, my humble submission is that last time the hon. Railway Minister had met all the Members of Parliament Statewise and discussed with them their problems. We, the M.Ps., got an opportunity to express our grievances to the Railway Minister. So, my humble request to Shri Nitish Kumar is that this time as well as in future also, that practice should be continued so that we can place our views and grievances before him. If

he can take further steps to remove our grievances, that will be very good.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT (UDAIPUR) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I welcome Hon'ble Minister of Railways and also thank him for presenting a very good railway budget by giving various facilities. In this country, 450 million tonnes of goods are transported through railway. Almost 11 million passengers travel by trains daily. Railway is the biggest means of transport and it serves as a link also. Railways have contributed a lot in bringing about national unity. It has contributed the most in emotional unity and in propagating Hindi. I would like to congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for giving many facilities. I do not want to mention all those facilities. In nutshell, I would like to congratulate him.

I have seen the budget of previous years. I have also gone through this railway budget. I have also heard the speech of Hon'ble Ram Naikji and read the speech of Shri Nitish Kumar which he delivered on 11th March, 1997. In his speech, he demanded from Paswanji to extend the railway line in his constituency. On 24th July, 1997 Shri Ram Naik had demanded that while the hon. Minister has extended railway line in Calcutta, it should be extended in his constituency Mumbai which is a metropolitan city because there is huge traffic over there. I want to know the criteria being followed for allocation of funds by Railways. Rajasthan is second in number as far as area is concerned. Not only this, the share of Rajasthan will be 1/10th i.e. if you are allocating Rs 9500 crore for railway for improving traffic and laying broad-gauge line, Rajasthan should get Rs. 1000 crore. First I had appreciated him but I am surprised to see that no M.P. from Rajasthan has been made Railway Minister so far.

19.00 hrs.

Rajasthan has been grossly neglected. I would like to tell you that no M.P. belonging to Rajasthan has been made Railway Minister so far. Shri Sharif Saheb nurtured his area, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan served his area and at times some other person nurtured his area but Rajasthan could not be a part of this exercise. There is no state like Rajasthan which is facing 1300 km. of border area. There is no means near Pakistan border. Even if we walk 20 kms. there is no water facility and no shelter or shadow because there is not even a single tree. You have neglected such places.

Rajasthan is a mineral based area and rock phosphate is found here. It is found in Udaipur Division. An

amount of Rs. 6 crores is being earned from a small station called Umereda for handling of goods. What is the condition of Udaipur? A scheme was made for providing broad-gauge line on Udaipur, Ajmer, Bhilwara section costing Rs. 262 crores but in the first year, an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs only was spent as against the sanctioned amount of Rs. 5 crores.

[English]

Drop in the ocean. Water water everywhere, but not a drop to drink.

[Translation]

It rains everywhere and people require water also. Still they are unable to utilise that water. Such is the situation in Rajasthan. Against the provision of Rs. 262 crores, you have given only Rs. 45 lakh last year and this year you have not even given Rs. 20 crores. Now how that project of Rs. 262 crores will be completed?

Today, I would like to ask you, had this House forgotten Maharana Pratap who fought for the freedom of the country. It was he who kept this country free for 1000 years. What sort of treatment is being meted out towards the land of Maharana Pratap? In Mewar there is not even a single house, whether it is the house of a farmer, a tribal, a person belonging to scheduled caste or schedule tribe, a Muslim or a Hindu, where atleast one person is not killed in the war. That Rajasthan is being neglected today. That Mewar is being neglected today.

I want to mention many things but it seems to me that you would not give me more time to speak. I request that allocations for broad-gauge line of Udaipur should be increased. If Udaipur broad-gauge line is completed early, udaipur will have direct link with Mumbai via Ahmedabad. Announcements have been made to close many stations between Marwar junction and Chittor via Udaipur when Shanti Lal Chaplot who belongs to Bharatiya Janata Party became M.P., officers reached there and they told that these are flag stations, therefore they are being closed. How people will trust their representatives and what would be our importance when such things are being done. I would like to know this from you. If that line is joined upto Jodhpur, then it will link Marwar Junction. Marwar should be linked with Udaipur as pilgrim place Srinathji falls on this line. People from all over the world visit this place. Here trains are running on narrow gauge line, as a result people have to face difficulty. Chetak Express runs on

Udaipur-Chittor section and it takes approximately four hours in covering 105 kms distance. It starts from there at 6 O'clock and reaches at 9.30. This train runs very slowly. Through its name is Chetak Express but it takes 20 hours to reach Delhi. From there it leaves at 6 o'clock in the evening and reaches Delhi at 2.00 p.m. next day, though the total distance is 700 km. My request is that this line should be converted into broad-gauge line. In Rajasthan, North-Western Zone Office was to be constructed. Its inauguration was done in which Hon'ble Minister was also present. Earlier Rs. 95 lakh were allocated for this purpose but this time substantial amount has not been provided for its construction. In that an expenditure of Rs. 16 to 18 crores is likely to be incurred. Even that is also not shown in the budget. Similarly, gauge conversion of Phulera and other lines like Luni, Barmer, Munanabad, Veergaon, Sambhli, Jodhpur and Luni-Marwar is also to be undertaken. As a whole, the total cost of this project is Rs. 183 crore. At some places, 10 lakh rupees have been provided for this work and at some other places Rs. 15 or 20 lakh rupees were given for this work. I don't think that with this amount this will be completed in this century.

Udaipur has cultural and religious importance also. Besides this, it has biggest market of marble after Makrana as of today. There are marble works in Dungarpur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Rajsmand, Bhilwara, Makrana, Kishanganj, some areas of Alwar and Jaipur. But no arrangements are there for the movement of goods in these areas. As there is no wide-spread board gauge line in the area, transportation of goods become difficult.

One train called "Palace on Wheels" is running there. It is a very good train. People travel in that train by paying Rs. 20,000-22,000 per day. People are craving to see Udaipur but you have neglected such an area. In that train, one has to travel upto Chittor first and from there he is required to catch bus for Udaipur. Such is the condition of that train. Railway line goes from Manwli to Bari Sandri. The train running on this line is so slow that I can catch that train easily or if I get down, I can again catch that train. My request is that respecting my sentiments, you should extend that train upto Neemach. If it is extended upto 45 km., Neemach will be connected with the network. According to you, narrow gauge line is not economically viable, so this line will become viable for you. Similarly, Badi Sandri should be linked with Banswara via Hariawad. Banswara is one of the tribal regions. Rajasthan has a total population of 5 crore 72 lakh out of which 65 lakh people are tribals which comes to 12.5%. In that tribal region, there is no railway facility whether it is Durgapur,

[Shri Shantilal Chaplot]

Banswara, Pindwara or tribal region of Udaipur or Pratapgarh region. Its survey should be conducted. Tribal areas of the state which did not have even the metre gauge line should also be provided rail link on priority basis.

Only Rs. 95 lakhs have been given for the construction of North-Western railway Zonal office in Jaipur which is a meagre amount. Not a small piece of work regarding setting up of this office can be completed with such an amount. Instead of Rs. 16-18 crores only Rs. one crore has been given which is insufficient to construct an office. Therefore, I request you to consider this matter.

Out of all railway tracks in Rajasthan, only 21.12% are broadgauge lines. 1/4 of the total lines are not broadgauge lines. Rajasthan is a border state but broadgauge lines have not been laid in this area. Keeping in view the heavy rush of tourists in Udaipur city of Rajasthan, attention should be paid towards the development of this area. At the time of unrest and riots in the country and Kashmir, tourists prefer to visit Udaipur than Delhi. However, because of inadequate railway facilities, tourists have to face difficulties. After getting elected from that area, I came to know that an officer from Railway Department had visited that place and a news published in the newspaper that the conversion of narrow-gauge lines into broad-gauge is going to be stopped. Later it has been reported that a small amount has been granted. I hope that keeping in view the Udaipur city, more money will be granted and the same will be mentioned in your reply. Out of the total 3 lakh square km. area of Rajasthan 1.5 lakh square km. is desert. A small amount has been granted for Agra fort-Bandikui and Fulera-Marwar-Ahmedabad railway lines. No grant has been given for Luni-Barmer-Munabav, Shrigangapur-Kurupsar and Luni-Marwar, Jodhpur, Alwar and Mathura railway lines.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You have read the budget. Give such speeches in your own area. you are saying that grant has not been given, then for which project, a sum of Rs. 38 crores has been given. You must know that 38 crores is a huge amount for a year. You are continuously saying that the grant has not been given. You should be thankful for the amount being allocated for your area.

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT : I had thanked in the beginning of my speech and will remain thankful to you. I hope you will deliver goods also. I mean to say

that at least 1/10 of the total allocations should be granted to my area.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Speak about the areas where it has been given.

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT : I am submitting that instead of Rs. 700 crores, Rs. 600 crores has been allocated. Therefore, I request..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up now.

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT : Sir, hon'ble Minister has provided less amount than 240 crores for Loni-Marwar railway line.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not go into the details.

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT : I mean to say that you can well understand the problems of the people of Rajasthan. Broadgauge lines are not there. Therefore, I strongly request you to pay attention towards the welfare and development of Rajasthan.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI A. SIDDARAJU (CHAMARAJANAGAR) : Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Railway Budget. The present Railway Budget completely affects the poor and the middle class. This is a pro-rich Railway Budget. This Railway Budget completely neglects the student community.

As far as my constituency is concerned, the Railway Ministry has completely neglected the railway projects pertaining to Karnataka. The previous Government had sanctioned two new railway projects for my constituency. The first project was the gauge conversion work from Mysore to Chamarajanagar linking Mettupalayam which is of about 220 kilometres. This project was there in the last year's Railway Budget. This time, our Railway Minister has neglected this project. He has not provided funds to this project.

Another project relates to a new line from Bangalore to Satyamangala via Kanakapura, Bannur and Chamarajanagar which is of about 210 kilometres.

As you know, in Karnataka, railway projects have been completely neglected since the time of the then Railway Minister, Shri Kengal Hanumanthiah. As far as



my constituency is concerned, it is situated in the South end of the State. My constituency is linked to both Kerala and Tamil Nadu. These two projects link Karnataka with Tamil Nadu. Almost all the people here are backward and poor. Most of the people are agriculturists. Agriculture is the main occupation. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to provide more funds to these two projects. I should not forget the previous Government in this regard. These two projects were sanctioned because of the former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Devegowda and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. These are economically viable and economically potential projects. Kindly look into this matter and take up this work.

**SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to thank the hon. Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar who is my esteemed friend, for presenting a very balanced Budget in the backdrop of difficulties being faced by the Indian Railways.

Indian Railways have a vast network, the second largest in the world under a single management. We learn that Indian Railways are operating 11,000 trains daily out of which 7,500 are passenger trains. Railways are employing about 16 lakh employees. It is the biggest management in the whole of the country employing a large number of employees. Indian Railways have also played a vital role as a prime mover of the national economy. They have become a symbol of national integration by integrating the fragmented markets, by connecting the industrial and agricultural production centres with the distant markets as also with the resource centres for raw materials and most importantly by enabling large scale and rapid movement of large number of passengers at a low cost across the length and breadth of the country.

With this background, the hon. Railway Minister has posed certain questions before the Parliament and also before the nation through the Status Paper, which he has presented. He has done a commendable job in presenting this Status Paper giving enormous information to the Parliamentarians and also to the citizens of this country. In fact, for our developing nation consisting of a society with 35 per cent of the people living below the povertyline, it is an uphill task to find a satisfactory answer to the questions posed by the hon. Railway Minister. Also, it is very difficult to find out solutions for the problems.

Sir, with this, I am sure, the Railway Minister will

not feel offended while I mentioned about the total neglect of Karnataka as was being mentioned by my esteemed friend, Shri Raju a little while ago in the matter of allocation of funds for the on-going works. It is true that the Railways are facing a financial crunch. But, Sir, the on-going works, at least, should not suffer. The gauge conversion work between Mangalore and Hassan is going on at a very slow pace. This is one of the important railway lines which would connect the only major port in the whole of the State of Karnataka with the State Capital as also other hinterland places in the State.

Sir, the total estimated cost for the gauge conversion between Mangalore- Hassan- Arasikere was around Rs. 190 crore. So far, in the last two to three years, the Railways have spent about Rs. 90 crore. This time, no doubt, the Railway Minister is pleased to allocate Rs. 20 crore for the gauge conversion works. I do not dispute that. But we were all hoping that he would announce about the fixing of target for the completion of this work by the end of this financial year, i.e., by the end of 1998-99, by providing the remaining amount which comes to about Rs. 80 crore. After he fixes up the target, the work can go on smoothly and could be completed with his gracious order that could be passed. He could adjust finances with the available resources. In that also, I would make a suggestion that the gauge conversion between Mangalore and Subramanya Road should be taken up first, that is, to a length of 60 kilometres, so that that sector could become operative.

Sir, I mentioned that there is a total neglect of Karnataka. There are reasons for that...*(Interruptions)*...The hon. Railway Minister is trying to remind me that compared to the amount spent last year, this time, it is much more. For that I thank him and congratulate him. But I am trying to coax him by saying that he could agree by fixing a target for completion of the work so that the funds could be readjusted within the resources available.

Now, I come to another important line between Shimoga and Talaguppa. About it, not even a single paisa is provided in the Railway Budget this year.

Similarly, about the opening of the Konkan Railways, the already announced line between Hubli and Ankola has become all the more important. That would connect the entire hinterland to the Konkan Railway line. There, sufficient money should be provided.

Sir, as was mentioned by the grace of our former

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Devegowda, work for a new line was announced between Hassan and Bangalore via Shravanabelagola. That work is also an on-going work. So, sufficient fund will have to be provided for this work also.

Now, I come to the Shoranur-Mangalore existing line which is one of the oldest lines. Just the other day also, during the Question Hour, there was a discussion about this. This line has become very old and requires track renewal. Side by side, the doubling work is also going on, but it is going on at a very slow pace. This will have to be speeded up so that the through movement of trains down South from Mumbai along this line is speeded up.

The Mangalore station has become a very important station with the opening of the Konkan Railway line. So, there is a very strong case for setting up a divisional headquarters at Mangalore. For the entire area, the divisional headquarters is at Palghat. It is at a very distant place. With the formation of South-Western Zone, we are requesting you to shift the headquarters from Bangalore to Hubli. In this regard, I am sure, requests will be made by my other colleagues also. All along, we have been pleading for that. I do not know, for what reason, the previous Government decided to have the headquarters at Bangalore. Sir, Bangalore is already over-crowded and it cannot bear this burden anymore. In fact, the headquarters should be shifted to Hubli. This Mangalore should be segregated from the Palghat division and it should be joined with the South-Western zone by setting up a divisional headquarters at Mangalore. Sir, even the hon. Railway Minister agreed with me privately that this is a genuine requirement and this will have to be considered, but I do not know whether he will be able to make an announcement in this regard on the floor of this House. Anyway, I would make an earnest appeal to him that this must be considered on priority.

With this, I would again commend the efforts made by my esteemed friend, the hon. Railway Minister in bringing a very balanced Budget in the midst of all the difficulties being faced by the Indian Railways. I would also request the friends sitting across to lend their full support to the hon. Minister of Railways in implementing sincerely all the projects which he has proposed in his Budget. The efforts which he has made for completion of the on-going works require their whole-hearted support.

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (BERHAMPUR) (ORISSA): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, The Railways are the major infrastructure that play a dominant role in the entire scenario of the country. The Railways have double role to play, one is supposed to play for the commercial purposes, and the other is to look into the social and developmental responsibilities.

Sir, In this process, the regional imbalances should be removed to a great extent. But this is not seen in this Railway Budget. The Railway Budget and the Status Paper that confirm that a massive injection of funds is required for new lines, completion of projects, maintenance and new rolling stocks, etc.

I must say, the present Railway Budget seems to get worse before they get better.

The Ninth Plan has said that it intends to infuse 'vigour and direction' in Railway investment. The Railways are naturally pressing for higher budgetary support and for direct Government investment in new infrastructure. I know, with limited resources, the Railways are not in a position to meet any of them adequately. This gives a grim picture. I would request the Government and the hon. Minister of Railways that considering all these aspects, we should have a comprehensive view of this.

Of course, the hon. Minister has tried to raise the resources by increasing the train fares which will definitely affect all classes of people including the common people. He has not increased the freight rates. I must say that — and this is what we see — the share of the Railways in handling goods traffic has been coming down over the years. This is not because that it had been out-priced in the market but because of the limitation in its capacity to handle goods traffic, demanding better management procedure.

The Explanatory Memorandum on the Railway Budget puts the total earnings from goods traffic at 21,686 crore. This revenue is expected to be received from a total Rs. 308,180 million tonnes km. This comes to the average freight rate of Rs. 70.37 paise per tonne-kilometre. In 1997-98, as per the Revised Estimates, the total freight carried moved to 288,095 million tonnes. The earning from this goods traffic was Rs. 19,885.94 crore. At an average, it works out to Rs. 69.03 paise per tonne-kilometre.

As compared to last year, to hon. Minister of Railways expects the freight revenue to go up by 1.9 per cent or nearly two per cent. But the hon. Minister has issued various statements that there will be no increase in the freight tariffs. He has also said that the freight tariffs have come to such a level that any increase would be a severe burden on the economy. His contradictory statements will burdened the economy further with an increase in the average freight tariffs, are confusing the House on this score.

The Status Paper has pointed out that the passenger traffic vis-a-vis the freight traffic in terms of the number of trains running is in the ratio of 60:40. What is the revenue contribution? The revenue contributed is in the ratio of 28:72. This, according to the Status Paper, reflects the expenditure on cross-subsidies that takes place in financial terms.

19.34 hrs.

(SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

The expenditure was Rs. 2,800 crore in 1997-98. The argument advanced is that the freight rates have been kept high to cope up with the lower passenger fares.

So, the cross subsidy cannot be wiped out. If we want to wipe out the cross subsidy, passenger fares must be hiked by 35 per cent which is impossible and highly undesirable. So, the cross subsidy takes away the surplus of the Railways which could have otherwise gone for investment. On the assessment that freight rates are high, the Railway Budget has reduced the tariffs by one to two per cent for coal, cement, iron and steel which are carried to long distances. The Railway Budget has given discounts on special offer of additional traffic. The Railways hope to get more traffic on the core sector. But the question is whether the freight rates *per se* are a deterrent or the slow pace of transportation by the Railways is responsible for this. The hon. Minister has to answer this.

Now, I will mention about my State, Orissa. I have already remarked about the regional imbalance. Infrastructure-wise, Orissa is a backward State. First of all, I would like to mention about the gauge conversion of the Nawapada-Gunpur narrow gauge line. People of that part of the State have been demanding for this for long and it must be taken up urgently. We are very disappointed to know that no allocation has been made for this, though the Centre has said that it was commit-

ted to this project. Yesterday, when an hon. Member from the treasury benches was talking about this, he said that Rs. 1000 have been provided for this. I interrupted and asked her "Is it an allocation for a backward State like Orissa?" How can you go along with this kind of financing? The people of that part of the State are highly disappointed. So, I urge upon the Government and the hon. Minister to take into consideration the backwardness of the State. So also the gauge conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi line. We have been demanding this for quite a long time. This time also it has not been taken up.

Next, I would like to mention about Talcher-Sambalpur Rail Link Project. Linking of rail has almost come to an end, but some residual work is there to be expeditiously completed. A sum of Rs. 14 crore has been provided for this and another Rs. 16 crore are required to complete this work. I urge upon the Government to immediately provide the required funds for this so that the trains assured by the hon. Minister of Railways can be introduced.

My another request is that the Hirakud Express originating from Sambalpur should start from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi as a daily train. Now, I would like to mention about the Daitari-Banspari B.G. Rail Link. This was sanctioned in the year 1992-93 with a meagre allocation of Rs. 49 crore. This is the most important line from the point of industries, how can the Railways complete this line within three years' time? If it is not completed, the steel plants will be jeopardised and in turn the State's growth will also be jeopardised. I urge upon the Government that, all important line should be taken up immediately and more funds should be provided.

For the Lanjigarh Rail Link, 80 per cent of the land has been handed over to the Railways, but with the meagre allocation, they are not able to acquire the remaining land. We require an amount of Rs. 100 crore for that project, but till now, an amount of Rs. 1.47 crore has only been sanctioned and the work is not in progress.

Khurda Road-Bolangir new Broad Gauge Rail Link is also an important project; but an amount of only Rs. 2 crore has been sanctioned. The hon. Member from the Treasury bench has demanded for only Rs. 4 crore. Till now we have got Rs. 5.49 crore and last year we got Rs. 2.49 crore. But this year, we have got a reduced amount. How was it possible? Actually, the allocation should have gone up. But that hon. Member

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

was satisfied with demanding only Rs. 4 crore. I am very much disappointed with this sort of an allocation.

The same is the case with Haridaspur-Paradeep new Broad Gauge Rail Link. Angul-Sukinda Road Rail Link would be economically very viable and it has to be taken up immediately. The rate of return is expected to be 29.83 per cent. Can one believe that when it requires an amount of Rs. 245 crore, but we are getting only Rs.2 crore for this line.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will you kindly see what in the total outlay for this year for Orissa?

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : I do not know that. You have given enough funds for ongoing projects. I am disappointed you have totally neglected Orissa.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The total outlay for this year for Orissa is Rs. 226.58 crore out of roughly about Rs. 2000 crore of the kitty. You have got around Rs. 226 crore. Kindly do not forget it.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : But backlog is more. The hon. Minister should understand that there is a backlog.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Percentage-wise, Orissa got the maximum.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (JHUNJHUNU) : Kindly do not disturb her.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am not disturbing. I am just pointing out what it is.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : The Minister should consider all these things. I just urge upon you, since there is a backlog.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You can see the documents.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : I know that, I have mentioned the relevant figures also and I am not hiding anything from you.

East Coast Railway is a newly created Zone carved out of South Eastern Railway. The new Zone was inaugurated in the year 1996. The three divisions namely Waltair, Khurda Road and Sambalpur which are to constitute East Coast Railway, are yet to be taken over by the newly created Zone for which immediate issuance of a Gazette Notification is a must. It has not

been done so far; please look into it also. For this, an amount of only Rs. 4 crore has been given, which is very disappointing.

About the new trains, I would say that consequent upon commissioning of the Koraput-Rayagada new rail link, the then Railway Minister has announced the introduction of an Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput. It is a long distance route and there is no communication facility in-between. So, a new train should be introduced in the name of 'Sabari Express'. It should have been introduced already.

The then Minister had assured of a Shatabdi Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Howrah. It should be done immediately. Our demand for an Intercity Express Train between Bhubaneswar and Howrah, leaving Bhubaneswar in the early morning is still pending with the Railways.

Our demand for another Intercity Express Train between Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam, leaving Bhubaneswar at night is still pending with the Railways.

I am coming from the Southern part of Orissa; and Berhampur is an important place culture-wise and commercially also. But Berhampur is not touched by any of the trains which come to Delhi. So, I urge upon the Minister that a new train be introduced up to Delhi via. Khurda, Berhampur, Vizianagaram, Raygada, Raipur and Nagpur.

And this train has been suggested as Berhampur is an important city of Southern Orissa and it will be a link with New Delhi. We have been demanding an increase in the frequency of the Rajdhani Express which is presently running twice a week. It should at least run four times a week. It seems that the Railways do not have the conception or do not know what backwardness is. There has been a demand for a special sub-plan for the hilly, backward and remote areas in States like Orissa. I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to discuss with the Planning Commission to have a special sub-plan for the backward areas which are very backward infrastructurally.

[ Translation ]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister of Railways for having presented a practical and balanced budget. He has also presented a status paper in the House before presenting the Rail Budget. I feel that the account given in the status paper clarifies the present position of the Railways, its future plans

and goals. Some such issues have been raised which may jolt the people so that they may understand the position of Railways and find some answers for themselves after introspection. I would like to quote from it :

"Indian Railways serving as the life-line of the nation, is passing through trying times. The financial aid from general exchequer is declining and loan from the market is also not forthcoming. There are expectations regarding introducing additional rail services, improving the existing services, laying new rail lines and taking up gauge conversion and alongwith that the Railways have a commercial as well as social responsibility to discharge."

The term social responsibility appears to have the secondary position. However, in my opinion, the budget is primarily concerned about fulfilling the social obligation of the Railways whereas the commercial obligation comes later and I would like to thank him once again for this. I have seen the rail budgets of previous years since 1971 till date and if all these rail budgets are compared, the present rail budget would emerge as the one which has put the least burden on the people and strives to provide more and more amenities for the people. Whether it is the southern, the Eastern, the North-Eastern or the Central Zone, provision has been made for various Railway Divisions and also an attempt has been made to remove the imbalances and I believe that this will help in removing the regional imbalance. It is quite possible that some Hon'ble Member might object to it and they might feel that this will not help in removing regional imbalance. They may have certain complaints. Bihar is a backward state. I can also say that Madhya Pradesh is also a backward state and more than 33% of the population of this state comprises of tribals. They too have been neglected and there are other areas which are backward. Some parts of Uttar Pradesh are also backward. This backwardness can be found in Orissa as well. Hence leaving aside the criteria of backwardness of the area or the extent of development that may have taken place in a particular area, a system has been evolved keeping in view the present position of Railways or the performance of Railways and I feel that this is a quite effective system. From this very point of view, a decision has been taken regarding laying new lines, gauge conversion, electrification or doubling of rail lines and I would like to express my gratefulness in this regard.

Everybody is aware of the fact that Railway is such an undertaking which provides maximum employment opportunities in the country. Most of the job

opportunities are provided in our country by the agricultural sector or the Railways. Hence its responsibility increases in the same proportion. Our expectations are also rising. It is true that many a times, the rail accidents are discussed in the House. Hon'ble Minister of Railways while replying to a question two days ago has revealed that if the data is compared to ascertain as to whether the number of rail accidents has dropped or risen, there has been a definite improvement in this regard. The trains are faster and the number of trains has also gone up. New trains have been introduced. There has been a significant improvement in the Railways in terms of safety and infrastructure. New trains have been introduced. There are suburban trains and Metro Rail. The speed has increased. There have been some changes but there is scope for more improvement.

I would like to submit that our population is rising and consequently more pressure is being exerted on the available facilities and the volume of traffic has also gone up. All of us expect to travel safely. If we look around for safe means of transport, we find that travelling by trains is the safest way of travelling. Alongwith the increase in the speed of Railways, people have begun to feel that travelling by trains is the safest. Also that it is faster and much better. Realising the importance of Railways, practical steps are being taken and there is a need to consider them in that very light. There could be some shortcomings and an effort is being made to remove them. Hon'ble Minister of Railways has indicated in the budget that these shortcomings will be removed. It is true that wherever new trains are proposed to be introduced, more passenger trains are proposed to be run. There is a heavy demand for such trains. In order to provide more facilities for the passengers and to accommodate more passengers, Hon'ble Minister announced in his budget speech that 23 or 24 coaches will be attached to the trains in place of 17 or 18 coaches being attached at present so as to accommodate more passengers. Hence we will have to speed up the pace of manufacturing coaches in the coach factories. These factories have the capacity but it is not being fully utilised so far. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister in this regard. I have seen such coach factories at many places where the full capacity is not being utilised. They say that if they get the orders, they are prepared to complete them. They have the capacity and they are looking for orders. I would like to state that this capacity should be utilised. As for increasing the number of the coaches to enable the passengers to travel in comfort, that is also possible. I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister in this regard that although I know that we

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

have limited resources however when the number of coaches is increased, we will have to increase the length of the platforms on all the Railway stations. In case the length of the platform is not increased, I can recall that earlier when the number of coaches attached to a train was raised from 12 to 18 and the length of the platform was not increased in the same proportion, people used to fall down and faced many difficulties. The hawkers were unable to reach the passengers. This should be taken into account and there is a need to consider this with a view to provide facilities for the passengers. Ratlam is a major station falling under the western Railways, still it lacks amenities.

Hon'ble Minister of Railways also stated in his budget speech that he was hopeful about transportation of more and more goods by trains. However the present situation is that more goods are being transported by trucks. Hon'ble Minister also spoke about introducing the container service for this purpose. The container service is definitely performing well but there are certain problems. Full load is not available at the same time. That is why we are unable to meet the expectations even when we want to. Hence a fresh attempt will have to be made with regard to the issue of transportation of goods from this point of view.

So far as the present structure of Rail management is concerned, I feel that it is heavy at the top and light at the bottom, i.e. the number of officers is more in proportion to the number of employees working at lower level. This proportion needs to be set right so as to facilitate smooth functioning.

I had raised the matter of re-organisation of the Railway Board twice or thrice. It should be re-organised to enable it to cope with increasing volume of work so that its output may increase otherwise there is such a heavy workload that it is difficult to cope with it despite having the best of intentions.

A few days ago, the issue of setting up new zones was discussed. Previous committee proposed setting up of four zones. The proposal was approved by the committee. Later on, it was proposed to have six zones and accordingly six zones were set up. Thereafter when this matter was discussed here and Hon'ble Minister of Railways might recall that Paswanji was the Minister of Railways at that time and the issue of setting up Railway zone at Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh was also raised. It was raised quite strongly. I

feel that Bilaspur meets the requirements laid for setting up a zone. Hence the proposal of setting up Bilaspur zone should be considered. I would quote from the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Railways:

[English]

"New Zones and Divisions are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, acceptability, traffic patterns and other operating and administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency".

[Translation]

I believe that all the requirements mentioned with regard to setting up of Railway Zone at Bilaspur are met and the Report of the committee also confirms it. An assurance has also been given in the House regarding setting up this zone and I believe that you'll try your best to fulfil this assurance. As I said that we have some very good workshops where coaches and the Diesel Locomotives are manufactured. I have stated earlier also that the available capacity should be fully utilised.

I would like to quote again and this time from the 14th Report of the Standing Committee on Railways:

[English]

"The Committee also finds that besides maintaining workshops, there are some other type of workshops in the Railways such as Civil Engineering workshop at Allahabad, Jhansi etc., signalling workshop at Gorakhpur, Akola etc. The Committee desires that complete details of these workshops including the targets and achievements for the last three years should be furnished to them".

[Translation]

The report further says that there is a need to improve the present conditions in these workshops.

[English]

"The Committee also found that the working condition in some of the workshops are very pathetic and hazardous to the health of the workers. The Committee strongly recommends that consistent efforts should be made to improve the prevailing conditions".

[Translation]

I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards it because it pertains to interests of the employees. I request you to pay attention towards it.

I would like to draw your attention towards another important issue which has been raised here earlier also. It has been stated in the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Railways that several posts are lying vacant and the procedure followed by the Recruitment Boards for recruitment was not appropriate. Though certain decisions have been taken regarding these Recruitment Boards, I feel that these posts should be filled at the earliest.

Before concluding I would like to raise two or three points regarding my area. As I have already stated that Madhya Pradesh is a backward state and neglected from the viewpoint of Railways. However in this budget a mention has been made for laying some new rail lines and completing the ongoing railway projects. The issue of Guna-Etawah rail line was taken up here. I thank the hon. Minister for taking up the issue of survey of Ujjain-Ramganj mandi line. Recently the hon. Minister of Railways has visited Indore and given assurance for conducting a survey of Indore-Khandwa route. I would like to make a submission that work of gauge conversion is going on Neemach-Ratlam Section. The gauge conversion project on Kota-Neemach section has been completed. During the discussion on railway budget the former Minister of Railways had given assurance that gauge conversion work on Neemach-Ratlam section would be completed by 1996-97. Now 1997-98 has also passed and I request you that it should be completed during the next year. I requested the hon. Minister of Railways for it through the Minister of State. Though allocation has been made for this project in this budget, but it is a meagre amount. I would like to say that atleast Rs. 50 crore should be allocated for this project ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : For which section?

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : For Neemach-Ratlam Section. This allocation would enable the project to complete to an extent. As hon. Shantilalji has said just not that after completing the work of gauge-conversion on Kota-Ratlam rail line, it could be linked with Udaipur or Chittor. Then it would be a parallel rail line from Kota to Ratlam. This would facilitate the passengers. I emphasize the need for completion of this project because Rs. 20 or 25 crore have already been spent on this section. Work on this project is still going on. Culverts have been widened. No new scheme has been sanctioned in this area. But I would like to say that work on this project is going on a very slow pace. I

thank you for allocating funds for this project. This could be completed at the earliest if more funds are allocated for it.

Along with this, I would like to draw your attention towards two or three general suggestions.

20.00 hrs.

At present Bhopal is the capital of our State but from Ratlam there is no direct train for Bhopal. Earlier there was a direct train Number 111-112 which has been withdrawn. I demand that it should be restored in public interest. There is broadgauge line between Neemach and Kota. The shuttle train playing between Neemach and Chittor should be extended upto Kota. There is a train from Neemach to Agra via Kota. It should be extended upto Delhi or Haridwar if it is feasible, so that people could go to Haridwar via Ratlam, Mandsaur and Kota. At present the train is running from there can be extended upto Haridwar or Dehradun. This will benefit common man and Railway can also earn revenue from it.

I have asked the hon. Minister that Meenakshi Express and Chetak Express are running on metregauge line so a shuttle train should be introduced between Mau and Chittor till gauge conversion work is completed on this route. There is heavy traffic on this route and thus additional coaches should be added in other trains so that people could be benefited. In the same way attention should be paid to construction of overbridges at Javara, Neemach, Mandsaur and Nimbolda. This time attention has been paid towards development of Railways in Madhya Pradesh which was neglected earlier. I have drawn your attention towards it because something more is required to be done there. I have requested you time and again for gauge conversion of Neemach-Ratlam Rail line. The people of this area will be benefited by this. Shamgarh railway station in my constituency comes under Western Railways. It is a trade centre. Jaipur-Chennai train should be provided stoppage there. In the same way August Kranti Rajdhani Express should be given stoppage at Ratlam.

Several hon. Members have raised the issues of gauge conversion and payment of compensation in case of railway accidents. I do not want to go into them but attention should be paid towards these issues. Railways is certainly encouraging sports persons but more attention should be paid towards them. There are several other problems and I would like to convey them to the hon. Minister through a letter. I thank the hon. Minister of Railways for presenting this good budget.

\*SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (INNER MANIPUR) : Thank you, Chairman Sir, I will speak in Manipuri. Hon'ble Railway Minister has presented in the House

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

[Shri TH. Chaoba Singh]

the Railway Budget for the year 1998-99 and the total financial allocation in this Budget is Rs. 9500 crores. Sir, my observation is that there is regional imbalance in the disbursement of fund. For instance the backward seven north-east States which are under the aegis of NEC get a meagre amount out of this 9500 crores of rupees. Perhaps they receive less than 1 or 2% of it.

Sir, the previous Governments had given the assurance that 10% of the Budget allocation would be earmarked for the north-eastern region. This was the promise made by Shri Deve Gowdaji and by Gujralji. Keeping in view the present Railway Budget of the Hon'able Railway Minister it is very disappointing for us. Sir, 1 or 2% share means nothing, it will certainly annoy the people of the region.

Sir, once again Manipur has been completely neglected. In 50 years we have established 9000 km of railway lines in the country but not a single line in Manipur. Is Manipur not a part of India?

In 1853 railway line was introduced by the Britishers from Bombay to Thane. It was introduced not only from the commercial point of view but also from the security point of view. Today, Sir, Indian Railways stand for national security and national unity that is in addition to its commercial utility.

In his speech the Hon'ble Railway Minister proposed 12 new passenger train services. All are meant for UP, Bihar and other States and not a single for my region. Sir, out of these 12 new services one could have been introduced between Dimapur and Guwahati. It a train like Shatabdi Express is introduced here that could be a blessing for the people living in Manipur and Nagaland.

Sir, Manipur is a land where there are no good roads, no railway lines and very limited number of flights. And it is a sensitive border State sharing its border with Burma. What is very alarming is that about 60% of our youths have gone underground because of the prolonged negligence.

Due to the unwise policy of our officials and bureaucrats, in 50 years we still unable to link the region with the rail lines. Sir, what is this Status Report? For north-east it is almost nil and for Manipur it is absolutely nil. Such an attitude will encourage separatist tendency and anti-Indian feeling in the region. Sir, I am a nationalist and I strongly believe in the cause of

the nation. It is a fact that my wife and my son had been shot dead by the extremists.

Sir, the bureaucrats who formulated last year's Railway Budget proposed a railway line between Diphu and Karong. The then Railway Minister Paswanji had endorsed the proposal. Now, in this year's Budget nothing has been mentioned about this line. Sir, this line was already there on the Railway map of India published in 1996-97. And funds had been allocated for this proposed line in the Railway Budget of 1997. In the present Budget there is no trace of this said line. This is really amazing but this is correct.

Sir, as I mentioned earlier we need fast trains like Shatabdi in between Guwahati and Dimapur. Delhi is still far, it is thousands of kms away. Fare has been hiked but we do not mind. But we want more train services in the region. Rajdhani Express between Delhi and Guwahati runs only twice a week. Frequency of this train may be increased to 6 or 7 times a week for the convenience of the people residing in this part of the country.

Sir, the overall approach towards the north-east is not encouraging. New railway lines have been proposed but not a single line is allotted to the region. Hon'ble Railway Minister said that the new projects had been taken up according to the wishes of the Hon'ble Members. Sir, when I supported this Government and when my party supported this Government we had given a memorandum. One of the conditions was to establish the rail line between Diphu to Karong and from Karong to Imphal. We expect at least some benefit for my State from the BJP Government as we are supporting it. Unfortunately nothing has been done. My request and my party's request has been ignored.

Sir, we have only two MPs in the Lok Sabha and only one in the Rajya Sabha. Last time also I made a request to the then Railway Minister Paswanji to introduce the line from Diphu to Karong and from Karong to Imphal and then to Moch (Myanmar). Sir, it is a very important line. We are not demanding for broad gauge lines but for metre gauge lines. And for this, financial implication is not much. Everytime our bureaucrats are talking in terms of economic viability of the railway lines. That might be the reason why in 50 years not a single line is laid in my State, Manipur. Sir, if we started constructing two kms of rail line every year a full fledged line could have been laid by now. Then we could have been connected with Dimapur which is just 130 kms away from Imphal.



Sir, the Diphu-Karong line was in the work programme of the last year Budget. This year nothing is mentioned about this line. Virtually this line has vanished. In this connection I want to listen to the reply of the Hon'ble Minister. Sir, what should I reply to my people regarding this vanished line.

Why the on going project has been deleted? Sir, this is the height of negligence towards the region in general and towards Manipur in particular. When nearly 60% of the youths had gone underground such irresponsible attitude of the Government of India is really very unfortunate.

Sir, not a single rupee has been allocated for my State in this Railway Budget. I request the Hon'ble Minister to reconsider our case and continue the on going project, i.e. the Diphu-Karang line.

Sir, lakhs of people in my State have not seen a train or a rail line and most of them had died without seeing a railway line or a train. This is the condition that prevails in my State.

Sir, I am concluding. In his speech the Hon'ble Railway Minister had stated that our Railway is the symbol of national integration. Manipur is a sensitive border State. But this symbol of national integration is still missing in Manipur.

Sir, we have exploded nuclear bombs at Pokhran and we all know the cost of manufacturing nuclear bombs. For the national security we are spending crores of rupees. We don't even bother the economic sanctions. Sir, spending a few crores of rupees and extending the railway line upto Manipur will certainly strengthen national security and national integration. This must be done in the national interest.

Sir, my appeal to the Hon'ble Railway Minister is to take up some concrete measures for the people living in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur etc. The fare hike will also be a burden for the people of the the north-east. But the budget provision for this region is almost nil.

Sir, the Indo-Myanmar border trade has been opened. What is the meaning of opening this trade without the backing of an efficient and cheap means of transport? Without the support of Railway transport system this trade will not be as fruitful as we expect. Therefore, Sir, railway lines in Manipur is not important from the commercial angle too. Railway line upto Imphal and then upto Moreh has become extremely necessary.

Sir, last point, food grains, consumer items, building materials, fertilizers, etc. are imported from outside. In the absence of the railway services we are paying a higher price for transportation as we have to depend on the trucks.

Sir, how to deal with the insurgency problem? And how to maintain law and order in the region? Sir, we are spending crores of rupees to curb the insurgency movement and also to maintain law and order. Suppression by the security forces and army will not prove to be a lasting solution. A lasting solution lies in the development of the region – employment should be given and transport and communication must be developed in the region.

Without railways the pace of development will be slow. How to develop the region without the network of railway lines is a question. Sir, I would like to request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to review the budget and include the already proposed Diphu-Karong line. Please don't yield to the bureaucratic argument of economic viability or otherwise of this proposed railway line. The entire nation must be connected by railway lines. It must be done for the sake of national integration and national security. Sir, because of prolonged negligence if our youths want to secede and join other country—what will be the fate of this nation?

Lastly, I once again request the Railway Minister to include the Diphu-Karong line in this year's work programme, as a special case.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (MOHANLALGANJ):  
I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister of Railways through you that the increase in the fares of different classes has put an additional burden on the people. The fares which hon. Minister has increased will be meaningful only when the facilities are also increased accordingly. In trains, there is no electricity, there is no water facility, bathrooms are not clean and besides, many other facilities are also not there. If these facilities are provided, then people would bear the hike in rail fares also. I would also like to tell you that fare of Shatabdi Express has been increase. That train fare includes cost of meals also but the quality of food served in the train is deteriorating day by day. On one hand, you are increasing the fare and on the other hand the quality of food is deteriorating. If you are increasing the fare, then you should improve the quality also. After that we will accept this fare.

As I mentioned yesterday also, one train should

[Shrimati Reena Choudhary]

be introduced from Lucknow to Dehradun which should run on time. The Howrah-Dehradun runs 3-4 hours late daily. If it is a matter of a day or two, then perhaps I would have not mentioned this. The train which should reach Dehradun at 7.00 a.m., reaches there at 1.00 or 2.00 p.m. due to which the whole day is wasted and we are not able to do the work in time for which we are going. The second train is Janata train. A.C. coaches should be attached to it. The condition in that train is so bad that it is difficult to describe it. There is no light in those coaches. Once I was forced to travel by that train because Dehradun train was late by 4-5 hours. The coach in which I was sitting in was not incident free. Someone snatched the purse of a lady and ran away but none could catch him due to darkness. Besides paying attention to the issue of increases in fare, if we spare a little thought for the routine problems also, perhaps it will come as a relief to the passengers. Very few people use ordinary first class in Janata train. My suggestion is that this class should be abolished and the number of AC 2 tier and AC 3 tier compartments should be increased.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would like to tell you for your information that we have noted down your request. However, it was decided to attach first class bogies for the benefit of some people because those suffering from bronchitis cannot travel by AC. There are a large number of people who cannot travel by A.C. They are facing health problems. That is why we have decided to attach first class bogies again but there will be only 6 or 8 such compartments. I have said this thing so that all members should know as to why we have restarted first class.

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : The competition in transport market during 1950-51 was 80%. Today it is only 40 to 20%. This is not a good sign.

When Shri Paswanji was Railway Minister and when we used to write letters for reservation, we got reservation. I am telling my own experience. It is quite possible that reservation facility is not provided against all the letters sent in this regard. People are saying that they are not getting reservation on such letters.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : It is an important question.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR) : It is very vital.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Previously there was good arrangement that rail reservation was provided on the recommendation of Members of Parliament but these days reservation is not provided on such letters. I, therefore, demand that if we write a letter to provide reservation for any individual, reservation should be provided.

I would like to say something about recruitment in railways. Only suitable candidate should be selected in railways. Railway Recruitment Control Board or some other agency should be appointed to ensure that incompetent person is not appointed and only deserving candidate is appointed.

I would like to mention one thing about my constituency. In my constituency Mohanlalganj there are two districts—Lucknow and Unnao. In Unnao there are two Assembly segments—Purva and Hasanganj. Purva Assembly segment is very backward. Even the roadways buses are not available there as government had stopped those buses which were running previously. There is no railway line or railway station in this area, so if railway line is laid in this area it will be convenient for people to travel.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you and thank the Hon'ble Minister with the hope that he will take some action on what I have said.

[English]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (NAGALAND) : Mr. Speaker, I am astonished to see that not a word was mentioned about Nagaland in the Railway Budget and it appears that the Government of India is adopting a step motherly treatment. It can be seen that the Cabinet Minister who was there to listen to the problems of other States problems, has gone. Now he is coming back. I would like to request him to lend his ears because it is a very vital and important issue for the people of Nagaland.

Today we have come here before the booming of guns. The extremists have been trying to oppose the elections and in spite of that we have been able to come to this august House to represent the people. We have not just come here to voice and disappear. But we want to tell the Government of India that we have come with a list of business which the Government of India should look into. And unfortunately this time when the election was boycotted, or the call was given, our BJP friends also joined to boycott the elec-

tion. That was very unfortunate. But anyway, our understanding is that since we have been put in the mainstream we have taken this option and filed our nomination, got elected and we want to voice here in this august House.

When I say that not a word was mentioned in the Railway Budget I had in mind a small rail link from Amguri to Tull, a distance of 17 Kilometres which was taken up about a decade ago. This was bogged down for reasons better known to them. They started it and stopped at 10 kilometres; it is a metre gauge line and they could not complete the remaining seven kilometres. So, I would like to request the Railway Ministry to look into this matter because this connects a very important paper mill and whatever railway line we have, it took the Government of India to convert from metre gauge to broad gauge over 50 years. So, the way the things are in the North-East, you can imagine. What is the attitude? It sounds very big. Every Prime Minister who came to the North-East announced packages after packages. But when it comes to execution, when you go to the various Ministries there is no allocation of funds.

So, I think the matter has to be viewed from a very serious point of view, because we have one railhead at Dimapur. Now, Dimapur covers about five kilometres of Nagaland, a strip of it. Only the other day when I was telling the Chief Whip to put my name in this list he was smiling as he was unaware that there was a Railway Link in Nagaland. But I may tell you that it is important. This Dimapur railhead covers Manipur, a bit of Assam and the whole of Nagaland.

Then there is a problem. There are two booking counters one in Dimapur and another in Kohima. Because of the extortion, the booking counter opens from nine o'clock to 12 noon. Then after that the booking clerks go to put the money into the Treasury. Now unfortunately this booking office is connected to Guwahati and then Calcutta. Generally the Calcutta Microwave system starts working only after the Dimapur booking counter had shut down. The people of Nagaland are forced to buy rail tickets in black from the Guwahati booking Centres and it cause lot of inconvenience to public. Those People who want to travel to Delhi by Rajdhani Express are the worst sufferers as they have to take the night super bus to Guwahati and in the morning, they have to search for some travel agents for tickets in black. They spend the whole one day and one night to catch the Rajdhani train next morning

North-East particularly Nagaland is economically backward. If we have to appreciate and give some sort of concession to these people, then why do we do not increase the Rajdhani service from Dimapur to Delhi three times a week instead on once a week. There is a heavy military concentration in the North-East especially in and around Dimapur and Nagaland. Most of these *Jawans* when they go on leave, occupy all the seats. So, most of these seats are not available to the common people. Therefore, the public is helpless. All the bookings are done in advance since their leaves are regulated well in advance. The booking offices are regulated from Calcutta microwave. They regulate in such a way that they get their own quota extra. They have a link with the Guwahati Office and when the Guwahati Office blocks it, they cannot show it in the computer. I am also one of the witnesses to it. I went to the counter and I asked the booking clerk for a ticket. I had to wait for many days to get a single ticket. The booking clerk explained to me that the system which is regulated from Calcutta does not come to the line while Kohima booking counter is kept open. So, the people are at the mercy of the travel agents and they have to pay double the amount of money of the ticket fare. I think, it is high time that the Government of India should look into this problem seriously.

I would like to make one more request to the hon. Minister of Railways. There is a foothill area between Assam and Nagaland which covers about one-fifth of the area within Nagaland. I would like to request the hon. Minister to make a broadgauge line from Dimapur to Tizit in Mon District. This will help to transport the coal which is extracted from Borjan colliery at Longnk. The people on the foothills are agriculturists and they will be able to sell their products to other parts of the country.

There was a rail track from Simulguri in Assam to Brojan in Nagaland which is about 20 kms. This was neglected and it has been abandoned. I think, it should be revived. The colliery is there. According to the Geological Survey of India, the quality of coal there is very good. Besides, if the Government of India is trying to negotiate with the insurgent groups and if the peace comes, then this will be a big economic boost.

I would like to substantiate what my friend from Manipur has said about the negligence of the North-East. I think, what he has said is correct. These two States are prone with underground activities and things should be looked from different angles. Once we put the rail-road in these two States, more people can get jobs and more people can transport their goods from one place to another place.

[Shri K. A. Sangtam]

Lastly, If the Government of India and Ministry of Railways are serious about looking to the problems of the North-East, then, I think, the ticket fare from Siliguri Tinsukhia should be brought down to the normal rate instead of imposing on us extra fare in this Railway Budget. Our income is very low and if we have to help the low-income group people, then the Ministry of Railways should look into this problem seriously.

My last point is that the railway station at Dimapur is being used as a dormitory for passengers. All along the platform, you will find thousands of passengers sleeping. Many a time, when enquired about the reasons for sleeping there, and they say that as the trains are not running on time, so they have decided to sleep on the platform. If the ministry can take up the matter and make some proper waiting rooms, that will be very good. They should make the railway station more human-friendly and nose-friendly because it stinks so much that it is a big nuisance. So, I think there should be proper sanitation and proper waiting rooms at the railway station.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV (SAHARSA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much time of this House because house will sit until 9.00 p.m. and already much time has passed. Many of our hon'ble Members are already tired. Today, I am in a dilemma because Hon'ble Minister of Railways hails from Bihar. Besides this, he was our colleague. We were in the same party. We have worked together for progress of Bihar. I myself and people of Bihar were expecting much from him. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Nitish Kumar is very hard working, intelligent and he has concern for India and especially for Bihar. It was expected that people of Bihar will be benefited by the budget which he has presented but it was not to be.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is not much time, I will only mention about Bihar because already much has been discussed about India. It is a good thing that in the Railway also, we are celebrating Golden Jubilee on the occasion of 50th anniversary of our independence. Whom should I blame or not to blame, I do not want to go into that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please come straight to the subject of railways.

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : I am coming to railway only I am just giving the introduction of the subject. We are newly elected members of Lok Sabha. However we were in the Legislative Assembly for many years. I want to give one suggestion about Bihar. Our Railway Minister has visited North Bihar and has seen it. Our region is extended upto Nepal Border. The border of Nepal and Bihar extends upto Birpur. Our Minister of Railways knows that Kosi river plays havoc in the areas from Saharsa Commissioner to Purnea Commissioner i.e. Northern to Eastern regions. During British period, there was rail line from Mansi to Sahara upto Forbesganj. Similarly, there was rail line from Mansi to Katihar via Saharsa. That line goes upto Nepal border via Jogbani and alongwith that, it goes upto Mahahiyahi via Darbhanga. Mahahiyahi was earlier called Saraigarh. All these railway lines were there earlier. Not an inch of new rail line has been added in the existing rail lines in this region. It is right that the Hon'ble Minister has increased only Rs. 1 upto 50 kms. in the second class passenger fare, but by increasing the freight charges and by increasing passenger fares in long distance trains, has put burden on the poor people. However you have burdened people by increasing the freight and the fares of long distance passengers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has visited that area. We leave from Patna by Rajdhani Express. Ever since I have been elected M.P., I spent a lot of time in the capital. When I reach Patna Junction, I feel somewhat inconvenienced because that train arrives at Patna at 5 or 6 in the morning and there is no connecting train for those residing in trans-Ganga area. They have to wait patiently all day long. No train is available for travelling upto Manasi and Khagaria. One can catch a train for these areas in the night. This train is known as the 'capital' and it runs from Danapur to Katihar. It is scheduled to leave at 10.40 p.m., however it never leaves before 12 p.m. There is no fixed time for its arrival at Manasi. It is an Express train and fare is charged accordingly, still it moves at snail's pace and has erratic timings. I met Hon'ble Minister and requested him to get a proper time table drawn up for this train.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when one reaches Manasi or Khagaria in the morning, there is no connecting train to travel upto Forbesganj, Katihar and Saharsa. You can well imagine our plight, hence this point should be considered seriously. Hon'ble Minister has surely done us a favour also, for which I thank him, though not whole heartedly because from Manasi to Saharsa ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : You are an elderly person, hence you should do it whole-heartedly.

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : I have requested that the laying of broad gauge line from Manasi to Saharasa be completed in a time bound manner. Some experts having very good knowledge of Railways visited our area. I asked them to consult the budget proposal. He was an expert. Now we don't read it ourselves and ask others to note it down. He said that there was no provision for our area in the budget. I have requested Nitish Ji to pay attention towards North Bihar also. He has travelled by that train himself and he might be well aware of the condition of that train. If one happens to use the toilet in that train, he won't be able to come out dry because water keeps on dripping from the roof. At times, A.C. coach is attached to the trains running from Danapur to Katihar and Patna to Katihar but the condition of the coach is so bad that one prefers to travel in second class or three tier coach instead of that coach. Hence I request Hon'ble Minister to pay attention to it. Besides, I would like to emphasise that the route from Manasi to Saharasa should be covered in time-bound manner. Otherwise you'll say after four-five years that it will be completed soon but that may take too long. This distance is not more than 50-60 kilometers which is not much. It is an old railway line and now it is being converted into broad gauge line. I would also like to request you to take up the conversion of Saharasa-Forbesganj and Saharasa-Madhepura-Katihar line into broad gauge line. It won't take much time. A survey should be conducted in this regard. We had also requested for getting a survey conducted. I don't know if he has received my letter or not. As I said that Nirmali is a station and you also know that it is a sub-division. It is a part of Supaul-Saharasa. At least, a survey should be got conducted to connect Nirmali station with Bhavtihal covering a distance of mere 15 kms. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Minister...*(Interruptions)* Some officials from the Department visited Nirmali station for the survey. It would have been better if Hon'ble Member, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had been present here. However he is not present. He made an announcement. ...*( Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, please ask the Hon'ble Minister to note down my points. A team had visited that area. You should listen to it attentively. You are well aware about the position of Nirmali station. It falls under District Supaul. It is a sub-divisional Headquarter of that district. It has a Railway station and our Hon'ble Minister and yourself might have visited that station. I won't say anything about its condition. A team had gone there for conducting the survey. Shri Paswan had announced that due to paucity of funds, a survey is

being conducted. Bhavtihal has an old rail line which was damaged by the Kosi. I won't suggest you to extend it even by a single inch, however the old line should be connected at least. When he assumed the charge of the Ministry of Railways, 25-26 lakh people of my area were overjoyed. They say that he has been a very good friend of mine and that we have served in the same party for years together. He has been a follower of a great leader, Late Shri Karpuri Thakur. The people of Northern Bihar have great expectations from you. If the survey work is started and rail line is laid, you will have done a pious deed and there would be no need for you to go to Amarnath then. Nirmali-Bhavtihal line is an old rail line. A survey should be conducted because there is a dam in between spanning 13-14 kilometers. It will be known after investigation as to what would be the length of the bridge required to be constructed. A long distance will not have to be covered. The engineers will go there, make an advanced planning and survey will be conducted. I would urge upon you to get a survey conducted and make it time bound.

I would like to make one more request regarding Saharasa. You have been to Saharasa and so has he. There is not over bridge at the railway crossing over there. At present overbridge has been provided only at the station. However the railway crossing at the road remains closed for more than half an hour at times to allow the movement of trains. I feel that if a need arises to take a sick person to the hospital immediately, he might die there waiting. Hence I would say that Lalit Babu was the Railway Minister. Hon'ble Minister used to be his opponent. I was also his opponent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You might be aware that the State Government has to contribute upto 50% for the construction of road over-bridge. The land has to be provided and approach road has to be constructed by the State Government. The over-bridge above the rail line has to be constructed by the Railways. If you manage to get the funds released by the State Government and a proposal is forwarded by the State, we will definitely take appropriate action immediately.

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : I am aware of it. I had inaugurated the over-bridge at Samastipur. I was the P.W.D. Minister at that time and also aware of it. So you need not tell me that half the contribution is to be made by the State Government and the other half by the Union Government. You are in the Government and you may talk to them. I will also lend my support. He has been your friend and he has been Chief Minister. Please consider it seriously.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : The present Chief Minister is not my friend.

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : You should do such work as may draw praise from the public. You will be amply praised and appreciated for your efforts and you believe in doing concrete work also...*(Interruptions)* You are requested to throw some light in this regard while replying to the discussion on the rail budget.

I would like to make one more point. I took the name of Lalit Babu. Late Shri Lalit Babu was the Minister of Railways. I had written to him and he replied to my letter. I wrote to him that Madhepura-Sinheshwar is a religious place. He is also aware that a rail route runs from Sinheshwar to Lalitgram via Triveniganj and Pratappganj. He had given order for conducting a survey for the purpose of laying a rail line. It might be there in the record. The line was approved to be laid upto Sinheshwar. However, the route spans only five kilometers and the Railways did not find it financially viable. Lalit Babu was a religious person and our present Minister also belongs to the same category and that is why he has presented such a rail budget. I urge upon him to complete this work. Shri Lalit Babu has already left for his heavenly abode. From Madhepura to Sinheshwar and from Sinheshwar to Triveniganj onwards...*(Interruptions)* What are you saying? Yes, I am surely talking about my area. The survey work should be undertaken once again and it should be connected with a new rail line. That is all I want. One of our main tasks was that only. Mr. Chariman, Sir, you should also insist on this as the Chair enjoys certain powers. I am insisting again and again to conduct survey from Nirmali to Bhatiyahi which is a distance of about 15 kms. There is no railway-line there, and, therefore, if this railway line is laid then it will be convenient for people to travel. You know that at present we have to go to Nirmali via Nepal.

Let me speak for a few more minutes. Why are you interrupting, the House will sit upto 9.00 P.M.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many members who want to speak so please give only concrete suggestions.

SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : Nitishji also knows that we have to go to Nirmali via Birpur in Nepal. At times when we have strained relations with Nepal, we cannot go there after 10.00 P.M. because gates of the barrage constructed by the Government of India are closed. The House should ponder over this issue. I request

Nitishji through you that survey should be conducted from Nirmali to Bhatiyahi and secondly railway line should be laid from Madhepura to Sinheshwar and from Sinheshwar to Triveniganj and also from Sinheshwar to Pratappganj. The people of North Bihar are demanding that the broad-gauge line from Saharsa should be connected with Forbisganj and Katihar. Nitishji has been a good friend of yours and you have been in the same party together. Therefore, he will agree to your request. With these words, I thank you. The Government has done a good job by converting Manasi to Saharsa line into a broad-gauge, it should be further extended.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER (HATHRAS) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Minister of Railways is from Bihar, you also belong to Bihar and the time has also exhausted while discussing the position of Bihar.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, people appreciated the nuclear test which was conducted in our country on 11th and 13th May but some members of opposition tried to spread rumour that the next budget will put more burden on common man. But I would like to congratulate Nitish Kumarji and I am very happy that general budget was also presented on 1st June.

20.55 hrs.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*)

Both these budgets have belied the presumptions of our colleagues in the opposition. The railway budget which Nitish Kumarji has presented before the country is a very balanced one. In his budget due attention has been paid to ensure that it will not put burden on poor people. This is for the first time that such a provision has been made. Only that person can think about this who have himself experienced all this. In this budget Nitishji has looked after the interests of poor people of society. It is for the first time that licenced porters have been provided medical facilities. This shows that this government cares for the poor people and it is determined to work for their welfare. Earlier, if we missed the train we had to go to a far away place to take refund. Now the procedure of refund has been made simple. Even this is also appreciable. The budget that has been presented is a balanced one. But I would like to mention something about platform ticket. Delhi is the

capital of India. Lakhs of people who have migrated from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are residing here. You might have seen that if one person is leaving his village then atleast 15-20 people accompany him upto the station. If the price of platform ticket is increased then these people will be affected. I request that hike in the price of platform tickets should be reviewed. An attempt has been made to introduce more than a dozen trains to improve the rail traffic. Even after 50 years of independence, we find that there is heavy crowd in general compartments. People do not get even space to sit. Since the Hon'ble Minister of Railways has taken charge in his hands and increased the budgetary allocation also, I hope that now people will get sitting space in general compartments. In 1960, the population of national capital, Delhi was around 20 lakh, but today it is more than 1 crore. The population of my Lok Sabha Constituency is around 36 lakh. There are only two railway stations, Shahdara and Anand Vihar. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways that three more railway stations be constructed at Seelampur-Gandhinagar, Nandnagri-Shakarpur and Preet Vihar. I am thankful that he has given me an assurance that special attention will be paid towards this. I am hopeful that the people of these areas will get some benefit. Construction of one small bridge from Swatantra Nagar to Narela has been sanctioned but the work has not yet started. I request you to get that work started and complete that bridge as early as possible. There is one colony near Badli Railway Station, pipes has to be laid for providing drinking water there. The funds are to be released by the State of Delhi. However, NOC has not been issued in this regard. The matter is pending for years. The hon. Minister has said that State Government is ready to incur expenditure then it will not take much time in giving N.O.C. If this is done, the pipes will be laid and water will be provided to the people living there. In my constituency one train called 2 K.D.M. is running. It has been said that four additional bogies will be attached to it. If that train is started from Panipat instead of Kurukshetra then people will get more benefit. A stoppage should be provided for Bhatinda Express at Narela station. If this is done then people won't have to face any difficulty.

Narela Station is very old and it is not fully constructed. Water logging takes place there during rainy season. Therefore, your cooperation is required in its construction. I hope attention will be paid towards this.

The provision which you have made to control Railway Recruitment Board is praise worthy. I feel that no other government could do it earlier. You have done

appreciable work by bringing this good concept before people of this country. It will bring transparency and people will not get opportunity to complain.

21.00 hrs.

There is no way to reach Azadpur Mandi Station. There are many jhuggies on the way. The Railway Booking office is in Shalimar Bagh. If an over bridge is constructed there or if that office is shifted to this side, it will facilitate people. I would like to tell that the trains which go to Punjab from Old Delhi Railway Station stop only at Old Subzi Mandi Roshanara Road. These trains do not have any stoppage at Azadpur Mandi due to which people do not get the benefit. I hope that Hon'ble Minister will pay attention towards this.

Sir, there are thousands of jhuggies around railway stations in Delhi where fire breaks out every now and then which causes pollution. Therefore, my request is that these jhuggies should be removed to some other safe places. Provision for second class full concessional ticket to the unemployed youths appearing for interviews is a praise worthy step. This will benefit unemployed people. Considering the population of Delhi, it has been said that Technical Department of Metro Railway Corporation will be set up. But the Hon'ble Minister has not mentioned anything as to how much amount Central Government will contribute for this so that this work can progress. I would like to tell that State Government has given more contribution for this work. It has given Rs. 102.81 crore for acquiring land and Rs. 86.9 lakh for the project. The total amount is Rs. 236.20 crore. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to how much contribution has been given by the Central Government?

'Tatkal' booking facility for 20 Shatabdi Express and Superfast trains, plying between four Metropolis is an appreciable step. The passengers, who suddenly plan to go, would be able to avail of this facility within 24 hours by showing their identity cards. It is definitely going to prove beneficial. In budget, freight charges of foodgrains, salt, edible oil and gas etc. have not been increased. This shows hon. Minister's concern for the poor. This will definitely benefit the poor. Rail bridges are required at many places in the country. In the absence of these, people have to wait for hours at railway level crossings. State Governments are ready to give money for the construction of over-bridges. I feel that if the process of giving NOC is expedited that will facilitate the early solution of this problem.

[Shri Lai Bihari Tiwari]

In the end, I would like to state that in our country, a good Government has been formed under the leadership of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee which will work according to the expectations of everyone. On this occasion, I would like to conclude by saying—

"Him meghon ne ravi-karya mein vighn nahin kya-kay kiye

Kintu aap hi mar mite, unka kya kuchh kar liye."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House has to sit further, we have to extend the time. Then, two or three Members, who are sitting, can speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it would be better if hon. Members, who are present here, are allowed to speak first on Monday. I think, it will be beneficial to these Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I had told earlier also I would like to say that if we sit after 9 p.m. then dinner will be arranged not only for the Members but for the staff also. But this time, it has not been done, especially for staff. Anyway, on Monday, we have to sit up to late hours.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : On Monday, we are going to sit upto late hours.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it would be good if Members who are present here are allowed to speak first on Monday because today they have stayed for so long. They will be benefited that way and I feel that those members who have heard speeches will also be benefited.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If House sits after 9 p.m., then dinner is arranged for the Members and the staff, but this time it has not been done. I am talking particularly about the staff. In any case on Monday, we have to sit upto late hours.

SHRI RAM NAIK : First, we were told that House will be adourned, by 8 p.m. but, now on Monday, we have to sit for whole night.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : No, not for whole night, but upto late hours.

SHRI RAM NAIK : On that day, the House is going to sit for whole night, that you will see.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't worry, when all the members insist on speaking, then you will have to agree.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, If the House sits for whole night, then I would be allowed to reply the night itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Nitish, you are not a new member. You are a very senior member. Shri P.C. Chacko had created a record by sitting up to 8.00 a.m. It all depends on the mood of the Members.

[English]

Let us see if we can dispose of the item during the night itself.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will be ready with the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will see if the reply could be given that night itself.

SHRI RAM NAIK : For today, dinner will be provided on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir, dinner should be arranged for the members and staff both.

[English]

Those Members who are present here now, will have priority to speak first on Monday. Please take note of that.

[Translation]

Transport should be arranged for staff.

[English]

Kindly take note of these Members who are present now. The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 8th of June at 11.00 a.m.

21.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, June 8, 1998/Jyaistha, 18, 1920 (Saka)*