

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Fourth Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, April 16, 1999/Chaitra 26, 1921 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Export of Textiles/Garments

*361. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed in regard to export of textiles/garments during 1997-98 and 1998-99 alongwith the foreign exchange earned on that account during the aforesaid period; and

(b) the details of the efforts made by the Government to boost the export of textiles/garments during 1998-99 and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The target for exports of textiles/garments, including handicrafts, jute and coir, during 1997-98 and 1998-99 were \$13.36 billion and \$ 14.28 billion respectively. Exports in 1997-98 were valued at about \$12.39 billion. As per available estimates exports during the period April 1998 to February 1999 is estimated at \$11.41 billion.

(b) In order to encourage the export of textiles and garments, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional or zero duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production, Human Resources Development and export promotion schemes like drawback and DEPB. In addition, a number of specific steps were taken to in relation to the exports of cotton yarn which had shown a sharp decline in the beginning of 1998-99 on account of the South-East Asian economic crisis. Apart from the above, a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched for the textile sector including garment and jute industries to encourage modernisation and technological upgradation so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in the global market. An Expert Committee for giving recommendations for a new Textile Policy has also been set up.

Production of Steel

*362. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the annual estimated production of steel in the country;
- (b) whether the steel industry is going through slump at present;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) The annual finished (carbon) steel production in the country in the last three years was as under:

1996-97	22.72 million tonnes
1997-98	23.37 million tonnes
1998-99 (estimated)	23.21 million tonnes

(b) and (c) The steel industry in India has been facing a sluggish growth due to slow down in steel consuming sectors for the last 2 years. This sluggishness is attributable to the following factors :-

- (i) Overall economic slow down in the country
 - (ii) Cost escalation in input materials for steel industry
 - (iii) Arrival of cheaper imports
 - (iv) Dumping of finished steel by CIS and other countries
 - (v) Adverse condition in export market for steel
 - (vi) Decrease in domestic and international prices of steel
- (d) The Steel Producers and the Government have taken several steps to overcome the difficulties in the steel sector. These include:

- To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National Campaign for increasing the demand for steel, especially in non-traditional sectors such as, rural and agro based industrial sector.
- To reduce input for steel making, the Special Import Duty on several inputs such as Coking Coal (ash content < 12%), Non-coking Coal (ash content < 12%), Metallurgical Coke, Ferro Nickel, Charge Nickel and Nickel Oxide Sinters, Low Silica Limestone and Graphite Electrodes (28%) was waived in 1998-99.
- The rationalisation of customs duty structure and 10% Surcharge on Basic Custom Duty proposed

in the Budget of 1999-2000 would marginally increase the import duty on certain finished steel items. This is expected to provide some relief from cheap imports of steel.

- Anti dumping duty on Hot Rolled coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been notified.
- Government has announced floor prices on certain finished steel items including seconds and defectives with a view to restrict their imports at very low prices which was adversely affecting the domestic market.
- Rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.
- A 'Steel Exporters Forum' has been set up to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports.
- Main producers are orienting product mix to suit the market requirements and adjusting production in tune with change in the market demand.
- Producers are developing nourishing long term customers relationship by entering into MOUs/ supply arrangement with the customers.
- The steel producers have taken steps to reduce costs and improve techno-economic parameters.

[English]

Kisan Credit Cards

*363. SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

SHRI A. SIDDARAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers to whom Kisan Credit Cards have been issued so far, State-wise and bank-wise;
- (b) the target fixed in this regard for the year 1999-2000; and
- (c) the efforts being made by the Government for monitoring the proper implementation of the scheme and to make this scheme popular among the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), 6,26,553 Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) have been issued by public sector banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks as on March 26, 1999 to farmers. The bank-wise and State-wise details are given in Statement-I and II.

(b) For the year 1999-2000, target has been fixed that banks should extend the coverage of KCC so that 20 lakh farmers can benefit from the scheme.

(c) Public Sector Banks and Indian Banks Association have been advised to give wide publicity through print and electronic media regarding the implementation of KCCs and its benefits in order to have better awareness among farmers. RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks to submit the details of number of KCCs issued on a monthly basis. Government also monitors the implementation of the scheme on an on-going basis from time to time.

Statement - I

Statement indicating the Bank-wise position of issue of Kisan Credit Cards as on March 26, 1999

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of Kisan Credit Cards
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	19510
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	*
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	649
4.	State Bank of Indore	250
5.	State Bank of Mysore	*
6.	State Bank of Patiala	*
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1125
8.	State Bank of Travancore	22
9.	Allahabad Bank	7794
10.	Andhra Bank	5032
11.	Bank of Baroda	1637
12.	Bank of India	5304
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	*
14.	Canara Bank	377725
15.	Central Bank of India	500
16.	Corporation Bank	20236
17.	Dena Bank	4076
18.	Indian Bank	6475
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	33
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	*
21.	Punjab National Bank	2637

1	2	3
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	296
23.	Syndicate Bank	164649
24.	Union Bank of India	*
25.	United Bank of India	329
26.	UCO Bank	418
27.	Vijaya Bank	*
28.	Regional Rural Banks	753
29.	Cooperative Banks	3409
Total		626553

* These banks have introduced the Scheme and are in the process of issuing cards.

Statement-II

Statement Indicating the State-wise position of Kisan Credit Cards issued by Banks

Sr. No.	Name of the State	No. of cards issued
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54050
2.	Assam	71
3.	Bihar	6500
4.	Goa	103
5.	Gujarat	1881
6.	Haryana	9302
7.	Himachal Pradesh	614
8.	Karnataka	105031
9.	Kerala	51921
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2445
11.	Maharashtra	2067
12.	Orissa	6315
13.	Pondicherry	47
14.	Punjab	20836
15.	Rajasthan	693
16.	Tamil Nadu	120472

1	2	3
17.	Tripura	10
18.	Uttar Pradesh	48517
19.	West Bengal	4267

Note : Some banks have not furnished the State-wise position.

State Financial Corporations

*364. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK :

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narasimham Committee had recommended to adhere to the capital adequacy norms for strengthening the competitiveness of the State Financial Corporations (SFCs);

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee, particularly in regard to recapitalisation and restructuring of weak SFCs;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect all the SFCs to electronic media country-wise for dissemination of information and exchange of ideas and also provide access to sourcing technology in the country and abroad through internet;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;

(e) whether the Government have also received any request from All India State Financial Corporation Employees Federation in respect of emerging crisis in all the SFCs;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Committee on Financial System in its report submitted in 1991 had inter alia recommended that State level institutions should maintain distance from State Government and an action plan to ensure that they function on business principles, prudential norms and stable management set up be implemented in three years.

(b) Prudential norms including Asset classification, income recognition and provisioning has been made applicable to SFCs with effect from April 1993.

(c) and (d) Technology upgradation by SFCs including use of information Technology for dissemination of information is a continuing process and each SFC would need to formulate an action plan for the purpose.

(e) and (f) The All India State Financial Corporation

Employees Federation in their memorandum have made suggestions with regard to SFCs which inter-alia include amendment to SFCs Act, recapitalisation of SFCs, providing functional autonomy to SFCs, upgradation of skills of SFC employees and setting up of the Debt Recovery Tribunal in each State.

(g) Comprehensive amendments to the State Financial Corporation Act 1951 are under consideration before the Government.

LIC/GIC Premia

*365. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the LIC/GIC premia are one of the highest in the world;
- (b) whether any country-wise comparative study has been made in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the main reasons for the high premia in the country; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

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

(b) No, Sir. The premium rates depend upon a number of parameters such as risk factors, investment returns, management expenses etc., which vary from country to country. No meaningful comparison is, therefore, possible.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Revival Package of Working Group

*366 SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the revival package submitted by the Working Group in the Steel Sector to boost demand for Steel has yielded the desired results; and
- (b) if so, the details of the results achieved to tide-over the recession in the Steel Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. To some extent, the implementation of some of the recommendations made by the Working Group has yielded some results in overcoming the present slow down in the steel sector.

(b) The Working Group had inter-alia recommended the following:

- (i) Rationalisation of DEPB (Duty Entitlement Pass Book) rates.
- (ii) To consider feasibility of converting advalorem rate of import duty into fixed duties on certain finished steel items.

- (iii) Consider a combination of measures comprising levy of Special Import Duty on imports of seconds and defectives along with raising duties for certain types of steel up to World Trade Organisation bound rates.
- (iv) To consider removal of imports of Seconds and Defectives below a specific floor price from OGL.
- (v) To deal with cases of dumping by establishing a fast track mechanism.
- (vi) Withdrawal/Waiver of Special Customs Duty of 2% +3% and Special Additional Duty of 4% on input items for the steel sector which are not available within the country.

The details of results achieved so far on the above recommendations are as under:

- (i) DEPB rates for the exports of HR coils, CR coils, GP/GC sheets, colour coated sheets have been rationalised.
- (ii) The Government has fixed floor prices for certain flat products of finished steel including seconds and defectives to restrict their cheap imports. As a result domestic producers of these items have been able to reduce their losses to some extent.
- (iii) Reduction in input costs for steel sector was recommended by the Working Group. The special customs duty has been waived on several inputs such as coking coal (ash content < 12%), non-coking coal, metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (>28"). This has helped the domestic steel industry in bringing down the cost of inputs for iron & steel making.
- (iv) Strengthening of anti dumping mechanism was recommended. An Anti dumping petition filed by M/s. SAIL and M/s Essar Steel Ltd. on behalf of the domestic steel producers alleging dumping of HR Coils/Sheets/Plates from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan has been decided. The Designated Authority vide their notification dated 18th November 1998 had recommended imposition of Anti dumping duties on imports from Russia and Ukraine. The Anti Dumping Duty has since been levied w.e.f. 27.11.98.

Disinvestment of Public Sector Enterprises

*367 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there are too many agencies involved in disinvestment in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) as pointed out by the Disinvestment Commission reacting to the proposal mooted by the Finance Secretary ;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the reported observation of the Chairman Disinvestment Commission;

(c) the details of final decision taken on administrative and monitoring/regulating mechanism for disinvestment process; and

(d) the details of progress achieved under disinvestment plans during the current Year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) There is only one agency viz. the Disinvestment Commission for making recommendations for disinvestment in Public Sector Enterprises. The recommendations of the Commission, which are advisory in nature are considered, decided upon and implemented by the Government. The Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment co-ordinates and monitors the disinvestment process under the guidance of the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment.

(d) The current financial year has just started. The target for the current year has been fixed at 10,000 Crore.

[Translation]

Share Capital to Weaving Mills

*368 SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to make share capital available to the weaving mills in the co-operative sector by the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals received by the Union Government in this regard alongwith the amount of share capital made available to such mills?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Performance of Steel Sector

*369 SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of steel sector during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details of the emerging trends in forms of standard norms for public and private sector, separately;

(c) whether import of steel has risen during the recent years;

(d) if so, the quantum of steel imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the steel sector to take necessary measures to discourage import of steel from China and Korea or from other countries to protect the interests of domestic sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : (a) and (b) Government reviews the performance of the steel sector on a continuing basis.

The trend of finished (carbon) steel production in the Public and Private sector during the last four years was as under :

(Qty. in million tonnes)			
Year	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
1995-96	8.75(40.8%)	12.65(59.2%)	21.40
1996-97	8.53(37.5%)	14.19(62.5%)	22.72
1997-98	8.54(36.5%)	14.83(63.5%)	23.37
1998-99 (Estimated)	7.71(33.2%)	15.50(66.8%)	23.21

(Figures in brackets indicate percentage share in total production)

The percentage share of private sector in the production of finished (carbon) steel has increased rapidly since 1996-97 due to the commissioning of steel production capacities in the private sector as a result of liberalisation of the steel sector. This trend has continued in 1998-99 also.

(c) and (d) Finished steel imports have remained at the average level of 1.5 million tonnes during the last few years. Details of imports in the last four years were as under :

Year	Quantity in million tonnes
1994-95	1.70
1995-96	1.53
1996-97	1.56
1997-98	1.58

(e) and (f) Government had been requested by the steel industry in the last two years to take steps to prevent import of steel from CIS and South East Asian Countries at cheap rates which were depressing the domestic prices to unremunerative levels and thus adversely affecting the domestic industry. To prevent cheap/dumped imports, Government can take action to levy an Anti-dumping duty. In November, 1998 on the recommendation of the Designated Authority an Anti-dumping duty has been levied on import of Hot Rolled products from Russia and Ukraine. Government has also fixed

floor prices for certain items of finished steel including seconds and defectives to restrict their cheap imports.

Anti-Dumping Duty on Import of Newsprint

370. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been persistent demand from the newsprint industry for imposition anti-dumping duty on newsprint imports; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) The Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce had recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on newsprint (other than glazed newsprint) imported from Russia, USA and Canada. The recommendations were carefully considered by the Government. It was observed that since the investigation period the international price of newsprint had hardened and exchange rate had also depreciated. Taking into account all aspects, Government did not accept the recommendation of the Designated Authority as regards imposition of anti-dumping duty on newsprint.

[Translation]

Gold Bond Scheme

*371. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently announced Gold Bond Scheme;

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

(c) whether any proposal is also under consideration of the Government to include gold jewellery under the Scheme;

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the response made to the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The Gold Deposit Scheme announced in the Budget for the financial year 1999-2000 is aimed at mobilising idle gold. Under the Scheme, selected banks will be permitted to accept gold deposits including gold jewellery and issue interest bearing certificates or bonds. On maturity of these bonds, investors would have the option of either receiving gold or cash. This would free depositors from the

problems of storage, movement and security of the gold in their possession, while providing them with a regular source of income. Interest on the gold deposit will be exempt from Income Tax and the value of assets deposited in the scheme will be exempt from Wealth Tax. Further, any capital gains made on these bonds will be exempt from Capital Gains Tax. The scheme will not enjoy amnesty.

(d) and (e) The scheme is likely to be launched during the current financial year. The response to the scheme will be known only after the scheme is launched by the commercial banks.

[English]

Consumption of Synthetic Fabrics

*372. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of efforts made by the Government to increase the consumption of synthetic fabrics by the masses and to increase the exports during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of amount spent on this account during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to modernise synthetic fibre industry and to reduce cost of production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The Textile Policy envisages to make cloth, including synthetic cloth, available to the masses at affordable prices and also to enhance the competitiveness of Indian textile industry both in domestic as well as in international market. Steps taken in this behalf include, inter-alia, rationalisation of fiscal levies in the textile sector including the raw materials of the synthetic and blended fabrics, import of certain specified textile machinery at concessional import duty, providing testing facility at accessible distance throughout the country.

Government have also been taking a number of steps to promote exports of textiles, including synthetic textiles, such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials, ensuring increased availability of export credit, etc.

Since these measures cover the textile sector in general including synthetic fabrics it is not feasible to quantify the amount spent on synthetic fabric sector alone for this purpose.

(c) and (d) In order to facilitate modernisation of syn-

thetic fibre industry on the viable lines, the Government has been extending a number of facilities which include:

- Progressive reduction in fiscal duties on raw materials and capital goods.
 - Zero duty and concessional duty imports of capital goods for export production under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG).
 - Providing term loans through normal banking channels etc.
 - Easier and faster clearance for foreign technology and financial collaboration proposals, etc.
- (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Writing off Bad Loans

*373. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount which has been written-off by the nationalised banks during the last two years, bank-wise; and
- (b) the names of the firms whose write-off amount was more than ten lakhs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) A statement indicating the amount of bad debts written-off by nationalised banks during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in the Statement.

(b) It is not appropriate for banks to disclose the names of the borrowers as the banks are under obligation to maintain secrecy about their customers' affairs under the provisions of statutes. Moreover, the data monitoring system of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not generate borrower-wise information regarding bad debts written-off amounting to Rs. 10 lacs and above.

Statement

Amount written off by the Nationalised Banks during the last two years

(Amount in crore of rupee)			
Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	21.39	46.61
2.	Andhra Bank	37.42	72.58
3.	Bank of Baroda	70.17	157.30

1	2	3	4
4.	Bank of India	217.15	309.29
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	47.30	121.26
6.	Canara Bank	18.20	47.18
7.	Central Bank of India	156.83	154.62
8.	Corporation Bank	0.94	13.69
9.	Dena Bank	58.76	67.87
10.	Indian Bank	10.28	1.37
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	375.73	201.76
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	46.22	0.13
13.	Punjab National Bank	150.34	372.70
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	9.93	16.98
15.	Syndicate Bank	58.79	109.16
16.	Union Bank of India	30.57	16.55
17.	UCO Bank	220.57	176.34
18.	United Bank of India	65.48	29.90
19.	Vijaya Bank	12.72	6.72
Total		1608.79	1922.01

[English]

Errant Non-Banking Financial Companies

*374. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the RBI is considering to release a list of errant Non-Banking Financial Companies through media or newspapers to create awareness among the common people;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken/being taken by the Government against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Whenever Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rejects an application for registration as Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) or takes adverse action such as the issue of Prohibitory Orders to an NBFC, a press release is invariably issued. Further, it also issues press notifications cautioning the public in dealing with any particular or group of

finance companies on the basis of information available with the Bank. Such publicity is intended for protecting the depositor's interest and public interest.

A list of NBFCs whose applications for Certificate of Registration was rejected has been put on RBI Website for general information. Further, State Governments have also been furnished with such lists for disseminating information to the general public. RBI has also issued a press advertisement in English and other languages for publication throughout the country cautioning NBFCs and depositors about unauthorised use of RBI's name by NBFCs. A copy of the same is annexed.

(d) In exercise of the powers vested in the RBI under the provision of RBI Act, 1934, RBI has issued directions to NBFCs covering acceptance of deposits from public and other aspects of their functions so as to ensure growth of NBFCs on healthy lines. A prohibitory order is issued by RBI to an NBFC on persistent occurrence of defaults in repayment of matured deposits/payment of interest on deposits or where a company is found to be insolvent, jeopardising the interests of depositors. In terms of the prohibitory orders, the NBFC concerned is restrained from accepting deposits as also from alienating its assets. Criminal complaints are also filed against officials of the NBFCs, if the situation so warrants. RBI has taken action against some such erring companies. Since January 1997 till 2nd of November, 1998, prohibitory orders have been issued in respect of 41 NBFCs, winding up petitions filed against five NBFCs and prosecution initiated against 8 erring companies. Several applications for grant of Certificate of Registration under Section 45(1A) of the RBI Act, 1934 received from NBFCs have been rejected on grounds such as default in repayment of deposits, unsatisfactory financial position, ineffective management etc. rendering the companies ineligible for carrying on the business of NBFCs.

Statement

Attention NBFC Depositors

Unauthorised use of RBI's Name By NBFCs

It has come to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that certain Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) and other persons are unauthorisedly using the RBI's name in their advertisements/neon signboards and/or such other material while soliciting public deposits. Such display of the RBI's name by the NBFCs whether registered or unregistered, and unincorporated bodies in any manner whatsoever, is not only unauthorised and improper but it may also attract penal action, as provided in the Reserve Bank of India Act under and/or the Indian Penal Code.

The members of public are hereby informed that:

NBFCs are not allowed to use the name of the Reserve Bank in any manner.

Registration of an NBFC with RBI merely authorises the company to carry on its financial business.

An NBFC incorporated after January 9, 1997 cannot commence financial business without a certificate of registration from RBI and cannot accept public deposits without specific approval of RBI.

NBFCs having not owned fund below Rs. 25 lakh are not allowed to accept public deposits including renewal of maturing deposits.

Unincorporated bodies engaged in financial business are prohibited from issuing any advertisement for soliciting deposits as also from accepting deposits from other than the specified relatives and corporate bodies notified under the Reserve Bank of India Act.

The responsibility for repayment of the principal and payment of interest is that of the NBFC. Such deposits are not guaranteed or insured by the Government or the Reserve Bank or any other public agency.

For a complete list of NBFCs :

- (i) that are registered with RBI and have RBI's approval to accept public deposits; and
- (ii) whose application for registration has been rejected and are therefore not allowed to function as an NBFC, including acceptance of public deposits.

Please visit RBI's website of www.rbi.org.in.

Issued in Public Interest by
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Import of Items in Non-Prime Tin Plates

*375. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of seconds, waste/waste misprinted and defective tinplates are banned in most countries of the World including America, United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, etc. due to health hazards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Non-Prime tinplate does not offer the integrity of coating and when the base metal comes in contact with the food items packed in it, it may turn toxic/carcinogenic;

(d) if so, whether almost 80% of the total imports into the country are comprised of such secondary and defective Non-Prime;

(e) if so, the facts therefor; and

(f) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) In most developed countries, the use of

non-prime tinplate (seconds, waste/waste, defectives and misprints) is either not permitted by Law or is not considered ethical for use in packaging foodstuffs in public interest. Materials like seconds, waste/waste misprinted and defective tinplates are not listed as food packaging material under the international food standards and national standards of many countries viz. Food and Drug administration (FDA), Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), WHO/FAO, Codex Alimentarius and EEC regulations.

(c) When the base metal comes into contact with the food items packed in it, it may turn toxic/carcinogenic. However, toxicity depends upon the condition of the tinplate, the nature of the food item and the temperature and duration of the food item stored.

(d) and (e) The percentage of seconds to total import of tinplates during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 was 79.43%, 81.55% and 84.17% respectively.

(f) Based on representations regarding cheap imports of tinplates putting the nation's health in grave danger, Office of Director General of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Commerce issued a Public Notice fixing the floor price for import of tinplates seconds/defectives/waste/waste at US \$ 545 per M.T. The provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) provide for the specifications on use of packaging materials including tinplate for edible products. The Bureau of Indian Standards have also framed standards for tinplate packaging of Vanaspati, Ghee and Edible oils. These standards inter-alia, provide for use of prime grade or first grade tinplate as the materials for packaging. The packaging materials made from seconds, waste and defective tinplates are not permitted under FPO (Fruit Products Order).

Public Sector Commission for PSEs

*376. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE) has called for the setting up of a Public Sector Commission to analyse and evaluate the intrinsic strength of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs);

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any long term policy/strategy for strengthening the Public Sector Enterprises in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government on the views expressed by SCOPE; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to strengthen and make viable PSEs in the country?

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

(b) and (c) The long term policy and strategy for strengthening the PSEs in the country are enshrined in the Industrial Policy Statement of July 1991 which are further supported by the National Agenda for Governance of the Government. The views expressed by the SCOPE have been noted.

(d) In pursuance of the announced policies, the Government are undertaking restructuring and revival measures to strengthen PSUs besides implementing revival packages sanctioned by BIFR for the sick enterprises registered with it.

[Translation]

Indo-Sri-Lanka Bilateral Trade Agreement

*377. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :

SHRI R. S. GAVAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items included in Indo-Sri Lanka bilateral Trade Agreement signed in December, 1998;

(b) whether the duty free tea is permitted for import into India under the agreement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether tea imported from Sri Lanka would find its way for exports under rupee debt trade mechanism;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any steps have been taken to remove the anxieties expressed by the Indian Tea and rubber Industry; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (g) Under the provisions of the Free Trade Agreement between India and Sri Lanka, both the countries are required to exchange the list of items on which tariff preferences shall be available as well as items on which no tariff preference shall be available. India has agreed to remove the tariffs on all items except items in the negative list in a span of 3 years whereas Sri Lanka will do so in a span of 8 years. The two sides have not finalized the lists yet, which are to be exchanged as per the Agreement. While preparing the lists from our side due importance has been given to the recommendations of administrative Ministries, State Governments and various Associations representing trade and industry. As regards Tea, duty free import is not contemplated at present under the FTA. There is little likelihood that tea imported from Sri Lanka would find its way for exports under rupee debt trade mechanism, as there is minimum value addition norm prescribed under the present Exim Policy for export of imported goods against payment in Indian rupees. Simi-

larly, the concerns of the rubber industry have been fully kept in mind while finalising the lists. The duty concessions under the Free Trade Agreement will be available only on basic customs duties and not on additional customs duty in lieu of central excise and special additional duty, which provides enough protection to the domestic industry.

[English]

Decrease in Bilateral Trade

*378. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether steady decrease in bilateral trade, aid combined with the sanctions imposed on India in the wake of the Nuclear tests are made it difficult for development agencies to undertake their programmes in India;

(b) if so, whether Government have pursued the matter with those countries and have held bilateral talks; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) The United States has imposed certain restrictive economic measures under its Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994. Measures announced by Canada, Japan, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland relate mostly to developmental assistance or concessional loans. However, most countries have exempted loans and financial aid, which is meant for meeting basic human needs. The Government is fully alive to the challenges posed by coercive economic measures and is taking necessary steps to safeguard the economic and national interests of the country.

The Government has been closely monitoring the economic measures announced against India and continuously assessing their likely impact, including impact on trade and commerce. Though any precise quantification of the impact of the economic measures may be difficult, so far the impact has been minimal. The fundamentals of the Indian economy are strong enough to be able to withstand any pressure arising out of the economic sanctions.

India has all along maintained that unilateral coercive measures are unjustified, counter productive and impede free flow of trade, technology and capital and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial economic interaction. Major countries have themselves refrained from imposing bilateral sanctions and within the US itself there has been a substantial rethinking on the efficacy of unilateral measures. This is reflected in the recent authorisation by the US congress to the US President to waive bulk of the sanctions against India and in exercising that authority the US administration has recently decided to lift partially some of the financial sanctions.

Setting up of Silk Reeling Units

*379. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Silk Board propose to set up 300 multi-end reeling units in the country during the Ninth Plan;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to modernise the existing traditional reeling units and extending financial help to them for modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to provide assistance for installation of 200 numbers of 6 basin and 100 numbers of 10 basin multiend units with the objective of improving the productivity and quality of raw silk. The assistance would be provided by way of 30% subsidy to be shared equally between the State Govt. and the Central Govt., 60% as interest free loan to be provided by the Central Govt. and 10% contribution from the entrepreneur.

The scheme has been offered to all the State Governments. On the basis of proposals received through the State Government, as on 31.3.99, the number of units covered State-wise is indicated below :

S.No.	State	Six-basin	Ten-basin	Total
1.	Karnataka	7	15	22
2.	Tamil Nadu	5	9	14
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	4	6
4.	Andhra Pradesh	4	4	8
5.	Uttar Pradesh	5	2	7
6.	Madhya Pradesh	-	1	1
Total		23	35	58

(c) The main objective of the above scheme is to encourage the existing reelers to modernise/upgrade their Charaka or Cottage Basin Units by switching over to multiend machine which is an advanced reeling device by providing financial support to the reelers. Around 80% of the total coverage of the scheme will be for the existing reelers. As such implementation of the above scheme is an important step in the direction of the modernising the existing traditional reeling units. In addition existing reeling units can avail of the concessional finance available for modernisation under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme introduced w.e.f. 1.4.99.

Private Participation in Coal Sector

*380. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided in principle to allow participation of private companies in mining and exploration of coal and lignite;

(b) if so, whether the previous law has been amended in this regard;

(c) if so, the total areas earmarked for private participation in the coal sector;

(d) the total quantity of coal likely to be extracted by these private companies per year; and

(e) the other terms and conditions laid down for private participation in the coal sector?

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

(b) A Bill to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is proposed to be introduced in Parliament during the current session.

(c) No specific areas have been earmarked for mining of coal in this context.

(d) It is only after the Bill is considered and passed by the Parliament, will it be possible for companies to apply for leases for mining of coal and it will only then be possible to estimate the quantity of coal likely to be extracted.

(e) The Bill itself has proposed that only Companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 would be eligible to mine coal. The Bill also seeks to empower the Government to specify the conditions under which private mining may be undertaken. Such conditions would however be specified only after the Bill is passed by the Parliament.

[Translation]

Integrated Handloom Development Scheme

3673. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD) :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages covered under the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme in the country during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total number of job opportunities made available under the said scheme;

(c) the number of schemes approved by the Government on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments; and

(d) the amount disbursed to each State Government during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme has been merged with the Project Package Scheme in 1997-98. State-wise details of number of villages covered under the Scheme during last three years are given in Statement-I. However, the number of villages covered in Bihar, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh from 1994-95 to 1996-97 are as under :-

Bihar	1
Gujarat	4
Uttar Pradesh	7

(b) On the basis of proposals received from various State Governments during the last three years (1994-95 to 1996-97), 14927 job opportunities are to be made available on completion of the projects which are under implementation.

(c) During the three years period (1994-95 to 1996-97) 148 projects were approved on the basis of viable proposals received from the State Governments.

(d) State-wise and Year-wise amount disbursed during last three years under the Scheme is given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Statement showing State-wise number of villages covered under Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme during last three years.

Sl. No.	Name of State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	Total
		Villages covered	Villages covered	Villages covered	Villages covered
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	12	25	37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	10	6	25	41
4.	Bihar	-	1	-	1
5.	Delhi	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Gujarat		3	-	1	4
7. Haryana		-	-	-	-
8. Himachal Pradesh		-	-	-	-
9. Jammu & Kashmir		-	-	-	-
10. Karnataka		-	-	1	1
11. Kerala		6	-	3	9
12. Madhya Pradesh		1	7	1	9
13. Maharashtra		1	-	-	1
14. Manipur		2	-	7	9
15. Meghalaya		2	-	-	2
16. Mizoram		-	-	-	-
17. Nagaland		-	-	-	-
18. Orissa		3	2	5	10
19. Pondicherry		-	-	-	-
20. Punjab		-	-	-	-
21. Rajasthan		-	-	-	-
22. Sikkim		-	-	-	-
23. Tamil Nadu		3	4	-	7
24. Tripura		3	2	3	8
25. Uttar Pradesh		5	2	-	7
26. West Bengal		1	1	-	2
Total		40	37	71	148

Statement-II

Statement showing State-wise and Year-wise amount disbursed under Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme during last three years

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl No.	Name of State	1994-95 Amt. Released	1995-96 Amt. Released	1996-97 Amt. Released	Total Amt. Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	148.5000	303.5000	452.0000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	125.0000	75.0000	312.5000	512.5000

1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Bihar		-	12.5000	-	12.5000
5. Delhi		-	-	-	-
6. Gujarat		32.0000	-	6.8000	38.8000
7. Haryana		-	-	-	-
8. Himachal Pradesh		12.0000	-	-	12.0000
9. Jammu & Kashmir		-	-	-	-
10. Karnataka		10.0000	-	11.0000	21.0000
11. Kerala		66.4100	8.7500	23.0000	98.1600
12. Madhya Pradesh		11.4000	85.0000	12.5000	108.9000
13. Maharashtra		7.5000	-	-	7.5000
14. Manipur		20.5000	8.2500	65.1500	93.9000
15. Meghalaya		6.3700	-	-	6.3700
16. Mizoram		-	-	-	-
17. Nagaland		-	-	-	-
18. Orissa		35.5000	29.5500	60.0000	125.0500
19. Pondicherry		-	-	-	-
20. Punjab		-	-	-	-
21. Rajasthan		-	24.7500	-	24.7500
22. Sikkim		-	-	-	-
23. Tamil Nadu		31.0000	44.4000	-	75.4000
24. Tripura		41.4500	49.6000	33.9500	125.0000
25. Uttar Pradesh		60.0000	24.3500	-	84.3500
26. West Bengal		11.5000	11.2500	-	22.7500
Total		470.6300	521.9000	828.4000	1820.9300

*[English]***Voluntary Separation Scheme in MAMC**

3674. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) is introduced to the employees of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur by extending benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) the difference between Voluntary Separation Scheme and Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(c) the reasons for imposing VSS to younger generation of MAMC?

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

(b) Under Voluntary Separation Scheme, benefits of VRS have been extended to all the employees, irrespective of age, of the concerned PSUs, which were considered unviable at one stage or the other by BIFR/Disinvestment Commission. VRS is otherwise not applicable to a company facing the prospect of winding up and also to employees below 40 years or with less than 10 years of service.

(c) It is a Voluntary Scheme. There is no imposition.

Expenditure of Union Government on T.A. Bills

3675. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state : the expenditure on TA Bills of Central Government for the last three years, year-wise, on account of air-fares and railway fares, separately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Expenditure on TA of Central Government employees (excluding Defence personnel) during the last three years was as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Expenditure on TA
1995-96	694.82
1996-97	796.61
1997-98	757.96

Relevant data on expenditure incurred on air fare and rail fare are not maintained separately. However, prior to 1.10.1997, officers drawing pay of Rs. 5100 and above were permitted to travel by Air on tour/transfer. Others, as a rule, were required to travel by Rail. Following revision of pay scales, and w.e.f. 1.10.1997, officers drawing pay of Rs. 16,400 and above are permitted to travel by Air on tour/transfer.

Employees of GIC

3676. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 951 on December 4, 1998 regarding Employees of GIC and state :

(a) the details of the provisions which govern the deputation of employees to other organisation and tenure thereof;

(b) the details of the expiry of tenure of each employee of GIC on deputation/loan basis in the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA);

(c) whether some employees of GIC in clerical cadre have been working on loan basis since May, 1996 in IRA as Public Relation Officer/Officer on Special Duty;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the employees of GIC working on loan basis in IRA are likely to be rotated very shortly or will remain in the IRA for unlimited period; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The GIC have reported that the officers of the General Insurance Industry are initially deputed for a period of two years to other organisations. The tenure of deputation may be extended for another term of two years.

(b) At present no employee of GIC is working in Interim IRA on deputation basis. The officers loaned by the Interim IRA from the General Insurance Industry will continue till the interim authority becomes statutory body or till the recruitment rules are framed by the Interim IRA for this purpose.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. One employee loaned from New India Assurance Co. Ltd., has been assigned the public relations functions and has been designated as PRO in the Interim IRA.

(e) and (f) At present no proposal is under consideration in the Interim IRA to rotate the employees as the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill to establish a Statutory Authority has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15/12/1998. The Statutory Body as and when it is established will formulate the regulations regarding terms and conditions of services of its employees.

[Translation]

Audit of Companies

3677. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that many companies have disappeared after taking the money from investors;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to identify such companies;

(c) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the suggestion of the Chairman of Institute of Company Secretaries, India that working of the companies should be audited legally; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) According to information furnished by

SEBI, 1893 companies came out with initial public offerings during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1997-98. Out of these, 41 companies were not traceable. The details of these companies have been forwarded by SEBI to Department of Company Affairs for appropriate action.

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

[English]

Compensation to the Victims of PSUs

3678. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of compensation is being paid to the victims of fatal accidents in various public sector undertakings; and

(b) the criteria laid down for the compensation to the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) The compensation for employment injury/death to employees of Public Sector Undertakings is payable either under the Employee State Insurance Act, 1948 or under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. In the case of death and disablement, the employees of the PSUs covered under the ESI Scheme are entitled to payment of monthly pension at the rate of 70 per cent of the wages from the ESI Corporation. Under the Workmen's Compensation Act, the minimum amount of compensation in case of death is Rs. 50,000 and in the case of permanent total disablement Rs. 60,000. Depending on the wage and age of the workmen at the time of disablement/death, the maximum in the case of death may go upto Rs. 2.28 lakh and for permanent total disablement up to Rs. 2.74 lakh.

New Products of SAIL

3679. SHRI D. S. AHIRE :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAIL has launched new products recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company has also developed some other products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The new products launched by SAIL recently are listed below :

- SAE 1020 grade HR coils (Bokaro Steel Plant)
- EDD through concast (Bokaro Steel Plant)
- Higher grades of CRNO steel (M 36 & M 27) (Rourkela Steel Plant)
- SAPH 45 (Rourkela Steel Plant)
- Corrosion resistant TMT bars (Durgapur Steel Plant)
- SAE 1070 billets (Durgapur Steel Plant)
- Microalloyed wheels

(c) and (d) SAIL has developed the process technology for making microalloyed coach and wagon wheels through BOF-VAD route, and the Indian Railways have already approved these wheels for trail run. The launching of this product is conditional upon the clearance of Indian Railways.

Export of Data Processing and Tourism

3680. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the Government to boost export of services like data processing and tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry had urged the Government to formulate strategies for augmenting forex earning through invisibles and services exports like accounting, consultancy, mailing and other professional services from India.

(c) The Government has considered the proposal favourable and has recognised all the services covered under the General Agreement on Trade in Services. A separate chapter has been incorporated on export of services listing various facilities for export of services. These facilities include recognition of export of services for Service Export House, International Service Export House, International Star Service Export House, International Super Star Service Export purpose and extension of schemes such as the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Export Oriented Unit Scheme/ Export Processing Zone Scheme/Software technology park scheme etc.

[Translation]

Loans to Poor People

3681. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules have been framed to provide loan assistance to common people, small artisans and those living below poverty line by nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount provided as loan by each nationalised bank during each of the last three years, Scheme-wise; and

(d) the number of persons benefited there from during the above period, State-wise?

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

[English]

Sale of Steel Items in the Country by SAIL

3682. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAIL has launched any scheme for sale of steel items in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives likely to be given for sale of the above items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) SAIL has recently introduced a scheme for appointment of authorised dealers for certain steel products with a view to widen the reach of its products. Steel items covered under the scheme are TMT Bars/ Tor Steel, GP/GC Sheet and BP Coil and Light Structurals.

(c) It may not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to disclose this information.

[Translation]

Loan /Grant to Weavers

3683. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide financial assistance to weavers as Loan/Grant in person during the current financial year instead of giving emphasis to constitute co-operative organisations in various States, particularly in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The requirement of credit for Handloom

Weavers outside the cooperative fold is taken care of by State Handloom Development Corporations. The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recently included State Handloom Development Corporations for financing their working capital requirements which, inter-alia, would make credit available for Weavers outside the cooperative fold. This assistance will also cover all the States including Bihar as no separate State-wise provision is made.

[English]

Merger of Banks

3684. Er. SHANKAR PANNU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to merge Bareilly Bank Corporation of India with the Bank of Baroda; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above merger is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) In exercise of powers conferred under Sub Section (2) of Section 45 of B.R. Act 1949, the Central Government after considering an application made by the Reserve Bank of India, has made an order of moratorium in respect of Bareilly Corporation Bank Limited (BCBL) for a period from the close of business on 8th March, 1999 upto and inclusive of 5th June, 1999.

During the period of moratorium, RBI will prepare a draft scheme of amalgamation of BCBL with the Bank of Baroda and forward the scheme to the concerned banks and also invite objections and suggestions from the depositors, creditors, share-holders etc. after taking into account objections received, RBI will forward a scheme of amalgamation to the Central Government for consideration and notification. As such it is not possible to indicate a definite date.

Modern International Technology for Exploitation of Diamonds

3685. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce modern international technology for exploiting large scale reserves of diamonds located in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms fixed for awarding its mining contracts;

(d) whether the Government coordinate with Mineral Development Corporations of various States in examining the bids before awarding contract; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 envisages induction of foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining for high value and scarce minerals including diamonds. Mining Concessions are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder, provided that in respect of any mineral specified in the First Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government. "Diamonds" are covered under the aforesaid First Schedule to the Act.

- (d) No Sir.
(e) Does not arise.

North and South Malabar Grameen Bank

3686. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the North and South Malabar Grameen Bank has been running in profit during the last three years;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether there are any proposals under consideration to open new branches of these banks there; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the profit earned and loss incurred during the last three years by these two Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are as follows :-

Name of the Regional Rural Banks	Rs. in lakhs		
	Profit earned		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
North Malabar Gramin Bank	218.92	793.20	1059.85
South Malabar Gramin Bank	51.82	219.57*	888.16

*Loss

(c) and (d) NABARD has reported that the North Malabar Gramin Bank's proposal to open branches at (1) Pappinissery, (2) Ulikkal, (3) New Mahe (Kannur District), (4) Panamaram (Wynad District), (5) Vidya Nagar (6) Uppala, (7) Hosangadi and (8) Trikkaripur (Kasargod District) was approved by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Further, the proposal of South Malabar Gramin Bank to open branches at (1) Kondotty, (2) Kotakkal, (3) Tirur and (4) Valancherry (Malappuram District) and a specialised Saving Banks branch at Mavoor Road, Calicut city (Kozhikode District) was approved by RBI.

No branch opening proposal is pending with NABARD as on date.

[Translation]

Loans under PMRY

3687. SHRI H.P. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of branches of Indian Overseas Bank in National Capital Territory of Delhi;
(b) the number of applications for getting loans under Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojna received in each branch of bank during each of the last three years;
(c) whether the Indian Overseas Bank approves loans to applicants not according to the necessity of applicants but by its own priority as a result of which applicant gives up the idea of taking loan;
(d) if so, the branch-wise details of applicants to whom banks have approved loans but did not disburse during the last three years;
(e) whether the Government propose to review all such cases and grant loan to all applicants according to their requirements; and
(f) if so, the time likely to be taken to complete the task?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As reported by Indian Overseas Bank, 27 branches of their bank are operating in National Capital Territory of Delhi of which 12 branches are designated to deal with Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna (PMRY) applications. The details of applications received by the designated branches during the last three years are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of Branch	Applications received during		
		1.4.96 to 31.3.97	1.4.97 to 31.3.98	1.4.98 to 31.3.99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Dayaganj	1	1	4
2.	Delhi Cantonment	-	-	-
3.	Janakpuri	3	-	-
4.	Karol Bagh	2	3	4
5.	Model Town	2	2	1
6.	New Rajender Nagar	1	1	2
7.	Naraina	1	7	-
8.	Preet Vihar	3	1	2

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Punjabi Bagh	4	5	1
10.	Rajouri Garden	1	2	1
11.	Roopnagar	1	3	-
12.	Safderjung Enclave	4	5	-
Total		23	30	15

(c) No, Sir. The Indian Overseas Bank has reported that bank sanctions the applications according to norms provided in the Scheme. No application is pending at the level of bank in which action is yet to be taken.

(d) In view of answer to (c), this does not arise.

(e) and (f) Individual cases are processed and disposed off at the level of banks. Government does not review individual cases.

[English]

Insurance Scheme for Tobacco Growers

3688. SHRI U. V. KRISHNAMRAJU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an insurance scheme for the tobacco crop to protect the interests of tobacco growers is to be launched shortly;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be launched and its salient features; and

(c) the details of insurance agencies which have come forward to provide insurance cover and at what premium ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) A comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) covering wheat, paddy, millets, oilseeds and pulses etc. is under implementation in the country w.e.f. 1st April, 1985. Tobacco being a commercial crop and on account of its multi harvest nature has not been included under this scheme.

With a view to enlarging the coverage in terms of farmers, crops and risks under CCIS, the Government has recently decided to introduce a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) from Kharif 1999 season. Under the new scheme, it is proposed to cover all farmers (both loanee and non-loanee) and some additional crop where the past yield data are available. Details of the scheme are being worked out in consultation with the Departments/agencies concerned and the State Govts. and Union Territories.

Excise Duty Evasion by Textile Yarn Traders

3689. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major excise duty evasion racket involving hundreds of textile yarn traders and processing units had been busted by the Central Excise Department in Mumbai in the recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Excise Department has investigated the involvement of 200 traders, 100 processors and five printing presses suspected to be involved in the evasion racket for years;

(d) if so, whether the investigation has been completed; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

Job to Land Losers by ECL

3690. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Eastern Coalfield Limited has stopped giving job to the land losers in Raniganj Coalfield area;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending with ECL to provide job to the land losers;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any instructions to the ECL to provide employment to the land losers as per the agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, the employment to land losers has not been stopped by ECL. However, since the ECL is facing acute financial crisis and is on the verge of being referred to the Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, ECL management is taking steps to rationalise induction of manpower. Hence, the employment against the land losers scheme is also restricted to some extent.

(b) Under the scheme of employment to land losers, the ECL has empanelled 103 cases. In the year 1998-99, 135 jobs have been provided by ECL to land losers.

(c) and (d) In the matter of providing employment to the land losers, the coal companies including the ECL are following the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy (R & R) of Coal India Limited. However, in view of the serious liquidity crisis and the problem of surplus manpower being faced by ECL and recognising the urgent need for an effective revival strat-

egy, the Ministry of Coal prefers any recruitment which is compatible with the needs of the company.

Development of Handloom Sector

3691. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for development of handloom sector in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms is implementing various Schemes for promotion and development of handloom sector. The Central Assurances under Development Schemes are available to all States including Kerala based on viable proposals which have been received.

(b) The details of releases made under various development schemes to Government of Kerala during last three years are as follows :-

S.No.	Name of Scheme	96-97	97-98	98-99
1.	Workshed-cum-Housing	50.00	—	90.00
2.	Project Package	126.30	518.95	70.35
3.	HDC/QDU	86.95	4.06	--

[Translation]

Illegal Export of Garments

3692. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether ready-made garments have been exported illegally from various States, particularly from Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases identified by the Government during the last three years, till date;

(c) whether some Excise Duty Officers/other officers have been found involved in this illegal export;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken so far against the persons found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any illegal export of garments from any States including Gujarat.

(c) and (d) There is no possibility of Excise Duty Officers being involved in any illegal export garment since there is no excise duty on garments.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Banking System in N.E. Region

3693. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the High Level Commission on North-Eastern Region which presented its report to the then Prime Minister on March 7, 1997 on banking activities;

(b) the details of the recommendations accepted and implemented so far by the Government; and

(c) the time by which all of these recommendations are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The required information is being gathered and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

World Bank Loan to Andhra Pradesh

3694. DR. T. SUBAHRAMI REDDY :

SHRI K. S. RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently signed an agreement with the World Bank for \$ 543.2 million loan to assist economic restructuring projects of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the term and conditions under which such agreement has been made; and

(c) the details of various projects in Andhra Pradesh for which economic restructuring is proposed to be made?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. An agreement for a loan of US \$ 543.2m. from the World Bank to support the Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring has been signed on 4.2.1999. This includes \$ 301.2m. from IBRD and \$ 242m. from IDA.

(b) The terms and conditions for the loans are as under :

I. IBRD

Repayment terms : 20 years (including of 5 years grace)

Rate of Interest : 0.75% above Bank's cost

Front end fee: 1% of loan amount

Commitment Charges : 0.75%

II. IDA

Repayment period: 35 years (including 10 years grace)

Service charges: 0.50%

Commitment charges: fixed every year upto a maximum of 0.5%

(c) The Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project provide resources to met priority needs in Human development viz. Primary health, nutrition and education and in the maintenance of economic assets affecting the poor (irrigation, rural roads, and core access roads). The project has six components- primary education, primary health, nutrition, roads, irrigation and public enterprises reform. The World Bank had on 5.3.99 approved a \$ 210m. Adaptable Programme Loan (APL) to support the first phase Andhra Pradesh Power Sector Restructuring Programme.

SDF Loan to Private Companies

3695. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister fo STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector companies have sought loan assistance from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) for setting up of steel projects;

(b) if so, the number of applications received in this regard from different private sector companies during last three years;

(c) the amount of loan assistance sought by each of those private companies; and

(d) the details of loan sanctioned from the SDF to those companies, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Recently, three new private sector companies have sought loan assistance from SDF. The details are :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Party	Amount
1.	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Rs. 1200 crores
2.	Ispat Metallics Ltd.	Rs. 375 crores
3.	Lloyds Steel Industries Ltd.	Rs. 400 crores

(d) No, loan has been sanctioned from the SDF to these companies.

Revenue from Diesel/Petrol

3696. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount collected by the Government through excise duty on petrol and diesel since 1988;

(b) the amount transferred to the Central Road Fund out of these collections for road development; and

(c) if not, transferred any amount, the reasons therefor?

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

Financial Crisis in SAIL

3697. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been facing serious financial crisis;

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

(c) whether one of the reasons of the crisis is due to increase of privatisation in SAIL; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to remove the crisis of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) SAIL has been consistently making profit since 1984-85. However, during the period April-Dec., 1998, SAIL has reported a loss of Rs. 890 crores.

The main reasons for decline in profits include sluggish demand for steel, greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices and enhancement in supplies in domestic market resulting in decline in the net realization from sales. Export prices have also declined in the international market.

While the benefits of modernization would materialize in phases, SAIL has to absorb higher capital related cost (interest and depreciation) because of capitalization of modernization/capital schemes, and also for maintaining a higher inventory level.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government have taken following steps to improve the profitability of steel industry including SAIL and to overcome the present problems:-

(i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI & S) has launched a National Campaign.

(ii) To reduce input costs for steel making, the special import duty on several inputs such as coaking coal (ash content <12%), metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (>28") has been waived.

(iii) Anti-dumping duty on Hot Rolled Coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been imposed.

(iv) Rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports has been carried out to boost exports.

(v) A Steel Exporter's Forum has been set up to help steel exporters overcome bottlenecks in exports.

(vi) Enhanced project financing to steel sector by All India Financial Institutions and relaxation of

External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms has been recommended.

- (vii) Government has set up an Empowered Committee to examine and assist specific Research and Development Projects to improve technology for steel making and enhance the quality of Indian Steel.

[Translation]

Scheme for Tax Payers

3698. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISHRA :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of tax payers and the amount of tax collected have registered an increase; .
- (b) if so, the extent of increase in the number of tax payers and the amount of tax collection;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to further push up the number of tax payers and the tax collection; and
- (d) if so, the details of the Scheme?

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

(b) The details of number of tax payers, the amount of tax collected and the increase registered in the same is as follows:

Number of tax payers

Year.	Effective number of tax payers	Increase in Effective number of payers
1994-95	1,02,84,606	—
1995-96	1,06,64,514	3,79,908
1996-97	1,16,43,543	9,79,029
1997-98	1,31,67,736	15,24,193
1998-99 (upto 30th Sept. 98 latest available)	1,42,48,072	

Collection during

(Rs. in crores)

Taxes	1998-99	1997-98	Increase
Corporation Tax	23608*	20016	3592
Income Tax	19420*	17101	2319
Interest Tax	1208*	1205	3

* Figures are provisional. The final figures of collection during 1998-99 are not available so far.

(c) and (d) The Income Tax Department has undertaken a concerted drive to extend the national tax base. As a method of identifying potential tax payers, the 'one by six' scheme was extended to 35 cities in 1998-99. The scheme will now be extended to 19 more cities in the country in 1999-2000. As a consequence of this scheme, the number of tax payers and the amount of tax collections have undergone a steady increase.

Increase in Salary of NTC Labourers

3699. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the representations of the Union had reached to an agreement to increase Rs. 175 in the monthly salary of the NTC and private mill labourers;
- (b) if so, whether its benefits has been given only to private mill labourers;
- (c) if so, the time by which that benefit is proposed to be given to the NTC mill labourers; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, a representative union of textile industry in local area of Brihan Mumbai and textile mill owners' Association had reached an agreement dated 26.4.96 to grant Rs. 175/- as increase in monthly salary and allowances of all the textile mills employees governed by Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946. All the private sector textile mills located in Brihan Mumbai have implemented this agreement but the same has not been implemented by the local NTC mills due to the reference of the subsidiary corporation of NTC in Maharashtra to BIFR. The clause number 9 (b) of the agreement states that in case of mills which are declared as sick units under the Sick Industrial Companies Act (Special Provision) Act, 1985 payment of enhanced emoluments is subject to the sanction of BIFR.

(c) and (d) Extending the benefit to the NTC mill workers can be considered only after BIFR has approved the same.

[English]

Clearance of Imported Woollen Rags

3700. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the different laws are adopted in clearance of imported woollen rags Consignments in different Customs Houses in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the adjudication of synthetic/woollen rags has been made by the Cochin Customs Houses before de-stuffing the goods as per port records in the last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith laws under which it is permissible?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The assessment and clearance of imported goods is done uniformly in all ports of import under the Customs Act, 1962, which extends to the whole of India.

(c) and (d) Adjudication of woollen/synthetic rags has not been made in the Cochin Custom House before de-stuffing of the goods during the last year.

Industrial Parks in Gujarat

3701. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided for setting up of Industrial Parks in Gujarat during each of the last five years;

(b) the details of such Parks already set up and constructed during each of the last five years, State-wise;

(c) the criteria fixed for setting up of such Industrial Parks;

(d) the number of such Parks proposed to be set up in Gujarat during 1999-2000 and 2001; and

(e) the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) A centrally sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) Scheme was introduced in August, 1994 with a view to involve State Governments in creation of infrastructural facilities for export oriented production. Only those units which give a legal undertaking to the State Government to export not less than 33% of their production are allowed to be set up in the Park. However, in the case of EPIPs in the North-Eastern States units undertaking to export 25% of their production are also allowed. On the basis of proposals received from State Governments, 19 EPIPs have been sanctioned for establishment. The details of the parks and Central assistance provided, including to that of EPIP in Gujarat is given in Statement.

(d) As per the scheme a second EPIP in a State would be considered only after the first one has been established and is found to be operating successfully. The first EPIP in Gujarat is still under implementation.

(e) Funds are not allocated State-wise and Central Grant for EPIPs released in proportion to States, contribution linked to progress of implementation.

Statement

Details of Exports Promotion Industrial Parks approved during the last five years

(Rs. Crores)

State	Location of the Project	Date of Approval	Estimated cost excl. cost of land	Area (acres)	Central grant released so far	Status of implementation
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Kerala	Kakkanad (Distt. Ennakulam)	28.9.94	40.15	200	8.49	Under implementation
2. Maharashtra	Ambarnath (Distt. Thane)	28.9.94	14.82	250	10.00	Completed
3. Himachal Pradesh	Baddi (Distt. Solan)	28.9.94	9.99	236	3.00	Under implementation
4. Rajasthan	Sitapura (Distt. Jaipur)	28.9.94	16.62	365	10.00	Completed
5. Haryana	Kundli (Distt. Sonapat)	28.9.94	18.66	109.5	7.50	Under implementation
6. Karnataka	Hoodi (Distt. Bangalore)	28.9.94	15.01	190	10.00	Completed
7. Uttar Pradesh	Surajpur (Distt. Gautambudh Nagar)	20.12.94	18.50	193	10.00	Advanced stage of Completion
8. Tamil Nadu	Gommidipundi (Distt. Chengalpattu-MGR)	20.12.94	14.62	211	8.12	Under implementation
9. Andhra Pradesh	Pashamylaram (Distt. Medak)	20.12.94	14.56	227	9.00	Under implementation
10. Gujarat	Savli (Distt. Baroda)	14.3.95	16.00	200	7.20	Under implementation
11. Bihar	Hajipur (Distt. Vaishali)	28.4.95	11.11	200	3.00	Under implementation
12. Meghalaya	Byrnihat (Distt. Ribhoi)	28.4.95	13.00	209	7.50	Under implementation
13. West Bengal	Durgapur (Distt. Burdwan)	20.9.95	13.12	137.37	7.25	Under implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14. Orissa	Bhubaneswar (Distt. Khurd)	20.9.95	15.25	205	7.55	Under implementation
15. Punjab	Dhandari Kalan(Distt. Ludhiana)	28.9.94	14.30	112.74	5.90	Under implementation
16. Assam	Amingaon (near Guwahati-Distt. Kamrup)	8.2.96	14.62	68.10	10.00	Under implementation
17. Jammu & Kashmir	Samba (Distt. Jammu)	12.2.96	10.88	125	4.25	Under implementation
18. Madhya Pradesh	Siya (Distt. Dewas) (Site shifted to Pitham Pur Distt. Dhar)	24.7.95	18.83	192	4.50	Under implementation
19. Manipur	Khunuta Chingjin in Thoubal Distt.	22.9.98	14.99	100	--	Under implementation

Development of Handloom Industry

3702. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for formulation of new Handloom Policy for the development of handloom industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision for nomination of Members of Parliament in the Handloom Board for formulation of policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The Expert Committee constituted for the purpose of reviewing the existing Textile Policy and suggest new policy measures, is looking into the handloom sector also.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Non-Payment of Salaries In HSCL

3703. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the employees and workers of Bhilai based H.S.C.L. have not been paid salaries for the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to intervene for release of salaries to the employees at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes

Sir. The Government are aware that the Bhilai unit of HSCL is not being able to disburse salaries to its workers and employees on time. Various factors, including lack of adequate work orders has led to the company's present financial situation.

(c) and (d) A financial-restructuring-cum-financial assistance package for HSCL is presently under Government's consideration.

[English]

Mineral Concessions

3704. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for clearance from the State Governments for grant of mineral concessions for minerals specified in parts A and C of the First Schedule appended in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957 usually get delayed;

(b) if so, the number of such cases accorded clearance during the last three years, year-wise and the number which are pending, till date; and

(c) the reasons for delay in according clearance to these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Mineral Concessions are granted as per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder by the State Governments concerned. Proposals for approval of mineral concessions granted for minerals specified under the First Schedule of the aforesaid Act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of law.

The number of mineral concessions in which Central Government accorded its clearance/approval in respect of minerals listed in Part "A" and "C" of First Schedule to the

MMRD, Act, 1957 during the last three years and number of cases pending as on 1.4.1999 is given below :-

	No. of mineral concession cases disposed of during			No. of cases pending as on
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1.4.1999
i) Part "A" minerals	5	1	--	1
ii) Part "C" minerals	335	362	354	155

In certain cases, the proposals received from the State Governments are found incomplete and consequently in such cases, State Governments are asked to furnish the complete information/additional information for expeditious disposal of mineral concession cases by the Central Government. However, all efforts are being made to expedite clearance of the remaining proposals.

Upgradation of BSMTTC at Lahunipara

3705. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILELS be pleased to state :

- the basic bivoltine area in regard to production of Tasar cocoon;
- whether since the inception of the basic seed multiplication training centre at Lahunipara in Orissa, no suitable technical person and staff have been posted there; and
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- the details of the production targetted year-wise and achievement made by the unit during the last three years;
- whether Government proposes to upgrade the above; and
- if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):

(a) Singbhum District of Bihar, Sarguja and Bastar Districts of Madhya Pradesh, Sonbhadra District of Uttar Pradesh are some of the important bivoltine tasar silkworm basic seed production zones.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. BSMTTC Lahunipara is a sub unit of Basic Seed Multiplication and Training Centre (BSMTTC), Pallahara. The main unit at Pallahara has 14 staff and is headed by a qualified Assistant Director, who is also controlling the activities of the sub-unit at Lahunipara. Only the minimum staff required for the sub-unit has been deployed from the main unit depending on the workload.

(d) The table below indicates the details of basic tasar seed production target and achievement by the sub-unit of BSMTTC, Lahunipara:

Year	Target	Achievement
1996-97	40000	15310
1997-98	40000	13333
1998-99	40000	7323

(e) and (f) There is no proposal with the Government of India to upgrade the BSMTTC sub-unit at Lahunipara.

Mining Activities in Karnataka

3706. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- whether there is any proposal to start mining activities in the western ghat forest areas of Karnataka;
- if so, whether the Government are aware that mining in these sensitive Bio-rich areas will cause irreparable damage to the Eco-system of the region; and
- if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by the Government in this region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, there are six working mines and four non-working mines in Western Ghat forest areas in Karnataka. There is no information about any new mining proposal in the area.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the damages caused by mining activities. The general environmental damages caused by mining are land damage, deforestation, air, water and noise pollution and ground vibration etc. Besides the action being taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, State Pollution Control Board and the concerned State Governments, Indian Bureau of Mines is ensuring compliance of statutory provisions for cleaner environment.

For all mining leases for major minerals beyond 5 hectares area, environmental clearance has to taken under Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated 27.1.94 issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Further, if the mining area involves forest land, clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is also mandatory. As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 no 'non forest' activity including 'mining' can take place in forest areas including Western Ghat forest areas.

Further to abate the adverse impact of mining on environment, the Indian Bureau of Mines is approving mining plans alongwith the Environment Management Plans in all areas including Western Ghat areas in which all possible protection measures are in-built for implementation so that minimum damage takes place to the environment and eco-system. This includes stabilisation of waste dumps by afforestation, creation of more and more green belts by plantation, reclamation

of mined-out areas, arresting wash-offs from waste dumps during rainy season by erecting protective stone walls around dumps, check dams, silt arresting ponds. The mines are also regularly inspected by officers of Indian Bureau of Mines to ensure implementation of measures in-built in Mining Plans and Environment Management Plans.

Tobacco Seeds

3707 SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :
SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Philip Morris of USA has entered into an Agreement with the CTRI, Rajahmundry to develop seeds for tobacco nurseries in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between Philip Morris of USA and the CTRI, Rajahmundry ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Exchange to Students

3708. DR. SAROJA V. :

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have liberalised the regulations relating to foreign exchange provided to students going abroad for studies;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) to what extent it will be helpful to the students ?

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

(b) The salient features are :

(i) Authorised dealers have been permitted to release exchange in excess of US\$ 30,000/- if the requirement is indicated in the letter from the overseas institution.

(ii) In case where the student is in the receipt of full sponsorship from a close relative, he will be eligible for full exchange, if he desires not to avail of the relative's hospitality.

(iii) Where the student is in the receipt of scholarship abroad the amount thereof may be adjusted against the amount of exchange admissible to him only to the extent desired by the applicant.

(iv) In case letter of confirmation of admission received

by a student does not indicate the amount of exchange requirement, authorised dealers have been permitted to release exchange upto US\$ 15,000/- for first six months and necessary adjustments may be made while releasing exchange for the subsequent period on the basis of the documentary evidence produced by student in this regard.

(v) The authorised dealers have been permitted to release the entire amount of exchange, including tuition fees, in favour of the student concerned.

(vi) The application form has been revised and simplified.

(c) With these changes, the students will be able to avail of foreign exchange to meet the genuine requirement with minimum paper work.

Housing Bank Act

3709. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the National Housing Bank Act, 1987;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost housing activities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The reasons for proposed amendments to National Housing Bank Act, 1987 are as under :

(i) to further strengthen the regulatory function of the National Housing Bank (NHB) in the matter of deposit acceptance activities of the Housing Finance Institutions (HFIs) to protect the interests of depositor on the lines of the powers available to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in respect of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) as conferred by the Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Act 1997;

(ii) to augment the capacities of HFIs to provide more finance by adopting asset securitisation and development of secondary mortgage market;

(iii) to provide a simple, speedy and cost effective method of recovery of overdues from the defaulting borrowers by HFIs; and

(iv) to provide for the smooth working of NHB in light of experience gained in operating of the Bank since its inception.

(c) In addition to the amendment proposals to NHB Act to provide for simple speedy and cost effective method of recovery of overdues from the defaulting borrowers by HFIs, asset securitisation and development of secondary markets,

all commercial banks have been issued direction by RBI to earmark for housing sector lending 3% as against existing 1.5% of their incremental deposits as on the last reporting Friday of March, 1999 over the corresponding figure of the last reporting Friday of March 1998. Also the target for financing construction of dwelling units under Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme (GJRHFS) has been increased by 25% for 1999-2000 i.e., 1.25 lakh dwelling units.

Export of Marine And Agro-Based Products

3710. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development proposes to encourage export of agricultural and agro-based products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives given for export of these products?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it encourages refinancing of schemes leading to export of agricultural and agro-based products such as poultry, marine and fisheries products of shrimp farming, surmi production, etc. NABARD has further reported that so far 639 schemes for shrimp farming with financial outlay of Rs.756.32 crore, bank loan of Rs.323.88 crore and NABARD refinance assistance of Rs.262.28 crore have been sanctioned. As on February, 1999, the bank loan disbursed against the same is Rs.207.29 crore and refinance assistance is Rs. 169.15 crore. Besides shrimp farming two schemes for surmi production have been sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra with financial assistance of Rs. 15 crore, bank loan of Rs. 4.30 crore and refinance assistance of Rs. 2.37 crore. NABARD gives priority for export oriented schemes while considering for refinance. As regards poultry products mostly schemes in the nature of production for specific pathogen free eggs, integrated broiler production-cum-processing are also to processing of poultry meat into value added products are considered for sanction by NABARD. However no special incentives are being given by NABARD.

Land for Tea Cultivation

3711. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Assam Tea Association has requested the Union Government to provide more land to produce sufficient quantity of Tea to meet the requirement of the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Agricultural Products

3712. SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and quantity of agricultural products exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years ;

(b) the percentage of export of agricultural products against the total exports; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of agricultural products ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The country's total exports and agricultural exports (in terms of value Rs. in crore) and the percentage share of export of agricultural products to total exports during the last three years is as under :-

Export of Agricultural Products

Year	Country's total Exports (Rs. in Crores)	Agricultural Exports (Rs. in Crores)	% share of Agricultural Exports against Country's total Exports
1995-96	106353.35	17496.40	16.45
1996-97	118817.31	24362.57	20.50
1997-98	126285.76	23798.37	18.80

(Source DGCI & S, Calcutta)

Some of the agricultural products exported are rice (basmati and non-basmati), coffee, tea, cashewnuts, tobacco, deoiled cakes, fruits and vegetables, HPS groundnuts, sesame seeds, floricultural items meat and meat products.

The details of quality and value of each of the agricultural product exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are available in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for enhancement of the exports of agricultural products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.

2. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment.
3. Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses).
4. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
5. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially the mangoes in overseas markets.
6. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and selected fresh fruits and vegetables and fruits.
7. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
8. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.
9. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
10. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

Pay Scales of Auditor of C&AG of India

3713. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grant of higher pay scale to Senior Auditors of Comptroller and Auditor General of India was agreed to in Principle by the Government in view of the decisions given by CAT benches located at Chandigarh and Guwahati;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the decision by the Government till date; and

(c) the time by which the same is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The CAT Benches at Chandigarh and Guwahati did not give any decisions granting a higher pay scale to Senior Auditors; they only recommended reconsideration of the issue by the Government.

Government decided to refer the issue to the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The Fifth Central Pay Commission did not recommend a higher pay scale to Senior Auditors at par with that of CSS Assistants. The pay scale recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission for Senior Auditors was lower than that of CSS Assistants.

The issue was thereafter referred to the Fast Track Committee constituted by the Government to consider various issues arising out of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The Fast Track Committee recommended that there was no case for granting parity to Senior Auditors with CSS Assistants. The recommendation of the Fast Track Committee was accepted by the Government.

Accordingly, the revised pay scale recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission for Senior Auditors has finally been implemented.

[Translation]

Food Processing Sector Under Priority Sector for Bank Lending

3714. DR. SUSHIL INDORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any percentage has been fixed for disbursing loans to Food Processing Industries under priority sector lending scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the ratio fixed for disbursing loans to food processing sector, small scale industries and big industries ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) In terms of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, it is obligatory for public sector banks to lend 40 per cent of their Net Bank Credit (NBC) to priority sector. Within the priority sector, 18 per cent of NBC is required to be lent to agriculture, and 10 per cent of NBC to weaker sections. No separate target has been fixed for public sector banks for lending to food and agro-based processing industries, small scale industries and big industries. However, loans by banks to food and agro based processing sector are included under priority sector advances.

[English]

National Housing Bank

3715. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Union Government to sanction at least Rs. 100 crore to Kerala State Housing Board under Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) No such request appears to have been received from Kerala Government. However, collections under VIDS scheme were shared with the States only. Total amount paid to Kerala as share in the proceeds of VIDS'97 is Rs. 279.76 crore.

Automatic Purchase Preference for PSUs

3716. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to withdraw Automatic Purchase Preference for Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) The existing policy of purchase preference for public enterprises, subject to stipulation therein, is valid upto 31.3.2000.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Vacant Post in SSI Service Institutes

3717. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether 70 per cent posts of the officers are lying vacant in the Small Scale Industry Service Institutes being run under his Ministry in the remote and backward areas of various States, particularly in Himachal Pradesh and as a result of which the establishment and development of Small Scale Industries in the States has come to standstill;

(b) if so, the number of posts of the officers lying vacant in the SSIs in Solan District of Himachal Pradesh and since when;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any latest survey regarding the requirement of officers in the Small Scale Industry Service Institutes at the above said place with a view to develop the Small Scale Industries in Himachal Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) In the Small Scale Industry Service

Institutes, 29 per cent of posts of Gazetted officers are presently vacant. In Small Industries Service Institute, Solan, there are 10 Gazetted posts. Out of ten, four posts are presently filled up. Statement showing the details of the posts lying vacant at SISI, Solan is given in statement.

The SISIs perform a supplementary role in the industrial development of States. The States over the years have created much larger structures for industrial promotion.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Internal Work Study Unit of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has conducted a work study in SISI, Solan. With regard to the Gazetted officers, work study had recommended as surplus one post of Assistant Director (Gr. I) (Mech.) which has been abolished. Work Study Unit has proposed the upgradation of the post of Assistant Director (Gr.I) (EI) to the post of Deputy Director (EI). However, this recommendation of upgradation has not been agreed to. Post of Assistant Director (Gr.I) (EI) has been retained.

Statement

Vacant post of Gazetted Officers at SISI, Solan

S.No.	Name of the post	No. of post	From which date
1.	Deputy Director (Chem.)	1	2.8.97
2.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.I) (G/C)	1	8.9.96
3.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.I) (EI)	1	3.9.98
4.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.I) (IMT)	1	1.7.93
5.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.I) (Chem.)	1	31.10.98
6.	Asstt. Dir.(Gr.II) (EI)	1	20.5.97

[English]

FDI in Soft Drink

3718. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the soft drink industry from 1998 to February 15, 1999; and

(b) the estimated number of people directly employed in the soft drink industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Sir, the total inflow of FDI in Food Processing Industry Sector (including soft drink industry) during the period from January, 1998 to February, 1999 is Rs. 239.68 crore.

(b) Data on employment generation with specific linkage to FDI is not centrally maintained. Employment linkage is with reference to Industrial Approvals i.e. Letter of Intent (for Licensed Sectors) and IEMs (for Delicensed Sectors).

Such approvals are inclusive of projects involving FDI. Therefore, the employment projections made in LOIs or the IEMs are indicative of the employment likely to be generated as a result of Government's New Industrial Policy, 1991, including the Policy on foreign investment. During the entire post policy period (i.e. August, 1991 to December, 1998), 41220 IEMs/ LOIs/EOUs were filled envisaging investment of Rs.815057 crore, employment opportunities for over 72.89 lakh persons.

Tea Gardens

3719. SHRI ANAND PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the tea estates managed by the Tea Trading Corporation of India in West Bengal have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the name of those tea estates along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal for revamping these estates and ensure their smooth functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.(TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of State Trading Corporation is a loss making company. The Company owns four tea gardens located in West Bengal and one tea garden in Assam. TTCI is facing an acute financial crunch with an estimated liability around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.97. The Corporation is presently engaged with the following three options :

- (i) Outright sale of the shares of the Corporation;
- (ii) Bifurcation of the existing company in case (i) is not found possible; and
- (iii) STC to initiate liquidation proceedings in case option (i) and (ii) above are not found practicable.

[Translation]

Loan to Encourage Small and Cottage Industries

3720. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to simplify the conditions of providing loan for encouraging small and cottage industries is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the subsidy given to the women belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for small and cottage industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) It has been the endeavour of the Government to simplify the conditions of providing loan for encouraging small and cottage industries. In pursuance of the Seven Point Action Plan initiated in 1995-96 for improving flow of credit to small scale sector, measures have been taken for simplification of procedural formalities by the banks. The loan application form for loans upto Rs.2 lakhs has been simplified. The High Level Committee on credit to SSI (Kapur Committee) appointed by the Reserve Bank of India has also recommended various measures in its report submitted in June 1998 for improving credit delivery system and simplification of procedures for providing bank finance to the small sector. Some of the important recommendations accepted and under implementation by banks are :

- (i) Delegation of more powers to branch managers to grant ad-hoc limits.
- (ii) Freedom to banks to decide their own norms for assessment of credit requirement.
- (iii) Enhancement in the limit for composite loans from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs.

(c) and (d) There is reservation of 22.5% for SC/ST, 27% for OBC under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) scheme and preference is also given to women in the sanction of the loan for starting self-employment ventures. Subsidy is paid at 15% of the project cost or Rs. 7,500 whichever is less. Reserve Bank of India does not maintain data on subsidy amount paid to women belonging to SC/ST.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission provides 30 per cent margin money under Margin Money Scheme to women entrepreneurs including SC/ST for setting up village industries.

[English]

Losses in Showrooms of NTC

3721. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many showrooms run by National Textile Corporation are suffering losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to close down those showrooms which are suffering losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) NTC Group is having 332 showrooms out

of which 220 were in losses as on 31.3.1999. A statement of State-wise details for the last three years is given in Statement.

(c) to (e) The subsidiary corporations have instructed by NTC (HC) to review the performance of each showroom from time to time and take decision regarding their closure.

Statement

State-wise List of Loss Making Showrooms

Sl.No.	State	As on		
		31.3.97	31.3.98	31.3.99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	7	7
2.	Assam	3	2	1
3.	Bihar	12	13	15
4.	Gujarat	0	3	3
5.	Haryana	2	2	2
6.	Karnataka	0	22	22
7.	Kerala	0	16	15
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2	3	1
9.	Maharashtra	0	2	3
10.	Orissa	4	4	5
11.	Punjab	1	1	1
12.	Tamil Nadu	22	53	56
13.	Uttar Pradesh	49	46	36
14.	West Bengal	47	49	52
15.	UT/Pondicherry	0	0	1
Total		148	223	220

[Translation]

Posting of Junior Overmen

3722. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta has given its verdict on November 9, 1998 to appoint the selected candidates to the post of Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Limited whose interview was held in November, 1997 after bringing out the result within one month;

(b) if so, whether the selected candidates have been appointed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in their appointment;

(d) whether the company has held the interview for the said post while about 194 overmen were surplus in the company in 1995;

(e) if so, the justification behind holding the interview;

(f) whether the Coal Company has filed an appeal in the Double Bench against this verdict;

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

(h) the steps being taken by the coal company to appoint the selected candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) In the matter of Writ Petition No.1416 of 1998 filed by Shri Rajender Prasad Rawani vs-Coal India Limited and others (including ECL) in the High Court of Calcutta on 9.11.98, the Hon'ble Court passed the following order:

"Having regard to the facts, I dispose of this application by directing the respondents concerned to intimate to the petitioner within a month from date the result of the interview and if the petitioner has been found to be successful, appropriate steps may be taken for offering employment to the petitioner on such basis."

Since the above orders was delivered ex-parte the management of ECL preferred an appeal in the Divisional Bench and the Hon'ble Court after its final hearing on 11.2.99 was pleased to dispose of the stay application inter-alia directing ECL not to recruit any junior overman without leave of the Court or untill disposal of the appeal. The matter is still subjudice.

(d) and (e) ECL had notified the vacancies for the post of Jr. Overman in the year 1994-95 based on the then exercise carried out in relation to requirement of statutory personnel in existing mines and new projects likely to come up. But the re-assessment carried out in 1998-99 indicated that ECL was facing the problems of financial crunch and surplus manpower in the company. The surplus manpower of overman was due to shrinkage of existing mines and reduction of requirement of statutory manpower.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) At present ECL is facing the problem of acute financial crunch and large surplus manpower including overmen. Fresh induction of manpower is, therefore, not possible.

(h) Till the matter is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Court, no further action can be taken by ECL.

[English]

Super 301 Provisions

3723. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India propose to participate in the dispute settlement hearing between European Union and the US on Super 301 provisions and act as reference to the banana issue ;

(b) if so, the WTO rules in regard to imposition of Super 301; and

(c) the principles of multilateral trading ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) India has joined as Third Party in a complaint filed by EC under the Dispute Settlement Procedure under WTO against the provisions of Section 301 of US Trade Act 1994. With regard to the Bananas case, India joined as Third Party in the dispute relating to implementation of the panel ruling against EC under Article 21.5 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding.

(b) and (c) There are no specific WTO Rules relating to Super 301. However, under Article XXIII of GATT, any Member country can approach WTO for dispute settlement if it considers that any benefit accruing to it under the WTO Agreement is being nullified or impaired or the attainment of any objective of the Agreement is being impeded as a result of the failure of another Member country to carry out its obligations, the application by any other Member country of any measure, whether or not it conflicts with the provisions of the Agreements or the existence of any other situation.

[Translation]

Misuse of Value Based Advance Licence

3724. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the mass misuse of value based advance licence and quantity based advance licence;

(b) if so, the details of the total loss incurred to the Government due to the misuse of these scheme during the last three years till date; and

(c) the preventive measures taken by the Government to remove these shortcomings ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Cases of misuse of Value based Advance Licence (VBAL) and Quantity based Advance Licence (QBAL) Schemes have been noticed during the last three years.

During the last three Financial Years ending 1998-99, 504 cases of misuse of these schemes have been detected. Out of this, 52 cases have already been adjudicated after investigation and issue of Show-cause Notice resulting in confirmation of customs duty of Rs. 41.25 crores and penalties of Rs. 8.72 crores. In another 450 cases, Show-cause Notices have issued involving customs duty of Rs. 570 crores and these are pending at adjudication stage. In the remaining two cases, investigation is still to be completed.

(c) Working of the Two Schemes have been periodically reviewed and various measures taken by the Government to plug the loop-holes and to prevent misuse of these Schemes. In fact, Value Based Advance Licence already stands withdrawn w.e.f. 1.4.1997.

Directorate of Valuation under C.B.E.C. now collects real time data on various commodities, collates and disseminates the same to various Custom Houses and licencing authorities and this helps in checking any misdeclaration of imports under the Schemes. The examination procedures have also been tightened and all Field formations alerted to step up intelligence and maintain greater vigil at all levels to prevent misuse of these schemes.

[English]

South's Share in Export of Handicrafts

3725. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of South in export of handicrafts is mere eight percent of the total export of handicrafts;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to enhance the South's share in the export of handicrafts;

(c) whether the Government are considering to upgrade the Regional Division and Technical Development Centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Region-wise export data on handicrafts is not maintained. However, it is estimated that the share of South India in handicrafts exports is 8% of total export of handicrafts.

(b) To increase the share of handicrafts exports from Southern India, the steps taken by the Government include:

training; organisation of workshops on packaging; export marketing and documentation; designing; setting up of wood seasoning plant and common facility centre at Thiruvananthapuram and participation of handicrafts exporters from South India in Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (Autumn and Spring) held at New Delhi every year.

(c) to (e) The Regional Design and Technical Development Centre, Bangalore is proposed to be upgraded for which purpose, a study has been assigned to National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad.

[Translation]

Financial Deficit of Various States

3726. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the financial deficit of various States in the country is increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the total financial deficit of all the States during 1998-99;

(c) the percentage of the said deficit in relation to Gross Domestic Product of the country;

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to check it; and

(e) the State-wise details of the deficit and the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) The total fiscal deficit of the States has registered an increase during the last few years. The total fiscal deficit of States during the year 1998-99 (as per Budget Estimates) was Rs. 59522.80 crores. There is no natural correlation between the fiscal deficits of States and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). State-wise details of fiscal deficits are given in the Statement.

According to RBI, the fiscal health of States has been under stress in recent years, as evidenced by the rising deficits. The RBI has suggested that States embark more steadfastly than ever before upon a path of fiscal consolidation, with expenditure restructuring, cuts on non-merit subsidies and increases in user charges as major planks of action. Many State Governments on whom the financial burden of revision on pay scales is weighing heavily have sought assistance from the Central Government. While the Central Government has always extended help to the State Governments in times of need, the Central Government has also been exhorting the State Governments to put their finances on a sound footing.

Statement

Gross Fiscal Deficit of States for 1998-99(BE)

States	Amount (Rs. in crore)
Andhra Pradesh	3084.00
Arunachal Pradesh	93.40
Assam	959.20
Bihar	3897.80
Goa	218.90
Gujarat	2370.90
Haryana	2604.30
Himachal Pradesh	1452.30
Jammu & Kashmir	768.70
Karnataka	1901.30
Kerala	1607.60
Madhya Pradesh	3886.60
Maharashtra	7148.40
Manipur	174.50
Meghalaya	179.90
Mizoram	87.70
Nagaland	222.40
Orissa	2442.90
Punjab	2607.40
Rajasthan	3762.90
Sikkim	189.50
Tamil Nadu	4471.30
Tripura	329.10
Uttar Pradesh	10706.50
West Bengal	4355.30
Total	59522.80

Financial Assistance to Bharat Yantra Nigam

3727. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the area known as Naini industrial city of Uttar Pradesh is being totally neglected;

(b) whether Bharat Yantra Nigam under which there are six industries i.e. Bharat Pump and Compressor Limited, Triveni Structural Limited, etc., has been constituted to run the industries under Naini area smoothly;

(c) whether the financial assistance is being provided regularly by the Union Government to five industries out of the above through the Nigam while the employees of Triveni Structural Limited are not getting their salary for the last 5-6 months as the financial assistance was not provided to it;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to take effective steps to ensure the payment of salary to the employees of TSL; and

(e) the time by which the payment is likely to be made to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) No, Sir. There are three public sector undertakings under the administrative control of Department of Heavy Industry having their industrial units in Naini namely M/s. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., M/s. Triveni Structurals Limited and M/s. Hindustan Cables Limited. Due attention is being paid by the Government of India for the working of the industrial units.

(b) M/s. Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited (BYNL) Allahabad, the holding company, was set up in the year 1986 with a view to improving the working/coordinating the working of the following six public sector enterprises :

1. M/s. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Limited, Allahabad,
2. M/s. Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam,
3. M/s. Bridge & Roof Company (I) Limited, Calcutta,
4. M/s. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd., Mumbai,
5. M/s. Triveni Structurals Limited, Naini, Allahabad,
6. M/s. Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Hospet.

(c) to (e) The Government of India have been providing budgetary support to public sector undertakings of the BYNL Group in the form of (a) plan assistance for purchase of capital equipments and acquisition of crucial balancing facilities; (b) Non-plan assistance for partial reimbursement of cash losses; and (c) Plan grant for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Schemes.

As Triveni Structurals Limited (TSL) was incurring losses and its networth had become negative it was referred to the BIFR during the year 1992. BIFR had sanctioned a rehabilitation package of the company on 22.9.1995 which envisaged infusion of funds to the extent of Rs. 29.22 crores, VRS grant

of Rs. 2.25 crores and capital restructuring by way of waiver/conversion into equity of past Government of India dues amounting to Rs. 40.26 crores as on 31.3.1994. The performance of the company has not been in accordance with projections given in the BIFR sanctioned scheme. The company has been generating resources, which are not enough to meet entirely its requirement towards payment of salary and wages. In order to assist the company, the Government released Rs. 1.76 crores in February, 1999.

[English]

Exim Policy

3728. SHRI BHUMA NAGI REDDY :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI A. C. JOS :

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced Exim Policy (1997-2002) recently;

(b) if so, the main features of the new policy ;

(c) whether the advance licence scheme, export promotion capital goods scheme and duty entitlement pass-book scheme have been included in this scheme;

(d) if so, whether a number of items have been shifted from restricted list of Exim Policy to special import licence scheme; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and to what extent this scheme is likely boost exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has announced revised Exim Policy on 31st March, 1999.

(b) The main features of the Exim Policy are Computerisation and electronic filing of application for advance licence, making duty exemption scheme flexible, extension of benefit of zero duty EPCG scheme to chemicals plastics and textile sectors, additional facilities to gems and jewellery exporters, further rationalisation of EOU/EPZ scheme, export of services, encouragement to small sector export, creation of Ombudsman etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. 414 items have been shifted from restricted to SIL list of Imports.

(e) The above step has been taken with a view to replacing discretionary control with adequate tariff protection. Free access to inputs is likely to help in augmenting production and would generate surplus for exports.

[Translation]

Loan and Grant to KVIC

3729. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the industries which were granted loans by Khadi and Village Industries Commission to set up small scale industries in Satna and Katni districts of Madhya Pradesh during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(b) the budgetary provision made by the Commission for the above period and the expenditure incurred against the budgetary provision;

(c) the details of amount of loan and grant provided by the Commission for Rural Employment Generation Programme in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) whether KVIC propose to promote the handloom based industries in view of the adequate number of weavers in Satna district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The number of units for which Grants and Loans were provided by Khadi and V.I. Commission (KVIC) to set up Village industries in the District of Satna and Katni are given in the statement enclosed as annexure :

(b) The budgetary provision made and expenditure incurred for 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as under :

Year	Budget Financial	Expenditure Financial
1997-98	73.00	0.78
1998-99	30.00	15.72
Total	103.00	16.50

(c) The details are given as a part of reply to Part (a) above.

(d) and (e) Under KVIC Act, weaving activity on handlooms with handspun yarn comes under Khadi. Weaving of mill made yarn is out of scope of the KVIC. In Satna district, 225 persons are engaged in the Khadi Sector.

Statement

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S.No.	Year	Name of Industries	No. of Units Setup	Financial Loan	Assistance Grant
1.	1997-98	Bricks Mfg.	01	0.22	0.09
		Power Attachacki	01	0.28	0.11
		Stores repairing	01	0.26	0.09
Total			03	0.76	0.29
2.	1998-99	Hiring of sound System	01	0.36	0.14
		Repair of Electrical Goods	01	0.45	0.17
		Indian Sweets	01	0.47	0.18
		Dal mill	01	5.85	2.42
		Avala prity	01	2.55	1.75
		Cycle Repair	01	0.63	0.24
Total			06	10.31	4.90

[English]

Rourkela Steel Plant

3730. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rourkela Steel Plant has been modernised;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon; and

(c) the time by which the company will start making profit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) The various facilities under modernisation project of Rourkela Steel Plant, except Reheating Furnace No. 5, have progressively been commissioned and are under stabilisation.

(b) The total amount spent till February '99 is Rs. 4255 crore (provisional)

(c) Financial Performance of the company is dependent on internal as well as extraneous factors. While the benefits of modernised facilities would materialise in phases, Plant has to absorb higher capital related costs because of capitalisation of modernised/capital schemes and also for

maintaining a higher inventory, which has been adversely affecting its financial performance.

Similarly existing extraneous factors like slowdown in demand for steel, greater competition from other domestic producers and imports and increased input costs have affected the financial performance. Profitability being dependent on such varied dynamic factors, predicting any time frame for plant to generate profits is not feasible.

Economic Inequality

3731. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has released any report regarding economic inequality among the World Bank aided countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons cited in the report for widening the economic inequality;

(d) whether the Government have gone through the report; and

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

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

Urban Banks

3732. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI has shifted the operation work of urban banks of some districts of Maharashtra from Mumbai to Nagpur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Marathwada Urban Cooperative Banks Association has requested the RBI to continue the earlier attachment of the urban banks in Marathwada region with Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the reaction of RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has shifted the regulatory work relating to 95 primary (urban) cooperative banks located in all the 7 districts of Marathwada region from Mumbai to Nagpur office. The transfer was effected in pursuance of policy decision of RBI to decongest some of the departments at Mumbai and also to render better customer services. Besides, it will be operationally convenient for the bankers and the public of the Region to visit Nagpur rather than Mumbai.

(c) and (d) RBI has reported that no request from the Marathwada Region Urban Cooperative Banks, Association has been received to continue the earlier arrangement.

Misuse of Funds by Companies

3733. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of listed companies against whom action has been taken since April 1, 1994 till March 31, 1999 for misuse of funds by not applying the money for the purposes stated in the Offer Document at the time of their Public issue and Rights issue;

(b) the aggregate amount involved therein; and

(c) the number of companies against whom prosecution were launched for the misuse of funds or siphoning them off?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) According to Department of Company Affairs, provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 do not require that the Department of Company Affairs maintain information relating to use of proceeds of public issues by listed companies. However, as per information furnished by SEBI, 1893 companies came out with initial public offerings during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1997-98. Out of these, 41 companies are not traceable. The details of these companies have been forwarded by SEBI to Department of Company Affairs for appropriate action.

Fall in Prices of Natural Rubber

3734. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the natural rubber growers in Kerala are facing an acute crisis due to steep fall in prices of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the step taken by the Government to help the rubber growers in Kerala;

(c) whether Kerala Government have submitted any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to help the rubber growers in Kerala to get remunerative price for their produce, the Government of India is interalia engaged in a market intervention operation through STC for procuring rubber on Government Account and selling the same to Advance Licence Holders. The Government of India have also suspended import of rubber under Advance Licence w.e.f. 20th February, 1999.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposal of the State Government of Kerala for financial assistance from the Union Government is being examined by Government.

Agreement with Japan

3735. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was signed by the Ambassador of Japan in India with the Secretary of his Ministry stating that Japan will provide Rs. 41.57 crores as a loan for 10 specific projects during the years 1997 and 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions to repay the loan;

(c) the details of those 10 specific projects; and
(d) the names of the States in which these projects have been established/likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Exchange of Notes were signed between the Finance Secretary and the Ambassador of Japan to India on 31.10.1997 for 10 projects under Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund's 1997-98 loan package.

(b) The repayment of loan will be 20 years after the grace period of 10 years. The rate of interest would be 2.3% per annum for general projects, and 2.1% per annum for environment related projects.

(c) and (d)

	Name of Project	Amount (Yen million)	State
1.	Simhadri and Vizag Transmission System Project	10,629	A.P.
2.	Srisaillam Left Bank Power Station Project (III)	14,499	A.P.
3.	Dhauliganga Hydroelectric Power Plant Construction Project (II)	16,316	U.P.
4.	Bakreswar Thermal Power Station Project (II)	34,151	W.B.
5.	Tuticorin Port Dredging Project	7,003	T.N.
6.	Punjab Afforestation Project	6,193	Punjab
7.	Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project	2,212	M.P.
8.	Manipur Sericulture Project	3,962	Manipur
9.	Rengali Irrigation Project	7,760	Orissa
10.	SIDBI (VI)	30,000	All over India

[Translation]

Pilferage of Heroine from Alkalide Neemach Factory

3736. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the heroine worth crores of rupees was seized in February, 1998 from the possession of employees of Alkalide Factory, Neemach while they were trying to steal it;

(b) whether this factory is guarded by a large number of security personnel of Central Industrial Security Force;

(c) whether this episode points towards a nexus between the employees working there and the inland-smugglers; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard and the measures being adopted to stop it in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. There has been no case of seizure of

heroin from the possession of employees of Alkaloid Factory, Neemuch in February, 1998. However, two unskilled workers of the Alkaloid Plant of Government Opium & Alkaloid Works (GOAW), Neemuch were arrested by the State Police under NDPS Act on 3.2.99 approximately 2 kms. from the factory after recovery of 2.640 kgs. of morphine from them. The sale price of morphine sulphate is Rs. 21673/- per kg and as such, the value of the morphine seized is around Rs. 56000/-.

(b) The security of the factory is looked after by the CISF personnel for which 96 CISF Security personnel including administrative staff and 8 fire fighting persons have been deployed.

(c) The episode is more or less an isolated case of pilferage of morphine from GOAW, Neemuch.

(d) A number of preventive measures have been taken including tightening of internal security measures, strengthening of the intelligence network and through search of workers by CISF both at the time of entry and exit.

[English]

Guidelines for Bad Loans

3737. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEEᅆA :

SHRI K. S. RAO :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group set up to frame guidelines on write off/compromise of non-performing assets of banks has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Working Group alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) if not, the time by which it will submit its report; and

(d) the details of loan written off by each nationalised bank during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) An informal Working Group for evolving uniform guidelines on write-off/compromise settlement was set up under the directions of the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS). The Working Group has submitted its report to the BSF. The decision of the BFS on the recommendations of the working group are expected to be communicated to the Government in due course.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Statement indicating the amount of bad debts written off by the nationalised banks during the last three years is given in Statement.

Statement

Amount written off by the Nationalised Banks during the last three years

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	6.71	21.39	46.61
2.	Andhra Bank	1.95	37.42	72.58
3.	Bank of Baroda	46.42	70.17	157.30
4.	Bank of India	307.08	217.15	309.29
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	56.52	47.30	121.26
6.	Canara Bank	169.49	18.20	47.18

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Central Bank of India	138.44	156.83	154.62
8.	Corporation Bank	19.13	0.94	13.69
9.	Dena Bank	51.92	58.76	67.87
10.	Indian Bank	115.94	10.28	1.37
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	75.01	375.73	201.76
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	0.82	46.22	0.13
13.	Punjab National Bank	53.14	150.34	372.70
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2.86	9.93	16.98
15.	Syndicate Bank	8.03	58.79	109.16
16.	Union Bank of India	38.81	30.57	16.55
17.	UCO Bank	110.98	220.57	176.54
18.	United Bank of India	36.51	65.48	29.90
19.	Vijaya Bank	13.26	12.72	6.72
Total		1253.02	1608.79	1922.01

Promotion of Sericulture

3738. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to promote sericulture production in India, Japan has decided to promote sericulture in some States particularly in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh from April this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main projects which are likely to be undertaken with Japanese collaboration in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Presently three projects are being implemented in the sericulture sector with Japanese assistance. Details of these projects are as indicated below :

- (1) The Central Silk Board has been implementing with the assistance of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, a Bivoltine, Sericulture Development Project. In the first phase of the Project (1991-97) certain technologies were developed. In the second phase (1997-2001) commencing from April 1997, verification of these technologies in appropriate area is being undertaken. Presently, the project is being implemented in

the State of Karnataka. The Government has taken up for extending the project of other States including Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

- (2) the Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing since 1997-98, a sericulture project with assistance from Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF), Japan for the development of tasar sericulture in the first phase. Mulberry sericulture would be taken up in the second phase. In the first phase the objective is to provide additional employment through increase in production of tasar raw silk and tasar spun yarn.
- (3) Govt. of Manipur is implementing a Sericulture Project with financial assistance from OECF. In the first phase development of mulberry sericulture would be undertaken to provide additional employment through increase in production of mulberry raw silk. In the second phase eri culture would be taken up.

There are no projects presently under implementation with Japanese assistance in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Assistance to J & K

3739. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Normal Central Assistance and Basic Minimum Services Grant released to Government of J&K during the last three years; and

(b) the projects/work carried out by the Government of J&K with these funds, project-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The required information is as follows:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Normal Central Assistance	Addl. Central Assistance for BMS
1996-97	960.00	156.52
1997-98	1028.61	156.52
1998-99	1073.22	164.80

In addition to the above, J&K was given during the last three years a sum of Rs. 2913.00 crores as Special Central Assistance/Special Plan Assistance.

(b) Plan Assistance to State Govt. is released in the form of Block Grants/Loans. In the case of J&K 90% is given as grant and the remaining 10% as loan. This assistance is not tied to any specific projects or locations. It is intended to be used for implementing all projects/works included in the State Plan.

FDI in Alcohol

3740. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

DR. SANJAY SINH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a branch of Foreign Investment Promotion Board in Switzerland for attracting foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of companies which have submitted their proposals for investment in alcohol industry alongwith other details of their proposals;

(d) whether the Government have since cleared those proposals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Six proposals involving foreign equity participation in alcohol sector are pending consideration of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).

[Translation]

Share Capital of NABARD

3741. SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a declaration to increase the share capital of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development by 500 crores of rupees;

(b) if so, whether the said amount has been released to them; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the announcement made in the budget speech for the year 1996-97 to the effect that the share capital of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) shall be increased from Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 2000 crores over a period of 5 years, an amount of Rs. 100 crores and Rs. 400 crores has been released by Government of India and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) respectively during the year 1998-99.

[English]

Export by MMTC

3742. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has diversified its activities in the field of export;

(b) if so, the items presently being exported by MMTC;

(c) whether coal and hydro-carbon are also being exported by MMTC; and

(d) if so, the details of items exported by MMTC, during the last three years and projection made for 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. MMTC is continuously striving to diversify its activities in the field of exports by expanding the range and volume of products and the market coverage.

(b) Sir, the items presently being exported by MMTC are Minerals & Ores, Gold, Jewellery, Agro Products, Building Materials and Industrial Products. The details of these items for the last 3 years may be seen in the Statement.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Coal and hydrocarbon are not being exported by MMTC.

Statement

MMTC's Exports

(Rs. in Crores)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Provisional)
Minerals & Ores	885.02	980.48	1018.82
Gold & Jewellery	31.54	41.52	20.03
Agro Products	133.03	75.37	34.85
Building Material	0.83	6.24	8.87
Industrial Products	51.12	46.51	3.83
Others	35.11	36.85	23.60
Total	1136.65	1186.97	1110.00

Fake Currency

3743. SHRI N. K. PREMCHANDRAN :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large scale fake currency operation in India;

(b) if so, whether Directorate General, Revenue and Intelligence has pointed out while inaugurating the Seventh Meeting of Indo-Sri Lankan Officials that these currency notes being smuggled to India were of Rs. 100 denomination;

(c) if so, whether the enforcement agencies had seized Rs. 30 lakhs worth of fake notes;

(d) if so, whether according to assessment of the agencies, certain persons of India origin based abroad are behind the operation and some foreign countries are also involved;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether recently in Hyderabad a counterfeit currency note scandal involving printing of 500 notes were unearthed; and

(g) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to check this scandal and smuggling of fake note in the country?

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

Rakesh Mohan Committee on Infrastructure

3744. DR. B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee on infrastructure;

(b) the steps Government propose to take on the recommendations, particularly in respect of demand and actual supply of funds;

(c) whether the participation of foreign sector in the infrastructure is necessary; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Rakesh Mohan Committee has provided directions for policy reforms, which can help in greater commercialisation of infrastructure, along with the promotion of public-private partnerships. Its major recommendations are as follows:

The Expert Group has estimated that the total infrastructure investment requirements would be about Rs. 4,300 billion between 1996-97 to 2000-01 and about Rs. 7,400 billion during 2001-02 to 2005-06.

For meaningful commercialisation of infrastructure projects, the Government must ensure that project risks are clearly demarcated and allocated to different stakeholders.

In infrastructure is to be financed through the capital markets, it is necessary to initiate major reforms in the area of contractual savings institutions.

India needs an institution to specifically provide credit enhancement to projects and activate the debt market.

The existing sector-specific enactments should be unified into a single statute and an autonomous regulatory body should be set up for each infrastructure sector.

Sector specific reforms have also been suggested for urban infrastructure, ports, roads, power, telecom and industrial parks.

(b) to (d) The tax on dividends in the hands of the share holder has been abolished in the Union Budget for 1997-98.

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio. (SLR) on net interbank liabilities have been abolished with effect from 26th April, 1997.

FIs have been permitted to invest in unlisted companies in the same manner as they were allowed to invest in listed companies. SEBI had issued guidelines to this effect as well. This makes it possible for FIs to invest infrastructure.

FIs allowed to invest in listed/to be listed debt securities and Government securities through the 100 per cent debt fund route.

Prescription of limits on investment in individual instruments by Money Market Mutual funds (MMMFs) has been withdrawn and they are free to determine the extent of their investments in each instrument.

The infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (IDFC) was incorporated on 30th January, 1997 with an authorised share capital of Rs. 5,000 crore.

In the budget for 1998-99, 10 percent of the new accretion to Provident Fund has been permitted to be invested in private sector infrastructure projects, which have an investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies.

Independent regulatory authorities such as the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) have been established. In the context of the power sector, legislation has been enacted to establish the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission with enabling provisions to facilitate State Governments to set up State regulatory commissions.

Subsidy to Meat

3745. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are providing any subsidy in any kind/form for setting up of slaughter houses and the meat producing/meat exporting factories in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years unit-wise;

(c) whether such subsidies are still being given though the Government are withdrawing subsidies on other items;

(d) if so, the justification therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to consider withdrawing such subsidy forthwith in view of the demand for the vast vegetarian society of the country; and

(f) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (f) The required information is being collected.

[Translation]

Fall in Export of Indian Goods

3746. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a fall in export of Indian goods in the European market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of Indian goods in the foreign market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Export of Indian Goods to European countries during the first 8 months of 1998-99 as compared to the same period in previous year is as follows :-

Year	Exports to European countries (in Rs. crores)	Exports to European countries (in US\$ Mn)
1998-99 (Apr-Dec)	28,705.62	6,845.05
1997-98 (Apr-Dec)	25,562.84	7,009.80

Data Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

While export of Indian goods to European countries during the period April-December 1998 has declined by 2.35% in dollar terms as compared to the exports for the same period in 1997, it increased by 12.29% in rupee terms.

(b) Recessionary trend prevailing in European countries has a slow down effect on overall imports into European market. Besides, the fall in the value of East Asian currencies also had an adverse impact on Indian exports, especially in the sectors of textiles and leather manufactures.

The decline of exports of European countries in dollar terms is also attributed to slow down of Indian exports in the sectors of RMG, cotton/accessories (decline by 9.12%) cot-

ton yarn/fabrics/made-ups (decline by 13.94%), drugs/pharmaceuticals fine chemicals (decline by 5.34%), leather garments (decline by 7.80%), manmade yarn/fabrics/made-ups (decline by 14.23%), transport equipments (decline by 19.57%), leather footwear components (decline by 2.12%), dyes/intermediates and coaltar chemicals (decline by 33.06%), handmade carpet (decline by 24.60%), inorganic/organic/agro chemicals (decline by 5.20%) and finished leather (decline by 13.56%).

(c) It is the endeavour of the Government to increase export of Indian goods to foreign markets. Government is taking various steps in this direction. These include bilateral contacts with the trading partners both at official and at business level, diversification of export basket, various market promotion measures including increased participation on international trade fairs, brand promotion activities, encouraging Indian industry to re-structure themselves to meet the standards prescribed for manufactured products by large importing countries, dissemination of information relating to quality aspects, quality checks on specific manufactured products of export interest, encouraging industry and business to set up bonded warehouses and facilitating setting up of quality joint ventures. Besides, facilities available under the bilateral projects are also tapped for increasing exports of Indian goods. Specific attention as a policy is paid to effect liberalisation in various sectors of Indian economy including the Exim Policy.

[English]

Export Oriented Units

3747. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export-oriented units have been diverting goods into the domestic tariff area (DTA) under the garb of supplies of furnished goods to other export-oriented units as deemed exports;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on the defaulting export-oriented units?

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

[Translation]

Development of Handloom Sector

3748. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise details of the amount spent on the development of handloom sector during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are formulating any

scheme to improve the quality of designs for the development of handloom sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The State-wise details of the amount spent on the development of Handloom sector under various developmental schemes during last three years is shown in the statement.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has formulated the following two schemes to improve the quality of designs for the development of handloom sector viz;

(i) The "Scheme for involvement of Freelance Designers in Handlooms" have been implemented from 1996-97. The scheme provides assistance to the Freelance Designers, selected under the scheme for development of designs to improve marketability of handloom products.

(ii) The Scheme of "Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing" has been introduced from 1996-97, which has a provision for assistance for engaging foreign designers by the implementing agencies on cost-sharing basis. The scheme provides inputs for designs, product development and marketing for exports.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise details of the amount spent on the development of handloom sector during the last three years;

Sl.No.	State	Funds released		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	100.66	28.90
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2965.57	1255.85	1151.57
3.	Assam	1291.04	1422.75	1405.56
4.	Bihar	97.22	93.80	30.67
5.	Gujarat	247.10	104.71	127.18
6.	Haryana	103.38	41.73	44.35
7.	Himachal Pradesh	147.61	118.14	104.37
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	135.69	371.38	74.25
9.	Karnataka	1279.77	996.65	316.45
10.	Kerala	452.61	855.26	967.55
11.	Madhya Pradesh	299.92	626.10	172.61
12.	Maharashtra	20.08	93.24	260.92
13.	Manipur	195.83	—	190.28

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Mizoram	0.50	20.00	23.60
15.	Nagaland	848.63	1242.44	134.49
16.	Orissa	776.83	453.45	411.71
17.	Pondicherry	21.68	1.76	28.53
18.	Punjab	29.35	35.22	147.89
19.	Rajasthan	161.94	202.62	46.02
20.	Tamil Nadu	8504.10	2766.32	2299.10
21.	Tripura	110.09	63.41	57.66
22.	Uttar Pradesh	801.02	760.60	713.50
23.	West Bengal	551.44	688.85	494.63
24.	Delhi	103.82	123.24	71.47
25.	Meghalaya	1.66	—	8.56
26.	Sikkim	—	18.80	100.00
Total		14146.88	12456.98	9411.82

[English]

Amendment in I.T. Act

3749. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Members of Parliament and Tax Practitioners' Associations and non corporate assesseees to make amendments to section 288 of the IT Act of 1961 with regard to the compliance of the audit u/s 44 AB and 44 AF of the Act;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any decision on the representations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The audit of accounts requires specialised training and qualification. Therefore, it is not considered desirable to make any change in the law.

[Translation]

Reduction in Increment

3750. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of Eastern Coalfields

Limited who go to home-town are not being permitted to work immediately on their late arrival;

(b) if so, whether these workers are being permitted to work again only after cutting their annual increment;

(c) whether workers of ECL are also being terminated who are coming late by 3 months or above;

(d) if so, the number of workers whose annual increment has been cut and whose services has been terminated, separately; and

(e) whether the steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, workers in Eastern Coalfields Limited are generally permitted to resume their duties on return from leave.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

(c) Workers are subjected to disciplinary action in the event of unauthorised absence from duty as per the provisions of the Standing Order of the Company.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

Collection of Funds from Lease-Holders for Local Area Development

3751. SHRI AJIT JOGI :

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow collection of funds from the lease-holders on a Local Area Development Fund apart from the royalty paid as compensation for area development in view of environmental degradation and other losses due to mining of important minerals from the mines in Madhya Pradesh and also in other States; and

(b) if so, the time by which this provision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Evergreening of Accounts by Indian Banks

3752. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact about evergreening of accounts by Indian Banks;

(b) if so, the names of these banks and institutions identified which are involved in evergreening of accounts;

(c) the loss to national exchequer on account of this practice during the last two years; and

(d) the remedial measures taken to avoid such adoptions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) Detailed instructions have been issued by RBI to banks for classification of borrowal accounts and provisioning requirements. There are also clear guidelines and instructions for preventing 'evergreening' of borrowal accounts. As per these guidelines, the accounts, which are regularized by grant of additional facilities, cannot be treated as upgraded for Asset Classification. Similarly, it has been clarified to banks that the upgradation of NPAs into a Standard Assets should be done on the basis of genuine repayments and a solitary credit entry in the account on or before the Balance Sheet date, which regularises the account, should not be reckoned as the sole criterion for upgradation of the account as a Standard Asset. The only concession given in this regard is in cases where commercial production has not started due to reasons beyond the control of the borrowers and the terms were reshuffled.

The Statutory Auditors during audit of banks have to certify whether the classification of advances has been done properly in accordance with the guidelines issues by RBI, which would obviously cover cases where, 'evergreening' of accounts would be suspected. RBI through periodical on-site inspections critically looks into classification of advances by banks and incorrect classification of advances, including cases of evergreening of accounts, if any, is pointed out to the Bank Management. In cases of divergence in classification of advances and provisioning for NPAs between the assessment of banks and RBI Inspecting Officers, banks have been advised to make available the assessment of RBI Inspecting Officer to the Statutory Auditors during finalization of Balance Sheet for the subsequent year. The Statutory Auditors are required to take into account RBI Inspecting Officer's observations as well as further developments in the conduct of the accounts while classifying these assets and assessing provisioning requirement. These aspects are also verified by RBI Inspecting Officers during the subsequent inspections.

There is no implication of classification of assets by banks on the national exchequer.

Supply of Washed Coal with Ash Content

3753. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have expressed its inability to supply washed coal with ash content to Thermal Power plants in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee to assess the techno-economic feasibilities of washed coal for power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the growing need of coal for power plants in eco-friendly manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forest have issued notification stipulating that certain thermal power stations should use beneficiated or blended or washed coal of ash content of 34% and below on an annual average basis. Coal companies have commenced the supply of coal with the guaranteed ash content less than 34% to power stations located in the National Capital Region in order to reduce dust pollution in Delhi.

However, CIL does not have investible funds for setting up of more washeries than the existing ones to ensure supply of washed coal to thermal power stations as stipulated by Ministry of Environment and Forest. CIL had tried to set up four washeries with an annual capacity of 20 million tonnes under built-own-operate basis through global bidding. But on account of reluctance on the part of customers on payment of washing charges, no progress could be made in the matter. CIL had already advised the power utilities that they may construct their own washery or get washery constructed by the third party for which Coal India would provide them necessary assistance by way of land, water, power, coal etc. for the purpose.

(c) and (d) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has intimated that they have constituted a steering Committee under the Chairmanship of chairman CPCB to direct and supervise a study, with the support of world Bank, on use of beneficiated coal by selected power utilities with effect from June 2001 and to integrate clean coal technologies in the selected existing plant design.

(e) The following steps have been taken by Coal India Ltd., to ensure supply of coal to the power plants in Eco-friendly manner:-

(i) Constructed a washery for non-coking coal at Piparwar, CCL (6.5 mty capacity).

(ii) The coking coal washery at Gidi, CCL (2 mty capacity) has been converted into non-coking coal washery.

(iii) Constructed a washery for non-coking coal at Bina, NCL (4.5 mty capacity).

As an alternative to production and supply of washed coal, CIL had undertaken a detailed study regarding use of blended coal which may provide more cost effective solution. In this direction, CMPDIL has carried out a comparative techno-economic study comparing the cost of blending vis-a-vis washing in case of a select thermal power station (Ropar TPS) in the Northern Zone.

Permanent Exhibition Centre Near Bangalore

3754. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the proposal from the Government of Karnataka for setting up of a permanent exhibition centre at Whitefield, Bangalore on the lines of Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi; .

(b) if so, the cost of the above proposal;

(c) whether the above Centre would be set up through a joint venture company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the contribution of the Karnataka Government for the above project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (e) The Central Government is not setting up permanent exhibition centres in any State. However, the Government is encouraging State Governments, including the Government of Karnataka, to undertake such projects for helping regional industrial units to promote their products. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of Karnataka and ITPO for setting up an Exhibition Complex at Bangalore through a joint venture company . The cost of the project is presently estimated at Rs. 200 crores out of which the Government of Karnataka's share of Rs. 10.00 crores will be in the form of 50 acres of developed land including infrastructure. ITPO's equity contribution will be Rs.10 crores.

Import of Silk

3755. SHRI JAYARAMA I. M. SHETTY :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to withdraw notification permitting import of silk;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto ;

(c) the impact of the sericulture industry by permitting the import of silk;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage indigenous sericulture industry in the country ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Karnataka had recently written to the Minister of Textiles not to permit import of silk except under Duty Exemption Scheme. CM, Karnataka has been apprised that due to non-availability of adequate quantity of superior quality silk in the country, the Government has permitted import of only Grade 2 A & above mulberry raw silk under SIL with the condition that the CIF value of the surrendered SIL is three times the value of the imported items. Weavers Association have written to the Government welcoming the above decision of the Government. Till date, there has been no negative impact on the domestic sericulture sector.

(d) and (e) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of Schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural and extension support to the sector through network of CBS's units and implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk.

Closure of Blended Yarn Spinning Industry

3756. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of units in the blended yarn spinning industry have been closed down;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) As on 31.1.1999, 4 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills were permanently closed under industrial Disputes Act; 48 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills were closed under Liquidation, and 246 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills were reported to be closed temporarily mainly due to financial difficulties, strike/labour problems, lock out etc. Data on closure of blended yarn producing units is not maintained separately. A Statement indicating the State-wise details is attached.

(c) Government has established Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act,1985 to tackle the problems of sickness.

Statement

State-wise No. of cotton/man-made fibre textile mills closed under I.D.Act/ Under liquidation etc. as on 31.1.1999.

Sr.No.	State	Under ID Act	Under liquidation	Otherwise closed	Total
1.	Andhara Pradesh	2	0	27	29
2.	Assam	0	0	4	4
3.	Bihar	0	0	3	3
4.	Gujarat	0	35	36	71
5.	Haryana	0	0	9	9
6.	Karnataka	0	2	12	14
7.	Kerala	0	0	3	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1	0	9	10
9.	Maharashtra	0	6	22	28
10.	Orissa	0	0	2	2
11.	Punjab	0	1	3	4
12.	Rajasthan	1	1	7	9
13.	Tamil Nadu	0	3	69	72
14.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	21	21
15.	West Bengal	0	0	15	15
16.	Delhi	0	0	3	3
17.	Manipur	0	0	1	1
Total		4	48	246	298

Misuse of Funds by Bank of Rajasthan

3757. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has rapped Bank of Rajasthan for misuse of funds and have inspected the books of that Bank;

(b) if so, the specific cases of misuse of funds and the action taken thereon alongwith outcome of the inspection; and

(c) the manner in which the situation is compared with other private sector banks and the number of banks in which similar instances of misuse of funds have come to light ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the findings of the Financial Inspections of the Bank of Rajasthan Ltd. with reference to its financial position as on 31.3.1997 and 31.3.1998 were discussed with the Managing Director and few members of the Bank's Board. The bank was impressed upon to rectify the serious irregularities observed in its working. The bank was also advised to draw a monitorable time bound programme for recovery of non-performing advances (NPA). The bank has been placed under Directions covering various areas of its functioning and the performance is watched by quarterly monitoring system and off-site returns in addition to regular Annual Inspection.

After issuing a show cause notice to the bank and obtaining its response, RBI had imposed Rs. 20 lacs as penalty for violating RBI instructions on bill discounting scheme, purchase of cheques, advances against shares and packing credit advances.

(c) RBI has reported that instances of banks being penalised for similar irregularities such as discounting of Bills for non-customers, advance against shares etc. in the case of two other private sector banks. In addition, action has been taken by RBI against 10 other private sector banks for defaults in the maintenance of statutory ratios, violation of guidelines relating to stockinvest and non-compliance of other instructions issued by the RBI.

Production and Export of Tea

3758. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea produced in the North and South India during each of the last three years ;

(b) per capita consumption of tea in the country ;

(c) the surplus quantity of tea available for exports;

(d) the details of the major countries importing Indian tea and the foreign exchange earned through exports during the above period ;

(e) whether there is any proposal to import tea from Sri Lanka ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The quantity of tea produced in the North and South India during the last three years are as follows :

Year	(Qty in Mn. Kgs.)	
	North India	South India
1995-96	577.55	183.99
1996-97	588.60	186.70
1997-98	625.52	212.50

(b) The estimated per capita consumption of tea during 1998 was 665 gms.

(c) The surplus quantity of tea available for exports during the year 1998 was 225.41 Mn.Kgs.

(d) Indian tea is exported to more than 80 countries of the world. Major importers of India tea are Russia and C I S countries, UK, Germany, Poland, U.A.E., Iran, Arab Republic of Egypt, Japan, Saudi Arabia etc. The foreign exchange earned through exports during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Qty. (Mn.Kgs)	Value (US \$ Mn.)
1995-96	167.47	372.08
1996-97	169.04	366.62
1997-98	211.76	525.74

(e) and (f) Government has permitted free import of tea, as one of the 2307 items, from SAARC Countries in order to give a fillip to intra-regional trade.

Decline in Cotton Yarn

3759. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of Cotton yarn in 1998-99 has shown a decline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for modernisation of textile mills to stand in competition ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) As per the data available upto December 1998, the production of cotton yarn had declined. The figures of production of cotton yarn are given below :-

Year	Quantity (Mn. Kg.)
1998-99(April-Dec)	1494
1997-98(April-Dec.)	1693

(b) The major reasons for decline in the production of Cotton yarn are World wide recession in the economy; South East Asian crisis; decline in production of Cotton crop during 1997-98 due to disease and unseasonal rains ; increase in price of raw cotton etc.

(c) Government have approved the launching of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for technological upgradation of the textile and jute industries. Under the Scheme, eligible units from identified sector of textile and jute sectors would be able to apply for loans at applicable rate of interest from designated nodal agencies, which after satisfying themselves, as regards viability etc.

would advance loan to applicant unit stipulating the condition for repayment of loan etc. Under the scheme difference in the amount of interest to the extent of 5% points would be reimbursed to the lending nodal agencies by the Ministry of Textiles to be passed on to the eligible borrowing units.

The Government is also proposing to launch a Cotton Technology Mission to improve the production productivity and quality of cotton.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Retired Persons

3760. Dr. PRABHA THAKUR :

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan have flayed the Government for not setting up the committee in time to release the production incentives/subsidy to the workers of certain NTC mills of Rajasthan who took voluntary retirement and started their own business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have directed the concerned authorities to release immediately production incentives/ subsidy alongwith interest to such retired workers of NTC;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon by the concerned authorities and the number of workers benefited therefrom, mill-wise, alongwith the amount of subsidies given;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay ; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that production incentives/subsidy is provided to such NTC workers immediately?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Some of the former workers of mills under NTC (DPR) who had availed VSR and who had been given loans under rehabilitation scheme had filed a writ petition before the Jaipur Bench of Rajasthan High Court requesting for production incentives/subsidy. The Rajasthan High court dismissed the writ petition as the Union of India had not been made a party. The Court, however, directed the mill authorities to forward a copy of the judgement to the Government for re-consideration of the whole rehabilitation scheme.

(c) to (f) The rehabilitation scheme for the workers who availed the VRS was formulated as part of the 1992 Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills. However, on account of the fact that 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC were referred to the BIFR and the financial institutions were reluctant to release

funds for implementation of the strategy, the 1992 Turn Around Strategy could not be implemented. Subsequently, Government approved a revised Turn Around Plan for NTC in May 1995 which also could not be implemented due to non-approval of the same by BIFR and non-availability of funds by sale of surplus lands and assets required to finance the plan. Since the entire question of revival /rehabilitation of NTC mills was under re-examination, the question of release of production incentives by locating funds from the NRF after evaluation of the schemes implemented by the workers by Monitoring Committee could not be finalised. Presently, the rehabilitation scheme is dormant and the question of deciding the pending claims is being examined separately.

[English]

New Variety of Tobacco Seedling

3761. DR. SANJAY SINH :

SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :

SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has scrutinised the application of US tobacco Multi-National Philip Morris/FTR for entry into India to make tobacco products ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board has given permission to Philip Morris to introduce new varieties of tobacco seedlings;

(d) if so, whether these new varieties of seedling have been tested by our experts;

(e) if so, the details of the proposal of Philip Morris on such aspects;

(f) whether the company has also sought mandatory membership with Tobacco Board; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Tobacco Board has not received any application from the US tobacco Multi National Philip Morris/ FTR for entry into India to make tobacco products. However, an application for Foreign Direct Investment in manufacture of cut tobacco, Research and Development of tobacco in India has been received from M/s FTR Holding, S.A. Switzerland, a holding company of M/s Philip Morris, USA.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Debt Recovery Tribunals

3762. SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR :

SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Debt Recovery Tribunals established so far, State-wise;

(b) the total number of cases pending with each Tribunal ;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more such tribunals in the near future ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for speedy and efficient disposal of cases by these tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Details of Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) established so far, States/Union Territories covered by them and total number of cases pending with each Tribunal as on 31.3.1999 is given in statement.

(c) to (e) Government have decided to set up five more DRTs as under :

Sl No.	Place of Tribunal	Jurisdiction
1.	Chandigarh	Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh.
2.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Ernakulam	Kerala and Lakshadweep
4.	Cuttack	Orissa
5.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh

Government have sanctioned 10 additional posts for each DTR during 1997-98 for their smooth functioning and speedy and efficient disposal of cases by the Tribunals.

Statement

Statement showing the details of Debts Recovery Tribunals established so far, States/UTs covered by them and total number of cases pending with each Tribunal as on 31.3.1999.

Sl No.	Place of the Tribunal and date of establishment	Jurisdiction	No. of cases pending as on 31.3.1999
1.	Calcutta (27-4-1994)	West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3132
2.	Delhi (5-7-1994)	National Capital Territory of Delhi	2515
3.	Jaipur (30-8-1994)	Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and U.T. of Chandigarh	1534
4.	Bangalore (30-11-1994)	Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh	3384
5.	Ahemdabad (21-12-1996)	Gujarat and Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu.	2022
6.	Chennai(4-11-1996)	Tamilnadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep	4809
7.	Guwahati(7-1-1997)	Assam, Sikkim and other North Eastern States.	328
8.	Patna (22-1-1997)	Bihar and Orissa	1003
9.	Jabalpur (7-4-1998)	Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh	2666
10.	Mumbai (Yet to be set up)	Maharashtra and Goa	NA

Revenue Collection

3763. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of revenue collected by the end of 1998-99 with details;

(b) the net shortfall in revenue collection during that financial year;

(c) the reasons for shortfall; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the revenue target fixed for next year ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) The provisional figures of revenue collected through major Central taxes during 1998-99 and shortfall in collection against Revised Estimates, are as under :-

(Rupees in crores)

Tax	Revised Estimates	Collection (Provisional)*	Shortfall
Central Excise	52925	52187	738
Customers corporation Tax	42648	40917	1731
Income Tax	27050	23608	3442
	21430	19420	2010
Total	144053	136132	7921

* (The intimations of revenue collection for a particular year continue to be received in the month following the close of the financial year. Hence the actual collection figures for 1998-99 will exceed the provisional figures reported here.)

(c) Fall in international prices of several imported commodities and sluggish growth in domestic manufacturing sector are the main reasons for shortfall in the collection of taxes.

(d) Revenue Collection is monitored continuously and all possible measures including gearing up of administrative machinery, computerisation of field formations, etc. are being taken to achieve the targets fixed for the year 1999-2000.

Growth of Export

3764. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the trade data for the first eight months of the current fiscal year which revealed the negative growth in India's major export sectors viz; the traditional sectors;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revamp these sectors and encourage those which are showing signs of revival; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Provisional disaggregated data from DGCI & S for exports for the period April-December, 1998 show that major sectors registering positive growth include plantation, leather and manufacture, gems and jewellery and handicrafts while the sectors showing a decline include

agriculture and allied products, marine products, chemical and related products, engineering goods and textiles. The decline in exports has primarily been due to world wide recession, South East Asian crisis and a fall in unit of exports.

(b) and (c) A number of steps were taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction of transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. The revised Exim Policy has announced additional facilities for gems and jewellery, chemicals, textiles, marine products and electronics sectors. The new initiatives include making a provision for annual advance licences, imparting flexibility to the Duty Exemption Scheme, extending the benefit of zero duty EPCG scheme at lower threshold limit to a number of sub-sectors, and adding a new chapter on export of services. Export promotion is a continuous process and measures are being taken on the basis of feedback from trade and industry associations.

[Translation]

Ground Levelling by South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. in Madhya Pradesh

3765. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the S.E.C.L. is not paying attention towards the levelling of ground after mining coal in Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh and due to which thousands of acres of land is destroying and the water coming from the coal mines is polluting the rivers, farms and destroying the forests also;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir. South Eastern Coalfields Limited is fully committed and is carrying out levelling of ground after mining of coal by opencast method. Mine water is being discharged in the water courses only after treatment and the quality of the water conforms to the laid down standards. The quality of water being discharged is monitored by regular analysis.

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

Issue for Licences for Opium Cultivation

3766. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether relaxation in the eligibility condition of minimum yield has been given to the farmers engaged in opium cultivation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the names of the districts and the number of farmers to whom licences have been issued in Uttar Pradesh; and
(d) the eligibility for acquiring such licences?

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

(b) As per Government of India's opium policy notified on 8th October 1997, a Minimum Qualifying Yield (MQY) of 52 kgs. per hect. in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and 42 kgs. per hect. in Uttar Pradesh was required to be tendered during the crop year 1997-98 in order to become eligible for opium licence in the crop year 1998-99. However, in view of large scale damage to poppy crops reported in the crop year 1997-98, the MQY for licence in the crop year 1998-99 was reviewed and fixed at 30 kgs. per hect. for Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan as well as U.P. in terms of the opium policy notified on September 16, 1998. Further, old poppy cultivators who had tendered an average yield of 30 kgs. per hectare or more during 1990-91 to 1996-97 would be considered for grant of licences in the crop year 1998-99.

(c) 23622 cultivators in Barabanki, Faizabad, Ghazipur, Mau, Lucknow, Rai Bareilly, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur and Budaun districts of Uttar Pradesh have been issued licences.

(d) The following main categories of cultivators were, inter-alia, eligible to acquire licences for opium cultivation in UP for the crop year 1998-99.

(a) Cultivators who tendered an average yield of not less than 30 kg. per hectare during the crop year 1997-98.

(b) Cultivators who ploughed back their entire poppy cultivation during the crop year 1997-98 under supervision of the Government.

(c) Old poppy cultivators who had tendered an average yield of 30 kg per hectare or more during the crop year 1990-91 to 1996-97 to specified conditions.

The copy of the notification detailing eligibility conditions for acquiring such licences is enclosed as annexure to this reply.

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(Department of Revenue)**

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 16th September, 1998

1/1998—Narcotics Control

G.S.R. 582 (E) : In pursuance of rule 8 of the Narcotics Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Rules 1985, the Central Government hereby notifies the general conditions for grant of licences specified below for cultivation of opium poppy on account of the Central Government during the opium crop year commencing on the 1st day of October, 1998 and ending with the 30th day of September, 1999.

Preamble

The Government of India —

Considering the indispensable medicinal use of opium, Recognising its role as the solicit supplier of this raw material to meet the global requirement for opiates.

Conscious of the necessity to prevent and combat drug trafficking drug abuse and narco-terrorism, hereby lays down the following general conditions for the grant of licences for opium cultivation for the crop year 1998-99.

1. **Places of Cultivation :-** Poppy cultivation may licensed in any tracts as may be notified in this behalf by the Central Government.
2. **Eligibility for Cultivation :-** Cultivators who tendered an average yield of not less than 30 Kgs/hectare in the State of M.P., Rajasthan and U.P. during the crop year 1997-98 shall be eligible for licence.

Provided that, the qualifying yield of 30kgs./hectare shall not be applicable to the cultivators of the following categories:

- (i) Who ploughed back their entire poppy cultivation during the crop year 1997-98 under supervision of the Government ;
- (ii) Whose appeal against refusal of licence had been allowed after the last date for settlement in the crop year 1997-98; or
- (iii) Who cultivated poppy in 1996-97 and were eligible for licence in 1997-98 but did not voluntarily obtain licence for any reason or who after having obtained licence in the crop year 1997-98 did not cultivate poppy.

Provided further that this clause shall not be applicable to those cultivators who did not sow opium poppy in the crop year 1997-98 and returned their licence to the department.

3. **Conditions of Licence :-** No cultivator shall be granted licence unless he/she satisfies that :-
 - (a) He/She did not exceed the area licensed and measured for poppy cultivation during the previous year.
 - (b) He/She did not at any time resort to illicit cultivation or was not involved in any offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Rules made thereunder
 - (c) During the crop year 1997-98 he/she did not violate any departmental instructions or had not adulterated his/her opium.
4. **New licences :-** (a) The old poppy cultivators who had tendered an average yield of 30kgs./hectare or more during the crop year 1990-91 to 1996-97 shall be considered for grant of licence in the crop year 1998-99.

Provided that cultivators delicensed under para 2 above shall not be considered eligible for licence under this clause.

(b) Subject to the conditions to be prescribed by the Narcotics Comissioner, limited applications for new licences may also be considered from those villages which tendered high opium yield during the crop year 1996-97

5. **Maximum area :-** The minimum area to be allotted to each eligible applicant shall be 20 ares; however the cultivators shall be given an option to apply for larger areas of 30, 40 and 50 ares subject to the condition that they had fully utilized the area allotted to them in the past. The area opted for should be sown fully failing which the licence for the next crop year shall be cancelled.

A cultivator can sow opium poppy in more than one plot but each plot should be less than 10 ares.

6. **Condonable Limit :-** The condonable limit in respect of excess cultivation shall not exceed 5% of the licenced area and measured ares.
7. **Minimum Qualifying Yield in the crop year 1998-99 :-** A minimum qualifying yield of 52 kg/hectare in Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan and 42 kgs/hectare in Uttar Pradesh must be tendered during the crop year 1998-99 to become eligible for opium licence in the following year.
8. **Miscellaneous :-** (i) These instructions are without prejudice to the right of the Narcotics Commissioner/Deputy Narcotics Commissioner to issue/withold a licence whenever it is deemed proper so to do in accordance with the provisions of the Narcotics Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Rules made thereunder.
 - (ii) The quantity of opium mentioned above will be calculated at 70 degree consistence, on factory analysis.

[No.1/98F.No.616/1/98-NARCOTICS CONTROL]

RAMESH KUMAR, Under Secy.

[English]

Non-Banking Financial Companies Using the Name of RBI

3767. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that some Non-Banking Financial Companies using RBI name in their advertisements while mobilising deposits from the public;
- (b) if so, the names of such Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(c) whether the RBI has permitted such NBFCs for the same; and

(d) if not, the action taken by RBI against such companies during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a), (b) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) have used RBI's name in advertisements and pamphlet issued by them for mobilising deposits from the public. The names of such NBFCs and the action taken against them are given in statement.

(c) In terms of directions issued under the provision of the RBI Act, RBI have informed the NBFCs that if any of them desires to indicate directly or indirectly in any advertisement etc. that the company is having a certificate of registration issued by RBI such advertisement should invariably contain a statement to the effect that the company is having a

valid certificate of registration issued by the RBI under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and that the Reserve Bank of India does not accept any responsibility or guarantee about the present position as to the financial soundness of the company or for the correctness of any of the Statements or presentations made or opinions expressed by the company and for repayment of deposits or discharge of liability by the company. The companies have been informed that non compliance of this requirement would attract action against erring NBFCs. In order to generate public awareness, RBI has also issued a press note cautioning the NBFCs against the unauthorised use of RBI's name by NBFCs and also making it clear to the general public that a certificate of registration issued to the an NBFC would simply enable an NBFC to commence or carry on financial business including the acceptance of deposits, and that the responsibility for payment of the principal and interest is that of the NBFC. The press note has, interalia, clarified that such deposits are not guaranteed or insured by Government, RBI or any other public agency.

Statement

Sr.No	Name of the Company	Action taken
1.	M/s Ennoble India Savings & Investment Company Ltd, Bellary(Karnataka)	Hubli branch of the company had issued a pamphlet in Kannada indicative of RBI securing/guaranteeing repayment of deposits of the Company. The matter was taken up with the company which has reported to have withdrawn such pamphlets from its branches and has also advised them suitably.
2.	Franzaan Capital Ltd. Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	RBI issued an advertisement in the local newspaper alerting the general public. The company is being subjected to detailed inspection so as to ascertain the exact position of acceptance of deposits and further action would follow in the light of the inspection findings.
3.	Minnar Leasing Finance Ltd, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	-do-
4.	Gryt.Finance & Investment Ltd. Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)	The Company had not applied to RBI for issue of Certificate of Registration. A snap scrutiny of its books was conducted. The company has now submitted a letter indicating its decision to stop its business forthwith.
5.	Transworld Hire Purchase India Ltd. Kollam (Kerala)	The Managing Director of the company was called by the RBI and was admonished for the deceptive publicity and penal action that could be taken against him was also brought to his notice. He has tendered apologies assuring compliance of RBI Directions in future.
6.	Asra India Savings & Investment Ltd. Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) (Also Asra India, Bhubaneswar Orissa)	In the brochure/pamphlet seeking deposits issued by Asra India Bhubaneswar, the address of the Head Office given was that of Asra India Savings & Investment Ltd, Hyderabad. The application of the company for issue of Certificate of Registration is under process for rejection for various serious irregularities noticed in its working.
7.	Endowment Investments (India) Ltd. Chandigarh (Union territory of Chandigarh)	The company had commenced business before obtaining a Certificate of Registration from RBI. In its brochure for mobilising deposits it has been indicated that the repayment of deposits was guaranteed by RBI. RBI has filed a criminal case against the company.
8.	Helion Finance & Investment Corporation Ltd. Patna (Bihar)	The application for issue of Certificate of Registration of the company has been rejected on August 10, 1998 for various irregularities noticed in its working.

Privatisation of STC and its Subsidiaries

3768. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the recommendations of Disinvestment Board to privatise the affairs of State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and its subsidiaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEDGE) : (a) and (b) No Sir.

Fifth Pay Commission

3769. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government have approached the Union Government for Central assistance on account of revision of pay scales made by the States of their employees after the revision of pay scales of Central Government employees on the basis of recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of Central assistance sought by each State;

(c) whether Sikkim and Special category States are being accorded any special consideration on this account;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the Central assistance provided to each State so far ?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) to (e) An official committee is being constituted in the Planning Commission to formulate State specific medium term fiscal reform policy linked to a package of immediate assistance to States. The Committee will consider all relevant issues pertaining to their fiscal position, including additional burden on account of implementation of 5th Pay Commission recommendations. The Committee will work out a separate package for special category States. In the meanwhile, discussions are being held in the Ministry of Finance with the States that have approached for immediate assistance.

Statement

Requests received from State Governments seeking additional financial assistance from the Central Government in connection with revision of the Pay of their employees.

S.No.	State	Request
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs.1500 crore per annum as grant-in-aid.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 100 crores for the year 1998-99 as 50% outright grant and 50% Interest free Loan.
3.	Assam	Rs. 700 crore per year upto year 2000 as grant.
4.	Bihar	50% as grant of Rs.8000 crore projected for the 9th Five Year Plan on salary may be met by Govt. of India.
5.	Goa	Rs. 50 crore as Ways and Means Advance for the year 1997-98.
6.	Gujarat	Grant-in-aid to meet the extra burden in the range of Rs.2000 crore to Rs.2200 crore for the year 1997-98 including arrears and Rs.800 crores-Rs.1000 crore per annum thereafter.
7.	Haryana	Additional Central assistance of Rs. 500 cr. as annual requirement and Rs. 1200 crore for the payment of arrears etc; modality may be worked out in a meeting of Chief Ministers.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs.800 crore as outright grant or 90% grant and 10% loan or as long term loan.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 50 crores as additional central assistance for 1996-97 and Rs. 800 crores as a additional central assistance for 1997-98.
10.	Karnataka	Rs.1400 crore per annum. 50% of this amount may be provided as grant.
11.	Kerala	(i) A grant of an amount equivalent to 50% of the incremental expenditure on account of Pay/Pension revision.

1	2	3
	(ii)	An interest free advance equivalent to the total annual commitment on account of Pay/Pension revision.
12.	Maharashtra	Rs.5000 crore per annum and Rs. 8000 crore by way of arrear.
13.	Manipur	Rs. 74 crore per annum and Rs.112 crore for arrear payment in the shape of matching financial assistance.
14.	Meghalaya	Rs.95 crore per annum and Rs.155 crore for 1997-98 as grant-in-aid.
15.	Mizoram	50% of the additional monthly burden of Rs.5 to 6 crore may be borne by the Central Government.
16.	Nagaland	Rs. 240 crores annually.
17.	Orissa	Annual liability would be around Rs.700 crores for revision of Pay scales of State Government's employees. Central Assistance for this may be provided.
18.	Punjab	50% of the additional annual burden of Rs. 660 crore may be borne by the Central Government.
19.	Rajasthan	Rs. 1200 crore annually in the shape of grant-in-aid / interest free medium term loan/ ways and means advance from RBI at 'zero' rate interest.
20.	Sikkim	Rs. 100 crore as Central assistance.
21.	Tripura	Rs. 350 crore for the year 1997-98 as special grant-in-aid.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Additional resources of Rs. 2000 crore annually.
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Special central assistance to the extent of extra expenditure.
24.	West Bengal	50% of the additional burden of Rs. 2500 crore annually as grant from the Central Government.

[Translation]

Revival of CCI

3770. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the revival scheme for the Cement Corporation of India has been under consideration of the Government for eight months after the recommendation of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR);

(b) whether the Government propose to revive Cement Corporation of India (CCI);

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in this regard ;

(d) the action being taken by the Government in regard to those thousands of labourers who are on the verge of unemployment and starvation due to the passive attitude of the Government towards the revival scheme;

(e) whether the action is being taken in regard to selling out viable units instead of non-viable units which is against the recommendation of the B.I.F.R. ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) BIFR had circulated a Draft Revival Scheme (DRS) for the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) on 12 June 1998. After considering the views of the various state holders the BIFR observed on 1 March, 1999 that the DRS circulated earlier was no longer valid and that it would circulate a new DRS. Government will finalise its stand once the new DRS is circulated by BIFR.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Sale of any unit would be carried out only with the approval of BIFR.

[English]

Import of Silk

3771. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of factors which prompted the Government to lift ban on import of silk/raw silk recently;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the decision will hit the indigenous silk-weavers/cottage industries; and

(c) if so, the justification of such a decision and the steps taken to protect the interests of domestic industry ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Import of silk continues to be in the restricted list. For exporters the facility of importing silk under the Duty Exemption Scheme is available. In addition, to meet the demand for superior quality mulberry raw silk, the Government have decided to allow import of only Grade 2A and above mulberry raw silk under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the condition that the CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value of the surrendered SIL shall be three times the value of the imported goods.

- (b) Till date there has been no adverse impact.
 (c) Does not arise.

Amendment in Chit Funds Act, 1982

3772. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka regarding amendment of Section 20 of the Chit Funds Act, 1982 as per the direction issued by Karnataka High Court in response to the writ petition No. 17110/84;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) the date since when the proposal is lying pending with the Union Government;
 (d) the reasons for delay in taking the decision; and
 (e) the time by which the decision on the proposal is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in Writ Petition No. 17110/84 had directed that the provision of Section 20 of the Chit Funds Act, 1982 may be amended so as to provide for release of interest on the securities given by the foreman. After examining the matter it was felt that it may not be necessary to amend Section 20 of the Chit Funds Act, 1982 but only to amend the rules framed thereunder to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Court. It was therefore, suggested to the State Government of Karnataka in the year 1990 to arrange to amend Rule 16 which deals with 'Procedure for release of security' by inserting a suitable sub-clause so as to enable the Registrar to release the security together with interest, if any, accrued thereon, and remaining unpaid.

(c) to (e) The administration of the Act is governed through the Rules framed by the State Governments in consultation with RBI. Therefore, necessary steps for amendment to the Rules need to be initiated by the State Governments. RBI have further reported that the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Government of Karnataka has been releasing the security deposit to the foreman together with interest on the deposit in terms of the Hon'ble High Court's order.

[Translation]

Celebration of Golden Jubilee Year of Official Language

3773. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Implementation Committee has been constituted to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Official Language; and
 (b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be constituted alongwith the details of schemes for celebration in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, necessary directives have been issued to all the Offices/Undertakings/Boards etc. under the administrative control of the Ministry, to organise various Hindi programmes to celebrate the Golden Jubilee Year of the Official Language. These programmes include— (1) organising Hindi Workshops to remove the hesitation of the Hindi knowing employees to work in Hindi; (2) emphasising on training in Hindi, Hindi Typewriting and Hindi Stenography; (3) making the best use of all the trained employees; (4) organising Official Language conferences; and (5) increasing the use of Hindi on Computers etc.

[English]

Revival Strategy of Central Coalfields Limited

3774. SHRI M. RAJAI AH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Coalfields Limited has prepared any revival strategy; and
 (b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) No revival strategy has so far been prepared by the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). However, the Board of Directors of CCL in their meeting held on 17.2.99 have considered following measures for improving the financial position and coal production of the company:

- (i) Consolidation of the capacity of the coking coal washeries of CCL for washing of 7 million tonnes of raw coking coal per year.
 (ii) Washing of non-coking coal through the washeries at Kargali, Gidi and Piparwar to achieve reduction of ash content of washed non-coking coal.
 (iii) Increasing production level substantially.

Credit Plan for Maharashtra

3775. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to review bank credit plans adopted in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have noticed declining trend in public investment in agriculture sector in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed to be taken to enhance the investment in agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Banks prepare Annual Credit Plans (ACP) for each district every year for increasing the flow of credit to the priority sector including agricultural sector in the rural and semi-urban areas and implementation thereof is monitored by various fora under the Lead Bank Scheme viz. Block Level Bankers Committee (BLBC) at the Block Level, District Consultative Committee (DCC) at the district level and State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) at the State level. The Annual Credit Plan for a district is prepared inter alia, taking into account availability of bankable schemes and potential for lending in the area. Bank of Maharashtra, the Convenor bank for SLBC of Maharashtra has reported that Annual Credit Plan of Maharashtra is reviewed regularly by State Level Bankers' Committee comprising of officials of the State Government and bankers.

(c) and (d) The achievements by banks under Annual Credit Plan in Maharashtra for lending to agricultural sector for the last three years are as given below :

Year	(Rs. in crore) Achievements
1996-97	2325.28
1997-98	2654.09
1998-99 (Upto December 1998)	2470.45

It will be seen from the above that lending to Agriculture sector in Maharashtra has shown an increasing trend. Several steps have also been taken by Government and Reserve Bank of India to ensure adequate and timely flow of credit to agriculture sector which include, inter alia, that minimum 18 per cent of Net Bank Credit should be in agriculture Sector, setting up of Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) from contribution from commercial banks for speedy implementation of projects relating to rural infrastructure and enhancing the aggregate limits to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under RBI's concessional line of credit from Rs.3350 crore in 1991-92 to Rs.5700 crore in 1997-98.

[Translation]

Black Money

3776. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to formulate any new Scheme to bring out black money; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

Benefits to the Manufacturers of Hot Coil Steel

3777. SHRI C. D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the DGFT has issued a notification giving undue benefit to the manufacturers of Hot Coil Steel by way of fixing floor price at U.S. dollar 302 (Rs. 17,855) per metric tonne;
- (b) if so, whether this material is available at Rs. 13,200/- per metric tonne in the international market;
- (c) if so, whether this notification will result in the additional payment of Rs. 4750/- per metric tonne to the Hot Coil manufacturers; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to avoid an unavoidable scam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) DGFT vide a Notification dated 10/11 December, 1998 fixed floor prices for seven items of finished steel. The floor price of HR Coils was fixed at US \$ 302 per metric tonne. The floor prices were based on prevailing average international prices from non-dumping sources. No undue benefit has accrued to domestic HR coils producers as a result of the floor prices.

- (b) The international prices of finished steel items are determined by market forces of demand and supply and exchange rates which vary from time to time. The international prices also vary according to the specification, thickness, grade and category of finished steel.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

Iron Ore Mines

3778. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the handling of rejection of iron ore mines is a problem because no place is available for its storing;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available the land for its storing;

(c) whether these rejects contain any minerals;

(d) if so, whether any research work has been done to recover minerals from such rejects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Production/Purchase of Tin Plates

3779. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of tin plates in different plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last three years;

(b) the total tin plates purchased by the Indian Delco Limited of Delhi and K.S. Oil Limited of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether the small manufacturers of tin containers could not reap the benefit of discount schemes launched for the sale of tin plates; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Electrolytic tin plates in SAIL are produced only at Rourkela Steel Plant and the total production of tin plates during last three years has been as follows :

Sl.No.	Name of the company	Amount in USD-Million	Remarks
1.	M/s Sterlite Industries Ltd.	81.00	Extension granted by RBI to retain up to August 1999.
2.	M/s Telco Ltd.	64.00	Extension granted by RBI to retain up to December 1999.
3.	M/s TISCO Ltd.	1.33	Extension granted by RBI to retain up to October 1999.
4.	Tata Electric companies	292.88	Under consideration by RBI.
5.	M/s Reliance Industries Ltd.	1262.75	The request has not been acceded to and has been advised by RBI on 03.04.1999 to repatriate these proceeds immediately. The representation of the company against this order is under consideration.

Import of Raw Silk

3781. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of raw silk and cocoon have fallen between 15 to 20 per cent during the last few months;

(Unit '000T)	
Year	Tin Plates Production
1996-97	13.4
1997-98	28.6
1998-99	30.0

(b) M/s Indian Delco Limited of Delhi and M/s K.S.Oil Limited of Madhya Pradesh have purchased tin plates from SAIL in 1997-98 and 1998-99. It may not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to disclose any further details.

(c) It is not true that the small manufacturers of tin containers could not reap the benefit of discount schemes launched for the sale of tin plates.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Violation of External Commercial Borrowing Rules

3780. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indian companies are violating the existing norms in retaining their External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) abroad ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) RBI monitors the holding of External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) proceeds abroad by the borrowing entities pending utilisation for approved end uses and has been issuing appropriate instructions in this regard from time to time after periodical reviews.

There are instances where companies have sought permission to retain ECB proceeds beyond one year pending utilisation for approved end-uses. RBI examines reasons for extension in period based on exigencies, while considering the requests on merits before granting extensions. The instructions issued by RBI on such current requests are as follows :-

(b) whether the farmers in Karnataka have started uprooting mulberry bushes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government regarding the problems of farmers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The prices of raw silk fluctuates from time to time. There has been marginal decrease in the prices of raw silk and cocoons in the last few months.

(b) and (c) Uprooting of mulberry bushes does take place from time to time depending on market conditions of different agricultural commodities. No authentic report has been received regarding recent uprooting of mulberry bushes in Karnataka.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received representations from different quarters in Karnataka seeking reversal of Government's decision to permit import of raw silk under Special Import License (SIL). The Government have also received representations from Weavers Association commending the Government for permitting such import under SIL.

Decline in Mica Mines

3782. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mica mines have declined from 800 to 30 in recent years and resulting a number of workers became unemployed;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government for revival of mica mining industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per the information available with the Indian Bureau of Mines during the last ten years the total number of mica mines in the country have declined from 148 in 1988-89 to 54 in 1997-98. Similarly, average daily employment of labour in these mica mines has also declined from 3105 to 1002 in the corresponding years.

(b) The main reasons for declining trend in mica industry are : (i) lack of demand for Indian sheet mica in international market due to development of substitute for mica; (ii) mica mines are not economically viable; (iii) inadequacy of exploration work; and (iv) availability of large size sheet mica in mines has become scarce.

(c) From time to time, the Government of India have set up Working Groups/Committees on mica to investigate problems of the mica industry. The Working Group for surveying present and future demands of mica in India and High Power Committee on mica were set up which have submitted

reports during 1989 and 1990, respectively. As per these reports, unless the demand for mica in domestic and international markets improve, the scope of revival of mica industry in the country will continue to be rather limited. For improving the viability of internal consumption as well as export, Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has set up value added mica products units such as (i) silvered mica and capacitors ; (ii) micronised mica powder; (iii) mica paper based on mechanical disintegration process and (iv) mica paper based insulating material plant.

Further Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) officers visit mica mines for guidance and proper mine development. IBM has carried out research and development activities such as : (i) identify guides for location of mica shoots; (ii) model mining plan has been prepared for mica mines which is available for reference of mine owners at regional offices of IBM at Ajmer, Nellore and Ranchi. IBM has also circulated separate guidelines for preparation of Mining Plans for mica mines.

Duty Draw Back Racket in Garment Export

3783. SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH :

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have unearthed duty draw-back racket in garment export;

(b) if so, the details of such fake firms and the official of various departments involved therein;

(c) the details of the racket unearthed during 1998-99; and

(d) the action initiated against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The officers of Department of Revenue have unearthed in 1998-99 a number of fraudulent claims of duty drawback in garment exports. Some of the exporting firms are non-existent and prima facie fake and certain unscrupulous parties have been found engaged in planned abuse of Drawback facility - specially in cases detected by DRI. The names of these firms, and approximate Drawback amounts involved, on the basis of available information is given in the Statement (attached). The fraudulent or improper drawback claimed/attempted to be claimed in these cases is mostly either by way of misdeclaration of nature of goods exported or their value/quantity.

Where goods have not been exported before detection of fraud claims, the goods were detained/seized by DRI/Customs authorities pending investigations and action as per

Customs Law. In 5 cases registered by Custom Houses adjudication proceedings have been completed and the firms involved penalised to the extent of Rs. 73.5 lakhs. They have also been permitted to redeem their goods on payment of redemption fine of Rs.45 lakhs. Action in regard to remaining cases is under process. 18 persons have been arrested in these cases so far. Two Customs Superintendents and 3 Customs Inspectors have also been placed under suspension for their suspected involvement in some of these cases.

Statement

Name of Firms involved in fraudulent claim of duty drawback

Sl. No.	Name of the firm	Approx. Drawback amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. Himgiri Overseas	741	Prima facie fake
2.	M/s. Saharanpur Handicrafts		-do-
3.	M/s. Stitch and Style		-do-
4.	M/s. Deepshikha Overseas		-do-
5.	M/s. R & S Company		-do-
6.	M/s. Rohil International	131	-do-
7.	M/s. Manitoba Inc.		-do-
8.	M/s. Brooks Int.		-do-
9.	M/s. Overseas Business		-do-
10.	M/s. Glowbus Office Equipments (P) Ltd. Delhi	139	-do-
11.	M/s. CMC Exim (P) Ltd. Delhi		-do-
12.	M/s. Victor International Delhi		-do-
13.	M/s. P.S. International, Tugalkabad	19	-do-
14.	M/s. Classic Copier	42	
15.	M/s. Parnav Sai, Tirupur	5	
16.	M/s. Wonderland Trading Co.	17	
17.	M/s. Sat Export India	9	
18.	M/s. Glints Global	29	

1	2	3	4
19.	M/s. Balaji Universal (P) Ltd.	8	
20.	M/s. Saniya Enterprises	6	
21.	M/s. Handloom only	41	
22.	M/s. Rednick International	36	
23.	M/s. Reco Industries	3	
24.	M/s. Shakti International	17	
25.	M/s. Sagar Overseas	22	
26.	M/s. Sunil Trading Co.	20	
27.	M/s. Om Prakash Bhatia	22	
28.	M/s. Chetan Impex India	18	
29.	M/s. Kanak	28	
30.	M/s. Visage Overseas	2	
31.	M/s. Meghna Fashions	2	
32.	M/s. Hari Manarack	6	
33.	M/s. Akansha Overseas	14	
34.	M/s. Himanshi Exports	24	Prima Facie fake
35.	M/s. Chetan Impex	19	-do-
36.	M/s. Santo Exports	5	
37.	M/s. Priti Exports	5	
38.	M/s. Raiment Garments	14	
39.	M/s. Vestures India Ltd.	8	
40.	M/s. Al-huda Intl.	11	
41.	M/s. Fairdeal World Impex, New Delhi	15	
42.	M/s. Deepa Impex, Mumbai	8	
43.	M/s. Ekta Exports	21	
44.	M/s. Awtn Exim Co.		
45.	M/s. Select Garments		
46.	M/s. Sun Impex Inc.	252	
47.	M/s. Integrated Fashion Ltd.		
48.	M/s. N.Y. Blue		
49.	M/s. Morning Star		

1	2	3	4
50.	M/s. True Art Trade Link		
51.	M/s. Trade Art India	50	
52.	M/s. Wahiba Chemical Corpn.		
53.	M/s. Shivraj Exports		
54.	M/s. India Exports Co.		
55.	M/s. Fitwell Garments		
56.	M/s. Ind. Fashions Exports (Pvt) Ltd.	43	
57.	M/s. Medident India (P) Ltd.		
58.	M/s. Sali Exports	47	
59.	M/s. Tirpati Garments		
60.	M/s. Jyoti Trading Co.		
61.	M/s. Crown Sales Corpn.	93	
62.	M/s. Nitu Fashion		
63.	M/s. Vicario International		
64.	M/s. Sam Overseas	23	
65.	M/s. Seva Sees Exports		
66.	M/s. Golden Exports	127	
67.	M/s. Sagar Trade Lines.		
Total Drawback Claimed		2143 lakhs	

Posting of Geologist

3784. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Director, Co-ordination of Coal India Limited wrote to all the CMD's in December, 1975 to attach geologist to each area for continuous inspection, compilation, presentation and monitoring of geological information and data;

(b) if so, whether during the sixteenth meet of CMD's held on December 29, 1987, it was accepted in principle that the posting of a geologist in every area is worthwhile;

(c) if so, whether the Government intends to implement these decisions for conservation of coal, better quality control, maintenance of environment and day-to-day mine planning;

(d) if so, the date by which the said decision is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Director (Coordination), Coal India Limited vide letter dated 30.12.75 addressed to the Managing Director, Bharat Coking Coal Limited suggested that in consideration of complexity of the mining problems in Jharia Coalfields a Geologist should be attached to each area for continuous inspection, compilation, presentation and monitoring of geological information and data for the benefit of the area and colliery executives and for the purpose of preparing geological plans with mining orientation. Such geologists can also render assistance to the colliery executives whenever any geological disturbance is encountered or when any special problems arise on account of proximity of coal fires, water logged working, barriers, dykes, sills, jhama etc. A copy of the said letter was endorsed to the Managing Director, Western Coalfields Limited/ Eastern Coalfields Limited/Central Coalfields Limited.

(b) In the 16th CMDs meet held on 29.12.87 at Calcutta proposal for posting of a geologist in every mine was discussed. The proposal was accepted in principle for those areas which may need full-time geologists. CMDs were to decide the specific areas which may need full-time geologists.

(c) to (e) The decision has since been implemented and the subsidiary-wise posting of geologists is given below:

Position as on 01.11.98

Company	Sanctioned Strength	Working
E.C.L.	6	10
B.C.C.L.	4	9
C.C.L.	16	22
N.C.L.	1	1
W.C.L.	8	6
S.E.C.L.	12	6
M.C.L.	5	3
CMPDIL	178	162
NEC/C.I.L	5	4
Total	235	223

[Translation]

Rules for Collaboration

3785. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of any violation of rules laid down for investment in India in collaboration with foreign company;

(b) if so, the details of the last two years in this regard;

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) Government constantly reviews adherence of approval holders to the terms and conditions of approval and initiates necessary action against the approval holder following due procedure in case of any violation.

[English]

Export Defaulters

3786. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of COMMECRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain exports who have defaulted in their export obligations are being permitted to file legal undertaking in lieu of Bank Guarantees for Advance Licences and EPCC licences;

(b) if so, whether it is not an indirect encouragement to such defaulting exporters;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to insist on Bank Guarantees from these defaulters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Exporters who have not been able to complete export obligation within stipulated time period under Advance Licences and EPCG Licences have been granted an extension in export obligation period of 1-1/2 and 2 years respectively. However, such an extension shall be given only on submission of a bank guarantee covering the customs duty together with 24% simple interest in proportion to the unfulfilled export obligation.

Tax Structure

3787. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions from various organisations to rationalise the various tax structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A large number of pre-budget suggestions were received from various organisations for

rationalising duty/tax structure, which included raising the exemption limit, reducing the rates, and reduction in multiplicity of rates, etc.

(c) The Government have rationalised the excise duty rates into a three-tier structure with basic duty rates of 8%, 16% and 24% advalorem. The number of major advalorem Customs duty rates have been reduced from 7 to 5 in this year's Budget, with a peak rate of 40% advalorem. As regards income tax, the rates were rationalised and reduced to three slabs of 10%, 20% and 30% in 1997. Companies and firms are charged at a single rate of 35%.

Non-Performing Assets of ICICI

3788. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India has decided to write off Rs. 302 crore due to huge accumulated Non-Performing Assets of Rs. 3343 crore as on 31st December 1998; and

(b) if so, the details of the NPAs and the nature of the borrowers who are responsible for such a huge NPAs?

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

Decline in Export from Auto Industry

3789. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export from Indian auto industry has slumped down recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The value of exports from the Indian automobile industry consisting of Complete Vehicles and 2/3 Wheelers has come down to Rs 1000 crores during April-December 1998 (Prov.) as compared to Rs. 1380 crores during April-December 1997, registering *negative* growth rate of 27.5%. The negative trend in exports is mainly due to the economic situation in major markets like East and South East Asia and Africa, as well as the currency devaluation by competitors such as South Korea. In addition, the global recession in the automobile sector has also contributed to the negative trend of exports.

(c) There is no exclusive scheme for promotion of exports of complete vehicles and 2/3 wheelers. However, promotion of exports of these items, like other items in the Engineering Sector has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures being provided to boost exports of engineering goods including that of complete vehicles and

2/3 wheelers consist of various provisions under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawbacks Scheme, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, Assistance from Market Development Fund etc. Engineering goods exporters also receive promotional support through various activities of the Engineering Export Promotion Council.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Open Institutes Abroad

3790. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide grants and subsidy to open Institutes abroad to give encouragement to export and to monitor the export potential from abroad; and

(b) if so, the estimated amount incurred under above heads during each of the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Development of Coal Mines

3791. SHRI C. P. M. GIRIYAPPA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to spend a sum of Rs. 800 crore for development of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of mines which are likely to be developed by NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) In the context of long term linkages of their Talcher STPS-II (2000 MW) and Seepat Thermal Power Station (2000MW), NTPC agreed to provide interest bearing advance of Rs. 400 crores each for opening of Bhubaneshwari Project of MCL and a dedicated mining block of Korba coalfield of SECL. The projects will be developed by the MCL/SECL. CIL has entered into an MOU with NTPC for the above funding.

Schemes of UTI

3792. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of different schemes in which UTI has invested its funds;

(b) whether the Government propose to evolve mechanism to look after the funds being invested by the UTI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) According to Unit Trust of India, there are over 70 domestic Schemes which are managed by UTI. These Schemes satisfy varied investor needs and are managed as per the UTI Act under the general Superintendence and direction of the Board of Trustees which act on business principles so as to safeguard the interests of the unit holders. The investment policy of each of the schemes varies with the objective of the scheme as disclosed in the offer document of the respective scheme.

Handloom Sector

3793. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the "Solapur Zilla Yantramag Dharak Sangh" against the proposed inclusion of Terry-Towels and chaddars in the list of items reserved exclusively for the handloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Solapur Zilla Yantramag Dharak Sangh has made a representation in January 1999 stating that the proposed inclusion of Terry-Towel under the Handloom Reservation Order dated 26.7.96 would affect the small powerlooms engaged in the production of Terry-towels, in and around Solapur and also would affect the export market created by the powerloom sector over past three decades.

(c) The issue is under consideration. The Advisory Committee duly constituted under Section 4 of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985, would examine this issue and make its recommendations. After receipt of the recommendations of this committee, Government will take suitable decision on the issue .

[Translation]

Export of Hand Tools

3794. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether hand-tools have been exported in large quantity from Punjab;

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

(c) whether the Government have explored the possibilities for more exports by this industry; and

(d) if so, the facilities provided by the Government to promote this trade during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The value of exports of Hand-Tools from India, including from Punjab has been as under :

Year	Value in Rs. Crore#
1995-96	256.95
1996-97	256.73
1997-98	250.12

Source : Engineering Export Promotion Council, New Delhi

(c) and (d) There is no exclusive scheme for promotion of export of hand-tools. However, promotion of exports of this item, like other items in the Engineering Sector has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures being provided to boost exports of engineering goods including that of hand-tools consist of various provisions under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, Assistance from Market Development Fund etc. Engineering goods exporters also receive promotional support through various activities of the Engineering Export Promotion Council.

[English]

Lignite Reserves in Rajasthan

3795. COL. SONA RAM CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge Lignite reserves has been found in various parts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether extensive presence of thick Lignite seams have been found in Barmer Graben, which is now considered as the "northern continuity" of the Cambia basin;

(c) whether coal based methane has also been found in commercial quantities in the sun-surface Lignite deposits of the Combay basin;

(d) if so, whether the Government have prepared a specified programme to exploit maximum quantity from the area for economic development of Thar desert and to generate employment opportunities for rural youths; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Lignite reserves estimated at 1,467 million tons have been indentified in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan.

(b) Two thick lignite seams ranging from 2-8 metres and 4-14 metres respectively have been found in the Sindri area in Sanchore basin of Barmer Graben.

(c) Coal Bed Methane has been found in sub-surface lignite deposits in the Gujarat part of Combay basin.

(d) and (e) The Government of Rajasthan has prepared a proposal for assessment of coal bed methane in Barmer area and has referred it to the Director General of Hydrocarbons, Government of India for consideration. Exploitation on a commercial scale can be thought of only after a detailed assessment. In all, seven blocks have been indentified for assessment covering an area of 3,532 square km in the Barmer Sanchore basin area.

Retirement Age of Employees of PSUs

3796. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Central PSUs have not yet decided on enhancement of retiring age for their employees;

(b) if so, the names of PSUs which have yet to implement the decision on enhancement of retiring age with reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government have issued guidelines to the PSUs in this regard for implementation and details thereof; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to ensure that guidelines are uniformly followed by the PSUs in implementation of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Out of the 142 PSUs in respect of whom information is readily available only 4 have not yet implemented the decision. The names of these PSUs along with reasons for non-implementation are given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued to all the administrative Ministries/Departments and PSUs on 21.8.98 stating that the decision regarding enhancement of age of retirement is binding and in case any administrative Ministry or PSU does not want to increase the age of retirement, specific exemption from operation of this decision would be necessary.

Statement

Names of PSUs which have not enhanced the age of retirement of employees from 58 to 60 years.

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Reasons
1.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd.	Both have been declared sick by
2.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corp. Ltd.	BIFR and have idle manpower.
3.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	Poor financial health Disinvestment Commission has recommended closure of some activities and also strategic sale of one unit.
4.	Spices Trading Corpn.Ltd.	Administrative approval of the Ministry of Commerce is being sought by the Corporation.

[Translation]

Selling of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited

3797. DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS :

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

SHRI ABHAY SINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI BIKAS CHOWDHURY :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell out Majority Share or Shares of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith percentage of its shares likely to be transferred to its strategic partner and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have held any dialogue with the employees Union before taking such a decision;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plan chalked out by the Government for the rehabilitation of employees likely to become jobless ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present Government holds the entire equity of Rs. 488.85 crores in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO). Government have decided to divest 51% of Government's equity to a strategic partner to be selected through a global tender. The strategic partner is expected to bring state-of-the-art technology and fresh investment for modernisation and expansion.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) was advised to explain the position to the Union operating in BALCO that the employees have nothing to lose by the strategic sale of Government equity.

(e) The Government has not worked out any rehabilitation plan, as infusion of fresh resources by the strategic partner is expected to result in sustained employment.

Export Inspection Council

3798. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of export oriented units inspected by the Export Inspection Council during the year 1997-98;

(b) the total number of export oriented firms against whom the council has received complaints and have been kept in the black list;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to take action against the firms listed therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Nil, Sir. 100% Export Oriented Units have been exempted from compulsory pre-shipment inspection vide Notification No. S.O. 929(E) dated 4.12.90 issued under the provisions of Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.

(b) Nil.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Export of Sports Goods

3799. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the foreign exchange earned through the export of sports goods along with the quantity of sports goods exported during 1998-99, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HAGDE) : Foreign Exchange earned through export of sports goods is Rs. 246.91 crores (US \$ million 58.80) during April-January, 1999. Quantitative data on export of sports goods is not being monitored.

Sports Goods are exported to more than 100 countries, details of which are available in the export statistics of "foreign trade statistics of India published by DGCI & S, Calcutta". However, country wise exports to top 10 countries were as under during April 98 to January 99:-

Country	Rs. in Crores	in US \$ M
U.K.	50.30	11.98
Australia	27.89	6.64
USA	47.91	11.41
Germany	19.26	4.59
South Africa	15.55	3.70
Italy	11.23	2.67
France	8.88	2.11
UAE	8.39	2.00
Netherlands	4.26	1.01
Newzealand	4.47	1.06

[English]

Foreign Posting of SBI Officers

3800. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the foreign countries in which group 'A' officers of the State Bank of India are posted;

(b) the number out of them belong to SC/ST; and

Year	Mill made Fabrics	Powerloom Fabrics	Knitted Fabrics	Cotton Yarn	Sewing Thread	Cotton Made-ups	Total
1997-98	16530.21	21908.25	3004.27	58584.16	72.33	31072.29	131171.51
1996-97	15738.07	20020.97	3462.18	53668.22	62.94	25574.43	118526.81
% growth/ decline	5.03%	9.43%	-13.23%	9.16%	14.92%	21.50%	10.67%

(c) The main reasons for the decline in the exports is due to the melt down of the South East Asian markets which accounts for 49% of the exports of cotton yarn and 22% of the total cotton textiles exports.

(d) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of textiles, such as encouraging exporters to

(c) the plan of action to fill up the fixed quota of foreign postings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that there are 253 offices (belonging to different grades) posted in bank's offices in foreign countries at present, out of which 23 belong to SC/ST category.

(c) There is no quota allocated to SC/ST officers for foreign postings, which is based on a approved selection process. However, bank provides pre-selection training to SC/ST officers so as to enable them to perform effectively in the selection process.

Decline in Export of Cotton Textiles

3801. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether cotton textile export has decline during 1998 as compared to 1997 shipments of cotton yarns and knitted fabrics ;

(b) if so, the details with comparative figures of total cotton textile exports during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) As far as the overall total exports of cotton textiles are concerned exports have increased by 9.12% during the year 1998 as compared to the total exports in 1997. However, in the case of exports of cotton yarn, the exports have declined by 3.12% on rupee terms as compared to exports in 1997. In the case of knitted fabrics, exports decreased by 7.31% in rupee terms during 1998 as compared to exports in 1997.

(b) The comparative figures of export of cotton textiles during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given below :-

(Figures in Million Rupees)

Year	Mill made Fabrics	Powerloom Fabrics	Knitted Fabrics	Cotton Yarn	Sewing Thread	Cotton Made-ups	Total
1997-98	16530.21	21908.25	3004.27	58584.16	72.33	31072.29	131171.51
1996-97	15738.07	20020.97	3462.18	53668.22	62.94	25574.43	118526.81
% growth/ decline	5.03%	9.43%	-13.23%	9.16%	14.92%	21.50%	10.67%

participate in buyer-seller meets fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials, ensuring increased availability of export credit etc. Recently, Government have announced specific measures for boosting cotton yarn exports which include de-linking of cot-

ton yarn exports from hank yarn obligation, although the obligation continues without any reduction in level; greater operational flexibility to 100% EOUs producing cotton yarn by way of relaxation of count/domestic cotton use restriction upto December, 1999; announcement of higher ceiling for exports of cotton yarn of 40s and below counts during 1999, etc.

UNDP Assistance in Handicrafts Sector

3802. SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up UNDP project in Meghalaya and other North Eastern States and also secure assistance from Japan and Korea for imparting training to local craftsmen;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the technical expertise and machinery will be obtained from Taiwan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (d) Government have signed a Project Support Document with UNDP under Country Cooperation Framework (CCF-I) on Fibres and Handicrafts. Details of the sub-programmes are being finalised. Two of such sub-programmes would cover cane and bamboo and non-mulberry silk which would benefit the North-Eastern States including Meghalaya.

Guarantees on Resources of State Financial Corporations

3803. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, the State Financial Corporations raised resources through SLR and SSI bonds and State Governments are required to provide guarantees for repayment of principal and payment of interest;

(b) whether some State Governments do not charge any commission for such guarantee whereas some charge the guarantee commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this is a statutory requirement; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to have uniformity in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) Section 7 of the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951 states that " the financial corporations may in

consultation with the Development Bank and the Reserve Bank of India, issue and sell Bonds and Debentures carrying interest for the purpose of increasing its working capital and such Bonds and Debentures shall, if so required by the financial corporation be guaranteed by the State Government as to the repayment of the principal and the payment of interest at such rate as the State Government may, on the recommendation of the Board based on the advice of the Reserve Bank, fix. "As per provisions of the Act, it is not mandatory for the State Government to provide guarantee to the State Financial Corporations (SFCs). State Government charge commission from the respective SFC based on their own norms as and when the guarantee is sought by the SFC from the State Government.

Century Textiles and Industries Limited

3804. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Century Textiles and Industries Ltd. has shown continuous loss during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reason for such losses;

(d) whether this unit has been referred to BIFR;

(e) if so, whether the said unit has been declared as sick; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken for its revival?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The balance sheet of private companies are not maintained by the Government.

(d) and (e) The unit has not referred to BIFR.

(f) Does not arise.

Centrally Sponsored Projects of Sericulture In Assam

3805. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch Centrally Sponsored Sericulture Projects at Raha and Suakuchi in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government the Central Government is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes through the Central Silk Board (CSB) in Assam for promoting development of silk. These include schemes for extension of R & D, training,

infrastructural and extension support to the sector through the net work of CSB units and other development schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Presently the North Eastern Action Plan is under implementation which inter-alia covers Assam. 14 Catalytic Development Schemes have also been approved for Assam. These schemes will be implemented in the districts of Kamrup and Nagaon where Sualkuchi and Raha are situated respectively. Moreover proposals to implement an integrated Eri and Muga Project in Assam is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development. This project would also cover Sualkuchi and Raha.

To meet the R&D needs of the sericulture sector, the Central Silk Board has set up a net work of the units in Assam. One such unit, namely, the Demonstration and Technical Service Centre is located at Sualkuchi.

Fiscal Steps for Boosting Housing Sector

3806. SHRI KAMAL NATH :

SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested fiscal steps for boosting housing sector;

(b) if so, the detail of the fiscal steps so suggested; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

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

(b) the details of suggestions made by FICCI are as under :

- (i) Foreign investment should be permitted in real estate development.
- (ii) Accredited firms of architects with necessary experience in urban development should be given the authority for approval of building permits and issue of completion certificates.
- (iii) In large metros there is rampant misuse of property laws. These laws have no relevance and as such be scrapped.
- (iv) Deemed export status should be given to foreign exchange earners out of sales proceeds of real estates and tax benefits be allowed as available to commodity exporters.
- (v) Tax incentive for approved housing projects under Section 80 IB (10) should be amended to provide further relief to builders.

* The area limit of houses purchased for the employees should be increased from 80 Sq. mt. to 120 Sq. mt. for the purpose of depreciation @ 40 percent.

(c) In the Central Government Budget for 1999-2000 various measures have been announced to boost the housing sector. These include the following :

- * Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme of National Housing Bank (NHB) to target 1.25 lakh units in 1999-2000.
- * Raising Tax deduction on interest on house loans for Self-occupied houses from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 75,000.
- * Strengthening housing finance companies through liberal tax treatment of income on non-performing assets.
- * Increased depreciation allowed for business building houses for employees.
- * Changes in foreclosure laws etc. to promote housing mortgages.
- * Commercial banks to lend upto 3% of incremental deposits for housing.
- * New NHB scheme for interest rate concessions for small borrowers.
- * Tax free status to a limited amount of municipal bond every year.
- * Ceiling on built up areas for dwelling units in approved projects enjoying tax holiday under Section 80 IA of the ITA increased from 1000 Sq. ft. to 1500 sq. ft. except in Mumbai and Delhi.

Reserved Areas for Minerals

3807. SHRI GAURI SHANKER CHATURBHUI BISEN:

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the areas reserved for different undertakings of Central Government in Madhya Pradesh for various minerals as on 1.1.99;

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for declaring open areas reserved for minerals; and

(c) if so, the plan to open up the reserved areas for minerals and the time by which it is expected to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) As per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules framed thereunder, mineral concessions are granted by the State Government. However, the Central Government with a view to conserving any mineral and after consultation with the State Government or vice-versa may reserve any area not already held under any prospecting licence or mining lease for undertaking prospecting or mining operation through a Government Company or Corporation owned or controlled by it, through a notification in the Official Gazettee, but Central Government does not compile the details of such areas.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh furnished a proposal to the Central Government for dereservation of the areas bearing limestone, dolomite and manganese ore in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The Central Government has considered the said proposal and de-reserved majority of the areas proposed by the State Government. However, some of the areas could not be considered for dereservation for want of clarifications. Now based on the clarifications received, the remaining areas in the proposal of the State Government are under process for dereservation.

Conversion of Mills of WBAB&O Subsidiary

3808. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of units taken up by N.T.C. as WBAB&O subsidiary;
- (b) the number of units out of these are running on conversion basis;
- (c) the criteria for fixing up offset price for conversion;
- (d) the present conversion rate fixed in Orissa Cotton Mills, Chandwar;
- (e) whether there is any provision of including the maintenance money for machines in the conversion rates; and
- (f) if so, the amount has been spent for maintenance, repairs and replacement of spare parts during conversion period in Orissa Cotton Mills ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) NTC (WBAB&O) has presently under its control 16 nationalised textile mills.

(b) 10 mills under NTC (WBAB&O) are partially running on job work (conversion) basis.

(c) The subsidiary corporation enters into job work contracts with the parties offering highest rates for yarn conversion in response to open tenders invited through newspaper advertisements.

(d) At present there is no job work (conversion) activity in Orissa Cotton Mills w.e.f. 14.2.99. The job work rate for Orissa Cotton Mills from Dec.,1998 to Feb.,1999 was as follows :-

Count	Hank Yarn (Rs. per kg)	Cone Yarn (Rs.per kg)
26s	17.42	16.64
32s	21.44	20.48
40s	26.80	25.60
42s	28.14	26.88
60s	40.20	38.40

(e) and (f) The conversion rates are expected to cover the variable expenditure incurred on conversion including normal upkeep and maintenance to keep the machinery in a running condition. The expenditure incurred on maintenance and repairs of the machinery in Orissa Cotton Mills during the period 1.4.98 to 31.12.98 was Rs. 3.74 lakhs.

[Translation]

Outstanding Taxes Against Industrial Houses

3809. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Industrial Houses like Essar Group against whom more than one crore of rupees of Income tax, Excise duty, Customs Duty and other taxes are outstanding for the last several years;
- (b) the reasons for not realising the said amount; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the recovery of this amount and if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) In respect of income tax, demands of more than Rs.1.00 crore are outstanding in various cases belonging to 21 major industrial houses. As regards import duty, demands of over Rs. 1.00 crore were outstanding in respect of 74 companies as on 1.11.98. Excise duty demand of over Rs. 1.00 crore were outstanding in respect of about 25 companies as on 21.11.97.

(b) The main reasons for outstanding tax dues are multiplicity of litigation on the same issue, delay in final settlement of disputes, and stays granted by Courts, Tribunals, etc.

(c) The recovery of tax arrears is a continuous process, and includes charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, and attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties. Periodical reviews and monitoring of cases involving high demands, is also undertaken. Govt.

had also announced the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme to reduce litigation and to effect recovery of the dues. These efforts have helped to check the rising trend in arrears.

[English]

Reserved Posts in IDBI

3810. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of total employees in the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and strength of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees among them;

(b) whether there is any backlog of reserved vacancies for SCs/STs;

(c) if so, the details thereof, post-wise;

(d) whether the IDBI proposes to fill up these posts through special recruitment drive; and

(e) if so, the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the total number of employees of IDBI and strength of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees among them as on 31st December, 1998 is as under :

Total No. of Employees	2975
No. of S.C. Employees	616
No. of S.T. Employees	181

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs and STs as on December 31, 1998 are 18 and 30 respectively.

(d) and (e) IDBI does not propose to initiate any special recruitment drive. However, it proposes to make vigorous efforts to clear the backlog as early as possible at the time of regular recruitments.

[Translation]

Export of Soft Drinks

3811. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of soft drinks being exported at present from the country ;

(b) the names of the cold drinks exported during the last two years, country-wise; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned through exports of soft drinks ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Soft drinks being exported from the country are mainly based on mango, orange, lemon, pineapple and litchi. The exports have been mainly to USA, UK, Japan, the Netherlands, Denmark, Canada, Germany, Russia, Jordan, UAE, South Africa, Bangladesh and Bhutan. The countrywise details of exports are available in the Foreign Trade Statistics of India—Monthly/Annual Bulletins published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI and S), Calcutta. copies of which are kept in the Parliament Library.

(c) The foreign exchange earned through the exports of soft drinks based on mango, orange, lemon, pineapple and litchi, etc. during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as follows :-

Year	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
1996-97	335.11
1997-98	898.06

(Source : APEDA/DGCI&S, Calcutta)

[English]

Export of Tea to Pakistan

3812. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pakistan, which is the third largest consumer of tea in the world, is importing tea from African countries, resulting in annual burden of \$ 100 million on the country;

(b) if so, whether there are good prospects of India for exporting tea to Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Pakistan on an average imports around 65 million kgs. of tea annually from African countries valued at US \$ 120 million.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Import of tea by Pakistan is around 110 Million Kgs. per year. India's share in the overall import of tea by Pakistan is nominal. India's export of tea to Pakistan increased from 0.32 Mn. Kgs in 1991 to 1.90 Mn. Kgs in 1997. Keeping in view the overall size of the Pakistan tea market, there appears to be good prospect for increasing our exports to that country.

Revival of Hindustan Photo Films

3813. SHRI V. K. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Photo Films at Ooty in Tamil Nadu is under BIFR for revival;

- (b) if so, the amount required for reviving this unit;
- (c) whether the revival of this unit is likely to save foreign exchange by way of reduction in export of Photo Films; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) BIFR is yet to finalise and circulate a draft rehabilitation scheme.

Export of Shrimps

3814. SHRI ANUP LAL YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the export of shrimps in terms of quantity, value in Rupees and Dollars during the last three years;
- (b) the projection for the next two years;
- (c) the top three Indian exporters of shrimps;
- (d) the top three importing countries of Indian shrimps during the last three years;
- (e) the difficulties currently faced by exporters of shrimps; and
- (f) the names of Indian shrimp exporters with ISO 9000 certification?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The export of shrimps in terms of quantity, rupee and dollar value terms during the last three years has been as follows:-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs.Crores)	Value (US \$ Million)
1996-97	105426	2701.78	755.74
1997-98	101318	3140.56	866.37
1998-99 (1st April, 98 to 28th Feb., 99)	94263	3121.64	747.52

(b) The export of shrimps from India will depend upon international production and demand as well as the domestic production from capture and culture sources. As per the past trend of the last three years, the exports of shrimps are likely to undergo only marginal variations.

(c) Based on the export performance during the year 1997-98, the top three exporters of shrimps from India are; (i) M/s. Falcon Marine Exports Ltd., A/22, Cuttack Road, Falcon House, 1st Floor, Bhubaneswar-751006; (ii) M/s. Crown Frozen Foods, 203 Dalamal Chambers, New Marine Lines, Mumbai-400020 and (iii) M/s. Nekkanti Seafoods Ltd. Flat No. 1, Jayaprada Apartments, Maharani-peta, Visakhapatnam.

(d) As per the export statistics for the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and April to February, 1998-99, Japan, USA and UK have been the top three countries in importing shrimps from India.

(e) Following are some of the difficulties being faced by exporters of shrimps in India :-

1. Due to public interest litigation in Supreme Court and due to the viral disease, the financial institutions have not been enthusiastic in extending loans to the shrimp farmers. The Insurance companies have also been hesitant to extend insurance to the aquaculture farms. This has adversely affected the production of shrimps through aquaculture, which has in turn reduced the availability of shrimps for exports.

2. The embargo imposed by USA on the import of Indian shrimps harvested through mechanical means on environmental grounds has created difficulties in the export of shrimps from India to USA. Because of this, the exporters had to export the shrimps along with a certificate from Marine Products Export Development Authority that shrimps were sourced from aquaculture or were harvested through artisanal means. The exporters because of the above reason, have to maintain separate physical stocks of shrimps sourced from different sources. The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO has, however, found the US embargo to be inconsistent with the GATT provisions. The USA have agreed to bring its law into total conformity with the WTO Ruling by 6/12/99.

3. After 18.12.1997, only the exporters having a HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) based Quality Assurance System can export their fish and fishery products to USA.

4. Only the units as conform to the very stringent standards of food hygiene and safety as prescribed by European Commission (EC) and authorised by EC, can effect exports to European countries.

(f) The Indian shrimp exporters who have got the ISO 9000 certification are; (i) M/s. Accelerated Freeze Drying Company Limited, Taloja, Maharashtra; (ii) M/s. Choice Canning Co., Edacochin, Cochin, Kerala; (iii) M/s. Accelerated Freeze and Drying Company, Ezhupunna, Kerala; (iv) M/s. International Creative Foods, Aroor, Kerala; and (v) M/s. Innovative Marine Foods, Aroor Kerala.

[Translation]

Hill Allowance

3815. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the proportion by which the hill allowance are paid to Central Government employees in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the employees working above five thousand feet are paid equal allowances;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the High Court has given any decision for these employees; and
- (e) if so, the names of the areas where the said decision is being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The rates of Special Compensatory Allowance (Hill Areas) admissible to the Central Government employees posted at all places (including places in Himachal Pradesh) which are located at an altitude of 1000 metres and above Mean Sea Level are as follows :-

Pay Range	Rate per month (Rs.)
Below Rs. 3000/- p.m.	100
Rs. 3000/- p.m. to Rs. 4499/- p.m.	140
Rs. 4500/- p.m. to Rs. 5999/- p.m.	240
Rs. 6000/- p.m. and above	300

(d) and (e) The details of the High Court decision, if any, are being ascertained.

[English]

Gold Import

3816. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of gold imported into the country during the last two years; and
- (b) the quantum of gold sold to jewellery exporters out of such imported gold?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Information is as follows :-

	(Quantity in Tons)	
Quantity of gold	1996-97	1997-98
Imported	338.190	626.394
Sold to jewellery Exporters	28.635	39.619

[Translation]

Deduction of Income Tax of Arrears

3817. SHRIMATI NISHA A. CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government employees could show the amount or arrears accrued to them as a result of Fifth Pay Commission by splitting this amount in respective years in the Income Tax Returns filed with concerned Pay and Accounts Officers;

(b) whether these employees could be compelled to show the amount of expected arrears in current Income Tax returns;

(c) if so, the policy guidelines prescribed in regard thereto;

(d) whether there is any rule also to charge interest alongwith surcharge on income tax of current years alongwith the income tax deducted pertaining to the arrears;

(e) whether clearcut guidelines have been issued to Pay and Accounts Officers in this regard; and

(f) if so, the reasons for committing such irregularities while assessing the Income-tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Salary income, including arrears of salary, is subject to Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) at the time of payment even if such arrears pertain to the years other than the current year. However, in terms of S.89 of I.T. Act, the Govt. employees are entitled to relief in respect of arrears of salary having been received in any one financial year for more than 12 months on account of which income is assessed at a rate higher than that at which it would otherwise have been assessed. Further, as per Section 192 (2A) of I.T. Act, such employees claiming relief u/s 89 are required to furnish the details of such arrears in Form 10E to the person responsible for deduction of tax at source. Thereupon, the officer so responsible shall take into account the particulars so furnished and compute the relief and take it into account in making deduction of tax under sub-section (1) of Section 192 of the Income-tax Act.

(c) Apart from the statutory provisions in this regard annual TDS circular No.757 dated 21.10.1997 for financial year 1997-98 and No.771 for financial year 1998-99 issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes clarify the position.

(d) There is no such rule to charge any interest at the time of deduction of tax at source.

(e) As per reply given in part (c) above.

(f) In view of the reply given above, there is no question of any irregularity as such.

[English]

Export of Readymade Garments

3818. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of ready-made garments/textiles/handlooms made during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is any decline in export of the above items during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The exports of readymade garments (including handloom garments) and textiles (including handloom textiles) during the last three years were as follows:-

	Value in Million US Dollars	
	Garments	Textiles
1996-97	4762.10	5288.23
1997-98	4910.70	5629.32
1998-99 (upto Feb'99)	4767.60	4888.40

(b) and (c) There is no decline in exports of readymade garments. However, there is a decline of 4.1% in dollar terms, in respect of textiles during 1998-99 (till Feb'99). The main reasons for decline in exports are South-East Asian currency crisis, recession in some of the textile importing countries etc.

(d) In order to encourage the export of textiles and garments from India, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production, etc.

Production Capacity of Neelanchal Steel Plant

3819. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the targeted production capacity (in million tonnes) of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd., Sukinda (Orissa) and the time by which it is likely to become fully operational; and

(b) the infrastructural developments made by the State Government at the site as per schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The targeted production capacity of Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) at Duburi, district Jajpur, Orissa is 1.16 million tonnes per annum of pig iron and steel. The plant is expected to be fully operational by middle of 2001. Infrastructure such as road, power etc. are being provided by the State Government as per the requirement of the steel plant.

Minar Project in Laxmi Nagar, Delhi

3820. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) when the Minar Project in Laxmi Nagar, Delhi was set up;

(b) whether the Project is intended to house offices of various public sector undertakings;

(c) the amount being paid by the Public Sector Undertakings to SCOPE Minar building;

(d) whether the financial aid provided to PSUs from the Government was diverted to this Minar Project;

(e) whether any Screening Committee was formed to select the architect; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the architect and the amount paid to the foreign consultant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) to (d) The Minar Project in Laxmi Nagar, Delhi was set into motion in 1983. 41 PSUs at present have booked different space in the building, and have so far paid Rs. 173.70 crores towards this Project.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise. No amount has been paid to any foreign consultant by SCOPE.

India Engineering Trade Fair

3821. SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of countries participated in the Thirteenth India Engineering Trade Fair held in New Delhi in February, 1999;

(b) the names of Indian industries which took part in the above Trade Fair;

(c) whether the Maharashtra has played a partner State role and Korea is a partner country in the said Trade Fair; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) 47 countries participated in the India Engineering Trade Fair 1999.

(b) India Engineering Trade Fair '99 was an all industry Fair and companies from various sectors of Indian industry participated in it.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) operated Korea Pavilion extending over 5000 sq. mtrs. 150 Korean companies displayed a range of products like confectionary, healthcare products, kitchenware appliances, live stock and poultry equipment, medical products, optical frames and lenses. Events like seminars, conferences, food festivals, cultural shows and film shows were also organised by Korea.

Maharashtra, the Partner State, displayed its diversified industrial sectors covering automobiles, information technology, infrastructure and consumer goods, electronics, refractories, transport systems, agro products, tourism and road development etc.

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

3822. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the modernisation cost of Durgapur Steel Plant has gone up to above Rs. 6000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contract of computer in the division of Production Planning and Control has increased from Rs. 8 crore 75 lakhs to Rs. 26 crores; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The revised cost of Durgapur Steel Plant Modernisation project is estimated to be Rs. 4871 crore (base date : IIIrd qtr.1998).

(c) and (d) The total cost of the Production Planning and Control (PPC) Computerisation package is Rs. 26.10 crore, which includes contracts for building and software development etc., besides the contractual value of Rs. 8.75 crores for computer hardware.

Revival/Production of Textile Mills

3823. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production in the textile mills of the National Textile Corporation, the State Textile Corporation and private sector located in Maharashtra between January, 1996 and January, 1998 and till January 1999, year-wise and the number of workers employed in them;

(b) the number of textile mills lying closed in the State

and the measures taken by the Government to revive the closed textile mills, mill-wise ; and

(c) the steps taken to provide employment to the workers and for their rehabilitation who have been rendered unemployed because of the closure of above mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The total production of spun yarn and cloth by the mills of NTC, State Textile Corporations, private sector and cooperative sector in Maharashtra during 1996, 1997 and 1998 is as follows :

Year	Spun Yarn Production (000 kgs.)	Cloth Production (000 Sq. mtrs.)
1996	3,92,401	7,60,005
1997	4,10,393	7,15,325
1998	3,87,421	7,03,797

Figures for January, 1999 are not available.

The total number of workers in the textile mills of Maharashtra is as follows :-

Year (as on 1st January)	No. of workers
1996	2,09,342
1997	1,96,473
1998	1,89,589
1999	1,84,505

(b) and (c) No mill under NTC in the State has been closed although there is total/partial cessation of activities in some of the mills due to acute shortage of working capital. Since 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR, on the basis of a unit-wise viability study conducted by NTC, a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC including NTC (MN) and NTC (SM) alongwith the viable mills under them based on the BIFR norm of net worth of these mills turning positive within the prescribed period is under consideration. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

As on 31.12.98, 24 textile mills were reported to be lying closed in the State of Maharashtra. Government has set up the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (CIFR) which is entrusted with the responsibility of rehabilitation of the sick companies. In regard to rehabilitation of the workers rendered jobless due to closure of the mills, the Government has formulated a scheme called Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme being implemented by the office of Textile Commissioner. Under the scheme, Interim relief is provided

to the workers rendered jobless due to partial/complete closure of private sector mills only.

Outstanding Amount Against Iraq

3824. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount of unrealised bills of Indian exporters and outstanding receivables of Indian Public Undertakings from Iraq Government;
- (b) since when these are pending; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to realise the above amount from Iraq at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Total amount of outstanding in respect of projects executed by Indian companies in Iraq as on April 12, 1999, based on receivables certified by Central Bank of Iraq (CBIq)/Rafidain Bank (RB) and under Line of Credit (LOC) extended by Exim Bank to RB, is US \$ 867.69 mn. (The amount does not include bills submitted by Indian Companies but not yet certified, war claims and other compensation amount). The details of these receivables are as under :-

(i)	Outstanding amount in the case of projects covered under the Indo-Iraq Govt. to Govt. Deferred Payment Arrangements (DPA) certified and advised by CBIq.	US\$ mn 635.12
(ii)	The amount outstanding in respect of projects outside DPA, (of which an amount of US \$ 141.73 mn has been confirmed by CBIq/RB and the balance amount is awaiting confirmation)	183.44
(iii)	Of the above indicated amounts, amount receivable by public sector companies	311.74
(iv)	Amount receivable by Exim Bank from RB under the LOC extended by EXIM Bank to RB	49.13
Total		867.69

(b) So far, 7 DPAs have been signed between Governments of India and Iraq giving schedules of payment due under each DPA, under which payments were being received in oil. Last DPA was signed in 1990 under which entire payment was to be made by April 1, 1996. However, no payment was received from Iraq subsequent to August 1990, Gulf crisis. In respect of projects outside DPA, the same were com-

pleted between the period 1988 to 1992 and no payments have been received since the completion of the projects.

(c) Recovery of dues from Iraq was in the form of crude oil upto August, 1990 under DPAs. Subsequent to August 1990, as no DPA has been signed between Governments of India and Iraq, there is no agreement on any mode of repayment. During the 12th Session of Indo-Iraq Joint Commission for Economic and Technical Co-operation held during August 31- September 2, 1998 in New Delhi, Indian side conveyed its concern regarding in overdues in respect of projects under DPA, outside DPA and Exim Bank LOC. The Iraqi side took note of the same and reiterated its commitment to positively address the matter after the lifting of Sanctions of Iraq.

Special Drive for Refund of Transport Subsidy

3825. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether refund orders for transport subsidy to the employees of Central Government/PSUs for the assessment year 1997-98 have since been cleared;
- (b) if not, the position thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has now fixed any target date to clear all the refund cases mentioned above; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) Transport allowance was paid to all Central Government employees with effect from 01/08/1997 after deducting tax at source. Subsequently, through a retrospective amendment to the relevant rules, such transport allowance was held to be exempt. Accordingly, a large number of refunds arose in the case of Central Government employees for assessment year 1998-99. Where special counters for receipt of return were opened as part of an effort to provide better service, returns were processed under section 143 (1) (a) across the counter and refunds were also issued simultaneously.

All the remaining refunds will be issued at the time of completion of processing of the returns in accordance with the provisions of the Income- tax Act, 1961.

The Department does not maintain separate statistics of refunds arising out of excess tax paid on transport subsidy.

Export Areas in Bihar

3826. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the main areas identified in Bihar for export during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps proposed to concentrate more on export of agricultural products from Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce do not have any scheme to identify areas for exports from different States. However, it takes into consideration various commodities/products with export potential on the basis of their competitive edge.

(c) Agricultural and processed Food Export Development Authority have identified litechi for export from Bihar and have initiated a number of measures to boost its export including training programmes for production of quality litechi, engaging services of foreign scientists and shipment of litechi through reefer containers etc.

State Governments and Export Promotion Councils identify area with reference to exportable products and formulate projects for removal of infrastructural bottlenecks in exports from such areas. Government of India provides assistance under the Critical Infrastructure Balance scheme of Ministry of Commerce to such Projects for promotion of exports from these areas.

Central Silk Board have established a certification centre at Bhagalpur to assist silk exporters.

An Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) in Hajipur, District Vaishali has been sanctioned.

Community and Welfare Works in Andhra Pradesh

3827. SHRI S. S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of community development and welfare works undertaken by Coal India Limited in the coalfield areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years ;

(b) the amount spent by the CIL thereon during each of the last three years in the State and other Coal producing States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Since Coal India Limited does not have any mines in Andhra Pradesh, no community development and welfare works are undertaken by Coal India Limited there.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, the accounts for the financial year 1998-99 have not yet been finalised. The amount spent on Community Development and welfare works in other coal producing States during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 by Coal India Ltd., and its subsidiaries State-wise, is given below :-

		(In Rs. Lakhs)		
Company	State	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
E.C.L.	W. Bengal & Bihar	52.81	39.92	35.66
B.C.C.L.	Bihar	51.00	56.68	45.19

1	2	3	4	5
C.C.L.	Bihar	76.60	70.91	71.16
W.C.L.	M.P. & Maharashtra	29.69	11.62	65.14
S.E.C.L.	M.P.	156.26	155.10	250.52
M.C.L.	Orissa	256.33	458.60	590.14
N.C.L.	MP & UP	30.97	61.39	35.54
N.E.C.	Assam	9.55	11.81	18.20
CMPDIL	Bihar, W. Bengal, MP, Maharashtra & Orissa	40.56	0.40	50.00
Total		703.77	866.43	1,161.55

Tax Evasion by Foreign Companies

3828. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign companies like Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Hyatt Hotel, Samsung Electronics have been found evading the income tax in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the modus operandi thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such guilty companies;

(d) whether there is any proposal to check on the evasion in respect of all foreign companies in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) During certain surveys carried out by the field formations of the Income Tax Department, it was found that a large number of companies including those mentioned in part (a) of the question, were paying a substantial part of the salaries and the allowances to the expatriate employees in their home country, but they were not deducting the income tax due on such amounts. After initial surveys, several foreign companies voluntarily came forward and declared the amounts due on payments made to their expatriate employees in their home countries. All companies where such modus operandi is detected have been asked to pay the tax along with the interest due and a substantial portion of the same has been paid.

Necessary action as per law in respect of all the requisite cases shall be taken to check the non-deduction of tax at source on the component of the salary paid to the expatriate personnel outside India.

Revival of Sick Textiles Mills

3829. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :
 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
 SHRI U. V. KRISHNAMRAJU :
 SHRI M. BAGA REDDY :
 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
 SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
 SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
 SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE :
 SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL :
 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 SHRI K. PARYMOHAN :
 SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE :
 SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
 SHRI A. C. JOS :
 SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :
 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
 SHRI R. S. GAVAI :
 SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :
 SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
 SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE :
 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
 DR. ULHAS VASUDEV PATIL :
 SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
 SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
 SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
 SHRI VAIKO :
 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :
 SHRI MADAN PATIL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2204 dated December, 11, 1998 and state :

- (a) whether the Government have received the S.R.

Sathyam Committee Report constituted for formulation of new textile policy which *inter alia* includes revival/ modernisation of sick textile mills in the country ;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made in the report;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the said report is likely to be received by the Government;

(d) the details of sick textile and potentially viable units in Maharashtra and the details of time bound action plan formulated to revitalise the same ; and

(e) the estimated requirement of funds to implement the plan in Maharashtra and provision of funds made during the current year and proposed to be made for the next year?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The time taken for submission of the report by the Expert Committee is due to the extensive 'inter-active sessions' that the Expert Committee organised in different parts of the country with representatives of State Govts. trade and industry, apex organisations associations, federations, export promotion councils, research organisations, bankers/FIs', trade unions, consumer associations and individual experts which are necessary to gain an overall perspective about the present scenario, major problems, possible solutions, new strategies and new initiatives desirable in the changed scenario. The Government have extended the time for submission of report to April 23, 1999.

(d) and (e) The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is looking after the viability of sick mills including textile mills. According to information available, 72 cases of textile mills of the Maharashtra State (as on 31.12.98) are referred to BIFR. The viability as also the financial package to such mills referred to the BIFR is decided after considering various factors e.g. relief/concession by State/Central Government provisions of Working Capital and term loans by Banks/ Financial Institutions etc.

[Translation]

Settlement of Cases by Revenue Department

3830. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit has been stipulated for immediate depositing the amount to be paid by the consumer after settlement of the cases by the Revenue Department;

(b) if so, the stipulated time limit in this regard;

(c) the details of the outstanding amount not paid

by the consumer to the Department without appearing in person or without filing any appeal;

(d) the number of such cases settled by the Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Delhi Collectories;

(e) the details of such cases along with the outstanding amount; and

(f) the steps taken/ being taken by the Department for the recovery of the outstanding amount and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Sub-section(2) of Section 90 of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 the declarant under the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme, is required to pay the sum determined by the designated authority towards full and final settlement of tax arrears within 30 days of the passing of the order by the designated authority.

(c) As per current information, out of a sum of Rs. 751 crores determined as payable under the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme relating to indirect taxes, a sum of Rs. 468 crores is reported to have been paid by 31.03.99 by the declarants in respect of Customs and Central Excise cases. Hence, a sum of Rs. 283 crores remain unpaid to the department under the scheme. Under direct taxes, an amount of Rs. 930 crores is payable. The information regarding amount outstanding is presently not available.

(d) and (e) The number of cases settled and the outstanding amounts in respect of indirect taxes in the 4 zones are as under :-

Zone	No. of Cases Settled	Outstanding Amount
Chennai	1141	Rs. 42.53 crores
Mumbai	2608	Rs. 19.84 crores
Calcutta	1025	Rs. 16.90 crores
Delhi	2151	Rs. 7.50 crores

Requisite information in respect of direct taxes is presently not available.

(f) The outstanding amounts, if any, cannot be recovered under the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme since the scheme is closed and there is no provision for the department to pursue for the recovery of amounts not paid even though determined as payable under the Scheme. All such cases will be dealt with under the normal provisions, which include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment of bank accounts, and attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties.

[English]

Changes in the Patent Act

3831. SHRI BHUMA NAGI REDDY :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether USA has requested for consultations with India on changes in the Patent Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the details of safeguards provided for the protection of public health and nutrition in the Patent Act?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) The United States (US) requested for consultations with India in order to reach on a common understanding of the measures required to comply with the findings of the Disputes Settlement Body of the World Trade Organisation in the India-US dispute over patents. The Consultations were held in Geneva on February 11, 1999. The consultations covered the provisions in the amendments introduced to the Patents Act, 1970 including those applicable to mailbox and exclusive marketing rights and the provisions in relation to compulsory licensing. The position of Government of India was clarified to the US at that meeting.

(d) Section 47(2), Section 89 and 90 as well as provisions of Chapter XVII of the Patents Act, 1970 provide for detailed and adequate safeguards for the protection of public health and nutrition.

Recession in Steel Sector

3832. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Sector is badly hit by recession;

(b) if so, the increase/decline in production of finished steel during 1997-98 and target fixed in this regard during this period;

(c) the concrete efforts taken/being taken by the Government to achieve the target/improve the production of steel ;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any package of incentives and investment for revival/expansion/ upgradation/modernisation of steel industry;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard;

(f) whether import of huge quantity of cheap steel export during the last three years is also one of the reason of recession;

(g) if so, the details thereof and measures taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard;

(h) whether any Experts Group has been constituted in this regard;

(i) if so, whether the said Group has submitted its report; and

(j) if so, the recommendation made by the Group and the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (f) It is a fact that the steel sector has been facing a slowdown in growth during the last 2 years due to several reasons. Some of these are :-

- (i) sluggish demand in the steel consuming sectors.
- (ii) overall economic slowdown in the country.
- (iii) cost escalation in input materials for steel industry.
- (iv) continuous increase in excise duty in steel.
- (v) dumping of finished steel by CIS and other countries.
- (vi) adverse conditions in export market in steel.
- (vii) decline in domestic and international prices.

(b) After liberalisation, no production targets are fixed by Government for steel. The demand production and consumption is dependent on market forces. The production of finished (carbon) steel during 1997-98 was 23.37 million tonnes which was 2.8% higher than the previous year.

(c) to (e) and (g) to (j) Government have taken several steps to meet the demand for steel, such as modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants, adoption of various policy measures to encourage creation of additional steel production capacities in the private sector. Indian Steel Producers have been taking continuous steps to meet the domestic requirement of steel which include upgradation of technology, improvement in productivity and yield, improvement in quality of products and adopting the product-mix to the requirements of the consumers.

In the Union Budget for 1999-2000, Government has placed special emphasis on revival of the Indian economy through several means which, inter-alia, include accelerated development of the infrastructure sector, irrigation projects, housing products and rural water supply scheme. These measures are expected to boost the demand for steel.

A working Group had been set up by Government to study the present slow down in the steel sector. The Group in its report inter-alia recommended the following measures to help the domestic steel industry :-

- (i) Rationalisation of DEPB (Duty Entitlement Pass Book) rates.
- (ii) To consider feasibility of converting *ad valorem* rate of import Duty into fixed duties on certain finished steel items.
- (iii) To consider a combination of measures comprising levy of Special Import Duty on imports of seconds and defectives alongwith raising duties for certain types of steel upto World Trade Organisation bound rates.
- (iv) To consider removal of imports of Seconds and Defectives below a specific floor prices from OGL.
- (v) To deal with cases of dumping by establishing a fast track mechanism.
- (vi) Withdrawal/waiver of Special Customs Duty of 2% +3% and Special Additional Duty of 4% on input items for the steel sector which are not available within the country.

The details of results achieved so far on the recommendations made by the Working Group which will enable the steel industry to overcome the present situation are as under:-

- (i) DEPB rates for the exports of HR coils, CR coils, GP/GC sheets, colour coated sheets have been rationalised.
- (ii) The Government has fixed floor prices for certain items of finished steel including seconds and defectives to restrict their cheap imports. As a result, domestic producers of these items have been able to reduce their losses to some extent.
- (iii) Reduction in input costs for steel sector was recommended by the Working Group. The special customs duty has been waived on several inputs such as coking coal (ash content <12 %), non-coking coal, metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (>28%) in 1998-99. This has helped the domestic steel industry in bringing down the cost of inputs for iron and steel making.
- (iv) Strengthening of anti-dumping mechanism was recommended. An anti-dumping petition filed by M/s SAIL and M/s ESSAR Steel Ltd. on behalf of the domestic steel producers alleging dumping of HR coils/sheets/plates from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan has been decided. The designated Authority vide their notification dated 18th November, 1998 had recommended imposition of Anti-Dumping duties on imports from Russia and Ukraine. The Anti-Dumping Duty has since been levied w.e.f. 27/11/1998.

Shortage of Staff in DRT, Bangalore

3833. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases filed before the Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) Bangalore, during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of employees including Officers working in the above Tribunal;

(c) whether due to inadequate staff, there had been delay in disposing off these cases; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to sanction additional staff immediately?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Bangalore, has reported that during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 (upto 31-3-1999), 2875 cases were filed before the Tribunal.

(b) to (d) At present 21 Officers/employees are in position in the DRT at Bangalore. Initially, 19 posts (including Officers) were sanctioned by the Government. However, after review of the work load by the Government, 10 additional posts were sanctioned for each Tribunal including DRT Bangalore during 1997-98.

Import of Obsolete Machinery

3834. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidence of import of outdated and obsolete second hand machines has increased sharply in the recent times;

(b) if so, the conditions/rules being followed presently for making import of second hand machines;

(c) whether present rules have no stipulation about the age of the imported second hand machines;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested for restrictions on import of second hand machines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (f) Although no separate statistics are maintained for import of second hand Capital goods there have been reports of such goods being imported in various sectors. The CII has also suggested that such imports should be restricted. Keeping in view these suggestions as also the need for modernisation and upgradation of the domestic industry, the Government has decided to restrict the import of secondhand Capital goods with effect from 31.03.99.

Financial Aids to Investors Association

3835. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the amount of financial aid or reimbursement given to the Investors Associations by National Stock Exchange, Bombay Stock Exchange, Calcutta Stock Exchange, Delhi Stock Exchange and Uttar Pradesh Stock Exchange during 1994-95 to 1997-98 with year-wise break up?

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

[Translation]

Loan Through LIC

3836. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation is providing loans to various state Governments according to the plan of the Centre for implementation of water supply and disposal of sewage schemes in different towns;

(b) whether amount to be received becomes less than 50 percent on the basis and method on which loan has to be given; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide full amount of loans so that projects can be completed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) LIC has reported that they sanction loans for financing water supply and sewerage schemes depending upon the cost of the schemes. On the basis of the allocation by the Planning Commission, the State Governments/State level Water Authorities submit their proposals to LIC for sanction of loan. According to the graded pattern LIC grants loans to the extent of 67% to 50% depending on the cost of Schemes. In the case of Rural Water Supply Schemes LIC grants loan up to a maximum of 50% of the cost and the balance cost is generally met out of State Government grants. LIC's pattern of financing such schemes is adopted with a view to fund a large number of schemes. LIC also provides loans to cover the escalation in the original estimated cost of the schemes to the extent upto 25% of the difference between the original and revised estimated cost.

Investment in Infrastructure Projects

3837. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export group related to commercialisation has emphasised over the need of heavy investment in the infrastructure sector;

(b) if so, the indigenous and foreign investment made in the country since June 1996, as on date; and

(c) the State-wise details of investment made during the last two years?

structure Projects has estimated that the total infrastructure investment requirements would be about Rs. 4,300 billion between 1996-97 to 2000-01 and about Rs. 7,400 billion during 2001-02 to 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Details of foreign collaborations, actual inflow of foreign direct investment and State-wise investment estimates are provided in Statements I, II & III respectively.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Expert Group of Commercialization of Infra-

Statement-I

SIA Newsletter		January, 1999								
1. Foreign Collaboration Approvals—Comparative Figures										
		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	Total (1991-1998)
1. Total No. of Foreign Collaboration approvals by :										
(i)	SIA	760	585	307	382	593	410	167	193	3397
(ii)	RBI	188	736	676	702	799	719	801	432	5053
(iii)	FIPB	2	199	493	770	945	1174	1357	1161	6101
	Total	950	1520	1476	1854	2337	2303	2325	1786	14551#
2. Total No. of Foreign Collaboration(Technical) approvals by :										
(i)	SIA	514	342	248	290	428	311	119	129	2381
(ii)	RBI	147	485	441	501	552	424	416	401	3367
(iii)	FIPB	—	1	2	1	2	9	125	65	205
	Total	661	828	691	792	982	744	660	595	5953
3. No. of FC approvals involving Foreign investment :										
(i)	SIA	246	243	59	92	165	99	48	64	1016
(ii)	RBI	41	251	235	201	247	295	385	31	1686
(iii)	FIPB	2	198	491	769	943	1165	1232	1096	5896
	Total	289	692	785	1062	1355	1559	1665	1191	8598
4. Total Amount of Foreign Investment involved (Rs. in Billions)										
(i)	SIA	3.6	4.2	1.6	3.2	3.0	11.8	3.2	7.2	37.8
(ii)	RBI	1.4	7.8	6.6	5.3	5.4	12.5	92.7	1.9	133.6
(iii)	FIPB	0.3	26.9	80.4	133.4	312.3	337.2	453.0	299.0	1642.5
	Total (In Indian Rupees)	5.3	38.9	88.6	141.9	320.7	361.5	548.9	308.1	1813.9#†

Note : (i) 1 Billion = 100 Crores.

(ii) * - Include 58 proposals approved by FIPB for Global Depository Receipts (GDRs)/Foreign Currency Coverable Bonds (FCCBs) involving investment of Rs 193.90 Billion.

(iii) ** - Figures for 1998 updated upto 31/12/98.

(iv) † - The amount of foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Approved =US\$ 52.95 Billion (approx.)

SIA - Secretariat for Industrial Assistance

RBI - Reserve Bank of India

FIPB - Foreign Investment Promotion Board

Statement - II

Statement showing actual Inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI/NRI Investment) received during the period from January, 1991 to December, 1998

										Amount Rs. in million	
Actual Inflow of Foreign Direct Investment in	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998*	Total	(1991 to Dec., 1998)	
I. Government's approval (FIPB, SIA route)	1911.8	4779.5	9851.6	15007.6	38694.4	57589.1	101284.0	82397.3	311,515.3		
II. RBI's Automatic approval (under delegated power)	Nil	475.4	2411.0	3625.8	5301.6	6196.2	8672.2	6106.5	32,788.7		
III. NRI's†											
a. 40% scheme											
b. 100% scheme	1602.5	1496.9	5604.5	11185.1	19705.6	20620.4	10396.2	3594.8	74,205.9		
IV. GDRs/FCCBs\$	-	-	-	3074.3	4498.7	16448.3	34360.6	511.5	58,893.4		
V. Amount of inflow on transfer of shares from Resident to @ Non-resident	-	-	-	-	-	3038.0	9540.3	40593.5	53,171.8		
Grand Total	3,514.3	6,751.8	17,867.1	32,892.8	68,200.2	103,892.0	164,253.3	133,203.6	530,575.1#		

Total : Rs. 530,575.1 million (1991 to Dec. 1998)

Source : Reserve Bank of India, (ECD) Central Office, Mumbai.

Note :

- i. \$The amount of inflows raised through GDRs/FCCBs against the FDI approvals accorded by FIPB during the period from June '94 to Dec. '98 on the basis of information furnished by RBI.
- ii. †Special NRI Schemes Administered by RBI from 01/01/91 to 31/12/98; (Scheme i.e. 40%, 100%, 24% Air Taxi, Housing & Real estate Development & Sick Unit.)
- iii. #Provisional subject to reconciliation with RBI, Mumbai.
- iv. *Figures for 1998 updated upto 31/12/98
- v. @ Reported by RBI Mumbai-transfer of shares from Resident to Non-Resident under Section 29 of the FERA during January, 1996 to December, 1998.

Statement-III

Industrial Investment Proposals (Statewise) August 1991 – January 1999

State	Total Proposals			Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEM)					Letters of Intent (LOI)					
	(IEM+LOI)	%ge	Numbers Filed	%ge	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr.)	%ge	Proposed Emplmnt. (Numbers)	%ge	Numbers Issued	%ge	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr.)	%ge	Proposed Emplmnt. (Numbers)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Maharashtra	7292	18.91	6806	19.26	126196	19.13	1194255	19.53	486	15.02	12156	11.70	119999	15.82
Gujarat	5365	13.91	4967	14.06	122736	18.61	821436	13.43	398	12.30	20073	19.33	59868	7.89
Uttar Pradesh	3829	9.93	3486	9.87	61355	9.30	583294	9.54	343	10.60	9828	9.46	100802	13.29
Tamil Nadu	3742	9.70	3181	9.00	44504	6.75	516718	8.45	561	17.34	10386	10.00	111539	14.71
Andhra Pradesh	2634	6.83	2289	6.48	53516	8.11	391814	6.41	345	10.66	9852	9.49	70493	9.30
Haryana	2412	6.25	2233	6.32	23068	3.50	345593	5.65	179	5.53	4053	3.90	51645	6.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Madhya Pradesh	2123	5.50	1985	5.62	52428	7.95	427796	7.00	138	4.27	3601	3.47	32083	4.23
Rajasthan	1901	4.93	1814	5.13	28277	4.29	345461	5.65	87	2.69	1592	1.53	14766	1.95
Punjab	1848	4.79	1711	4.84	21249	3.22	422597	6.91	137	4.23	4448	4.28	45284	5.97
West Bengal	1545	4.01	1470	4.16	21075	3.19	241405	3.95	75	2.32	3929	3.78	18042	2.38
Karnataka	1454	3.77	1261	3.57	33278	5.04	206633	3.38	193	5.97	9248	8.90	64798	8.54
Dadra & N. Haveli	1076	2.79	1058	2.99	14636	2.22	120111	1.96	18	0.56	132	0.13	2450	0.32
Daman & Diu	510	1.32	493	1.40	3227	0.49	36996	0.60	17	0.53	66	0.06	3307	0.44
Delhi	467	1.21	450	1.27	6379	0.97	46331	0.76	17	0.53	30	0.03	1337	0.18
Kerala	427	1.11	373	1.06	6855	1.04	62145	1.02	54	1.67	2513	2.42	13447	1.77
Himachal Pradesh	380	0.99	348	0.98	7649	1.16	81196	1.33	32	0.99	476	0.46	6140	0.81
Pondicherry	367	0.95	351	0.99	4117	0.62	35541	0.58	16	0.49	1253	1.21	2868	0.38
Bihar	344	0.89	303	0.86	7063	1.07	49760	0.81	41	1.27	1806	1.74	15695	2.07
Goa	329	0.85	297	0.84	4478	0.68	31825	0.52	32	0.99	151	0.15	3271	0.43
Orissa	276	0.72	244	0.69	12081	1.83	94689	1.55	32	0.99	5438	5.24	11602	1.53
Assam	91	0.24	80	0.23	2913	0.44	12658	0.21	11	0.34	2430	2.34	4278	0.56
Jammu & Kashmir	71	0.18	67	0.19	492	0.07	34523	0.56	4	0.12	66	0.06	1705	0.22
Chandigarh	25	0.06	24	0.07	234	0.04	4766	0.08	1	0.03	0	0.00	9	0.00
Meghalaya	14	0.04	14	0.04	254	0.04	1503	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Sikkim	10	0.03	9	0.03	25	0.00	780	0.01	1	0.03	5	0.00	204	0.03
Andaman & Nicobar	9	0.02	9	0.03	332	0.05	2610	0.04	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	6	0.02	2	0.01	38	0.01	172	0.00	4	0.12	1	0.00	552	0.07
Nagaland	6	0.02	5	0.01	158	0.02	972	0.02	1	0.03	0	0.00	0	0.00
Tripura	4	0.01	4	0.01	1040	0.16	1347	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lakshadweep	1	0.00	1	0.00	4	0.00	278	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Mizoram	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Manipur	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
More than 1 State	12	0.03	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	12	0.37	332	0.32	2198	0.29
Total	38570	100.00	35335	100.00	659657	100.00	6115205	100.00	3235	100.00	103865	100.00	758352	100.00

IEMs : Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum application filed for items under delicensed sector.

LOIs : Letters of Intent issued in respect of Items under licensed sector.

1 Crore : 10 Million.

[English]

Brief Status Report on Y2K Problems

3838. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has made mandatory for all listed corporates to give a brief status report on their Y2K preparedness in their published quarterly results;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the other points to be mentioned in the report by the corporates;

(c) whether all the corporates are complying the SEBI orders; and

(d) if no, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India has advised all the stock exchanges, vide its circular dated March 9, 1999, to amend the listing agreement related to annual and quarterly results requiring listed corporates to disclose a brief status on Y2K preparedness level.

(b) The Disclosures to be made by the companies include the risk to the company due to Year 2000 issues, the cost to address them and the company's contingency plans.

(c) and (d) The requirements for disclosure have been made effective from the year ending December 31, 1998 or thereafter for annual results and from the quarter ending on or after March 31, 1999 for quarterly results. The respective stock exchanges are required to monitor adherence to the listing agreement by the corporates.

Housing Colony Constructed by BCCL

3839. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a housing colony has been constructed by BCCL at Kannataur, Dhokra Panchayat of Dhanbad;

(b) if so, the details of the areas, number of quarters, cost of construction and the date of completion;

(c) whether after construction of colony, it is lying vacant without use; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) 852 houses covering an area of 97.52 acres at a cost of Rs. 11.05 crores have been constructed by the Bharat Coking Coal Limited at

Karmatand, Dhokra Panchayat, Dhanbad and not at Kannataur, Dhokra Panchayat of Dhanbad. These houses were completed in November, 1996.

(c) and (d) Though the land for these houses was acquired through State Government, the erstwhile land owners and local villagers are not allowing BCCL employees to occupy these quarters. They have been demanding abnormal number of employment. For early settlement and occupation of these houses, CIL/BCCL are negotiating with the local villagers and erstwhile land owners.

Smuggling of Dry Fruits and Spices

3840. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that spices and dry fruits are smuggled to India from SRI Lanka through Nepal/Calcutta paving way for the fall in price of domestic production; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard to prevent smuggling effectively?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The following spices are freely importable into India with effect from 1.8.98 if imported from any of the SAARC countries:

(1) Pepper long; (2) Chilli; (3) Vanilla Powder; (4) Cassia; (5) Cinnamon Bark; (6) Cloves stems; (7) Cardamom large; (8) Fennel Powder; (9) Ginger Powder; (10) Saffron stigma; (11) Tejpat; (12) Thymes; (13) Curry Powder; (17) Dill Powder; (18) Mustard Powder; (19) Corriander Power; (20) Cumin powder etc.

As far as dry fruits are concerned, the items viz. Brazilnuts, Cashewnuts, Almonds, Hazelnuts, Walnuts, Chestnuts, Pistachos, Dates and Raisins are also freely importable.

As the above items are freely importable, there would be little reason for smuggling. However, Government is keeping a close watch on the situation and the concerned customs authorities and their field formations have been alerted to keep a careful watch and to take strict action against illegal activities.

Low Investment on Infrastructure

3841. SHRI N. J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India rated low on infrastructure" appearing in 'The Times of India' dated March 12, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

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

(b) The study conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) , inter alia, analyses the factors that determine, FDI inflows. While India is rated very high in terms of quality of manpower and market size, its ranking is low in the scale of infrastructure.

(c) Several measures have been taken to promote FDI in infrastructure development which, inter alia, includes :- automatic approval up to 100% in sectors such as power, roads and highways, and ports and harbours; setting up of independent regulatory authorities such as Central Electricity Regulatory Authority, (setting up of an ING authority and an authority for petroleum down-stream sector is under consideration); liberal External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) norms for infrastructure projects; attractive tax incentives; etc.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Parwana Stone-Mines

3842. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have framed rules for modernisation of stone-mines at Parwana near Mumbai ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 'No Objection Certificate' has been made mandatory for the modernisation of these Stone-Mines; and

(d) if so, the concrete programme being drawn to provide employment opportunities to the people who are likely to be rendered jobless as a result of this mandatory provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. As per provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act (MMRD Act) 1957 and Rules framed there-under mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments only. However, for minerals listed in Schedule I to the MMRD Act 1957, prior approval of the Central Government is required to be taken before grant of mineral concessions. Grant of mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals are governed by the Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the respective State Governments. As per Section 3 (e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, building stones come under the category of Minor Minerals and therefore framing of rules of grant of mineral concessions for building stones including modernisation of stone mines comes within the purview of the State Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

Closure of Spinning Mills in Orissa

3843. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of spinning mills have been closed down in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number thereof;

(c) the reasons for the closure of those mills;

(d) whether any steps have been taken for the revival of those mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) As on 31.1.99, the following two spinning mills have been closed in the State of Orissa :-

1. Lingaraja Textiles P. Ltd., A/68, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar (Closed due to financial difficulties).

2. Bhaskar Textile Mills, Industrial Estate, Sambalpur, Jarsuguda, Orissa (Details of closure are being called for).

(d) and (e) Government has established Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985 to tackle the problems of sickness. Lingaraja Textiles has been registered with the BIFR and the mill has been declared as non-maintainable by the BIFR.

(f) Does not arise.

Container Corporation of India

3844. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the Container Corporation of India under the direct control of his Ministry;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints from the CONCOR Union regarding corruption and atrocities on SC/ST staff; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

- (c) No, Sir.
 (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Strike by NTC Workers in 1982

3845. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of workers who have not been reinstated after the strike of 1981 in the N.T.Cs mills in Mumbai;
 (b) the number of workers who have since expired and have not been paid their arrears of gratuity so far;
 (c) whether the Government propose to reinstate the workers who went on strike;
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (e) the time by which arrears of gratuity to the family members of such workers are likely to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) As per the information available, 5118 employees of mills under NTC (MN) Ltd. have approached the Courts for their reinstatement and 5664 employees of these mills have approached neither the management nor the Courts for their reinstatement. In NTC(SM) Ltd., 2087 employees have not been reinstated after the 1981 strike.

(b) The number of such workers who have expired is not available.

(c) to (e) The workers who have been ordered to be reinstated by the Courts are being reinstated after due identification and will be paid all dues including gratuity according to the decision of the Courts.

[English]

Defaulting Payment to Provident Fund Board by MAMC

3846. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd. is continuously defaulting since 1990 in making payment to the exempted Trustee Board of Provident Fund, the due amount, after deducting the same from the salary of the employees alongwith Management's contribution;

(b) if so, the accumulated outstanding amount arising out of the above;

(c) whether due to failure to liquidate the outstanding employees are subjected to serious sufferings in general and those who have retired in particular;

(d) whether this act, both on the part of Management and Promoters, also call for penal action as per Statutory provisions;

(e) whether while initiating penal actions for such offence, discriminations are being meted out between Public Sector Promoter and Private Sector Promoter, where, in the fitness of things, it was expected that Public Sector would set up some example in dealing with such statutory outstanding;

(f) whether the Government have directed on 28th May, 1998 to the Management of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation to ensure full payment of P.F. dues in future to the appropriate authority to avoid further complications;

(g) whether the Government have assured the Central Provident Fund Commissioner that some action had been initiated to liquidate the whole liability on account of employees' related Statutory Provident Fund dues; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : (a) Due to acute financial crisis the company has not been able to deposit the Provident Fund amount with the P.F. Commissioner.

(b) Rs. 23.65 crores as on 31.3.1999.

(c) to (e) The accumulation of dues has taken place due to the inability of the company to generate enough resources. However, Government has recently released Rs. 50.66 crore for statutory dues including Provident Fund to MAMC. With this the position has improved considerably.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h) On 28.5.98 Central Provident Fund Commissioner was informed that a proposal is under consideration of the Government to liquidate the liability on account of employees related statutory dues.

[Translation]

Gross Domestic Product

3847. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product;

(b) the extent of success achieved by taking these steps to increase the growth rate; and

(c) the manner in which growth rate is being monitored by the Government and since when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) to (c) As a result of various economic policies undertaken by the Government, the overall growth measured

in terms of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) at factor cost (at 1993-94 prices) increased from 5 per cent in 1997-98 (Quick Estimates) to 5.8 per cent in 1998-99 (Advance Estimates). The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in the Department of Statistics compiles and publishes annually the estimates of GDP. These estimates of GDP are available from the Year 1950-51 onwards.

Tax Evasion by ACC, Kanpur

3848. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tax evasion has been committed by the "A.C.C. Group of Companies" ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) References from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and tax evasion petitions have been received alleging evasion of taxes by the Associated Cement Company, its officials at Kanpur and dealers at Deoria in U.P. These allegations will be enquired into at the assessment stage.

[English]

Tariff on Textile Sector Items

3849. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the pressure from the European Union over the rising controversy on overshooting 1998 garment quota entitlement, India has agreed to bind import of duties on a wide array of textile sector items with the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether this exercise is likely to cover more than 200 tariff lines of various categories;

(c) if so, whether once the customs duty rates are irrevocably bound with the WTO, India would not be in a position to impose higher tariffs on these items; and

(d) if so, to what extent it is likely to affect India's textile exports ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) In the Indo-EU MOU on market access for textiles and clothing products signed on 31.12.1994, which provided mutual benefits, Government had agreed inter-alia to bind tariffs at agreed levels by notifying to the WTO in respect of the textile items listed in the MOU covering 220 HS lines.

(c) Through such bindings remains generally irrevocable, provisions are available under the W.T.O. dispensa-

tions to raise the levels in certain cases following specified procedures.

(d) Under the MOU, India had agreed to bind its tariff in return for greater market access for exports from India.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant

3850. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDAY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited obtained a contract in 1989 to make a model of Raw Material handling complex, supply and handling over of equipments for the modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, whether the company has suffered a loss of Rs. 58.41 lakhs for not availing the exemption available under Central Excise Duty Act; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the officers found guilty of putting the company to loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) had paid Rs. 58.41 lakh upto 15.5.1993 in compliance with the directives of the Controller, Central Excise, Bolpur for 2613 Tonne fabricated structures. This has been paid "under protest" pending final judgement of the Supreme Court on the issue of excisability of fabricated structures.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

[English]

Resurgent India Bonds

3851. SHRI MADAN PATIL :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the position regarding utilisation of funds mobilised under Resurgent India Bonds Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are wasting the proceeds of Resurgent India Bonds of last year's by parking it at much lower rates abroad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Out of the amount collected viz. US \$ 40.23 bn (Rs. 18,051 crore) a sum of Rs. 15,801 crore (eq. of

US\$ 3.70bn) has been brought into India and converted into rupees. The details of deployment are as under :-

(Rs. in crore)	
Amount invested in Govt. Securities	5140
Funds held in RBI as CRR	1986
Amount paid to other banks	6144

Investments made by SBI for use in Infrastructure sector :

(Rs. in crore)	
IDBI	1000
HUDCO	100
PFC	100
ODFC	500
EXIM BANK	100
ICICI	100
	1900

(c) and (d) Only about 15% of the RIBs collections have been retained abroad, the details of which are as under :-

US\$	522.20 million
£	0.616 million
DM	1.997 million

These funds have been retained principally to take care of forex portion of loan for the infrastructure sector or such other requirements.

Identification of Coal Reserves

3852. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

PROF. RITA VERMA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has informed about the availability of huge reserves of coal at several places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the names of areas, particularly in Rajasthan and Bihar where reserves have been discovered;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited is in a position to undertake mining at all these places;

(d) if not, the manner in which these reserves are proposed to be exploited;

(e) whether immediate exploitation of these reserves is necessary to meet the demand; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) It has been reported by GSI that total coal reserves in the country as on 1.1.1999 stands at 208.75 billion tonnes. No coal reserves have been reported in Rajasthan, however a total reserves of 1466.99 million tonnes of lignite has been estimated. The details of coal reserves in different areas of Bihar are as under :-

Sl. No.	Names of Area	Total Reserves (Reserves in Million Tonnes)
1.	Raniganj Coalfields	2047.10
2.	Jharia Coalfields	19430.06
3.	East Bokaro Coalfields	6005.01
4.	West Bokaro Coalfields	4755.93
5.	Ramgarh Coalfields	970.96
6.	North Karanpura Coalfields	14029.11
7.	South Karanpura Coalfields	6013.97
8.	Auranga Coalfields	2997.11
9.	Hutar Coalfields	249.82
10.	Daltanganj Coalfields	143.96
11.	Deogarh Coalfields	399.84
12.	Rajmahal Coalfields	11713.73
	Total	68756.60

(c) Based on the demand of coal in that area, geo-mining condition, economic viability and availability of funds, Coal India prepares projects for exploitation of the coal reserves.

(d) As per provisions of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 (amended) the coal reserves can be worked by private Indian companies engaged in generation of power, production of steel and cement for their captive use.

(e) and (f) The exploitation of coal reserves are being carried out to meet the projected demand during the IXth five year plan excepting the partial demand of coking coal.

[Translation]

Indo-Spain Relations

3853. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Spain to promote trade relations;
- (b) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement; and
- (c) the time by which the agreement is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The agreement titled "Trade and Economic Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Spain", primarily aims at increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. The main objectives envisaged in the agreement are as follows :-

- (a) To stimulate promote and facilitate the contacts and closer cooperation between public and private enterprises of both countries;
- (b) To consider with utmost attention and favourable disposition the possible agreements to be established between public and private firms of both countries in the fields of joint ventures; and
- (c) To encourage any other form of commercial cooperation which would be mutually acceptable and advantageous.

2. In order to achieve the above objectives, a Joint Committee consisting of the representatives of the two Governments was established as part of the Agreement and meets annually. The 6th meeting of the Joint Committee was held in New Delhi in February, 1999. The agreement which was signed in 1972 is already in force.

Support Price for Jute

3854. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) the support price for purchasing jute during the current year;
- (b) the target fixed by the Jute Corporation of India for purchasing jute during the current year;
- (c) whether the above target will be achieved during the stipulated period; and
- (d) the steps taken to achieve the target set?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Minimum Support Price of raw jute of TD-5 grade was fixed at Rs. 650/- per qtls. Ex-Assam.

(b) JCI had fixed a target of procuring 5 lakhs qtls. under MSP Operation if the prices ruled below minimum support price during the current year 1998-99.

(c) and (d) The JCI was ready with adequate funds and

infrastructure to commence MSP operations. It purchased around 18 thousand qtls. of jute to satisfy the MSP requirements in the conditions which existed for a brief period only in certain isolated remote pockets. Thereafter raw jute price have been ruling 50% above the MSP levels. Further Price Support Operation by JCI was not called for after the season.

Use of Labour Intensive Technique

3855. DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the use of capital-intensive technique is gaining priority in the industry after adoption of the policy of liberalisation and globalisation in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the utility of labour is constantly decreasing with the use of the capital-intensive technique;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government have taken any steps to give priority to the use of labour intensive technique in the industries of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (c) The intensity of Capital used in the production process can be judged by the Incremental Capital Output ratio (ICOR). As compared to the Eighth plan in the Ninth Plan, the ICOR has declined in Agriculture, Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing, Construction and other major sectors which account for large share in employment. Therefore, it may not be correct to say that the use of Capital Intensive technique is gaining priority in industry in post-liberalisation scenario.

(d) and (e) Expansion of employment opportunities has been an important objective of development planning in India. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, 10 crore jobs are proposed to be created. In the post-liberalisation industrial growth there is a shift in emphasis to building up capacity and efficiency in the area in which India enjoys comparative advantage in production, such as gems and jewellery, garments etc. which are essentially labour-intensive.

The Government is conscious of the need for giving increasing role for the small scale sector and necessary measures for promoting it are being undertaken. SSI growth will ensure growth in use of labour intensive techniques, as this is one of the major sectors for employment generation. Between 1992-93 to 1996-97, against a targeted annual average employment growth of 3.6%, the Small Scale Sector achieved an employment growth of 4.3%.

[English]

Abuse of Psychotropic Substances and Polydrugs

3856. SHRI R. S. GAVAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Narcotic Control Board has indicated in its latest report that abuse of psychotropic substances and polydrugs has rising in South Asia;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) UN International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in its report for the year 1998 mentions that the analgesic buprenorphine is increasingly being abused in South Asia and has already become one of the main drugs abused in some parts of the region. Suprenorphine is reportedly abused mostly by young man who live in urban centres in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. It is also mentioned therein that other medicinal products such as hypnotics and sedatives and anxiolytics (barbiturates and benzo-diazepines) continue to be abused in most countries in South Asia. Abuse of codeine based cough medicines have also been pointed out in the INCB Report.

(b) All State Drug Controller authorities have been advised to issue suitable instructions to the Inspectorate Staff to prevent the easy availability of these drugs to retail outlets and also to ensure that these drugs marketed under different brand names are supplied against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner to control the possible misuse of these drugs. Manufacturers marketing formulations containing these drugs have been advised to have minimum stockist outlets for sale and to ensure that these drugs should be sold and used under strict medical supervisions. Export of psychotropic substances out of India is permitted on export authorisation issued after verification of original import certificate issued by the competent authority of the importing country and if the proposed import is within the estimated requirements of that country as per estimates indicated by the INCB.

[Translation]

Incentives to FPI

3857. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given incentives to the Food Processing Industry to promote exports during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of processed food exported during each of the last three years; and

(d) the investment made during the above period in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The Government has been encouraging export of processed food items through various support/assistance schemes. The assistance provided in this regard include the following:-

(i) Provision of grant/loan for development and modernisation of meat processing, establishment of post harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing, assistance for undertaking Research and Development, human resource development, Strengthening of traditional fish processing technologies and marketing;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);

(iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000 HACCP at export units;

(v) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(vi) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports.

(c) The value of export of processed food items comprising of processed fruits and vegetables and other processed food items during the last three years as follows:-

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1996-97	2309.68
1997-98	2256.37
1998-99 (April-January 1999)	1551.38

(Source : APEDA)

(d) The foreign direct investments and technical collaboration approved during the period January 1996 to December 1998 in the food processing industries has been as follows:

No of approvals	236
Amount of FDI approval	Rs. 5944.24 crores

[English]

Financial Restructuring of State Financial Corporations

3858. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the State Financial Corporations in the country have been repaying the principal and interest on the money borrowed from SIDBI/IDBI regularly;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these SFCs are also paying penal and additional interest to SIDBI and IDBI since years;

(d) if so, the SFC wise quantum of penal and additional interest received by SIDBI/IDBI during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the weak SFCs resources are supplemented by SIDBI/IDBI at least to the extent of penal/additional interest collected by them over years, pending a final decision on financial restructuring of SFCs?

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

Trade with China

3859. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fifteen member delegation from China visited India in the month of March, 1999 to have a thorough discussion with the Indian Government to improve trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether an agreement between the two countries have been reached; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No fifteen member delegation from China has visited India in March, 1999 for discussions with the Government to improve trade between the two countries. However, trade delegations are frequently exchanged between China and India for the purpose of discussions on specific trade matters.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Employees of State Financial Corporation

3860. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to equate the status of employees of the State Financial Corporations with that of other Commercial Banks as they both discharge the same functions; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT

SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. With a view to providing greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility to the State Financial Corporations (SFCs), comprehensive amendments to the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951 however, are under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade with Pakistan

3861. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has identified eight sectors with considerable potential for trade with Pakistan, as reported in the news-item captioned "Remove trade curbs, urges FICCI" which appeared in "The Business Standard" dated February 23, 1999;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to start trade with Pakistan in these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a study entitled "Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Pakistan", FICCI has identified the following eight specific sectors with potential for bilateral trade; engineering industry, textile machinery, textiles, automobiles, tyres chemical items, plastic products and tea.

(c) Trade between India and Pakistan is hindered by Pakistan's restrictive Trade Policy towards India. While India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan, they are yet to extend this facility to us. Pakistan currently allows import of 594 items from India, which includes some of the items identified in the FICCI Study and trade is already taking place in such items. However, scope for further increase in bilateral trade depends on Pakistan liberalising its Trade Policy towards India. Government has taken up with the Pakistan Government to accord MFN status to India from time to time. However, their restrictive Trade Policy towards India continues to be in force.

[Translation]

Testing of Gold Ornaments

3862. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for testing and certification of quality of gold ornaments;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the work of testing and certification is likely to be started; and
- (d) the names of the towns in which the work of testing and certification is proposed to be started first?

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

(b) Under the Scheme of "Hall Marking of Gold Jewellery", which will be voluntary in nature, certification of the jewellers will be done by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for getting their jewellery hall marked from BIS-recognized Assaying and Hall Marking Centres.

(c) In the second half of 1999.

(d) Initially, the scheme is proposed to be launched in a few metropolitan cities.

[English]

Projects in Collaboration with German and Oman

3863. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects set up in the country in collaboration with Germany and Oman, sector-wise, State-wise;

(b) the total foreign investment made therein;

(c) whether some new projects are proposed to be set up by the Government in collaboration with Germany and Oman during 1999-2000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of projects approved so far, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) Sir, 1690 project proposals (854 financial and 836 technical) involving Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of Rs. 6840.40 crore have been approved by the Government in respect of Germany, and 15 (14 financial and 1 technical) project proposals involving FDI of Rs. 575.58 crore have been approved in respect of Oman during the period from 1.8.91 to 28.2.99. Sector-wise, State-wise details of project proposals with FDI approved in respect of all countries including Germany and Oman are published in the Monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion which is widely circulated including the library of the House.

(c) and (d) No specific target is fixed for foreign investment projects, including Germany and Oman, however, Government is making continuous effort to provide a conducive environment to attract greater FDI into the country. These

projects are contingent on various factors which include domestic economic conditions, policy regime governing foreign investments, world economic trends and the strategies of global investors.

Drug Trafficking

3864. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Geopolitical report on drugs has identified both India and Pakistan interests as using Nepal over the last 15 years to traffic drugs to other parts of the World;

(b) whether it has also mentioned in the report that Pakistan uses money obtained from Narcotics/drug operations to fund militant outfits;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The "World Geopolitics of drugs 1997/1998, Annual Report" mentions that Nepal has turned into a hub for all kinds of illicit activities during the last 15 years. Due to the country's geographic location between South West and South East Asia, endemic corruption and authorities, failure to control its borders efficiently, traffickers are using export networks of legal products to send large quantities of hashish to consumer markets in the West.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) During the Home Secretary level talks held between India and Pakistan at New Delhi on 12.11.1998 on the subject of 'Terrorism and Drug Trafficking', the issue of drug trafficking from Pakistan was, inter-alia raised with the Pakistani side. Indian side underlined the fact that the menace of terrorism had assumed serious proportions through its nexus with narco-terrorism and drug trafficking. It was mentioned that Pakistan is a major source of supply and transit route for illicit drugs including heroin. There was agreement on both sides to further strengthen existing bilateral cooperation between Narcotics Control Bureau of India and Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan for combating drug trafficking.

[Translation]

Y2K Problem

3865. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bankers have expressed fears on Y2K problem due to which huge customers withdrawals are expected by the end of this year;

(b) if so, whether the RBI has set up a Committee to solve the Y2K problem;

(c) if not, the details of recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the concrete steps the Government propose to take to solve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) banks have not expressed any fear of huge withdrawals on account of developments relatable to Y2K.

(b) to (d) RBI have constituted a Working Group on Y2K issues under one of the Deputy Governors, which includes representatives of Indian Banks' Association, National Institute of Bank Management and some bankers. Officials of Ministry of Finance, Department of Telecommunications and Department of Electronics are also invited to participate at the meetings of the Working Group. This Group reviews on bimonthly basis the progress made in achieving Y2K compliance by banks including RBI. A contingency plan has also been developed to ensure business continuity in case of any failure of computers. The Boards of Directors of the concerned banks also monitor the progress relating to Y2K compliance on a continuing basis.

[English]

Illegal Import of Raw Pashmina

3866. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of unsold pashmina is lying with different Cooperatives/Boards of Jammu & Kashmir;

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

(c) whether the nomadic people of Changthang of Leh district who are wholly dependent on the live stock products i.e. Pashmina, are on the verge of starvation because their Pashmina is not being sold as a large quantity of Pashmina is being imported illegally from China and Nepal; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop such illegal import and disposal of their unsold Pashmina?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) According to the information received from the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir, nearly 6300 Kg. of raw pashmina is lying with the J&K Sheep & Sheep Products Development Board and one Cooperative Society of Leh. The prevalent market prices of raw pashmina do not warrant disposal of stocks.

(c) and (d) Non-disposal of raw pashmina with the

nomadic people of Changthang region is also because of the non remunerative market prices and this has caused them a little financial hardship. The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir has informed that there are no authentic reports of illegal importation of pashmina in Ladakh region from Nepal and China.

Procedural Hurdles in Export

3867. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestions from the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to adopt three-pronged strategy to remove procedural hurdles to reverse the export slide;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A memorandum was received by the Government on 12th August 1998 from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry containing various suggestions for reversing export slide. Some of the steps suggested in this memorandum were reduction in transaction cost, Revamping of export credit schemes, Remodelling of EPZs, Promoting Service Exports, Extension of DEPB scheme to Deemed exports, Lowering of threshold limit on EPCG scheme, ensuring power supply at competitive rates to manufacturing enterprises, overcoming customs related complexities and optimal utilization of port facilities.

(c) Many of these suggestions have been accepted and incorporated in the Exim Policy announced on 31st March, 1999.

Export of Gems and Jewellery

3868. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the processing of diamonds and export of gems and jewellery;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last three years and achievements made in this regard so far;

(c) whether the overall export of gems and jewellery has been dismal during 1998-99;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the diamond processing and export of gems and jewellery during 1999-2000?

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

(b) The important policy initiatives taken during the last three years to increase the exports of gems and

jewellery are : (i) With a view to facilitate upgradation of the jewellery industry, the threshold limit for zero Custom duty imports under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme has been brought down to Rs. 1 crore from the earlier level of Rs. 20 crores. (ii) Export Processing Zones (EPZs)/Export Oriented Units (EOUs) were permitted to receive machine-made gold/silver/platinum jewellery and chains from the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) against exchange of Gold/Silver/Platinum of same purity, (iii) EOUs/EPZ units were permitted to sell 10% of value of exports of the preceding year in the DTA on payment of concessional duty, (iv) Rationalisation of value addition and wastage norms for Gold/Silver/Platinum jewellery, (v) Value based Replenishment Licence Scheme was extended to silver and platinum jewellery, (vi) Private/Public Bonded Warehouses were permitted in EPZ/DTA for import, supply and re-export of rough diamonds and rough precious and semi-precious stones. Besides the above, import and re-export of cut and polished diamonds and cut and polished gem stones with 5% value addition was also permitted. (vii) Simplification of procedure for import and supply of gold and silver by the Govt. nominated agencies and banks authorised by the Reserve Bank of India, (viii) Personal Carriage of samples of jewellery allowed upto US\$ 1,00,000 has been allowed for export promotion tours. (ix) Export of branded jewellery has been encouraged by permitting display/sale in foreign outlets subject to getting them returned within 45 days if not sold within 180 days. (x) The Govt. of Maharashtra issued orders exempting sales tax on the gold supplied by specified agencies for exports. Many other State Govts. have also reduced the incidence of Sales Tax on the supply of gold for exports.

Exports of gems and jewellery during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Value (Value in US\$ million)
1996-97	4752.84
1997-98	5116.01
1998-99	6152.70

Source : For 1996-97 and 1997-98 Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta. For 1998-99 Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mumbai.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Exim Policy as announced on 31st March'99 includes the following policy initiatives for giving a boost to exports of gems and jewellery : (i) Provision for issuance of Diamond Imprest Licence to the status holders upto 5% of the export performance of the preceding year of cut and polished diamonds, for import of cut and polished diamonds for

subsequent exports subject to achieving a value addition of 10%. (ii) Permission to EOU/EPZ units to import plain gold/platinum/silver jewellery for repairs/re-make and subsequent export subject to earning a minimum Net Foreign Exchange percentage of 7.5%. (iii) Permission for personal carriage of gems and jewellery parcels by foreign buyers from all EOU and EPZ units and also from the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) Units located at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai, (iv) Permission for export of gems and jewellery items by courier from selected ports upto a value of Rs. 20 lacs per consignment, (v) Duty free import of consumables required by the jewellery and diamond processing industries, are permitted to the extent of 1% of the FOB value of gems and jewellery exports in the preceding year, (vi) Value addition norms for Bangles made by fully mechanised process and Mangalsutra have been rationalised.

Besides the above policy initiatives, the following steps are also proposed to facilitate the growth in the exports of gems and jewellery: (i) Introduction of voluntary Hallmarking of jewellery so as to improve the quality image of Indian jewellery, (ii) Establishment of a Diamond Jewellery Design and Product Development Centre at Mumbai.

Development of Textiles Industries

3869. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADHAVBHAI JAVIYA:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented for the development of textiles industries in the country;

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

(c) the details of amount spent on these schemes alongwith achievement made by implementing these schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) No Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented for the development of textiles industries as such. However, the following schemes are implemented for the development of handloom sector.

(i) Project Package Scheme.

(ii) Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing.

(iii) Thrift Fund Scheme.

(iv) Insurance Scheme.

These Schemes are applicable to all the States including Gujarat.

(c) The details are given in the statement.

Statement

Amount Released and Beneficiaries covered under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Scheme	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
		Amt. released	No. of beneficiaries covered	Amt. released	No. of beneficiaries covered	Amt. released	No. of beneficiaries covered
1.	Project Package Scheme	1779.16	50847	3942.75	64989	3686.81	78820
2.	Thrift Fund Scheme	259.14	175694	390.47	213191	352.55	160666
3.	Group/New Insurance Scheme	70.01	211504	75.88	166885	98.86	214299
4.	Development of Exportable products and their Marketing	250.00	*	468.91	*	335.00	*

* During the last three years, assistance has been extended to 50 agencies/organizations to develop exportable products, building production capabilities, marketing etc. The overall exports of cotton handloom increased for Rs. 1491.32 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1859.53 crores in 1997-98.

[Translation]

Corruptions in Setting up of Coal Handling Plants

3870. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI :

DR. RAMCHANDRA DOME :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary of his Ministry held a meeting on February 12, 1999 with the leaders of all trade unions;

(b) if so, the details of points raised in the discussion;

(c) whether the leaders of the trade unions drew his attention towards the prevailing corruption in Khottadihi, Dhemen, Sonapur, Bazari, Jhanjhra and Satgram Collieries with regard to setting up of Coal handling plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The Secretary, Ministry of Coal participated in the meeting of Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) of Eastern Coalfields Limited held on 12.2.1999 at Kunustoria Area office of Eastern Coalfield Limited where leaders of Trade Unions were also present.

(b) to (e) The salient points raised in the discussion were basically related to continuous deteriorating conditions including acute financial crunch resulting in erosion of net worth of ECL threatening its survival and measures such as immediate closure of 20 uneconomic mines, one time separation of workers above 55 years of age, 15% increase in productivity against existing wages etc. amongst others, were suggested to the union representatives for revival of ECL.

The Trade Union representatives, however, did not agree to the above suggestions and suggested for increase in

import duty to discourage import of coal, reduction in railway freight, stoppage of pilferage of coal/illegal mining. CIL to be made a unitary company, provision of financial assistance by the Government, realisation of outstanding dues, reduction in cess/royalty rates etc. and other related issues of some of the Areas.

[English]

Funds Through Disinvestment

3871. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Public Sector Undertakings selected for disinvestment during 1999-2000;

(b) the target set for the said period;

(c) the details of the phased programme of disinvestment finalised by the Government;

(d) The details of the recommendations made by the Disinvestment Commission; and

(e) the reasons for delay in implementation of the recommendations of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) It has been decided to disinvest certain portion of Government held equity in CONCOR, GAIL, EIL, IOC, MFIL, IPCL and BALCO to partially achieve the target of raising Rs. 10000 crores through disinvestment during 1999-2000. No phased programme of disinvestment has been finalised as the disinvestment is done keeping in view the market conditions.

(d) and (e) The Disinvestment Commission has so far made specific recommendations in respect of 45 PSUs. These recommendations are processed in consultation with the Administrative Ministries for obtaining the Government decision in such recommendations. The actual implementation is done keeping in view the market conditions, as a result of which sometimes the delays occur.

Production of Rubber

3872. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present production of natural rubber in the country and especially in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government are aware that even the bench price on rubber has not protected the interests of rubber growers;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the prevailing situation is likely to lead to complete annihilation in the rubber cultivation; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures are being taken to save this sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) During 1997-98, the production of rubber in the country was 5.84 lakh tonnes out of which 5.42 lakh tonnes was produced in Kerala State. The production of rubber during 1998-99 in the country is estimated at 6.10 lakh tonnes.

(b) to (d) The decline in prices of Natural Rubber is due to industrial recession. In order to protect the interests of the rubber growers, Govt. of India have taken a number of remedial measures besides fixing the Benchmark Price. These measures are:

- (i) market intervention operation through STC to procure rubber on Govt. Account;
- (ii) to sell the procured rubber to the holders of Advance Licence;
- (iii) suspension of import of rubber through Advance Licence;
- (iv) prescribing a minimum c.i.f. value ceiling on import of used/retreaded tyres; and
- (v) revision of Benchmark Price of Natural Rubber.

Further, the situation in this sector is being monitored on a regular basis.

Import of Coal

3873. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any data about the Coal imported annually by various sectors;

(b) if so, the total quantum of Coal imported annually by them, sector-wise, indicating the grades of coal imported so far and the per tonne cost of such coal;

(c) whether the production cost of that coal is much higher in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to reduce the production cost;

(e) whether the coal industry is badly hit by huge quantity of cheaper coal imports made by various sectors;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Coal India Limited has prepared a plan to face the challenges of imported coal in Indian market and sluggish coal demand from power and steel sector;

(h) if so, details thereof; and

(i) the details of steps being taken/proposed to be taken to discourage the cheaper coal imports and ensure healthy growth of coal industry and also to improve the demand of indigenous coal in power, steel, cement and fertilizers sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Since coal is under open general licence, this Ministry does not monitor the import of coal. However, the total quantity of coal imported in the country during the last three years as per available information with Ministry of Coal is as under :

Year	Import (In million tonnes)			Value
	Coking	Non-Coking	Total	
1995-96	9.37	3.14	12.51	US\$925.6 million
1996-97	9.78	4.53	14.31	Rs. 3532.00 crores (Approx)
1997-98	10.65	6.56	17.21	Rs. 4422.30 crores (Approx)

The sector wise break-up of imported coal, grades and cost of imported coal per tonne is not available in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) The cost of domestic coal at pitheads is probably the lowest in the World. However, the cost to the consumer is higher owing to rail freight and high level of royalty and other levies on domestic coal as compared to imported coal.

(e) to (i) Yes, Sir. Domestic coal is higher price than

imported coal particularly in coastal locations because of high incidence of rail freight compared to sea freight and also because of the higher incidence as a percentage of royalty etc. The Government has, therefore, taken steps to rectify this imbalance. In the recently announced budget, the effective duty on non-coking coal has been increased by 1.5%. The following steps have been taken by the coal companies to stimulate demand :

- (i) The coal companies have observed inevitable cost increases which have occurred since the time of last price revision of coal.
- (ii) The Government have allowed coal companies also to sponsor rail movement of coal with the result that wider sections of consumers can be provided coal.
- (iii) Coal companies have taken steps to increase the free availability of coal by the Liberalised Sale Schemes and the Trade Channel Sale Schemes.
- (iv) Greater attention is being paid to improving quality of coal despatches by introducing a system sampling at loading and at un-loading ends for supplies to the power sectors.

Revision of Royalty on Minerals

3874. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the royalty on minerals is revised from time to time;
- (b) if so, the period after which the royalty is revised;
- (c) whether the Union Government propose to delegate powers to the State Governments for revision of royalty; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) As per the provisions of Section 9 (3) of Mines and Minerals

(Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule to the Act so as to enhance or reduce the rate at which royalty shall be payable in respect of any mineral with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, provided that the Central Government shall not enhance the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The rates of royalty of major minerals (other than coal and lignite) were last revised vide Government Gazette Notification GSR No. 214(E) dated 11.4.1997, copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 8.5.1997. Further revision in the rates of royalty on major minerals is due only after 11.4.2000 for which a Study Group has been constituted by the Central Government on 5.10.1998 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines for suggesting revision of rate of royalty and dead rent of major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing.)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As per the statutory provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 revision of royalty of major minerals is to be carried out by the Central Government only.

Income Tax Against Cine Personalities

3875. DR. SAROJA V. : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the Cine personalities against whom income tax of Rs.5 lakh above has been outstanding, as on December 31, 1998;
- (b) whether the Income Tax Department has attached the movable and immovable property of the defaulters under Income Tax Act, 1961;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Person	Whether Attachment/ Action Taken	Type of property Attached*	If not Reasons
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Anupam Kher	Yes	Immovable	NA
2.	Pankaj Udhas	No	NA	Appeal pending
3.	Sawan Umar Tak	No	NA	Appeal pending

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Ajay Singh Deol	No	NA	Recovery Steps taken
5.	Kishor Kumar Ganguly	Yes	Immovable	NA
6.	Jagjit Singh	No	-	Appeal pending
7.	Vijay Nand	Yes	Movable	NA
8.	Pramod Chakarvarty	No	-	Appeal pending
9.	Dharmendra Deol	No	-	Appeal pending
10.	M.C. Bohdia	Yes	Bankk A/c Attached	-
11.	Vijay Andke	No	-	Recovery Steps taken
12.	Rajaram N. Shankar	No	-	Filed KVSS
13.	Rajan R. Sippy	No	-	No Attachable assets
14.	Neera Mehar (Smt.) (Producer)	No	-	Verification Pending
15.	Rajbabbar (Actor)	No	-	Verification Pending
16.	Raja Roy (Producer)	No	-	Recovery persuide by TRO
17.	L.R. Mirchandani	No	-	Recovery persuide by TRO
18.	Kanabhai Chauhan	No	-	Recovery persuide by TRO
19.	D.P. Ralhan	Yes	Immovable Flats	-
20.	Syyash (Chunky) Pandey (Actor)	Yes	Bank A/c Attached	Appeals Pending
21.	Bappi Lahiri	No	-	-
22.	Abrar Alvi (Writer)	No	-	Stay granted by ITAT
23.	Vinita Nanda (Miss)	No	-	Filed KVSS
24.	Rajesh Khanna	Yes	Immovable	NA
25.	Satram Rohra	Yes	Immovable	NA
26.	Trikha Sudesh	No	-	Filed KVSS
27.	Farooq Ahmed Farooqi	No	-	No Assets
28.	Gulab M. Gulbani	No	-	No Assets
29.	G. Madhavi (Miss)	No	-	Filed KVSS
30.	Madhavir Shanhas	No	-	Filed KVSS
31.	Bikaram Singh Dehal	No	-	Filed KVSS
32.	Barkha Roy	No	-	No Assets
33.	Sri Bhagwan S.C. (Distributor)	No	-	No Assets
34.	S. Mallika (Smt.)	No	The defaulter have filed declaration under KVSS hence attachment not made.	

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Sarasamma (Smt.)	No	-do-	NA
36.	Radha Enterprises	No	-do-	NA
37.	K. Goundamani	No	-do-	NA
38.	R. Senthil	No	-do-	NA
39.	Prasad Productions (P) Ltd.	No	-do-	NA
40.	M.C. Pictures (Madras)	Movable attached	Bank A/c with SBI attached	NA
41.	N. S. Krishna Seetty	NA	NA	Filed KVSS
42.	Mandakini Chitra (P) (Ltd.)	NA	NA	Filed KVSS
43.	Malashree	NA	NA	Filed KVSS
44.	K.C.N. Chandrashekar	NA	NA	Filed KVSS
45.	Gopal Films	NA	NA	Filed KVSS
46.	Kishore Sarja	NA	NA	Appeal Pending Waiver petition pending
47.	Geethanjali Theatre	NA	NA	NA
48.	Ramgopal Verma	Movable attached	Bank A/c attached	NA
49.	Anjan Chowdhury	No	Filed KVSS	NA
50.	Nonotosh Das Gupta	No	NA	No Movable/immovable assets traceable
51.	Jayashree Chowdhury (Smt.)	No	NA	Filed KVSS
52.	Ashok Chakraborty	Movable attached	Bank A/c attached	NA
53.	Giridharidas Bhimji Mansatta	No	NA	Appeals pending
54.	B.N. Paul	No	-	No
55.	Bagyaraj K.	Yes	Immovable	-
56.	Balasubramanian K.	No	-	KVSS
57.	Chakravarthi T.R.	No	-	No assets known
58.	Ganesan V.C.	No	-	KVSS
59.	Gopal Rao	No	-	KVSS for Rs. 25 lakhs and recovery action initiated for balance amount.
60.	Hanumantha Rao G.	No	-	No asstes
61.	Jayapradha R.	No	-	Matter reg. KVSS before High Court
62.	Karunasesh U.	No	-	KVSS

1	2	3	4	5
63.	Kothandramiah A.	No.	-	Recovery initiated by TRO
64.	Inagendra Rao K.	No	-	appeal pending
65.	Prabhu G.	No	-	Payment in instalments
66.	Rajababu R.	No	-	KVSS
67.	Rajendar T.	No	-	KVSS
68.	Ramanathan S.	No	-	KVSS
69.	Soundrya P.	No	-	Assessment is protective
70.	Subramanian K.	No	-	No known Assets
71.	Venkanna Babu S.P.	No	-	KVSS
72.	Venkateswaran G.	No	-	Stay granted by High Court
73.	Adinarayana Reddy V.	Yes	Immovable	NA
74.	Alluaravind Babu	No	-	KVSS
75.	Allunavabharathy	No	-	KVSS
76.	Amutha Raj	No	-	KVSS
77.	Arjun	No	-	Instalments granted by settlement Commission
78.	Bharathiraja P.	No	-	KVSS
79.	Bharathy Reddy B.	No	-	KVSS
80.	Dasari Narayana Rao	No	-	KVSS
81.	George Thomas	Yes	Immovable	Dispute over ownership of attached property
82.	Guru Vittal	No	-	Stay by High Court
83.	Kamal Hassan S.	No	-	Demand is not enforceable
84.	Kanniah (Late)	No	-	KVSS
85.	Khusbhoo	No	-	Pending before Settlement Commission
86.	Loganathan Vittal	No	-	Stay by High Court
87.	Mohan Vittal	No	-	Stay by High Court
88.	Murali Vittal	No	-	Stay by High Court
89.	Muralikanthan	Yes	Immovable	NA
90.	Neelaveni Ammal	No	-	Protective assessment
91.	Prem Nazir (Late)	No	-	Details of legal heirs are being ascertained
92.	Rama Rao K.S.	No	-	KVSS
93.	Ramachandran (Late)	No	-	No assets

1	2	3	4	5
94.	Ranga	No	-	KVSS
95.	Smitha (Late)	No	-	Prior charge to financier no realisation possible
96.	Sreedevi A.	No	-	KVSS rejected waiver petition pending
97.	Subbiah (Late)	No	-	No known assets
98.	Sujatha Venkateswaran	No	-	Appeal pending
99.	Vijayachandran	No	-	Protective assessment
100.	Yesudoss K.J.	No	-	KVSS and balance stayed
101.	Srividya	Yes	Movable	NA
102.	Vidya Sagar	No	-	KVSS
103.	Srinivasan V.	No	-	Demand stayed
104.	Jaya Bachchan	-	-	Appeal pending/Instalment granted
105.	Madhuri Dixit	-	-	-
106.	Rakesh Nath	-	The Deptt. has taken appropriate steps to recover the demand in each end	
107.	Srinivasan V.	-	-	-
108.	Jaya Bachchan	No	NA	Appeal pending/Instalment granted
109.	Madhuri Dixit	-		
110.	Rakesh Nath	-		
111.	Sanu Bhattacharjee	-		
112.	Jatin Rajguru	-		
113.	Ajay Devgan	-		
114.	Shahrukh Khan	-		
115.	Sunil Shetty	-		
116.	A.G. Nadiadwala	-		
117.	Mukesh Bhatt	-		
118.	Pooja Bhatt	-		
119.	Subhash Ghai	Movable Attached	Bank A/c Annuity/LIC Policies/devodemce/ debts	Immovable not attached as appeal is pending
120.	Mohan A.V.	No		Appeal pending

Banking Service Recruitment Board

3876. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI M. RAJIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to disband Banking Service Recruitment Board at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the reasons for denying the facilities to the aspirants from Hyderabad; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure continuance of the Banking Service Recruitment Board at Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to disband Banking Service Recruitment Board, Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development and Promotion of Organic Tea

3877. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tea Board has embarked upon an ambitious plan to develop and promote organic tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of organic tea exported during 1998-99, country-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the export of organic tea ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HAGDE) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. With the view to promote production and export of organic tea, the Tea Board/ Govt. has taken number of steps which include the following:

(i) Filed application for registration with the European Economic Community.

(ii) Constituted a high level Expert Committee to formulate a national model on accreditation and certification of organic food items including tea and to promote it in various sectors.

(iii) Production of manual on organic tea for consideration by the Expert Committee set up by the Govt.

(iv) Identification of a separate logo for "Organic Tea".

(v) Dissemination of information from various sources like European Economic Community, International Federation for Organic Farming, Codex

Alimentarius Commission etc. with simple guidelines to the producers.

(vi) Technological support to the Tea Research Association for developing organic tea production techniques.

(vii) Display in trade exhibitions etc.

According to trade information nearly 500 tonnes of organic tea has been exported from India during 1998-99. The export of organic tea is mainly to Japan and European Countries.

*[Translation]***Surveys Conducted in the Diamond Mines**

3878. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has expressed reservations on the proposal set by the Government of Madhya Pradesh Government in regard to the Survey, Mining and sale diamond mines in the State;

(b) whether the Union Government has returned the application for survey Licence submitted by the joint sector company to the State Government; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for grant of mining lease for diamond in the State.

However, a proposal has been received from Government of Madhya Pradesh for grant of prospecting licence over an area of 4600 sq.kms. in favour of M/s. B. Vijaykumar Chhattisgarh Pvt. Ltd., Raipur (M.P.) for survey, exploration and evaluation of diamond deposits in Behradih Block of Raipur district. As the proposal was not in conformity with the provisions of MM(R&D) Act., 1957 and Rules framed thereunder, the State Govt. has been requested to furnish information/clarifications on certain points. On receipt of information/clarifications from the State Government, the proposal for grant of prospecting licence will be processed further. Recently a reminder has been sent to State Government of M.P. to expedite the information to enable the Central Government for further processing the case on merits and as per provisions of law.

*[English]***Accidents in Rourkela Steel Plant**

3879. SHRI JUAL ORAM : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents occurred after and during modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant and the reasons of the accidents;

(b) whether due to low quality of work in modernisation the accidents are taking place frequently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government have taken any action against the officers/contractor/union leaders/politicians, who are responsible for low quality work in the modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Number of accidents after and during modernisation only in Rourkela Steel Plant are as under :

1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 (till date)
09	09	14	19	28	11	05	01	01

The reasons for higher number of accidents prior to 1996 are system failure in construction and operations during modernisation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Does not arise.

Tax Free Bonds

3880. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to allow Municipal agencies to float tax free bonds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the manner in which the money will be utilised by the Municipal Agencies; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check that the money is utilised properly for which it is collected through bonds?

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

(b) This will enable Municipal agencies to raise low-interest funds for providing essential services.

(c) and (d) The guidelines for issue of Tax Free Municipal bonds are being formulated.

Prices of Coffee

3881. SHRI A. VANKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of Indian coffee has fallen considerably in the international market;

(b) if so, whether farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produces as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether the traders have failed to maintain marketing for Indian coffee in the International market;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The prices of Robusta in London Exchange is at par with the average Indian prices. However, the prices quoted for Indian Arabicas in New York Exchange is about 15 cents per pound below the average Indian prices.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Instead, the Indian exporters have done well as the quantity of coffee exported from India has risen considerably over the years.

(e) To improve quality standards both at farm and curer level, the Government of India through Coffee Board has been implementing a Small Sector Development Scheme which provides subsidy for setting up estate infrastructure viz. pulpers, washers, drying yards and store houses. The Board is also imparting training to the growers, processors and exporters on various aspects of coffee on regular basis. The Board has hosted visits of two teams of Speciality Coffee Association of America to India and organised interaction with coffee growers, traders and exporters of Indian coffee to give them first hand knowledge about the finer aspects of Indian coffee besides participating in important trade fairs in targeted countries and Speciality Coffee Conference in USA. The Board has also taken initiative for evolving a coffee logo and certification of curing works and exporters. Further, the Board also proposes to organise an International Coffee Conference involving the major roasters of targeted coffee importing countries in the year 2000 A.D.

[Translation]

Golden Jubilee of Official Language

3882. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted in his Ministry to celebrate the golden jubilee of the official language, Hindi; and

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be constituted and the plans to celebrate it?

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

(b) Since the matter of celebration of golden jubilee of Official Language is a national policy issue, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Official Language, which is the Nodal Department, will need to take a decision in the matter. The instructions/guidelines issued in this regard by the Department of Official Language will be implemented fully by the Ministry of Coal, too.

[English]

Patent of Basmati by Texan Company

3883. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not yet build up its Basmati patent case against the US patent to the texan Company; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to file the case early in the US and subsequently to the disputes settlement body of WTO?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The exercise is on to assess whether the grant of patent on "novel basmati rice lines" and grains granted by the United States Patent Office can be challenged. Government have set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee to examine the matter. The revocation of the patent would have to be carried out under the US Patents and Trademarks Law. Therefore, raising the matter before the WTO and other international fora does not arise.

Trade Relations with Taiwan

3884. SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Government to Taiwan to expand trade relation with India;

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

(c) the volume of trade made between the two countries during the last three years;

(d) whether new areas have been indentified for expanding trade relation between both the countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Government of India does not maintain official or diplomatic relations with the "Govern-

ment of Taiwan" (Republic of China). However, the Government facilitates non-official trade, economic and cultural contacts to enhance trade, investment and tourism.

(c) The volume of trade between the two countries during the last three years is given below :

	(Rupees in crores)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (Apr.-Jan)
Exports to Taiwan	861.44	1504.11	1443.74	1073.53
Imports from Taiwan	1277.21	1504.48	1313.51	3704.71

(Source : DGCI&S)

(d) and (e) New areas for expanding trade are regularly being identified by Business Cooperation Committees of both the countries. Some of the measures of expanding the existing level of trade ties include regular exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs and establishment of liaison officers for trade and commercial matters.

[Translation]

PAN

3885. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Persons provided Permanent Account Number (PAN) in the country so far;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints regarding non-issuance of delayed issuance of PAN;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action to provide PAN at the earliest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (e) As against 1,70,94,507 applications for allotment of Permanent Account Number in the prescribed form received upto 28-02-1999, 1,14,75,117 Permanent Account Numbers have been allotted all over the country as on 31st March, 1999.

A substantial number of applications were received in recent months. PAN could not be allotted in a large number of cases for want of certain essential information. Deficiency letters have been issued. Allotment of PAN will be made on receipt of replies to the deficiency letters.

The work of allotment of PAN is in full swing and all out

efforts are being made for expeditious allotment of PAN to all applicants. Complaints received by the Department regarding non-issuance of PAN are Being attended to.

[English]

Assistance to Essar Steel by Financial Institutions

3886. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial institutions are being pressured to provide substantial financial assistance to Essar Steel in order to bail them out from the present crisis;

(b) whether no concrete study has been made in the affairs of the company with a view to assure safeguards for the proposed financial investments of the Financial Institutions in the company;

(c) if so, the reasons for departing from the policy guidelines set for the financial institutions in the matter of investments in the corporate sectors;

(d) whether attention of the Government has also been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government pressures FIs on steel company bailouts" appearing in "The Indian Express" dated January 15, 1999;

(e) if so, the facts of the matter reported in the news paper and the reasons for imposing compulsions on financial institutions; and

(f) the steps the Government propose to take to clear the depressing impression on the minds of investors including financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir. The sanction of financial assistance or restructuring of loans is decided by the financial institutions concerned based on their considered commercial judgement and RBI guidelines on the subject.

(b) and (c) Financial Institutions have reported that in the context of problems being faced by the steel industry, large steel projects (including Essar Steel) which are at advance stage of implementation have been reviewed by them. FIs have considered it essential that the long term viability of these projects be reassessed and need based assistance be provided to them to ensure early completion of projects if the projects were found viable. Also that the need-based reliefs and assistance be provided to assisted steel projects, subject to necessary safeguards, including inter-alia strict financial discipline in the part of promoters, close control over end use of funds, tighter norms for financing and adherence to guidelines laid down by RBI regarding asset classification and income recognition.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) No compulsions are imposed on financial in-

stitutions and sanction of financial assistance is decided in accordance with procedure stated at (a) above.

[Translation]

Discount Schemes on Tin Plates

3887. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether discount scheme for the sale of tin plates by Steel Authority of India were launched and if so, when and the period thereof;

(b) the details of schemes launched during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) the reason of launching the discount schemes; and

(d) the amount of discount given on the sale of tin plates and the market price of tin plates during that period alongwith the discount schemes, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) offers marketing incentives in the form of rebates/other commercial terms to improve the sales of its products in a competitive market. These schemes are generally linked with quantity. The extent of incentive depends on several factors such as market conditions, overall demand, availability, stock situation, competitor's activities, seasonality and other local factors etc. However, other details are commercially sensitive in nature, therefore, it may not be possible to reveal them.

[English]

Floor Price for Rubber

3888. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the rubber growers have been constantly demanding for fixation of floor price for rubber; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Price of Rubber is basically determined by demand and supply factors. Since Government of India is taking all possible measures to help the rubber growers to get remunerative price for their produce, fixation of floor price of rubber is not warranted.

Comparison of FDI Inflow

3889. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China beats India in attracting FDI" appearing in 'The Tribune' dated November 11, 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) to (c) Taking into consideration that India has been a late entrant, the performance of India in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been satisfactory. FDI inflows have registered significant growth since the opening of the economy in mid-1991. The inflow excluding Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) during 1998 was of the order of approximately Rs.13315 crore against only Rs. 351 crore in 1991. India accounts for bulk of the foreign investment flows to South Asia (around 80%).

[Translation]

Coal Washeries

3890. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of coal washeries under each subsidiary of Coal India Limited and the quantum of slurry sold by each washery during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether slurry is being flown from slurry pond for the last few years from washeries of C.C.L. and B.C.C.L. and some vested interest parties are taking undue advantage of it;

(c) whether any Committee has made suggestions and recommendations on this arbitrariness; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Name of Coal India Limited coal washeries and the quantity of slurry sold by each washery during the last five years is given below:

Figs. in Lakh Tonnes

Washeries	1994-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99
1	2	3	4	5	6
CCL					
Rajrappa	47.6	129.2	107.5	142.5	190.5
Gidi (Non-coking since mid 1998-99)	30.4	131.0	22.2	39.4	99.9
Sawang	35.5	52.4	36.8	39.4	18.6
Kathara	91.9	65.7	38.7	63.3	35.3
Kargll	-	-	1.4	-	-
Kedla	Under load trial				
Piparwar	Non-coking coal washery				

1	2	3	4	5	6
BCCL					
Dugda	0.1	0.68	1.43	1.03	1.22
Bhojudh	-	-	0.002	0.002	0.08
Patherdih	0.1	-	0.38	0.63	0.76
Barora	-	-	0.01	-	0.01
Moonidih	-	1.09	1.01	0.72	0.39
WCL					
Nandan	0.68	0.76	0.68	0.36	0.22

(b) No Sir, the fine coal is arrested in the slurry pond and recovered from there. Some times during heavy rain in mansoon the slurry pond over flow and some slurry escape alongwith the over flown water.

(c) and (d) Altekar Committee set up by the Government to study and suggest improvements in performance of coal washeries of BCCL and CCL had in one of its recommendation suggested installations/commissioning of floatation cells for beneficiation of fine coal. In compliance of the above recommendation floatation cells/hydrocyclones are operational to deal with fine coal in these washeries, referred to in reply of part (a), excepting Bhojudh washery (likely to be commissioned within this year), Kargli (project for installation of floatation cell has been sanctioned), Gidi and Piparwar (both non-coking coal washeries).

[English]

Export of Handicrafts

3891. SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing demand of the handicrafts, carpets, shawls and other woollen items of Kashmir in the International market;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and export of these items during the last three years; and

(c) the details of programmes drawn up in this regard for 1999-2000 and also for coming years during 9th plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The steps taken to increase the production and export of these items during the last three years include : training; organisation of workshops on design development; export marketing; packaging; sponsoring of sales-cum-study team abroad; participation in international fairs; publicity campaign and organisation of Indian handicrafts and Gifts Fairs (Autumn and Spring) and Carpet Expo's annually. During 1999-2000 and Ninth Plan period, these steps shall continue to be taken and intensified, where required.

Reserve/Production Ratio

3892. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve/Production Ratio (R/P) of Coal has been fixed at the level of 3:1 from conservation point of view;

- (b) if so, whether Reserve/Production Ratio in several coal-mines is more than 6:1 presently;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether present method of mining based on inadequate study of geo mining characteristics of coal measures rocks is the main cause of this huge waste of coal reserves; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The reserve production ratio is an internationally accepted ratio of proved reserves of coal to coal production in a particular year. This ratio is normally used for ascertaining the life of the coal deposit.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, in most of the mines operating in the country the reserves/production ratio is more than 6:1. No reserve/production ratio has been fixed from conservation point of view. Generally, coal projects are planned with reserves to production ratio of 20:1 and beyond.

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (d).

Loan Package for Steel Projects by IDBI

3893. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :

SHRI A.C. JOS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Board of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has recently cleared loan package for 6 steel plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of those steel projects; and
- (c) the terms and conditions of the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) After the deregulation of Indian Steel industry since 1991, Financial Institutions (FIs) provided assistance to a number of private sector steel projects during the period 1992 to 1996. Developments such as the currency crisis in South East Asia and break up of CIS countries lead to drastic change in several assumptions made in assessing the viability of these projects. The institutions considered it essential that long term viability of these projects be reassessed and took the view that priority be accorded to ensure early completion of steel projects under implementation and need-based reliefs and assistance be provided to assisted steel projects, subject to necessary safeguards, including inter alia, strict financial discipline on the part of promoters, close control over end use of funds, tighter norms for financing and adherence to guidelines laid down by RBI regarding asset classification and income recognition. In this background, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has recently cleared the proposals for grant of additional assistance to six ongoing steel projects with a view to ensuring completion of these projects while fully safeguarding institutional interests. The additional assistance sanctioned carry

special conditions relating to strengthening the management, pledge of promoters' shareholding with voting rights, option to convert upto 100% of additional loans into equity at par, bringing back diverted funds immediately, maintenance of Trust and Retention Account, appointment of lenders' Engineers and concurrent auditors; rotation of auditors, improvement in matters of corporate governance etc. Further, the promoters would be required to bring in at least 1/3rd of revised additional contribution, up front and the balance in a time bound manner.

In accordance with the practices and usages customary among banks and in conformity with 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 disclosed.

Impact of Liberalisation of Economy

3894. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the impact on the economy of the country after implementation of liberalisation and globalisation policy, with breakups, in terms of food production in agriculture, removal of gap between import and export and strengthening of industrial units in both public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Various liberalisation measures have been introduced in the Indian economy since the early 90s. The measures undertaken have led to better performances in different sectors. Foodgrains production is estimated to have increased to 200.88 million tonnes in 1998-99 from 176.39 million tonnes in 1990-91. The trade deficit improved from Rs. 10645 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 7297 crore in 1994-95. But in 1997-98 the deficit is estimated to have risen to Rs. 25268 crore. The growth rate for industry rose from a mere 0.6 percent in 1991-92 to 12.8 percent in 1995-96, moderating thereafter to 6.6 percent in 1997-98. Beginning from August 1991, investment intentions worth Rs. 750951 crore have been filed till November 1998, through IEMs and LOIs. The percentages of Gross Profit and Pre-tax profit to total capital employed, have gone up from 10.9% and 3.4% in 1990-91 to 15.1% and 7.7% respectively in 1996-97, for Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Tobacco MNCs

3895. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether foreign tobacco multinational companies (MNCs) can contract to produce cigarettes in the country;
- (b) if so, the fine distinctions between contract production and direct production;
- (c) whether multinationals want to sue cheap labour for their products through contract production; and
- (d) if so, the details of the guidelines available to ensure that backdoor entry for production is avoided?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (d) Manufacture of cigarette attracts the provision of compulsory licensing under the Industries (Develop-

ment & Regulation) Act, 1951. As such only a licence holder can manufacture cigarettes. Foreign financial and or technical collaboration is permissible in this sector subject to the provision of compulsory licensing. Any proposal for foreign investment/technical collaboration in this sector would require the prior approval of FIPB/Government.

Complaints from Investors

3896. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SEBI has been receiving a large number of complaints from the investors with regard to non-receipt of dividend of shares, interest on debentures/fixed deposits, non-receipt of maturity amount on debentures and fixed deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Companies Act, 1956 contains provisions enabling Government to prosecute the companies which are in default;

(d) if so, whether the Government have launched any such prosecution;

(e) if so, the number of such prosecutions and names of such companies; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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.

Pension Scheme for Bank Employees

3897. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ex-bank official wages lone was for pension to retired workers" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated January 29,1999;

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

(c) the Government's clarification regarding the controversy over the applicability of pension scheme to the pre and post 1986 retired employees; and

(d) the steps taken to treat all employees at par to avail the pension scheme?

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

(b) to (d) It is a fact that in pursuance of a settlement signed by Workmen Unions/Officers' Associations with Indian Banks' Association (representing the bank management), Pension was introduced in the Public Sector Banks (except State Bank of India which already had a Pension Scheme) in lieu of Contributory Provident Fund(CPF) and employees who retired before 1.1.1986 are not eligible to opt for pension un-

der this Scheme and have been allowed to retain the amount of Contributory Provident Fund received by them at the time of retirement. It may be mentioned that at the time of introduction of any new benefits, the stipulation of cut off date is inevitable. The cut off date of 1.1.1986 has been upheld by Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement on the writ petitions filed by the pre 1986 retirees of Reserve Bank of India as well as nationalised banks.

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the Central Government has also decided to grant ex-gratia payment to the CPF beneficiaries who retired between the period 18.11.60 to 31.12.85 and has rendered at least 20 years of continuous service prior to their superannuation. While the pre-1986 bank retirees have no right of any benefit in pursuance of the judgement given by the Hon'ble Apex Court, Government as a welfare measure agreed to provide ex-gratia to pre-1986 retirees broadly on the lines of Central Government without asking them to surrender the benefit of Contributory Provident Fund received by them at the time of retirement.

Production of Spices in States

3898. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of different kinds of spices in each State during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to give special attention to spices production during the Ninth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) A statement indicating production of major spices in each State during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise is annexed.

(b)and (c) Yes, Sir. Against the Plan outlay of Rs. 125 crores for Integrated Development of Spices during the 8th Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 150 crores has been provided for the Integrated Development of Spices during the 9th Five Year Plan. Following steps are proposed to be taken under the Integrated Development of Spices during the 9th Five Year Plan period:

(i) Provide support for production and distribution of quality planting materials of high yielding varieties of spices for their large scale coverage.

(ii) Provide cultural inputs for improving production and productivity of spices.

(iii) Popularise integrated pest disease and nutrient management practices to ensure quality residue free spice products.

(iv) Provide assistance for establishment of soil and plant healthy clinics.

(v) Transfer of improved technologies for increasing production, productivity and quality of produce.

Statement

Qty : '000 Tonnes

Fenugreek

Fennel Seed

Curmin Seed

State	Curmin Seed							Fennel Seed							Fenugreek						
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16						
Rajasthan	77.69	110.72	33.66	36.03	65.71	3.35	1.74	1.74	2.00	5.18	25.37	30.13	48.72	40.76	43.43						
Gujarat	57.50	55.80	45.10	39.20	51.40	19.00	13.10	27.30	13.70	23.20	6.00	7.44	8.10	6.40							
Others	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.80	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.34	3.11						
Total	135.19	166.53	78.77	75.28	117.91	22.69	15.18	29.35	16.01	28.70	31.68	37.87	57.13	47.50	46.54						

Turmeric

Chillies

Cortander

State	Cortander							Chillies							Turmeric						
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
Andhra Pradesh	23.60	26.40	29.70	15.20	24.50	373.10	374.00	348.00	383.50	562.00	171.80	384.90	364.90	244.10	292.00						
Assam						8.30	8.50	8.60	9.40	9.90	5.10	6.00	6.70	6.60	6.90						
Bihar	1.20	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.40	13.70	6.20	2.90	5.30	4.50	3.60	4.00	3.30	2.40	3.30						
Gujarat						19.80	20.50	20.50	21.00	18.80	3.20	4.70	4.40	5.00	11.00						
Karnataka	3.20	3.00	3.00	2.50	2.60	97.40	110.30	101.50	108.10	161.20	48.80	74.70	20.88	20.60	26.20						
Kerala						0.50	0.60	0.40	0.40	0.50	5.30	5.80	6.10	9.20	9.10						
Madhya Pradesh	38.40	43.40	37.60	40.00	50.80	16.20	17.60	10.00	16.40	17.40	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.60	0.70						
Maharashtra						68.40	61.30	58.90	58.50	59.60	9.20	7.70	9.00	9.30	9.20						
Meghalaya						1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.80	1.80	1.80	6.80	6.40						
Mizoram						2.90	3.10	3.20	2.00	3.30	1.40	1.70	1.70	1.70	3.60						
Orissa	9.80	10.20	11.70	13.80	5.70	68.50	75.50	24.90	28.360	40.70	47.00	51.10	49.60	51.30	38.50						
Punjab						7.10	7.60	3.80	4.40	7.40											
Rajasthan	106.20	105.20	91.90	116.40	154.82	62.10	46.90	39.40	37.20	59.70	0.60	0.50	0.70	0.90	0.80						

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Tamil Nadu	5.40	11.00	14.00	2.80	11.20	45.70	43.70	47.60	27.70	38.20	83.20	136.60	124.00	79.60	92.00	
Uttar Pradesh	3.40	3.40	4.00	4.30	4.50	18.70	17.20	12.70	13.50	18.60	1.40	1.90	2.10	1.70	1.70	
West Bengal					44.40	42.20	44.30	49.80	49.70	20.50	20.70	21.80	19.00	22.50		
Others					14.20	13.80	14.90	12.80	13.80	4.10	4.60	4.30	4.10	5.00		
Total	191.20	203.70	193.00	196.10	255.50	862.10	850.10	742.70	779.40	1066.40	407.70	707.40	621.98	462.90	528.90	

	Ginger								Pepper							
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
Andhra Pradesh	7.27	6.11	8.76	8.87	8.95											
Arunachal Pradesh	14.53	16.5	16.88	19.45	24.34											
Karnataka	2.81	3.05	3.78	4.65	5.81											
Kerala	50.39	45.37	37.91	50.61	48.47											
Madhya Pradesh	3.64	3.58	3.59	4.05	5.36											
Meghalaya	40.8	41.84	43.34	42.96	44.18											
Mizoram	6.82	7.91	8.72	14.58	21.79											
Nagaland	1.02	0.04	4.33	6.38	7.2											
Orissa	14.28	16.68	17.88	17.8	10.56											
Sikkim	19.14	3.41	2.93	3.84	4											
Tamil Nadu	16.1	12.2	20.2	15.9	14.5											
Uttar Pradesh	3.81	4.19	3.27	3.98	7											
West Bengal	12.76	13.6	16.66	16.69	17.94											
Others	8.26	11.72	9.4	9.54	10.4											
Total	201.63	186.2	197.65	219.3	230.51											

Source : Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

Handloom Sector

3899. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for reservation of Terry Towels and hadders for the Handloom sector is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total production of these items during the last three years indicating the contribution of powerloom and handloom sector therein; and

(d) the exports made thereof sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal for reservation of Terry Towel only for the Handloom sector is under consideration. The Advisory Committee duly constituted under Section 4 of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985, would examine this issue and make its recommendations. After receipt of the recommendations of this committee, Government will take suitable decision on the issue.

(c) As per the information received from the O/o Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, the production of fabrics in the decentralised sector is estimated on the basis of certain conversion ratios from yarn to fabric approved by the Government in broad categories of cotton fabrics, blended fabrics and 100% non-cotton fabric and thus separate details regarding variety wise fabrics produced by the decentralised sector is not available.

(d) The sector wise export of terry towel and chadders as furnished by the O/o Textiles Commissioner, Mumbai on the basis of information made available by TEXPROCIL are as under :-

Terry Towel Exports

Sector	1996		1997		1998	
	Mn. Kg.	Mn. Rs.	Mn. Kg.	Mn. Rs.	Mn. Kg.	Mn. Rs.
Powerloom	22.27	3878.70	21.41	3791.37	19.38	3630.25
Handloom	4.47	736.36	3.95	643.05	3.15	468.34
Total of all sectors	33.52	6219.05	34.46	6674.97	35.15	7263.34

Chadders Exports

Sector	1996		1997		1998	
	Mn. Kg.	Mn. Rs.	Mn. Kg.	Mn. Rs.	Mn. Kg.	Mn. Rs.
Powerloom	2.46	509.03	0.38	78.29	Negl.	2.75
Handloom	0.01	2.39	Negl.	0.08	Negl.	0.04
Total of all sectors	2.48	526.00	0.38	78.37	0.02	5.54

[Translation]

Trade Deficit

3900. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

DR. SUSHIL INDORA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of gold imported during 1998-99;

(b) the quantity and value of Jewellery exported during the said period; and

(c) its impact on the trade deficit of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) As per the provisional figures a total quantity of 511.018 metric tonnes of gold valued at about Rs. 21320/- crores was imported during 1998-99.

(b) As per the provisional figures of exports given by Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, the total value of gold jewellery exported during 1998-99 was about Rs. 3615/- crores. The quantity figures of export of gold jewellery are not being maintained.

(c) After adjusting for the exports of gold jewellery effected during 1998-99, the trade deficit during 1998-99 on account of import of gold was of the order of about Rs. 17705/- crores.

[English]

Cancellation of Fuel Supply Agreement

3901. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sent notices to six Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for cancellation of their fuel supply agreement (FSA) in a bid to weed out fickle customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken to weed out fickle customers in coal sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Ministry of Coal has not issued any notices to the IPPS for cancellation of their FSA. However, notices have been sent to the following 12 parties informing that if they have not finalised the FSA/MOU before 30th June, 98, it would be assumed that they have no objection to the withdrawal of the linkages and the Ministry may take further necessary action without notices to them.

1. Appolo Energy Co. Ltd.
2. M/s. Central India Coal Company Ltd. (CICCO)
3. West Bengal Power Development Corporation
4. Development Consultant
5. Barkeshwar Power Generation Co. Ltd. (BPGCL)
6. Pacific Electric Power Development Corporation
7. AES Transpower
8. Ahmedabad Electric Co. Ltd., (AECO)
9. UPSEB Anpara TPS
10. M/s. BPL Power projects (AP) Ltd.
11. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers and Chemicals Company Ltd.
12. Raipur Alloy & Steel Ltd.

After reviewing the matter the linkages for the following
these parties have been cancelled:

1. UPSEB Anpara
2. Development Consultant
3. Raipur Alloy and Steel Ltd.

Setting up of Garment Processing Centre in Trivandrum

3902. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES
be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up of a
Testing Facilities Centre for garment processing in Trivandrum;
and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM
RANA) : (a) and (b) The proposal for setting up a textile labor-
atory to cater to the testing needs of the units in the Garment
Processing Centre in Trivandrum was examined by the Text-
iles Committee. As the units are yet to be set up as such
there is no proposal to set up a textile laboratory in the Gar-
ment Processing Centre in Trivandrum. As and when the
units are set up, the setting up of a laboratory would be con-
sidered.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO USQ. NO. 1611 DATED MARCH 5, 1999 REGARDING HINDI CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : In reply to the
part 'a' of the English version of the Lok Sabha U.S.Q. No.
1611 dated 5.3.99, inadvertently a typographical omission had

taken place. The words "The draft resolutions pertaining to"
may be prefixed to the sentence "the constitution of the Hindi
Salahkar Samities of the Department of Steel and the De-
partment of Mines have already been sent to the Depart.ment
of Official Language (Ministry of Home Affairs) for approval."
The English version of part 'a' of the reply, accordingly, may
be corrected to read as :

"The draft resolution pertaining to the consultation of
the Hindi Salahkar Samitis of the Department of Steel and
the Department of Mines have already been sent of the De-
partment of Official Language (Ministry of Home Affairs) for
approval.

As soon as the approvals are received, the Samitis will
be constituted."

The error is regretted.

[English]

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS—*CONTD.*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Mr.
Speaker, Sir, I started speaking yesterday on the Motion
brought by the Prime Minister to seek the vote of confidence
and said that people of the country are constantly watching the
proceeding of this House which is regarded as the big-
gest Panchayat of the country. People of the country have
stopped their work and have been closely watching the entire
proceeding of this House since yesterday. Yesterday, we had
discussed about the Party's national agenda alongwith the
issues related to Kaveri water dispute, Pokharan nuclear test
and Prime Minister's Bus Journey to Pakistan. Now, I want to
raise the discussion on law and order situation in Kashmir.
Do we remember the situation prevailing in this country some-
time back? These war flare-up in entire Kashmir. Assam was
burning and I do not want to speak about Bihar. Under such a
situation, a Government was formed at the Centre under the
able leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji who made tire-
less efforts to restore normalcy in the country in which he
succeeded. His Government put a check on intrusion across
the border into the valley where Kashmiri Pandits were being
massacred indiscriminately by the terrorists and resultantly,
the Kashmiri people had to faith in the Government. But the
strong steps taken by his Government won the faith of local
people again and now, people have started joining the na-
tional mainstream again there. Don't you regard it as one of
the Government's achievements? And if you do not admit, I
have nothing more to say in this regard. When the BJP-led
coalition Government was formed at the Centre, we found
the exchequer left empty and the country neck deep in
corruption. When the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government was
formed and it conducted the nuclear test at Pokharan the

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

countries like America imposed several economic sanctions on India but inspite of that, the Government under Vajpayee's leadership faced the challenges with great courage and brave heart. We moved ahead in all respect and brought about many economic reforms in the country. Do you not regard it as Government's achievements? And if not so, I have to speak nothing more in this regard and if you regard it as achievements, you must appreciate the efforts made by his Government.

I want to tell you that people used to purchase and L.P.G. cylinder in black for rupees seven to eight thousands in the metro city like Delhi but this Government made the availability of this gas free in metro cities. Now this gas is available on submission of ration card. Earlier only rich people could afford it but it was not available for middle class and lower class people as they were not in affordable position. When lower and middle class people started praising the Government, you people became restless. Don't you regard this also an achievement of the Government? And if you don't admit and criticize the Govt. I have to say nothing. Yesterday, Sharad Pawar Ji was saying(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, address the Chair.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am addressing the Chair only Sharad Pawar Ji was saying yesterday that the country was likely to witness the record production of foodgrains this year but he also went on to say further that it was going to happen because of the mercy of nature. I would like to know from him that when a flood situation arises somewhere in the country or farmers do commit suicide because of some circumstances, then responsibility thereof is placed on the shoulders of the Government, therefore, now when the country is going to have the record production of foodgrains this year, why should not the responsibility thereof be placed on the shoulders of the Government also? Why should not this also be regarded as an achievement of the Government? But he does not want to give the credit to the Government . If he does not regard it as an achievement of the Government then, at least, he should understand that an honest leader like Vajpayee Ji is sitting in the P.M. Chair and therefore this Government deserves your congratulation. And if you do not regard it as an achievement of the Government, then again, I have to speak nothing more in this regard?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today a survey report has appeared in "the Hindustan Times" wherein majority of people have said that they will not accept any foreigner as their Prime Minister. 82 per cent people have expressed their faith in the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (AONLA) : Atal Ji is our Prime Minister and will remain our Prime Minister. Their opinion is that they will not allow any foreigner to become the Prime Minister of the country.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing? Please, sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that 82 per cent people in this country have expressed their desire in favour of Vajpayee Ji.

The issue of Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat has been discussed time and again in this House as well as in Rajya Sabha. Newspapers have also given extensive coverage to this issue. It was a subject of discussion. When other people talk of this issue, there comes to his mind the very point uttered by them but when people like Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Sharad Pawar ji, who have held the portfolio of Defence Minister, get themselves involved in this matter, that becomes disgusting.

Yesterday when Sharad Pawar ji, was speaking, he said in his speech that we should refrain from discussing this issue in the House but the way his partymen showed their behaviour, was beyond our understanding. And moreover, if he could not control his partymen as to how he can work as the leader of opposition. I want to know it. I have to speak nothing more in this regard as the Defence Minister has already got a book published and distributed the same among the Members. I am sure that every member must have read that book. Any Government servant, if he/she breaches the discipline and questions the Government's rights in the matter of defence, he/she is liable to disciplinary action. The House should not make hue and cry over that issue. An affidavit has been submitted before a Notary magistrate which is being discussed at length in the country. Do we know as to how the countrymen are viewing the stand taken by the opposition and congress party on this issue? Probably not. Congress, therefore, should take the matter seriously. Your allegation is that the decision has been taken in a haste. You must be remembering that in 1971 General Manekshaw was appointed as Field Marshall. He went to foreign countries after winning the war. When asked in a press conference there, he told the pressmen that had we been in other side, situation would have been a different one. What kind of treatment he was meted out by the Congressmen then? Indira ji was the then Prime Minister of India. She did not even showed the courtesy of calling him in a function. He was badly insulted. Don't you remember that incident? Today, when a corrupt and inefficient officer has been sacked, you people are making much hue and cry in the country. You should feel ashamed of yourselves for indulging in such unbecoming behaviour. The achievements being made under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, are making you feel restless. You people have become restless because this Government have successfully conducted the Test of INSAT-2E. Today, people in the villages are looking more inclined towards this Government as we have won their hearts and minds. It has stricker the minds of our people in rural areas that in this age of scientific achievements, not only our cities but our villages are also going to get something under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee whether it is not an achievement? And if you donot regard it as an achievement and attack the Government, then I have to say nothing more in this respect.

I want to tell Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee one thing that he has made a mistake. The heat of Agni Missile which you have

successfully test fired has entered into the body of these people which has driven them restless.

Today your this successful step has filled the minds of the people of this country with great enthusiasm. They are expressing their gratitude to you but these people are talking like this because they are under the influence of the Agni heat.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was listening to the speech of Shri Sangma Ji. He was saying that we people did not know how to run a Government. He was right because he was saying that they had an experience of 50 years. Had we learnt method of running the Government during the last 13 years definitely some or other Bofors and Urea like scams would have taken place by now. Because we are not capable of running the Government, which is why no cases of corruption have come into light so far against any of our Ministers or Prime Minister. So far, they have only spoken against us and they have got nothing against us. In this context, I want to narrate a short story. One a sparrow sitting on a tree, was twittering. There was three friends who were passing from there. On hearing the twittering of that sparrow one of them said how sweetly the sparrow was saying — Ram, Sita, Dashrath. Another friend who happened to be a businessman, said no, the sparrow was saying — "Noon", "Tel", "Adrakh". The third one said, no, this was saying neither of these words. Since he was absconding from Varanasi and wanted to come to Meerut via Balia but the Police was chasing him, he said, the sparrow was saying —Varanasi, Balia, Meerut. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that as a man thinks in his heart, so is, he. It has been said,

"Jaaki Rahi Bhavna Jaisi,

" Prabhu Murati Dekhi Tin Taisi."

You can not see the Government properly with the spectacles you are wearing. We would like you to kindly change your spectacles then only can you see the Government truly and fully.

Shri Sharad Pawar was speaking that the people of the country had lost faith in leadership of Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee. He was also saying that the people had not accepted us also but it is true that they have rejected you too. If you have been rejected, they have expressed faith in the leadership of Shri Vajpayee.

Due to that faith of the people, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has become the Prime Minister. I would like to tell you that when Shri Sharad Pawar was speaking, Shri Sharad Pawar belongs to Maharashtra which is a soil land of Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak had never compromised with the foreigners and sacrificed his life fighting against them. We thought that Shri Sharad Pawar would have been following the ideal of Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak I do not know what has happened to Shri Sharad Pawar that he has yielded before a foreigner(Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (WARDHA) : Whom are you talking about? Who is a foreigner? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Does Shri Prabhunath Singh know that Shri Advani is from Lahore? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he had raised the question of morality during his speech and said that the Government is in minority ...(Interruptions) He believed that the Government would go out of power on the ground of morality because the Government has been reduced to minority. We are surprised that the people of Congress talk about morality. Both the things together? Where does it come from? Your history that has been there, your character, have a look at your character of old times. At the time when Shri Morarji Desai's Government was formed in this country, you brought that Government down with the help of Shri Charan Singhji. You cheated Shri Vishvanath Pratap Singh after his Government was formed in this country, by taking Chander Shekharji in confidence. You did the same with Shri Devegowda. Shri Gujral is present here. He might be feeling bad remembering all those things. Who will trust you? You talk of morality? When the discussion was going on a few days ago about imposition of President's rule in Bihar, I would like to say clearly and particularly to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of this country that you please listen to us and take it seriously. A statement of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was published in the newspaper that Shrimati Rabri Devi should resign on the basis of morality and I know that a Congress General Secretary has said to Home Minister and Defence Minister that Shrimati Soniaji desired that had she not resigned on the basis of morality some action should be taken. At that time some one Minister had said that there was no alternative except President's rule. After that he said that with this...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (SOLAPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has made a reference to me. I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : He has not mentioned the name.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I am on a point of order ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has not mentioned any name. Please take your seat.

Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I want to say that after some days these things were changed and the assurance given in this House lost its sanctity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now. You have taken more than half an hour.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I have just started.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would want to ask as to what was the reason behind this change after I a few days. I have the proof and I will demand to Prime Minister that you please get the matter investigate.(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This remark will not go on record.

....(Interruption)

11.20 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Vilas Muttemwar, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that it will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling that it will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, you cannot make allegations without substance. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling that it will not go on record. I have already told the hon. Member that he cannot make allegations without any substance. Please go back to your seats.

.....(Interruptions)

11.25 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Vilas Muttemwar, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sharadji, you please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I allowed Shri Sharad Pawar to speak. You please resume your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, She is not an hon'ble Member of the House.

[English]

She is the President of a national party(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARA MATI): She is not a Member of the House. She is the president of a national party, her family has made sacrifices for the country.....(Interruptions) To level charges against such, a person in this House today is totally against the tradition of the House.....(Interruptions) We are discussing a serious problem here today, the motion of confidence, seeking the vote of trust is before the House. What ever is happening is the House, the whole country is attentive to it. In this situation an Hon'ble Member has levelled a purely false allegation. He should apologize to the House by withdrawing his words otherwise it would be difficult to continue the proceeding of the House.(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not levelled allegations against any person.....(Interruptions)

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (GHOSI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kalpnathji , please resume your seat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you, I allowed Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak. Please go to your seat. How can you interfere? This will not go on record?

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : I am on a point of order, please listen to me after that you can(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kalpnath Rai, please go to your seat. I have not allowed you.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : I am on a point of order(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. This will not go on record. Nothing will go on record except what Shri Prabhunath Singh says.

.....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kalpnath Rai, please resume your seat. This is not good, you are a senior Member. Please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*.....(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Hon. Members please understand that we are discussing a very important Motion.

*.....(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kalpnath Rai, please go to your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Prabhunath Singh.

*.....(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, I am addressing you. Please withdraw your words. You cannot make any allegations without any substance. You should not mention any name and you should not make any allegation without any substance.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, please address the Chair and not anybody else.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Hon. Speaker Sir, please listen to what I am saying *.....(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The speech of Shri Prabhunath Singh will only go on record. Nothing else will go on record.

*.....(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Hon. Speaker Sir, if the name of Mrs. Soniaji has figured in course of my speech. *.....(Interruptions)*

[English]

11.34 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Vilas Muttemwar and some other hon. Members came near the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.30 p.m.

11.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

13.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

(SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Some hon. Members met Hon. Speaker and requested that as per past practice, the House should not sit during the lunch hour from 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Fridays. Today being Friday, they requested that the House may accordingly be adjourned upto 2.00 p.m.

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House is adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m.

13.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hours

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at two of the clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the chair)

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Hon. Speaker Sir, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi is presently not a member of the House and perhaps I had mentioned her name. I withdraw it and express my regret. But I would like to say one thing that 100 crore rupees were received as donation in the name of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. I demand for a J.P.C. prove in this regard.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI) : We support it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh ji, you have already spoken for three hours, please conclude now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Please allow me to speak for five minutes more. Hon. Speaker, Sir, there are certain parties in this House which have a history since the days of the British. When the British were ruling this country. These parties kept on singing paeans for these lords. They have done the same during the rule of the Congress at the Centre, and they supported even the opposition parties likewise during their rule. In this process things have come to such a state that they forget their words even on the next day. You may please go through the proceedings. I would like to mention the names, these are the Communist Parties which have been continuously acting as a bagpiper for the ruling parties.(Interruptions) I want to say that yesterday Shri Laluji was speaking here that he had come armed with a mace and that he had to use it, and the Prime Minister should step down. Laluji is not aware as to whom he is hitting with the mace. He is going to hit the feelings of the people of the country. My request to him is to offend the feelings of the people of the country, if you have to do it, do it against your opponents but not against the feelings of the people of the Nation. While he speaks I remember that during my Childhood, whenever a dance was held there used to be a character with whose appearance on the stage, everyone present used to burst into laughter. Likewise whenever he rises to make his speech the Whole-House bursts into laughter. The name of that character.* Such a peculiar situation has arisen in this House where such serious issues are raised.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, please listen to my point of order. For any hon. Member(Interruptions) The dignity of the House and the Court would not survive(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If the word....is objectionable, I will expunge it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It should be expunged from the records and it is your duty to keep the hon. Member within his dignity and the dignity of the House as well I, therefore, seek your protection for the sake of upkeep of the dignity of the House.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is an important discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. What is this? Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is the duty of the Chair to protect the dignity of the House.(Interruptions) I want to draw your attention to the fact that such sorts of Comments cannot be made(Interruptions) Directions should be issued to expunge such comments from the records and hon. Members be reminded to be well within the dignity(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Hon. Speaker, Sir, ever since the formation of this Government the names of three parties—the Samata Party, Ms. Mamta Banarjee's party and Ms. Jayalalitha's party—have been in news. They say that these three parties would put obstacles in the path of Government some day or the other. A conspiracy was hatched to split the Samata Party. Many people tried in different ways. Newspapers brought out news that the Samata Party is splitting and my name too figured in it. I would go to the Court against those who have mentioned my name but I would like to tell that the Samata Party is standing firm like a rock and would support the Vajpayee Government. No Member of the party is going to withdraw his support. The statement of Ms. Mamata Banerjee has come in(Interruptions) I am concluding. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would not prolong my speech against your wishes. Shri Laluji was telling Shri Vajpayeeji to step down. He said, you have become Prime Minister twice, after Shri Nehruji had wished it to be so. Look at the past life and political career of Shri Vajpayee ji. He has seen and experienced a lot in his life. A camel was intruding into a house and it was not running away despite the landlady's efforts. The landlady of other house said that it runs away after hearing the beats of winnowing basket. She took the winnowing basket from her house and started beating it. The camel walked away and the lady said that she had already mentioned about the same. The camel looked behind and said that it is not scared even in war fields with people beating drums sitting atop it and who cares the beats of winnowing basket. The same thing applies to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Laluji, your noise is not going to make any difference. It was being discussed even earlier that the Government would fall within thirteen days. It fell down once but again came back into power and ruled for more than thirteen months and now it would rule for thirteen years.

I would finish my speech after saying one more thing. A new convention is being formed in the country ... (Interruptions)*

Attention should be given on it and it should be treated seriously ... (Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

* Not Recorded

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : For the Rashtrapati Bhavan ...*(Interruptions)* Such types of comments should not be made against the Rashtrapati Bhavan ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I request you that the reference of Rashtrapati Bhavan be removed from the record.

MR. SPEAKER : That will not go on record. That may please be removed from the record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the word ... was used just now by the hon. Member who spoke before me. Since it does not seem to be unparliamentary to you, I can only say that there are several ... in the House ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a very solemn duty now to oppose this Motion. I hope that the day of deliverance will come tomorrow to this country and the people of this country. The direction of this debate is such that as if it is a Motion which has been brought forward by the Opposition, as if it is the Opposition which has to justify why it is expressing lack of confidence in the Council of Ministers.

With all respect and humility, I would like to say that amazing things are happening. Speaker after speaker made imputations. I found that one hon. Member of this House made imputations so far as the Rashtrapati Bhavan is concerned. Today, I found that one of the leading jurists issued a statement which come out in the Press—he is now a Member of the Rajya Sabha belonging to the BJP—and he is questioning the motives of the hon. Rashtrapathi ji. He says that the President of India has taken a hasty decision. In the agony of their present day motley combination, they are not sparing even the President of India who has shown exemplary attachment to the constitutional principles in this country. We are all very proud of him that he is the Rashtrapathi of India ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (SAIDPUR) : We are also proud of him.

SHRI SAMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why has this Motion been brought forward?

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : What happened after the imposition of President rule in the State.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When the senior Members are speaking, you are not supposed to obstruct them, Please under-

stand this. You must know the procedure also. This is not a good practice.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Only two days back, one of the major parties, which was in the BJP—led alliance, has withdrawn support by writing to the hon. President. Whose fault is it? They are not able to keep their allies together. Is it our fault? On that basis, the hon. Rashtrapathi ji felt that the so called BJP—led coalition, which came to form a Government, could form a Government with the support that was rendered by that party. He, in his wisdom, asked them that a Vote of Confidence should be taken. The hon. Prime Minister takes up an attitude as if the Opposition has committed some crime. He said : "I have nothing to say. Unless there is an alternative, what will the Opposition say? I would like to know about it." The Opposition has not brought forward any proposal to suggest an alternative Government in support of its No Confidence Motion. The Prime Minister has nothing to say in support of his Government or his claim for the confidence vote. He asked that without an alternative, how can we talk about this ...*(Interruptions)* I know his agony that the longer the time it takes, the longer it takes for the voting. What more things can happen? I do not know about it. Now-a-days, principles and morality in politics have lost all significance. ...*(Interruptions)* I can only say that he is very much worried that there may be an alternative Government. I can only wish to say that what ever be that, the BJP or its cohorts will not be a party to that Government. Therefore, they should know about it. They should not worry so much about what is going to come.

When the B.J.P. withdrew its support to the Vishwanath Pratap Singh Government, Shri Advani, what was the alternative you had suggested? What was the alternative that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had suggested? Glibly, they joined hands with the Congress whom they are criticising so much today.

When the Confidence Motion of Shri Devegowda was defeated, Shri Nitish Kumar, whom did you vote for? Whom did your present mentor vote for? The BJP, then, were openly so happy that the Congress had withdrawn support? They were eulogizing the Congress and the BJP openly joined hands with the Congress. Whom you are abusing today for the purpose of bringing down the Government of Shri Devegowda against whom not a single allegation would be made or against his Government? All sorts of morality you are preaching today; all sorts of politics you are preaching today? Asking for alternative to be suggested by the Opposition before he choses to make his comments—

[Translation]

We have come here to listen. Why have we come here to listen if we are not allowed to speak.

[English]

It is an amazing thing. I have had the great fortune of listening to many of the interventionist speeches of the present Home Minister in this House. But I hope he will not misunderstand me. Yesterday, was the most pathetic performance I had noticed. Probably, he cannot reconcile himself to this seat No. 2 Probably, something is in the back of his mind. We heard the laboured and almost misleading guffaws of the Finance

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Minister. All sorts of make-believe statistics were given which have no relation to the reality. My very good friend, Shri Naqvi, was fighting, as it were, the last battle to maintain his ministership and Shri Vaiko, a very good friend of mine, in a peroration was trying be a last ditch effort, to go and sit on that side, provided this Government lasts. Of course, I do not take all the notice of some parts of his speech for what it is worth.

Sir, we were given many things that have been achieved by this Government, namely, Pokhran, I am trying to quote the hon. Home Minister, Agni, wonderful Budget, Jammu & Kashmir, majority support on the Bihar vote. He also refers in his speech — I do not know how to describe it— to an opinion poll conducted by newspaper rejoinder in support of his submission that Mr. Vajpayee's Government is the idela Government in this country. He has spoken on Mr. Vajpayee's value based politics. We shall come to that, with your permission. And the Finance Minister, of course, spoke about the mythical foreign investment. Dr. Manmohan Singh has given a reply to them. The mythical foreign exchange improvement and also revival of the sick units. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA) : Sir, I would like to say through you that he is misleading the house.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I hope to deal with that in the course of my submission later.

Shri Advani referred to with great gusto as to what the Communist Party of India (Marxists) said about the Congress Party in its manifesto. Now, I am glad that you have seen and you, for some reasons, read our manifesto because you cannot contribute otherwise. Have you read as to what we said about you and your party, Mr. Advani? If you accept what we said about the Congress and that the CPI(M)'s assessment is correct, then, why do you not also read what the CPI(M)'s assessment has been about you? ...*(Interruptions)* Yes, that is important. So far as our 1996 manifesto...*(Interruptions)* I quote:

"Never since the Partition of the country, have the communal forces mounted such a ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (DUMDUM) : You are going to the Congress and not coming to us.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That should be the last day of my life.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Perhaps, your party has said that we would be willing to accept the Congress President as the Prime Minister which was never the party's stand over in these 50 years. It is this that made me to quote all that. The day you say that we would be happy if the BJP Government is there, someone is bound to quote what you have said about me earlier.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Very well. We find you are also educated, if I may say so. You are such an educated man, learned man and generally articulate. I do not know what has happened to you now-a-days. But let me quote from our Manifesto of 1996. It says:

"Never since the partition of the country have the communal forces mounted such an offensive as has been witnessed during the last five years. The communal forces, in recent period, once again seek to mount an offensive, spreading deeper the poison of hatred against the minorities in order to garner more votes. Vishwa Hindu Parishad has issued a blueprint for a Hindu Rashtra, while whipping up the campaign for the destruction of mosques in Kashi and Mathura."

They have not yet given up. It says further:

"The other outfits of the RSS are also active in organising various activities towards this end. The State Government in Maharashtra has abolished the Minorities Commission. It also wound up the Srikrishna Commission inquiring into the Bombay riots."

It did so at that time. The Srikrishna Commission was revived later on. But what has happened to its Report? How was the judge abused by their cohorts? The manifesto says further:

"In the background of these developments and considering the fact that the BJP had emerged, in the last elections, as the major Opposition, it still represents the most consolidated danger to the very unity and integrity of our country."

I would request Shri Maran to think about this. It further says:

"It is out to destroy the very social fabric that composes India."

Sir, every word of it, every word of caution remains true today. The unity and integrity of the country is under greatest threat and greatest danger. Shri Advani has said that no party, except one, is untouchable to them and that is the CPI (M). ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I did not say that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am proud that I am untouchable to Shri L.K. Advani and the BJP because of my commitment to secularism in this country. ...*(Interruptions)* We are not purchasable commodities. The Members of Parliament of the CPI (M) are not purchasable commodities. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FEROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this has never been said, Please speak positively. Don't comment on R.S.S. repeatedly.

[English]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Advani did not say what he says. He is misquoting Shri Advani.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. BIZOY SONKAR SHASTRI : He should not speak like this.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, being a Member of this House, being a leader of a party, how can he say falsehood like this? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Some Members are always giving running commentary. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have a right of reply and you can say it at that time, not now. Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am proud that nobody in this country can question our secular credentials and, therefore, I appeal to all sections of the House not to fall prey into all the machinations and manipulations that are going on.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Eversince the BJP Government has come in power, no riot has taken place.

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Please keep silent and take your seat.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, my appeal to every section of this House is that let secularism be not compromised; let the unity and integrity of the country be not a matter of deals. The continuation of this Government will mean that will come under the biggest threat.

We have been listening *ad nauseam* about the BJP and its allies having received the people's mandate. We have now a Government. We were told a very well-known phrase: "Government of the people, by the people and for the people." Now, it is : "Government of the allies, by the allies and for the allies." This Government is nothing else.

Now, the question is : what are the policies and programmes of this alliance? When these policies and programmes arrived at? There is a list of 13 members of the alliances in their National Agenda : Bhartiya Janata Party, AIADMK, Samata Party, Biju Janata Dal, Shiromani Akali Dal, Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena, MDMK, PMK, Lok Shakti, Haryana Vikas Party, TRC and Janata Party. Of course, the name of TDP is not there. The name of 13 parties have been mentioned. Now, out of them, number two after the BJP, that is the AIADMK, is no longer there. So far as Samata Party is concerned, let us see what are their policies and programmes. Shri Nitish Kumar has left. This was in 1998:

"The objective of self-reliance for the country has been given up. The process of planned development for social and economic change has been disrupted."

There are many passages. But I do not have time.

"In this situation, dependence on market-oriented mechanism for allocation of national and scarce resources can only mean denial of essentials for the vast poor majority and abundance for the rich. In the absence of any corrective measures, the market system only accentuates disparities further. The Indian State cannot run away from discharging its national obligations.

Dependence on a free market-oriented system frees big business and powerful groups to exploit the system of promoting vested interests."

Now, what is happening in this country?

They wanted that no MNC should almost be allowed to function. India has been able to have a single dollar surplus in the current account. Shri Jaswant Singh, the Prime Minister wanted you to be the Minister of Finance. Somebody else because of the common name because the Minister of Finance.

"Imports of non-essentials by the MNCs have grown fast whereas big business and MNCs have failed to promote India's export capability."

Number 'three' supporter in their list of alliance is there.

Then, Samata Party wants to reassert the idea, that is a part of freedom movement and to provide to people of India with clear, radical and credible policies through which the dignity of each citizen and of the national can be restored. These principles and programmes shall be rooted in the ideology of democratic socialism which is needed to be indeed the only relevant ideology of the future.

Then, I may mention equity, social justice, secularism, meaning respect for the plurality of religions by preventing the use of religion by the State or the party.

Then, taking of the farmers and others, I should read one thing:

"Only a secular State, which can give an equal respect for all religion, will secure and strengthen their identity."

Why I am reading this? ... (Interruptions) If it is not palatable to them, let them go for some time. These are supposed to be the programmes and policies and manifesto of a party on whom they are strongly depending.

That was in 1998 when they fought election. Only a secular State and equal respect for all religions will secure and strengthen the identity of minorities.

Communalism, which is another name for religious bigotry, is no stranger to Indian politics. It claimed the life of Mahatma Gandhi and it has claimed countless other lives in the decades after Freedom. The demolition of the Babri Mosque, naturally no longer palatable to my friends in Samata,

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

and the events that followed have created conditions which threatened to strike at the very basis of our nationhood. The unfortunate episode of 6th of December 1992 has saddened all who believe in the rule of law. Any suggestion that Ayodhya can be made a precedent to other places like Mathura and Kashi have to be unequivocally rejected and deplored.

Sir, another part I shall read before I conclude.

[Translation]

SMT. SUKHDA MISRA (ETAWAH) : Who got opened the lock at Ayodhya?

[English]

This issue should be decided.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, it seems so amazing that these hon. Members on the other side are unable to tolerate the contents of their own ally's manifesto. It is an amazing thing ...*(Interruptions)* Many things will come. If we are prepared to listen to them, they must listen to us. Even if I am talking nonsense, they will have to hear it, so long as you do not disallow me, Sir. I am not going to get certificate from them at this stage of my life.

Sir, in the Chapter heading 'Self-reliance to Overcome Debt and Dependence', this is what Samata Party said:

"Under pressure from the World Bank, the Government has been inexorably surrendering one commanding height of the economy after another to transnationals. Samata Party will take corrective action by increasing emphasis on self-reliance production system to save the country.

Sir, last but not the least, there have been strong moves to open the Insurance Sector to foreign companies. Only strong public opinion has been able to prevent this from happening."

Yes, Shri Nitish Kumar ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (BANKA) : We are still for that.

[Translation]

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : It was they who introduced the Insurance Regulations Authority Bill.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : "The Party is totally opposed to the Insurance Sector to foreign companies."

This is the common policies and programmes of this alliance. Of course, we are not surprised, the leader of that party Shri George Fernandes has never been known for any consistency.

It was said at one time:

"The concept of Hindu Rashtra or supremacy of Hindu culture is not consistent with secularism. The demand for ban on cow slaughter and the Bill on religious con-

versions are not in line with our programme. There is a need for realignment based on programmes and not on personalities of power."

Thus said, Shri George Fernandes on 26th June, 1976.

It was referred to yesterday by Shri Lalu Prasad, how Janata Party Government was broken. Because in a seven page note circulated among his friends in the Janata Party, Shri Fernandes insisted that it should close the door on anyone who refused to sever the RSS connection.

Shri Fernandes wanted the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai to ask Shri Vajpayee and Shri Advani to choose between RSS and a berth in the Union Cabinet. This was his statement in 1979....*(Interruptions)* Now, today, Sir, the most trusted trouble-shooter of this hotch-potch is Shri George Fernandes, Shri Vajpayee uses him whenever he travels to Chennai or, I do not know, Bengal or wherever it is. He is supporting the same Vajpayee who says:

"RSS is my soul." Sir, this is the position of this so-called alliance.

Sir, of course they are entitled to criticise—I do not say their allies now—AIADMK. Shri Vaiko has said that now they would be free from blackmail. When did they discover this? I think, they all contested the election together, One after another, the BJP is trying to break that alliance. It is obvious here. That is why, Shri Vaiko today is talking of blackmail. Shri Vaiko, who gave her the regal status and royal status?

We had seen that whenever the leader of that party paid a visit, the leading functionaries of the BJP go to the airport to receive her. Where is Shri K.L. Sharma? I do not find him here. He goes there; the Ministers go there to receive her. I do not know when *chacha*—where is *chacha*?—comes from Patna, does any Minister go to receive him at the tarmac with a garland?...*(Interruptions)* Many of her demands had been considered. I need not go into them. They treat her, they gave her all the possible considerations; submit to all her demands. I do not know how many visits Shri Jaswant Singh paid and how many visits Shri George Fernandes paid. Shri Dilip Ray, I am told, almost opened a branch office of the Coal Ministry at Chennai because he was deputed to keep her happy....*(Interruptions)* In any of these places, their visits were meant as Ministerial visits and a Prime Ministerial telephone call. Now, after that party the leader of that party had now decided.....*(Interruptions)* On the face of it, they have no majority. We wanted to know, when on simple arithmetic they have no majority, how is the Prime Minister saying in a spirit of bravado, 'I shall prove my majority?' ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, during this most important debate, I do not find the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs here. I am sure that he is indulging in some unparliamentary affairs elsewhere ...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH) : Shri Ram Naik is here...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : You do not worry. Everything is all right ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, on the 26th of March, Shri Jana Krishnamurthy and Shri K. L. Sharma drove up to the tarmac at the airport to receive her with garlands. Courtesy is not shown to anybody else. Then comes Shri Vijay Goel's tea party...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM) : Shri Somnath ji, I would request you to yield.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think it is a very uncharitable remark. I have gone to the most important place.....*(Interruptions)* If you call it unparliamentary, I do not believe it is fair. I do not believe it is fair for a senior Member of this House to call any activity outside the House as unparliamentary*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Although I do not think what he has been doing is parliamentary, I may say it is not unparliamentary. All right, I accept your statement. For a change, you are here.

Now let us take Shri Vijay Goel's reception. Why was this special reception for her on the 26th of March? We saw on the TV her smiling face with Shri Vijay Goel. When she came here, came to your house or wherever it was, I think, the Prime Minister was there. Special treatment is being given. What a great reception? Doordarshan was showing that. Prasar Bharati, which as I have said elsewhere, is Pramod Bharati now. It is showing you all these as if a great achievement is being made.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : They are saying that they have welcomed Miss Jayalalita. You may recall what Shri Somnath Chatterjee has mentioned about this incident and how they have regretted.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : On the 27th of March after the Coordination Committee meeting, she asked for transfer of Shri George Fernandes. She asked for the transfer of Shri George Fernandes to a less sensitive Ministry and she demanded for the reinstatement of Shri Bhagwat. Now, immediately there is a consternation. Shri George Fernandes with all his papers goes to her and holds a 90-minute meeting with her but to no avail. On 28th of March, a gentleman by the name of Shri Bhattacharjee and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi called on her to try to soothe her feelings and change her mind. Then, on the 29th of March, the Prime Minister invited her to lunch. In spite of all this, if she does not remain with you, how are we to blame? Is this not an amazing attitude?

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT (UDAIPUR) : This is a common courtesy.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (BANKA) : You have not learnt anything from him.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I do not want to be taught. I love you but you need not be my teacher...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA (MUMBAI SOUTH) : He will become Minister now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If my information is incorrect, they can correct.....*(Interruptions)* Now, out of that list I read, ADMK is gone. Samata Party is divided in Bihar. I do not know what will happen here. One ally with seven MPs and another ally with eight MPs are also divided. Of course, in view of the whip, I do not know what will happen. Tenth Schedule is helping them. Another ally with seven MPs has resigned from the Coordination Committee under protest because that Party did not approve of some of the policies and programmes of this alliance regarding sick Undertakings and administered prices. Another Party with three MPs abstained from voting during the discussion on Bihar. This is the united picture of this alliance we have. On every issue, it is a question of give and take. Shri Vajpayee now believes, 'give me vote, I will give you something'. Everything is done in the name of packages. This is the Government which is only concerned with the packages not with the people of this country. This Government does not talk of India package anymore. Now they would not talk of TN package until I do not know what my good friend, Shri Maran, will do. Now they are talking of TN package, not for DMK but for somebody else, their ally against the Government. They are talking to Bengal package. If everything came, I shall be very happy and I shall congratulate them*(Interruptions)* I shall congratulate you if you get them. With all these empty and tall promises, Shri Pramod Mahajan goes there and even blames my father.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : That is good ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This the attitude! She says, "That is good" and blames my dead father and repeats "That is good". Now she has seen only part of it. Probably she does not know that in his own handwriting he had tendered his apology when the objection was taken.....*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : That we know; that is why I said, "That is good"....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : She does not agree with the idea. Then, it means that she did not know the problem.

In her presence he gave all sorts of tall promises that the *Bengal Express* would run every day. Now Shri Nitish Kumar will try to do something. I do not know.....*(Interruptions)*

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

To say the least, this is a most opportunistic alliance that has come into being in this country. We found that motley combination have taken over the control of the Government and are masquerading as a Government. It is the bounden duty of all right thinking Members of this Hon. House—it is my humble submission—to see that this menace is put out of operation.

I find from newspapers that they are trying to woo some of my friends in the DMK. Some misunderstanding seems to be there because of what I saw on the TV last night.

We are believers in the Third Front. We want to maintain the Third Front because that is the only hope for maintaining the secular credentials and traditions of this country. We want to fight for the unity and integrity of the country in which our friends in the DMK and the TMC have played a leading role. Whom are they believing? The neo-convert, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam. All neo-converts are extremely zealous. He seems to be the live wire now in trying to keep this motley combination in tact.

Tamil Nadu State Conference of the BJP was held in his constituency from the 20th to 21st March where the slogan was, "Rock Fort to Fort St. George by 2001". They say that the Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee said that he was glad that the State Unit had decided to work for a change of Government in the State by 2001 with the support, the belief and cooperation—he says—of other friendly parties which will not be an impossible task. At that time the friendly party was the AIADMK. Though it will be a difficult task, I hope that their workers will accept this challenge. Of course we the Left Parties were criticised, no doubt.

Shri Vajpayee criticised the DMK and the TMC for shamelessly supporting Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for the Prime Ministership of this country. And there was strong criticism of the DMK Government in the State for allegedly supporting the UI Umma, the Muslim fundamentalist organisation allegedly responsible for the serial blasts in Coimbatore last year.

And Shri Kumaramangalam said that the UI Umma had killed Dr. Sreedharan due to the encouragement given to terrorists by the DMK Government. The terrorists killed a Jail Warden. Shri Kumaramangalam asked the Prime Minister to ask the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to watch the law and order situation. Shri Vajpayee responded thus : "Anti-national elements are there in Tamil Nadu." What was required was a more severe effort by the State Government and the Central Government of this country.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): My name has been taken, so I must be allowed to speak. Would he kindly yield for a moment? ...(*Interruptions*)

May I point out that whatever he is reading from the magazine, *The Frontline* is different? What he has quoted, as from the Prime Minister is wrong because I was in the meeting, I was present there and none of those things were said....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I think that there is no dearth of officers or people in the Prime Minister's Office. But nobody has contradicted this and it has appeared in the local papers there.

The same B.J.P. is trying to say that AIADMK is very bad. They have rightly gone away. Now, our friends of D.M.K. have become an embodiment of virtue. My appeal to those hon. Members of the House who are in the Third Front—I believe they are still in the Third Front—please do not get misled by this propaganda and please do not try to live with the political vipers in this country. I find suddenly after criticising on the 20th and 21st of March this year, the same Prime Minister talks to your leader, Shri Karunanidhi. Shri Advani speaks to him. Then, another senior Minister, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, spoke to her. The leader of the AIADMK went to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs, speaking about your leader, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi spoke to your adversary, the leader of the AIADMK. This is the character of B.J.P.

AN. HON. MEMBER : What is the character of CPM?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is the combination which is now ruling this country and speaking as if they have a divine right to govern this country in the name of people's mandate when no such mandate was given. I am not going into the percentage of vote. Shri Sharad Pawar has said about it yesterday.

We are told of an able Prime Minister, the ability we have seen. By abrogating all political ethics, political norms and political belief, he has remained in power more by crook than by hook. We have a Prime Minister who cannot reshuffle his Cabinet whenever he wishes. He fixes time and then postpones it. I know Shri Rama Krishna Hegde's memory is very sharp. He cannot say anything, but he knows. As a result, he cannot even reshuffle the portfolios. That is why, *Chachaji* remains there, Vaiko remains here and all the hopes and aspirations remain unfulfilled because the Prime Minister has not got the guts to induct Ministers. He cannot even appoint a Governor he likes. Everybody came to know of an appointment of a gentleman as a Governor. I was told, Shri Advani's blessings were there, but he could not succeed.

Now, there is going to be a new Minister of Defence. The hon. Prime Minister has a wonderful faith in the Minister of Defence. Before the Pokhran blast, he called the three Defence Chiefs and said, 'Do not tell our Minister of Defence that we are going to do this blast'....(*Interruptions*)

DR. BEATRIX D'SOUZA (NOMINATED) : How do you know?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD) : This is totally objectionable....(*Interruptions*). He is very senior Member. He should authenticate it....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : He cannot make such a derogatory statement. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (REWA) : Mr Speaker Sir, he may yield or not but he should be asked to refrain from making the false statement.

[English]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : He is making a statement which affects the national security. How can he make a statement like this? Was he a witness? Shri Chatterjee, will you authenticate this statement? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No doubt, the hon. Prime Minister will reply. He will be able to look after this.

We were told that there had not been a single allegation of corruption against the Government. I am not making any personal allegation of corruption. But this is the party which is still hobnobbing with Shri Sukh Ram. They had made him the Deputy Chief Minister in the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet. What happened when Shri Advani and Shri Vajpayee were sitting on this side? How long did they allow this House to completely come to a halt? Now the same gentleman is your very coveted Deputy Chief Minister, if I am not mistaken. You have made his son an MP.

I now come to Guruswamy case. Who makes these allegations? It is amazing. Their own men, their own allies are going against them and they are blaming us. Shri Guruswamy was your own man. He says, 'I have got rid of him'. I find two days back that Shri Guruswamy said that these are the incorrect statements of Shri Yashwant Sinha... (Interruptions) I am not using that unparliamentary word.

Regarding Admiral Vishnu Bhagawat case, something unique has happened in this country. Shri Sangma was absolutely justified. We do not have anything from this Government. Parliament does not know anything. No discussion was slated to be fixed. It is on the agenda. But what we find is that MPs are not told, this House is not told anything; he goes on TV interviews one after another. With all my respect to Karan Thapar, we were absolutely flabbergasted. He was asked 'are you an honest Minister', he said 'yes, I am an honest Minister'; 'are you a patriot', 'yes, I am a patriot'—something to that effect; 'put your hand on your heart and say you have not acted against the country's interest'. 'I put my hand on my heart and say I have not acted against the country's interest'.

DR. BEATRIX D'SOUZA : What is wrong in that?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is the *tamasha* going on... (Interruptions) We are learning by mere survival. This is a unique occasion that the Defence Minister of a country in a matter in which he says that the security of the country is involved, goes to one after another TV interview trying to go through leading questions; getting a certificate about himself; avoiding Parliament. If their case is so airtight and watertight, why do they not ask for a simple JPC which they were asking. Today what happened? Any Government worth the salt, any Government believing in probity and transparency, in honesty and about the Defence Services of the country would have themselves come forward with a proposal for a JPC. What does it show? It shows a guilty mind, a guilty conscience. They know their facts are such that they would not be able to prove it before the House.

We are told that a great deal has been done for strengthening the federal system in this country — the Centre-State relations. But what has been happening here under the leadership of Shri L.K. Advani? Teams are being sent from the Centre to different State Governments to find out the law and order situation. Because some allies ask for it; he has to oblige them; otherwise they may go out of the Government. Appointment of RSS functionaries as Governors who were openly saying that they were proud to be RSS functionaries.

SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT : He was a party member. He was the Vice-President of our all-India party. How are you talking like this? I do not know what kind of person you are.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shri Advani and Shri Vajpayee have been greatly admiring most of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.

15.00 hrs.

Everyone of the specific provisions, recommendations regarding choice of persons for appointment as Governors has been breached. He had recommended that in any event, no active politician belonging to the ruling party should be appointed as Governor. Now, in a State which is governed by another political party for the removal of which by imposition of Article 356 they had entered into an arrangement with the Samata Party and in that State, a Governor is being sent who was the Vice-President of BJP — he corrects me, informs me — and who says that he is proud to be an RSS man. Is this strengthening Centre-State relations in this country? Is it a country where you... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT : Is RSS a threat to the nation? Why is he talking like this... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is the crudest form of misusing political power at the Centre not for the good of the country but only to keep their allies happy. Actually, we have discussed the imposition of Article 356 in Bihar, but it is worth repeating and reminding ourselves that it was the worst use of constitutional power, it was nothing but constitutional monstrosity. Knowing that they had no support in Rajya Sabha, they imposed it, had a three-day discussion in this House and then, put it on the Congress to support it in Rajya Sabha and when they did not get their support, they thought of Governor to go away. I do not remember now whether for a few days or a few months, there was President's rule in one State. I would like to know from Shri Advani what sort of responsible political behavior, what sort of respect of constitutional provisions it is...*(Interruptions)* Sir, if this type of comments are made, it is impossible to function here with any sort of dignity...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, there is a limit to flippancy, there is a limit to the type of comments which are coming from that side.

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : His party also does the same thing....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I thought a sportsman will have a sportsman-like attitude, but a sportsman in BJP is more a BJP man than a sportsman...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker Sir, I know that they are disturbed. Today, they are gasping for breath. All this time is being taken because they cannot keep their allies together. This debate would not have been necessary if their allies had remained with them, and they are blaming us. They may go on pampering, they may go on surrendering, they may go on indulging in all sorts of constitutional improprieties, they may go on making all sorts of promises, they may go on offering this package, that package, but even then, their people are not getting together. The blame is on us. I shall not sigh to say that this Government should not remain in this country for a minute more. It is against national interest and because they will go on teaching us on how to make submissions in this House, after 30 years...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, I know that if I am popular them, that will be my discredit.

Sir, if we come to the economic issues, the great drum-beating is being done by the Finance Minister about the Budget. Shri Chidambaram had presented a dream budget. He did not call it a dream budget. The industry called it a dream budget. After Dr. Manmohan Singh, he was treated as a messiah. They were considered messiah for Indian industrial recovery, economic recovery. Of course, the day he lost power, the same day those industrialists abused him for having brought the country to that stage. The same thing is happening. Shri Yashwant Sinha has got certificate at a right time from the CII.

Shri Advani read out from newspapers about what the World Bank Report had said. He said that the World Bank had given them certificate, the CII had given them certificate and that the FICCI had given them certificate. But what about

the common man? What about the people engaged in the small scale and medium scale industries in India? Shri Sharad Pawar has mentioned as to how many factories have been closed. We also know about it. How many public sector undertakings have been revived due to the efforts of this Government and this hon. Finance Minister?

Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope they and their allies would not mind my quoting the resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee of the BJP held at B.M. Birla auditorium in Jaipur on 16th November, 1996. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has now become a minority. They have changed his character completely. The resolution says :

"Bharatiya Janata Party is totally opposed to integration of Multilateral Agreement on Investment and social issues such as labour standards and environmental aspects with the World Trade Organisation at the Inter-Ministerial Meeting scheduled to be held in Singapore. If the MAI as proposed by the European Union is integrated with the already concluded Uruguay Round (about which of course, BJP has always voiced its objections, specially with regard to the Patent Law and farm-related issues) it would lead to virtual surrendering of country's economic and political sovereignty."

What sort of political morality do they have? What sort of Political principles do they have? These were their solemn statements made in the National Executive Committee meeting in 1996. The resolution further says:

"BJP is committed to selective approach to foreign investment. (Nowadays, new jargon has come. They call it calibrated globalisation.) This is calibrated globalisation. The area and quantum of foreign investment are matters to be decided by a sovereign Government keeping in view the local socio economic compulsions. In fact, this right has been upheld by the Uruguay Round."

When they were opposing this, the WTO was present. They further said :

"If the proposals of the European Union are approved at the Singapore meeting of the WTO, international institutions like ILO, WIPO, UNCTAD, would become defunct. Any Attempt to enlarge to domain of the WTO would amount to intrusion in the functioning of the UN also."

Now, they say, "What can we do, the Congress has entered into it." They could have shown their guts. They said that they would not accept it. That is what they said in their party's election manifesto. They criticised it. Regarding WTO's role, they said that they must look into it. Shri Chidambaram is here.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : He is not with you now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He may or may not be with me but the facts are facts.

Their manifesto says,

"The phoney liberalisation turned out to be a period of record loot under which foreign companies flourished and the Indian ones floundered. ILO and not the WTO is the appropriate forum to look into the question."

Naturally, this Government is not concerned about the working people in the country. All these remarks were made only for the purpose of preparing their election manifesto. What is happening today in Delhi in the Parliament Street?

When the Prasar Bharati employees have withdrawn their strike and when they have gone to enter their office, they have been prevented at the gate. They were told that "You must give an undertaking in writing that never in future we will go on strike". Is this a country of bonded labour? ... (Interruptions) The employees of Prasar Bharati today are not allowed to join their duties because they had gone on strike on some good reason for some days. There was nobody from Government side to talk to them. I appeal to Shri Jaswant Singh, and to the Home Minister. I appeal to Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. I do not know whether he is a free man any longer. Please intervene. You are senior Ministers. These people say that they want to join their duties.

[Translation]

They were told to give in writing. What they have to write?

[English]

But they are told that "You must give an undertaking that I shall never go on strike in future." This is the Government that we are now having in this country.

They say that they have made lot of achievements. Let them show what achievements have been made. I am not saying this as a matter of joke. This is the National agenda. They compromised with the manifesto. They say "We shall give a stable, honest, transparent and efficient Government." I do not have to elaborate each one of them further. They talk about strong Swadeshi thrust. They also say that they will carefully analyse the effects of globalisation. Have you done it? Have you placed it before the House? You have deliberately processed it by devising a time-table. This House has come to know nothing about it.

You say that you will make a comprehensive study of financial, technological and social security requirements and that you will give a major thrust to infrastructural development. Grandiose schemes are announced by the Prime Minister of express ways criss-crossing the country. But not one penny is available and not one inch of land is available. There is no feasibility study. Nobody has been selected to execute the work. But the Prime Minister is announcing that express ways are coming to place after place. This is the infrastructural development. You know what is happening in the communi-

cation sector. They say "We will undertake a review of all laws and regulations relating to industry." Where do you find it?

Regarding labour they say "We will make labour, both organised and unorganised, equal and proud partners in production." This is only creating more unemployed people. Are they solving this issue by making all labour redundant in this country? I do not have to say about eradication of unemployment.

About food security and price stability, they say "We will ensure food security for all and create a hunger-free India." They promise education for all and health for all.

As regards empowerment of women, they say "We will legislate for reservation of 33 per cent seats in Parliament." Till today they have not even brought the Bill for discussion. One year has passed.

They have promised to bring the Lok Pal Bill. They say that they are fighting against corruption. Where is your Lok Pal Bill, Mr. Home Minister? There is a clear case of devolution of more financial and administrative powers. What steps have been taken?

You have promised to make the necessary electoral reforms. What reforms have you made? What has happened to State funding? Shri Indrajit Gupta was the Chairman. All parties are represented. We submitted a unanimous report.

What happened to the National Judicial Commission? I say that this is a non-functioning Government. Shri Purno A. Sangma has rightly said that we have a Government of non-governance here. There is also mention of national security. Everything is mentioned here.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : He is reading manifesto in his speech.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That shows that you have not read your manifesto.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You are not evaluating this after five years, rather you are evaluating this after one year.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am reading your manifesto and it is very-very uncomfortable for you. It is extremely uncomfortable for you.

Let us see how the administered prices were raised. The price of rice went up from Rs. 5.50 to Rs. 9.05. Of course, the Minister of Finance is a 'Roll-Back' Finance Minister and the Government is a 'Roll-Back' Government. They have rolled back some of the price increases not because of their convictions but because of the pressure from their allies. They have

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

done that for a few votes in Parliament, not on the basis of their commitment to the people of this country. The price of wheat has gone up from Rs. 4.50 to Rs. 6.50; the price of sugar has gone up from Rs. 11.40 to Rs. 12; the price of urea has gone up from Rs. 183 for 50 kilograms to Rs. 200; and the price of cooking gas has gone up from Rs. 130 to Rs. 146. There is a 19.7 per cent increase in the consumer price index and a shortfall in the Central Plan outlay of Rs. 16,705 crore. In one year, they were unable to spend Rs. 17,000 crore that they provided in the Budget.

This Government, we are told, is a functioning Government. So far as Pokhran-II and Agni are concerned, they want to take the credit of the achievements of the scientists of this country. But what is the fall out? Our good friend, Shri Jaswant Singh has to crisscross the world. I am sure he is not enamoured of visiting new cities. I am sure, he has visited most of them on diverse pretexts. He may now be on first name terms with Mr. Strobe Talbott but what has happened to this country? Today, they have committed to sign the CTBT. They are just waiting probably for this discussion to be over. I do not know if they can survive unfortunately.

I am proud that Shri Jaswant Singh is the Minister of External Affairs. But let him not talk to any Under Secretary of State any longer. How does it behave him? He should ask Ms. Madeleine Albright to come to him. The sanctions do not suit his namesake or half namesake. Therefore, he has to go and surrender all the prestige and future of this country. They are now friendless.

Of course, we have appreciated the bus ride. I am sure, it was a beautiful and modern bus with no jerk and a very good suspension. We have all applauded that. But today when they exploded Agni, they have been retaliated with two explosions—Ghauri—II and Shaheen. This is wonderful normalisation of relations! I do not know who is the Minister of External Affairs of this country. Shri Jaswant Singh says that he is deciding things. This means, he is better off than the Minister of Defence who does not know when there would be another blast in Pokhran or something else.

We are yet to be told the reasons for writing quietly a secret letter to President Clinton immediately after the Pokhran blasts. They are now abusing China just to keep the Minister of Defence happy. Today, we have to restart the normalisation of relations with China. I would like the Minister of Defence—I hope, he is intervening—to tell us whether he wants China as our friend or not. This is the way this Government is going on.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : They have forgotten that they supported the Chinese aggression.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I hope, the hon. Prime Minister, at the stage of replying to the debate, will deal with these issues, will deal with some questions of political morality and political ethics, will talk of the importance of the manifesto and the importance of the so-called National Agenda for Governance and take this country into confidence to say what has been achieved or accomplished by them.

If they are unable to keep their flock together, they cannot pass on the responsibility and try to put the onus on the Opposition to show whether they should remain or not.

This is an amazing exercise that is being done. I submit that hon. Rashtrapati ji was good enough to take a decision, *prime facie* of course. You showed a list of Members including AIADMK to become the Prime Minister, but they have withdrawn now. So, he asked you to prove the majority on the floor of the House. Now new recruits may be coming and I am appealing to everybody in this House. Something is more important than the BJP in power. That is the unity and integrity of this country. Secularism is the basic foundation of this country. Let us not deal with that and let us not compromise on that, for the sake of the Government which—I am told and the report is this—is being added by "new friends"; we all know how that friendship is acquired.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, without meaning any disrespect to your party, the TDP never accepted either their manifesto or their National Agenda for Governance; you are not a party to this and they are surviving today because of TDP's good wishes.

Sir, I strongly oppose this motion and I hope that it will be defeated.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (MADRAS CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy to follow my colleague comrade Somnathji and his party, but the pity is that they are ignoring us. It is with a deep sense of sorrow and sadness that I rise to participate in this debate.

I am a firm believer that in a federal country of continental proportions like India, a coalition Government is the best unifying factor. So, whether a coalition Government at the Centre is disturbed or at peril, I am unhappy because we are yet to create a protocol or a code of conduct for running a coalition Government; policies, not whims and fancies, should rule the day. But unfortunately that is not happening. We have seen several coalitions being formed, unformed and several coalition Governments falling down like the house of cards.

We all know the events leading to this debate. I entirely agree with Shri Somnath Chatterjee that if there is a political earthquake, it is the making of the BJP. So, it is unfortunate that the BJP and its leaders placed faith on unreliable elements, elements notorious for unprincipled actions... (Interruptions) Shri Somnath Chatterjee has catalogued all those events. In one way the hon. Prime Minister the hon. Home Minister and all other leaders of the coalition partners hereafter need not spend sleepless nights because the ghost that haunted them, the ghost that they embraced has been exercised and has left them for good! But I feel sorry for my Congress friends and other new friends because the ghost has come to this side! So, I am very sorry for that. I do not want to disguise my intense sorrow.

I have been a Member of Parliament — either Member of this House or Member of the other House — for the last 31 years ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (PERIYAKULAM) : It is because of your family rule.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Whatever it is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you.

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY (KRISHNA GIRI) : Who actually is the ghost?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, this is not good.

SHRI T. R. BALLU (MADRAS SOUTH) : They can walk out of the House if they so wish...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am appealing to all of you. This is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. Please take your seat.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I came here in 1967 ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Nothing, except the speech of Shri Murasoli Maran, will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I have been observing the Members. This is not good. The Chair will have to take action against the Members.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Yesterday, Shri Baalu had intervened ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have been observing you. This is not good. The Chair will have to take action against you. Please take your seats.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I had been sent here by no less a Leader than Dr. Anna in the year 1967. In the last 31 years, I have seen a lot of things. I have been in this House as well as in the other House. At that time, the DMK Party had 25 Members. I am proud to say that Shrimati Indira Gandhi at that time was running a minority Government with the help of those 25 DMK Members and also the CPI Members ...*(Interruptions)* With the support of DMK Party, Shrimati Indira Gandhi abolished the Privy Purse and 14 banks were nationalised. The people have given power to use it in the national interest ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (RAMANATHAPURAM) : DMK is the most opportunistic Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T. R. BAALU : Sir, you have to control the House. You should keep the House in order.

MR. SPEAKER : I am once again appealing to all the AIADMK Members to please take their seats; otherwise, the Chair will take action against them.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Sir, yesterday, when I was speaking ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please behave properly.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, please take your seat. You should not disturb the hon. Member. I have allowed him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him. Please take your seats.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : People give power to politicians so that they may use it for national interest. That is how the DMK exercised its power in a responsible way. We never used to blackmail anybody when we were more than 25 Members here...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we departed the company of the Congress friends during the emergency. I am very sorry for that. But then what happened was that we, BJP and Marxists became the jailmates. We and BJP shared the Opposition Benches for decades when the Congress was in power

Sir, I was also in the Treasury Benches. When Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister, I was a Minister here. At that time, both the BJP and the Marxists supported the Government. Then during the United Front Government, I was the Minister and the Left Parties and the Congress helped us. Without their support we could not have existed. Now we have got friends everywhere in the entire House. You want us to choose amongst yourselves. It is a very difficult job for me. Until last week, I was with the so called Third Front which was alive then. I do hope it will be kept alive. I think, Shri Reddy will do that. All of a sudden, there was a melt down and we were left high and dry. So, we have to decide on our own keeping the national and State interests in mind.

Sir, no one need doubt our credentials. I our long political history, we have supported and protected the downtrodden and the minorities whatever be the cost. We reiterate it now and pledge that we will continue to do so because our movement was started in 1916 to uplift the backward classes and minorities. I reiterate our pledge that we will continue to do so, come what may.

Sir, in the meanwhile, I have some questions to ask. Shri Deve Gowda was just now here. Shri Gujral is here. Sir, senior leaders like Shri Moopnar wanted participative involvement of Congress in the United Front Government. He said that, let us move closer with Congress so that the Government can continue and we may have a stable Government at the Centre. Shri Moopnar was all the time insisting that and he was willing to move in that matter. But who prevented it? I

[Shri Murasoli Moran]

am sorry to say that our left friends objected to it very vehemently. Sir, had we done that at that time, things would have been different and the history would have been different. I am sorry to say that. But let us not cry over the past. It is all part of history.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Congress was also objecting.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : You never allowed us to try. Shri Indrajit Gupta, you were the Minister with us. The former Prime Minister is here to testify.

Now, what precipitated the crisis? Sir, unreasonable, illegal and unconstitutional demands which cannot be agreed to by any democratic Government which respects the rule of law and judiciary had been raised. We all know it. We have got great respect for Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In fact, the hon. Prime Minister has bent backwards to accommodate the maximum—I am sorry to say, even at the cost of his image. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is not here. He was very magnanimous. But that was exploited.

Now, I would like to ask what are the details of the new deal? Our Congress friends and other friends should explain to us.

If there is a new deal, they have to explain to us. Are you going to follow a policy of same appeasement? Assuming for a moment that this Government falls, what is the alternative arrangement? Is it going to be Congress-only Government? Then, I will be very happy. Or is it going to be a coalition? Is there a Common Minimum Programme or a National Agenda or in that name, are there any documents being prepared? I would like to know about the common understanding. I want to ask an important question. Are you not foisting an unwanted election on the nation? Please tell us the truth. Please be candid. The country would like to know about it.

Sir, I stand on a different footing. Until yesterday, I was a critic of the Government. So, I cannot talk about or appreciate the achievements of the Government except the Cauvery water dispute for which the credit goes to the Government and the Prime Minister ...*(Interruptions)* Even now, I do not see eye to eye on several issues. That is a different matter. But I am convinced that the present move by the AIADMK supported by the new-found friends is against the interest of the State and interests of the nation.

We, therefore, support the continuance of the present Government. Sir, we have no other choice ...*(Interruptions)* We have no choice. We support Atalji and never can we support the mother of corruption ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is a small observation.

Hon. Members may recall that during the Leaders' meeting held on 15th April, 1999, it was decided that the discussion on the Motion of Confidence would be held on 15th and 16th April, 1999 and the hon. Prime Minister will reply on the 17th

April, 1999 followed by voting on the Motion. It is, therefore, essential that all the parties should strictly stick to the time allotted to them.

So, I urge upon the Leaders of Parties to ensure that their members finish their speeches within the allotted time. There are still 32 Members to speak. I propose that the House may sit late today, if necessary, to exhaust the list of speakers today itself to enable the hon. Prime Minister to reply tomorrow. I hope the House agrees to this.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allotted a time-limit for all the parties on party basis. I would comply with it.

15.39 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

But, we expect from the Chair too that no member should be allowed to speak three and half hours continuously. We are not responsible for this. But we shall try to comply with the instructions. It may be possible that the member may extend his speech upto 5 to 10 minutes more than his allotted time. If the members from the opposite benches do not disturb and listen him carefully, then there may be all likelihood that the member may not take extra time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the motion of vote of Confidence has come in to the House for discussion but we shall feel very glad if a farewell is given to Vajpayee Government.

If the vote of confidence changes into the farewell, I and Advaniji will feel very glad because we do not say anything without any ground. Why we desire a farewell be given ...*(Interruptions)* Still 24 hours are left for voting and if you being back Chautala and D.M.K. in your favour, then there is sort of all probability that Vajpayee Government may win the vote of confidence. This looks like an affair of jetsams and floatsams. who knows at present.

SHRI RAM CHANDRA BAINDA (FARIDABAD) : Chautala's support is confirmed.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Whether his support is confirmed or not still the opposition has got the majority ...*(Interruptions)* We shall have a bed after the Government is defeated on the floor of the House....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is a very serious matter which we are discussing. Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker,

Sir, we have discussed a lot about the manifesto of the B.J.P. but I would like to mention in brief that this party has dual character. I myself and the House have got the proof in this regard and even the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs who might have drafted this election manifesto, may be aware of this fact. The question arises what they had mentioned in their election manifesto. The BJP had stated that they would scrap Article 370, implement equal code of conduct and their main issues would be relating to Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura. The second point they had mentioned that our most suitable Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : Where are the two opinions in it?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : And, a stable Government; they cheated the public with these two slogans. They prepared a national agenda to run the Government and did not include Article 370, Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi in it and said that they would not discuss about common civil code.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (DUMDUM) : Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura are not in our agenda.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Tomorrow if you are in the opposition, will you still give up these issues?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are already short of time. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they are in the opposition, they will have the same issues again. That's why I have called it a double character Government and it is the only Government after independence that is founded on deception and falsity. We have also had the experience of so many Governments(Interruptions) United Front Governments did whatever they said. When we supported DMK, we supported it even though the Government was no more, but we supported DMK till very end. We did not remove the DMK Ministers due to pressure from the Congress—this is the character, one statement and no change. So far as the question of an able Prime Minister is concerned, it is a fact that we did not have any doubt about the ability, capacity and intellect of Shri Atal ji, nor do we have it now(Interruptions) You please keep quiet. We do not have any doubt. But neither I nor any of our friends said this, no Member of the National Democratic Front called him an unable Prime Minister. Your own senior RSS and BJP leader said this that the Prime Minister Shri Atal ji is only a mask, the real BJP leader and Prime Minister is Shri Advani ji. Now you please tell us as to who has the double character. We did not say this and the leader who said it is a BJP leader and a

confident of Shri Advaniji, he only said that Atal ji is a mask and the real leader or Prime Minister is Advani ji or rather he should be considered as such, you please keep this in mind.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Never said it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Never said it—this only is the double character! Head is ours and tail is also ours! A mature leader like you must not say this, but you have said it. Shri Atal Bihari ji has openly said at a public function that he was only a mask. It is a fact, you call it a lie? I say this Government is running on the basis of falsity and deception. Whether difference of opinions we might have about you, but we used to consider you as a mature leader. Shri Vajpayee ji himself had said at a public function that he was only a mask. How can you deny it after that? That's why I said in the morning that there is double character. You may remember that the Janata Government formed in 1977 was dissolved because of this double character only. I want to say that it is the same position today. You please tell as to how many people out of them are from the BJP and how many are there from the RSS. Today this Government is functioning on the whole ideology and also the philosophy of RSS.

The draft that came there in the meeting of the education ministers was absolutely based on the RSS philosophy because of which the education ministers of the country had boycotted the education conference. I feel happy that the Education Minister of Rashtriya Janata Dal of Bihar and the Minister from National Democratic Front were the first to boycott it, and the central Education Minister had to withdraw the draft. Today people of the whole country are listening, therefore we want to tell them that when the constitution of our country was framed the scholars, legists and those who had major roles in the national movement had devised it after much consideration. India has many religions with their followers here. Today the population of Muslims is 13-14 crores, there are two and a half crore Christians and two crore Sikhs are also there. The country cannot have unity by neglecting, insulting and abusing such a large populace. Secularism was adopted by taking into consideration this aspect only, and this only forms the basis of the unity in this country. This Government had continuously harmed the unity of this country. There are many examples. I do not want to repeat how the Christians were surrounded and then killed, graveyards of the Muslims were encroached upon and a BJP Parliamentary Member fired bullets when somebody opposed him. Gorakhpur Police writes in the report that a Lok Sabha Member fired a bullet by which Mr. Satya Pal Singh Yadav was killed, he was a Police constable. Hon'ble Home Minister Sir, a Lok Sabha Member from your party fired the bullet. You have all the information. If you do not have it then I am sorry for it because the Home Minister must have all the information.

Now Swadeshi is there. We leave this subject here itself. Where did the Swadeshi go? Shri Virendar Singh ji points it out. A restaurant was opened to serve foreign meat and

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

there was a lot of hue and cry. The whole Swadeshi awareness forum became foreign awareness forum and the RSS ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (MIRZAPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say one thing ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, he is not yielding.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Shri Virendra Singh ji, you are alone. What can a person do singlehanded? Today the Swadeshi awareness forum has become foreign awareness forum. Through this forum all interests of the foreign companies are being served. When the patent law was being passed, if you had the guts then you would not only have walked out of the House but Shri Virendra Singh ji, you would also have resigned, then we would have considered it something...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Had gone out ...*(Interruptions)* What are you talking about ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Time is already less.

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh ji, you please look towards this side while speaking.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am looking at you only...*(Interruptions)* May raise anything, you know the socialists** Who is a countryman, who is a foreigner and who are there selling their motherland? So allow Mulayam Singh to speak on, please do not interrupt, when standing on that side then you may say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir this is an unparliamentary language...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit at ease. I will get the unparliamentary words expunged.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I believe that Shri Virendra Singh ji keeps opposing foreign companies a little in the name of Swadeshi awareness forum, he is busy with Swadeshi forum. He has a friend and a Chief Minister also. World Bank was invited to see as to how the economy could be improved. World Bank people were called and made to stay at a five star hotel in Lucknow. Now they are taking suggestions from them, making policies to improve the economy,

* Not Recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

whereas many a commission was constituted here, many reports are there, they made great suggestions that if foreign companies would come, there would be more foreign investment, imbalance would be there and the country would be ruined and economy would be damaged. Their suggestions are there, reports of 5 Commissions are there. A Chief Minister friend of one of our Hon'ble Members is having consultations with foreigners as to how the economy of Uttar Pradesh could be improved. Now please tell this. They are made to stay in a five star hotel and served food. But on the other hand those poor farmers, labourers, unemployed persons are there for whom there is no arrangement of education, they are illiterate; and it is their hard earned money. Sambhal area literacy rate is still about 22 percent. The Uttar Pradesh Government is hospitable to World Bank Officials and they are made to stay at a five star hotel in Lucknow out of their hard earned money and then they talk of Swadeshi awareness before the socialists. The farmer has been ruined. Cheap Potato was sold to farmers at Rs. 20 to 30 per kilo. Today the production has greatly increased. It has not increased because of the favours done by this Government nor by the assistance given by it, but because the farmer worked hard and the nature assisted him that the production of potatoes has now gone up. Now the potatoes are rotting, there is no space in the cold storages...*(Interruptions)* What problems can he have! He has the best clothes on. He is not concerned with the farmers. We also thought it, a lot of potatoes were grown this year.

There was excess production of potatoes. My potatoes might be kept by some cold storages because of sycophancy also, though I am not pressing for it that Mulayam Singh's potatoes must be kept there. But the bullock carts, trollies etc. of the poor farmers that are there have the potatoes rotting on them.

Nobody is ready to take potatoes even at Rs. 5 a liko! You increased the price of urea fertilizer, did not give DAP on time, nor electricity was given, nor water, but even after that if the production is increasing then the farmer is the one who is increasing production by his hard work. The farmers have increased production by installing diesel engine after digging wells, taking out underground water and putting in hard work.

Your kindness and help has not made any contribution in the increase of production. Go away we also have increased the production. Is there any contribution from your side in this regard me too had to arrange some funds from banks and private sector and other sources for setting up of tubewell. You have completely finished the farmers and a number of farmers were compelled to commit suicide just because of the anti-farmer policies of BJP Government in many States.

Yesterday, I was reminded of the onion issue. The Finance Minister who is a good friend of mine was quoting elaborate figures. Mr. Finance Minister you were an I.A.S. officer and have worked with our leader. And you have become a leader only because of him. You should have kept Karpuri ji in your memory you have worked with him. The country can not develop just because of datas. If it is possible then the country had already been developed 40 years back. The data

always run in this country but the country cannot run on data only. Don't try to run away from your responsibility by producing wrong data in this House. If you are producing rights figures you have to act accordingly and accept the heavy loss which farmers and poor people have suffered because of this price rise and slump. You have no experience with farmers. You are here in Lok Sabha only with the vote of farmers, I don't know why you had spoken in Hindi in this House yesterday. You have been speaking in English only since the Day of your becoming the Finance Minister. I told Lalu ji to take the people to Hazipur and organise a meeting there and tell the people in that meeting to force the Finance Minister to speak in the same language which he speaks in the Lok-Sabha, only then they will vote for him. In that case you won't be able to save your security deposit in elections(Interruptions)

Mr. Finance Minister, you are presenting datas. Because you are very intelligent, so, please correct my datas also if anything goes wrong. Hon. Finance Minister, you were the Finance Minister in the Govt. of Shri Chandra Shekhar ji also I feel very sorry because you can not come to this side from there, because you have got very good and an important portfolio with great difficulty. You change your side only. I because of the portfolio.

We are care free people, come what may, we shall not rest till the communal forces in the country are destroyed(Interruptions)

I am presenting the data pertaining to the period between the last and this Diwali because these are our real festivals and there was Id just about this time. Black marketeers are minting gold. No other Government could help the profiteers so much. What a poor man will eat. How can poor people survive, this Government is not bothered about it, The price of ground nut oil has increased by 62 per cent and sesame oil by 66 per cent, which is consumed on festivals and the prices of cotton seed has increased by 59 per cent. But the price of desighee produced by a poor farmer has increased by 13 per cent only. This anti-farmer and anti-poor Government have totally destroyed the farmers and the poor. The prices of the livestock owned by the poorest persons has increased by 13 per cent only and the price of other commodities has increased by 66, 70 and 72 per cent. Prices of a vanaspati ghee has increased from 90 rupees per kg. to 150 rupees per kilogram and that of potatoes from five rupees to fifteen rupees per kgm, tomato from six rupees to 35 Rs. per kgm....(Interruptions)

I am giving the figures relating to last Diwali and Id. The prices of vegetable have increased by 90 to 140 per cent in different cities.

16.00 hrs.

The prices of brinjal has increased from 4 rupees per kilogram to 12 rupees per kilogram. The onion, purchased at the rate of 2 rupees per kg. from the farmers was sold at the rate of Rs 125 rupees per kg in some cities and it had been sold at the rate of 122 rupees per kg. for one week in Agra.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : What is the rate now?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You appoint him as minister then he will keep quiet. But he should stop encroachment on land in Noida.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : This was done during your tenure by your own people.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have many complaints against you but I don't raise any question because you are one of my colleagues in Lok-Sabha.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Your people have done this, I am saying this with full confidence and without any fear or favour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I suggest you not to encroach on the land any more now and if you have already done this, then vacate the encroachment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was telling that the rise in the prices of vegetables etc. is the achievement of this Government, because this Government failed to stop the export of onion in time and could not take any action against the hoarders. Therefore, I have said at the very outset that we will be very happy if the farewell ceremony of this Government is solemnised.(Interruptions)

We will not lose our courage and perform it tomorrow itself. The night is still there and we know, what you have done?

The survey conducted by Chamber of Indian Industries has shown that the economic condition of the country is very critical now a days and there will be a heavy down fall in the economy of the country in coming times. Only we are not saying that, everybody is pointing out that the economic condition of the whole country has worsened. Besides, some industrialists supported by you, small, medium and big industries are ruining. Only some of the industries are surviving which are getting your help. I want to say that this is Government protecting hoarders, profiteers and black-marketeers. The supporters of this BJP led Government have earned a huge profit of Rs. three thousand five hundred crores in a few days only because of this rise in prices. This is the biggest scam of Hindustan and you are projecting it as a achievement. So we are trying to step down this Government.

So far as the foreign policy is concerned, it means to be our friends of the total countries of the world. If the number of our friendly nations are much more it means our foreign policy and diplomacy is successful. Even Somnath Dadaji has just said and rightly said that you have insulted the poor and the farmer.

You got the Prasar Bharati Bill passed in Lok Sabha. At that time our sister Sushma ji was the Minister. She met me

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

and Laloo ji and said this bill should be passed otherwise people of backward class will never come forward. So get it passed for the sake of backward class. She succeeded in her effort and the bill was passed by us.

We helped and now she has been separated. We were abused too for what was done by Shri Lalooji and Mulayam Singh ji. We said that Sushma ji our old friend so we had agreed with her. We agree because at first we are human.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : You please agree with us now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Now they will have to agree. If they will make her a minister, it is all right otherwise she will be feeling insulted. So the test of Pokhran and the manner in which it has been done, they have tried to insult the scientists. It was propagated as if the BJP had done all this. You please collect the information whether your foreign policy is successful? Whether your friend have increased or decreased? If they have decreased, your foreign policy and diplomacy is failure and scientists have been insulted very much by it. This was tried to propagate that the BJP have made an atom bomb. We have never done so. We said that we had provided adequate money for this purpose. We harassed Gujral Saheb to provide more and more money for this purpose. Mr. Gujral and Mr. Chidambaram have provided so much money as had not been provided during the last ten years. We made an achievement by boosting up the moral of scientists. You tried to encash the achievement in a political way and insulted the scientists. As it has been heard that you are going to sign the CTBT. If you are not signing the C.T.B.T. as to why are you flattering America? Who was being flattered by Ministers like Shri Jaswant Singh ji? He was flattering a Deputy foreign Minister who is just equivalent to a senior officer, and you are a foreign Minister of India. You sold out the honour of this country, you have insulted this country. So, we want that this Government should be stepped down. Only one goal should be achieved, one work at a time. This work should have been done. You are busy distributing portfolios, as to who will get Agriculture, and who will get Home Ministry(Interruptions) Whether Mr. Laloo or Mr. Mulayam Singh are not concerned with it. We are not concerned with it. We just want to fall down this Government.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Thank you very much.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You can't do anything against us. Whether you may get killed or murdered as many persons as you want whether you may send us into the prison. Whether you may demolish the house of our Mr. Iqbal Bahadur Singh, thakur Saheb. You will come to know at the time of elections that gunda was a someone else and the killer is someone else. If the BJP is inflicted a little bit, the houses of our socialist party workers are demolished. The MLAs of Socialist Party live in rented houses, so their homes in Jhansi were demolished. Likewise, one of our candidates in Madhya Pradesh, Deepak Yadav who get 28,000 votes, everybody knows it. His house worth Rs. 20 lakh was demol-

ished. There was a scuffle between Samajwadi Party and BJP in the election of a petty society. The BJP workers were injured more compared to the Samajwadi Party's workers there. The house of an MLA of Samajwadi Party was demolished completely. The total luggage of the house of Thakur Iqbal Bahadur Singh ji was taken away by the policemen.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : It is not being done by the Indian Government.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is being done by the Indian Government....(Interruptions)

So, we say that your foreign policy and diplomacy has failed. The honour of the country has come down and this is the result of all that. India and Pakistan have stood equally in the world by the propagation of this Government. Our country has the population of 100 crore people and Pakistan has only 13-15 crore. You prepared a missile which has the range of 1500 kilometers and they have prepared a missile which has the range of 2000-3000 kilometres. Now, you are saying that China is helping them. What is about that joint meeting of official level or Government level? Have you held a meet? You will say that China is our no. 1 enemy. You say that the whole missile or nuclear power which Pakistan have, is being supported by China. Who is responsible for this? you have made Pakistan equal to India. The Prime Minister went to Pakistan. Probably, you might have listened to Pakistan T.V. We have a cottage industry in which the bullock's eyes are closed. It is possible that the BJP persons closed their eyes like that. The Prime Minister of Pakistan said that they had become the nuclear power and therefore, the Prime Minister of a country having 100 crore population has come to their land. Could Pakistan say that? I don't think so. Such type of occasion had come several times but we had not the courage to say so. Now, the country which has the population of 13-14 crores is threatening India and you are saying that China is helping them. If China is helping them, the diplomacy is that China should not go out of our hands. We said that Pakistan should be helped. We asked for the help of Pakistan because civilization and culture of India is of that type. To help the weak is the civilization and culture of India. We know that we live among the poor people. There is starvation, poverty and unemployment here due to high prices but Pakistan is having this problem is a drastic way compared to India.

In view of this I said in Mumbai to help Pakistan. Laloo Prasad ji and I both were there. Another reason to help Pakistan was lest Pakistan and China should pass into American hands. You did not listen to my full speech. If you had accepted that, the confidence between two countries would have been generated. You talk about federation and want to extend friend cooperation and don't want to terminate the sovereignty of Pakistan and Bangladesh. But we want friendship with Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and China and want to form a loose federation, and start transportation and wish that there must not be any requirement of any passport and there should be marketing and trade. So we had said to help them. But allegations were levelled on us that we are Pakistani agents

and pro-muslims. Now there is a need for another Godsey to be born, said the Shiv Sena's senior most leader. Shiv Sena's leader does not know about the ideals which we have been following. If Godsey are born, the persons like us will not be bothered about the country.

One who cares for his life can not serve the country truly. When my friend Joshi ji went to Siachin, he had to sweat there...*(Interruptions)*

I know many things of the persons who feel sorry. Keep quite otherwise I will disclose your loop holes. You will never leave us. You will beget Godseys. If you beget Godseys, we will beget Mahatma Gandhis in this country. Why are you causing an affection if four MPs have gone with Mr. Chautala ...*(Interruptions)*

At first they bowed down before Jayalalita ji, Mamta ji and Chautala ji and again they bowed down before Mr. Bal Thackrey...*(Interruptions)*

They are bowing persons. So they must be named as bowing ones. Try to understand its meaning. They have been bowing down before the Samta Party...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : You have also been kneeling down before the congress...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Never, I am not against you only because they are protesting you. You are under wrong impression. We are not protesting you only because of the congress but you have become a danger for the country and therefore, we are against you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD (MADHEPURA): We people have not come here by selling coriander or spices ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : And we have not come here by selling fodder, but by selling wheat...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Why are you pressurising us to disclose your loopholes? This news is quite right that they knelt down before them also. Now we are trying not to kneel but protect our self-respect...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mulayam Singh if you carry on talking to them, your time will be over.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Alright, Swamiji alone has worked wonder. The life of politics is very long, who will drown and who will cross, you will know it. Why are you getting so worried about it?...*(Interruptions)*

You could not still muster majority so far why are you so much conceited? You have sought the support of Chautala ji for majority. If the Government is saved, you will make all the four Members Ministers. And if it is not save then what? ...*(Interruptions)*

Why are you so much conceited, you don't have time now. Tomorrow, at 12 o'clock, you will have to go*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Tomorrow will be the farewell ceremony.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, We don't want any public discussion on defence issues...*(Interruptions)*

If any Hon. Member says that Mr. Mulayam Singh was saying so I will say, yes. I was saying it publically and I am saying today also that discussions regarding defence issues publically must not be held I had said on the first day and I am saying it today also that our defence strategy is never propogated. A common, illiterate person of village and even a wrestler knows about it. If your opponent comes to know about your trick, it will not work. Mr. Virendar Singh and we also know about it very well. You disclosed our military strategy before the whole world. Our Home Minister disclosed in Kashmir that we have become the nuclear power and Pakistan should desist from it...*(Interruptions)* We, the Samajwadi people have been saying it for the last so many days that there should be good relations with neighbouring countries, peace in the world, the policy of non alignment should be there and today I want to repeat it. In 1935-36 when Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru became the Congress president in Lucknow, he had made Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia the foreign secretary. He had set some basis for foreign policy and when Mr. Nehru bacame the Prime Minister he had also made some issues for foreign policy and made some basis as world peace, democratic system, human rights, struggle against inequality, policy of non- alignment, good relations with neighbouring countries and continuance of talks with them. Therefore, the poor countries had believed in us and most of the countries had got freedom on this base. You destroyed that policy in a minute. You went away from that policy and many of our friends got angry. You united Pakistan, China and America and I too had the apprehension of the same. Therefore, I say that I don't want to discuss the security issue even today. But you started it. If the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister had agreed with us and kept abstenance, two three days of the House would not have gone waste, but you started it. I am telling now the whole House that this is not a new thing. Bureaucrats know that they always want to become supreme. Not from today this has been going on since the very beginning. When I became the Chief Minister twice, there were conflicts between I.P.S. and I.A.S. in the name of supremacy. There are some conflicts amidst higher officers of military or amidst the bureaucrats in the name of supremacy or high honour. But if the Government or any Minister solves these things with his maturity, discretion and intelligence, he is an able Minister. You have failed in this. I have also faced such big problems. Minister for Defence knows about it. I have sent them back by making them happy, by making them sit together and by giving them proper solution of their problems. I never allowed any type of conflict. Many higher officers got published news in this regard but it could not create any effect and there have been good relations between bureau-

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

crats and soldiers but you have failed in this. That is why you are facing difficulties. I do not make question-answers in this regard whether anybody likes them or not. People who think that Mr. Mulayam Singh is weak are under wrong impression. I wanted to tell them that no J.P.C. should be constituted in this regard and I am saying today also that JPC should not be constituted. There should be some discussion in Defence Ministry on this issue. The people who think that Mulayam Singh is a weak man, they should talk deliberately. I am bound with principles. I will work together to remove them. The person who says that Mulayam Singh dreads, he should talk deliberately, otherwise I will disclose his loopholes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Mulayam Singh, you have crossed the time limit of 45 minutes.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, you had given three and half hours to Mr. Prabhath Singh...*(Interruptions)* If he had said that time, the thing would have been completed within two minutes.

Had the Prime Minister stood up, all the members in the House would have sat, if he had accepted that one of their members had committed a mistake by mentioning the name we all would have been satisfied. But the Prime Minister kept on sitting. He is helpless and perturbed. Therefore, we are of the view that he is a weak Prime Minister. He has been weakened.

ONE HON'BLE MEMBREN : He is very strong.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Ask this from Advaniji. We will be happy when this Government would not remain in power. Our Home Minister may sometime get a chance. I am telling honestly that if this Government goes then Advaniji and we will feel happy. I want to say that we have no reason to doubt Atal ji's wisdom and ability. Advaniji may have some doubt about my intention. He may stand and say that I am trying to create differences between him and Atalji. Are there no differences between them? Do I not know this? Serious differences prevail between them. *(Interruptions)* Whether it was cabinet, any committee or Defence Committee the Defence Minister or the Prime Minister, no body showed any maturity. If they had used discretion, such type of statements could not have been released. We do not like it and at the same time we do not like your statements. Senior Military Officers were speaking on TV and were releasing files rapidly. We did not like that too. It has become the tradition of the country. We kept on fighting amongst bureaucrats and you kept on helping them. If you become Prime Minister tomorrow and your cabinet secretary deserts you, then he would disclose about it and then we may come to know as to what was your policy. What will happen tomorrow if the chief secretary of a Chief Minister starts speaking.

In such situation you might say that Mulayam Singh is weak. An investigation by J.P.C. may be launched against me. Mulayam Singh is afraid of it. Mulayam Singh was never

sored of you. We have fought with a number of people. I am speaking truth and that too firm my heart. You have been fighting for ten years. We have been fighting since 1954. Today we are ready to leave no stone unturned to remove you from power. This can not happen by your saying so. Ours is a fight based on principles. The way you have tarnished the image of India by demolishing the Babri Mosque, the Muslim countries which had never favoured Pakistan, have started having sympathy with Pakistan today. You have been calling Mulayam Singh as Mulla, Maulana and much more. I do not know. You did not stop yourself from abusing us...*(Interruptions)* We talk of justice to Muslims. We recruited Muslims in the P. A. C. Police and security forces. When you come to power Muslims get frightened and when we come to power they feel pride and they are recruited in the P.A.C. Police and security forces.

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA DWIVEDI : How many Muslims you have recruited in the P. A. C. Please tell this?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You may ask this from your Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)* We are not talking about that Chief Minister we are talking about our selves. Many of our colleagues are sitting here to discuss about the Chief Minister. They all know what is happening? Why do you want to make the poor Chief Minister the issue of debate? We will, if you start discussing about him. We do not want to discuss him. The discussion about him will be held, where it ought to be held. I do not like the public debate about defence, whether it is done by the Defence Minister, the Prime Minister or by any officer. We do not want that. Even now we want that a way out should be found out at a meeting so that politicisation may not occur in matters related to Defence. You yourself are doing this work and this work has been done well.

You have politicised everything. You have spoiled all democratic institutions. All institutions have been destroyed. From small committees, panchayats, universities to Governor's office every institution have been converted into a citadal of R.S.S. Vice Chancellors, Professors belonging to R.S.S. have been appointed. Persons belonging to R.S.S. are being employed in group 'C'. Seventy to eighty thousand employees have been recruited in Uttar Pradesh in group C only...*(Interruptions)* Out of which 30 to 35 per cent employees are hardcore persons of R.S.S. and the list was prepared on the indication from Nagpur and they were recruited. Therefore, Samajwadi Party did not want to make their party's Government. Although B.J.P. had not got the mandate, yet some of our colleagues imposed B.J.P. Government on the country. You had got only 25 % votes and you do not have the mandate. B.J.P. had emerged in the biggest party after election but we were of the opinion that if B.J.P. came to power, it would ruin the country and BJP has ruined the country

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please conclude now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am the only Speaker from my party. Mr. George will speak for one and a half hours. Shri Prabhu Nath Singh has spoken for three and half hours. We will not bear this injustice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying that the B.J.P. Government ruined young students, poor farmers and labourers. This Government strengthened Communal forces. That is why we wanted despite being the largest party, BJP should not be allowed to form the Government. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, your friends said that Mulayam Singh was in a haste. If the delay could be averted, it would have been the welfare and the country could be saved from such a big loss. The organisations and the supporters of BJP killed Christians and took possession over graveyard of Muslims forcibly and did not let them perform prayers in Khalilabad but no culprit who penalised ...*(Interruptions)* Today is Friday, but they might have not been allowed to perform prayers.*(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, Twenty-eight minutes have been allotted for your party but you have taken fifty minutes. So please conclude now. There are about thirty two members yet to speak. How will they complete their speeches?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I will finish in 5-10 minutes. Now they are saying that Mafia Criminals.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am on point of order.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under which rule are you raising the point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, my point of order is this that the debate is about motion of confidence in the Central Government, not about Uttar Pradesh. Who will reply if the discussion is about Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Home Minister Sir, it is very sad that your Government rendering all out help to the Mafia, criminals and murderers and you are protecting them. If you ask for facts and put them into practice, then I can give you the facts. We had written a letter in this regard but no reply was received. If you had replied to my letter. I would have tried to give the facts. Although, I know that the Hon'ble Home Minister has shown indifference, but I am sure that your intention might have not been so. If this is so, then the fingers may be raised at you. Therefore, we are scared of Mafia and mass-killings. I am not afraid of contesting election against Mafia people.

I am not afraid of my own murder but if I am murdered it would be a murder of the poor their voice would get weakened. Therefore, I am not speaking with anger, not making

any allegations but speaking from the core of my heart. Some C.B.I. officers are helping criminals, killers and Mafia today and working to protect them and sending innocent Laloo ji to jail. I am throwing a challenge in this House to show me any authentic document which can prove direct involvement to Laloo ji when a woman Rabri Devi, became the Chief Minister, C.B.I. detained her in the house for eleven hours. C.B.I. detained a constitutionally elected woman chief minister for eleven hours but some people belonging to the C.B.I. are helping the Mafia and killers. Today Delhi is the biggest centre of criminals of the world, where the responsibility of maintaining law and order is on the Hon'ble Home Minister. Delhi has maximum number of criminals and if we look at the crime figures the incidence of crime in Delhi is the maximum. We therefore, want that this Government should go ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I will conclude in ten minutes. The Government received our Indian languages. All the Indian languages have not only been neglected but insulted also. We want that Telgu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Bangla all languages should be popularised. Our friend Swamiji is from South. We want that Tamil should prosper but foreign language English is prospering here. It seems that this is the Lok Sabha of the English people. The way you are giving advertisements on TV, it proves this point only I would like to appreciate Joshi ji because he is the only well wisher of Indian languages left in the Bharatiya Janata Party and Shri Virendra Singh ji to some extent. All others whether they are from Congress or treasury benches have converted this Lok Sabha into Lok Sabha of English people ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Shri George also speaks in English.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Shri George is a socialist. He will speak in Hindi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh Ji, please conclude now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Such type of advertisements are shown on TV that we feel ashamed while viewing news on television with our children. Obscene and vulgar ads are shown. They are spreading western civilization and culture through TV and at the same time talk of Swadeshi Jagran Manch. The family members feel ashamed if they view news together because such ads are shown in between. You have neglected Indian languages and promoted English language ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, one hour has passed.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You have allowed me ten minutes. Four minutes have passed. Six minutes are still there. I will conclude in six minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have taken more than one hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : During the Govt. of Shri V.P. Singh hon'ble Atalji went to the President and withdrew his support from V.P. Singh ji Govt. and demanded the dismissal of his Govt. But now in the same situation you did not resign. You should have resigned. I am saying so from my heart. You are a supporter of morality. You could be an able Prime Minister. I never had any doubt about your ability, wisdom and efficiency. We consider you an able and learned person but you are weak and helpless because of R.S.S. people and Advaniji. You can become a great leader if you get rid of them. But you can not work properly as long as you are acting as Mukhota of R.S.S. I never my finger about your learning. It is they who have done so. Therefore I called him weak and helpless Prime Minister. The circumstances under which you had demanded resignation from Mr. V.P. Singh, under the same circumstances you should also resign.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, during this one year, anti-constitution activities were performed and democratic dignities have been destroyed. When they had imposed article 356 in Bihar on the recommendation of the Governor but failed to get the resolution passed in the both Houses of Parliament and the President reinstated the Bihar Government, the same day he should have resigned. Democratic traditions would have survived, had you followed tenets of morality.

You went to Pakistan. I felt happy but everything was destroyed by Advaniji. We wanted India to become Confederation by declaring unified India. Pakistan also reacted. As soon as Advani ji talked of unified India confederation, Pakistan reacted to it and the purpose of your visit was nullified. We are not having differences with you. We want friendship, not differences.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now please conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You have promised me six minutes. When you say that six minutes are over, I would conclude. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I feel sad that there were about one and a half dozen finance companies which disapproved after usurping money. The name of Lucknow deserves special mention which the Hon'ble Prime Minister represents. But such incidents have occurred at other places also and many people are duped of their crores of rupees. The policies are lathi charging them if they are agitating. Hon'ble Finance Minister, two dozen sugar mills will be closed next year and after that sugar-cane farmers will be ruined. They are ruined even now. You are not giving them their dues. Payment amounting to crores of rupees of sugar-cane have been outstanding for payment to the farmers. This is anti-farmer Government which gives protection to the Mafia(Interruptions)..

SHRIASHOK PRADHAN : What happened in your time.(Interruptions) A debate on confidence motion is on here and he is talking of Uttar Pradesh..(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You passed Patent Bill you are promising to pass insurance bill. The sugar worth Rs. 1350 crores is being imported from Pakistan by you. Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Mr. Amar Singh had said in the presence of Finance Minister that there has been a steel scam. The allegations made by Shri Mohan Guruswami proved to be true that some special companies are being benefited by the grace of Finance Ministry. The property of the poor is attached if some thing is due against him but rich defanters are being awarded.

[Translation]

Government's effort towards getting the Patent and Insurance bills passed envisage its antagonism towards the labourers and the poor....(Interruptions) I will conclude after making a single point. They are the same, they will not change....(Interruptions) Any effort to change them will prove futile.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : How much you wash it, it does not clean the smell.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : There is a saying that the fish won't forsake its odour. Hon. Atal ji please get rid of the R.S.S. and plunge fully into the national politics. But, its likelihood seems to us to be a distant possibility the influence of R.S.S. on Shri Atal ji won't cease. Hon. Home Minister has made him ineffective. Hon. Prime Minister's Pakistan journey has yielded no results. And to conclude with, I oppose the vote of confidence, I wish for early farewell to the Atal Government. Hon. Advani ji was pleading for help, we may come forward for help and bridge the gap if you stop talking of Article 370 once and for all; give up your Mathura-Kashi agenda, rebind the demolished Mosque;(Interruptions) and stop advocating common civil code. We may come nearer if you clear your stand and change your opinion on Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and all other minorities. I would like to alert Mr. Barnala against the designs of the BJP to weaken the Akali Dal by making Mr. Tohra and Mr. Badal to be at logger heads and expand itself in Punjab....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now onwards.

....(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : With these words I conclude. Thank you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH) : Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my feelings....(Interruptions) I am unable to speak Hindi fluently but, you should help me you....(Interruptions) I heartily support Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the confidence motion. I am thankful to Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav also. Mr. Mulayam Singh's contention from start to finish was for the farewell of

the Vajpayee Government. The C.P.M. also supported his contention. Mr. Lalu and the Congress also talked in the same vein. ...*(Interruptions)* This is not people's view but your inner feeling....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please stop this running commentary.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I thank you very much for your running commentary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You welcome it !

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am thankful to the hon. member for it. It is in the air that the opposition has a single point programme to dethrone the Vajpayee Government. On the other hand we also have a single point programme to save this Government. There is a couplet relating to this, which I like.

Muddai Lakh Bura Chahe To Kaya Hota Hai

Vahi Hota Hai Jo Manjoor-E-Khuda Hota Hai

(In other words - Only God's will has to prevail)

I listened to the speeches from the opposition. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee said that it was the Government and not us who brought the no confidence motion so why they are being blamed. This is right but they have forced hon. President to ask the Government to prove its majority. Is there any doubt in it?...*(Interruptions)* Hon. President has respected the wishes of the opposition ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : We made only request.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : O.K. You requested the hon. President and he conceded to it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We did not force him.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Thanks to the hon. President for accepting your request; and thanks to Mr. Vajpayee for not wasting even a single day and for deciding to move confidence motion within half an hour. He has respected the wishes of hon. President and accepted the challenge of facing the confidence motion on the very first day. No party has so far criticised Mr. Vajpayee. I have heard nothing against him yesterday onwards and I thank you for this. But the real reason behind it is his life long contribution for the welfare of the motherland. He had been the leader of opposition for long time and he was sent to Geneva during Congress rule.

[English]

'Atal Bihari Vajpayee cannot do anything wrong.'

A successful man is one who can lay the foundation with the bricks that others may throw at him.

[Translation]

All are pronouncing this day as his farewell day, but the day to come will only show that the country will continue to march ahead under the leadership of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Even today this is the same case. I went to Calcutta for a day only and the people asked me its reason. I answered that it was Bengali's new year and I went there to celebrate this occasion. They asked me whether I was going to withdraw support to the Vajpayee Government? They expressed their wish for the continuance of the Vajpayee Government and so they did not take any step. But, the people who have taken steps to topple the Vajpayee Government, are working in a wrong direction. I am also from Congress family and share Congress ideology. I still believe....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Yes, I am proud to say that I was a person belonging to congress and you are not !

[Translation]

We people have faced ...*(Interruptions)* I have said nothing against you..*(Interruptions)* Do not shout like this. We had faced a lot at the time of Prime Ministership of Mr. Rajeev Gandhi. Some people chanted the slogan 'Gali Gali Mein Shor Hai, Rajeev Gandhi Chor Hai'. Leftists had chanted this slogan and now they are friends of the Congress. They beat me and my Colleagues so many times, killed so many persons while we were weilding the national flag. With whose support you wish to form a Government now? You want their support whose hands are blood stained. They had used the most harsh words against Smt. Indira Gandhi. They had called Mrs. Gandhi....*You are working together, now. It is good that sometimes.

[English]

Do not forget that people like you only expelled me from that party. I had the guts and we have the blessings of the people of Bengal; that is why we have founded our party. We are not beggars and we are not hungry people. They expelled me because I was opposing the CPM. We can sacrifice ourselves; but we cannot sacrifice our own workers, we cannot sacrifice our State, we cannot sacrifice

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

our country and we cannot sacrifice common people of this country. That is our stand. It is also a political compulsion, please realise that.

[Translation]

It is a fact that the Government was in trouble earlier. But for last 3-4 months, the Government has started working in the right direction towards economic situation and price rise. Things have changed since then and a game plan to topple the Government was made at such a juncture. Moreover, this game plan was prepared in last November itself, but the follow up action is being taken now. Have you paid attention towards the effects on economic situation of changing Governments every year? And the situation of a country is directly related its economic situation. Are you free to held elections every year?

[English]

Our country cannot afford to spend money on elections every year. It is just like a festival every year.

[Translation]

It has become an yearly routine. We revolted at the time of toppling of Devegowda Government also. Fifty persons from Congress asked me not to do so for personal interest. I was a Congress member, then. We were bound to vote for Congress. We voted for the Congress with heavy heart. Many persons had warned us. You were supposed to form the Government after dethronement of the Gujral Government but you were unable to select your leader. What did Mr. Vajpayee say? We want to listen to you.

[English]

What is your proposal? What is your plan of action? What is your game plan? Nothing is spelt out, but you want to lead the country and you want to run this House.

[Translation]

There is always a driver in the train, a captain in the ship and a captain of in a team but;

[English]

You are captainless; you do not have a captain, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is our captain but they do not have any captain. Their game-plan is only to topple this Government and go for elections tomorrow.

[Translation]

It is not the fact even if it is with your permission. It cannot be as per your thinking that you can go for elections right now and emerge as a single largest party

because of a different trend in the country. Regional parties are also playing important role. Union Government by any nationalist party cannot be formed without the help of some regional parties. These regional parties can be from Mr. Mulayam's party of Mr. Lalu's party or ours or Telugudesham or the Samata or the BJD or the Akali's or Mr. Chautala's party or the DMK or the BSP or Shiv Sena or any other party or all of them.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Ours is a national party, yours is a local one.....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Laluji, ours is also All India Registered Party. We are a local party. So we have not indulged ourselves in any scam. I am thankful to it and would like to say.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please continue your speech, donot meddle with national and local issue.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : If a question is posed to me, I have to reply. If Mr. Lalu does not ask, I would not reply.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We, the Bihari people have voted for you. If we withdraw, you will no more be a leader.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I like Bihari people living in our area and you should thank me for that.

[English]

Laluji, please concentrate in Bihar and not in Delhi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, address the Chair.

[Hindi]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : There may be political differences but I respect senior leaders Mr. Lalu and Mr. Mulayam Singh. But, I don't know why Mr. Lalu gets angry so easily.

MR. LALU PRASAD : I would not speak now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Then it is very good. It is a fact and it can be observed from the situation of our country that whenever a Government is stable, a game plan starts to topple it. Some people from within and outside the country indulge in this game plan to destabilise the economy this instability has already crashed the share market. The factual situation can be told by the Finance Minister. We are proud to be Indian. I am grateful to our Scientists and Jawans for making nuclear weapons and Agni Missile. Financial emergency has been declared in Pakistan but despite grim economic scenario in India, there is no need of such declaration.

For this reason, we do not pay any attention. Politics is not meant for politics. The people give their mandate for five years. But this mandate is for each year. This would change the constitution and the election process. Considering the emerging situation in the country, our fight should be against corruption, unemployment and in favour of the people.

Today, several parties talk of communalist forces. I heard our C.P.M. leader commenting here said that he would sacrifice his life rather than give him secular credentials. Had he been here, I would have asked him.

[English]

In that election we were not the BJP allies, but we had seat arrangement with them and that is why we respect the BJP mandate. It is now mandatory for us to support the Government.

[Translation]

But you speak out. When I went in a Muslim area of my constituency, the C.P.M. and the Congress workers did not allow me to enter and said that I was communal and if I am allowed to enter, I would burn their Quran. Can you believe this? These people who talk of secularism are the foremost and leading communalists. Ask him, they prevented me from going there. In spite of this I won with the biggest margin and you could not do anything and you will not be able to do anything. Just think when election come...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What happened later in the Assembly bye-elections?

17.00 hrs.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We won in our Parliamentary Constituencies. Trinamul Congress has opened its account and in the next election you will not win even a single seat there. Swadeshi is talked of here. If you are such a staunch supporter of Swadeshi, I want to ask you whether Vajpayee ji is not an Indian born citizen. I have stood up to support an India born leader, who is working for the country, and not for a foreigner. Members, here talk of Indo-Pakistan relations. And several Members are in favour of improving Sino-Indian relations. After independence you ruled for 50 years. And you compare this with one year rule of this Government. I want to ask what are the achievements of your Government during those fifty years. You do not want Vajpayees to continue for five years and you want to dethrone him now.

[English]

Let him work for five years. Nobody should disturb

him. He is having so many ideas. He has so much experience. The Indo-Pakistan bus service is his baby. It is not our baby. The credit should go to him. All the things like free Trade between India and Sri Lanka, Indo-Bangladesh bus service, have started. Why do you not help him? Let us join together and let us join hands in the constructive work for this country.

[Translation]

We do not do this. We only think which party would come to power. How many Members are with us, that Chautala jee's party would not vote. Jayalalitha has left the alliance, and the Mamata's party has broken up. This is not right.

[English]

Every party has its own compulsions and every political party has its own ideology. They have their own constitution and their own symbols. You cannot compare one political party within the other political party. But I am happy to say that Samata Party is not divided. They are together; the BJD is together, the Akalis are together; we are together; and our other friends are also together.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Speak in Bengali.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We are also having a good number of Bengalis. I will speak in the language of Rabindra Nath Tagore.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Only One per cent understands English. Speak in Bengali so that at least the people there may listen ...*(Interruptions)* Who is foreigner ...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Shri Shiv Shankar, do you agree with this? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : What...is he talking? They want to divide the country in the name of language...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am expunging those words.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, he should withdraw those words. ...*(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, I have already given my ruling. Do not waste the time of the House. Let her speak now. Do not interrupt please.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to divide the country along with linguistic lines....(Interruptions)

SHRI DUTTA MEGHA (WARDHA) : Mamatajee has spoken of a foreigner. She should reveal who is that foreigner....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I will not listen to you....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I said that I would expunge all such words.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I have already said that I will expunge all such indecent words.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We respect you. We accept your ruling. But I regret this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why?

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I said that I will expunge not only your words but all such indecent words which are spoken here. It applies to anybody and whichever side it may be.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mulayam Singh ji is a senior leader. I am thankful to him for asking me to speak in Bengali. I would like to inform him that yesterday was our New Year. For this I extend my greetings to all of you(Interruptions) I do not want to divide the country on linguistic lines. This is not right. Urdu, Marathi, Punjabi etc. are spoken in our country. This is the biggest secular tradition of our country. Therefore, I want to request the friends in the opposition parties that if we are to fight, our fight should be against those who want to divide the country and against corruption. It is necessary to take

action against corruption. Therefore, I would like to request the Government also that the Lokpal Bill, which has been mentioned in the Vohra Commission Report, should be discussed in the House at the earliest.

[English]

Due to absence to electoral reforms for funding specially political parties for contesting elections, many small parties are unable to contest elections.

[Translation]

In the absence of electoral reforms, small parties cannot participate in the elections. Bigger parties have large funds. They can fight elections each month and every-day. They can have 365 days in calendar.

[English]

They can go for elections every year. But the small parties can not go for elections because elections have become a luxurious thing for them. People do not like it.

[Translation]

Therefore, my request is that if one wants to fight then it has been rightly said:

*"Bhawron se Laro, Lehron se Laro,
Kitne tak chaloge Kinare-Kinare"*

Several times we shied away by taking the bull by the horns. But, this will not do now. Vajpayee Government has completed one year. And this Government has started its functions. This Government has succeeding establishing friendly relations with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. They have created a congenial atmosphere. We want that the Vajpayee Government should continue to work towards its end. I was greatly disappointed on hearing the speeches of the Opposition leaders. They do not have any issue. Their only issue is to remove the Vajpayee Government. But this will not happen. If a voting is done in the House at this time, the Vajpayee Government will win. The Opposition has realised this. They tried their best, but we will never....(Interruptions) Bigger parties must not forget that once they were small too.

[English]

You are asking for support of the independence also. Sir, they should not compel to say something which I do not want to say because something must be kept confidential. What had they offered to one Member of Parliament belonging to the Manipur Congress who was going to London? What had they said? I do not want to disclose it. Sir, please tell them not to insist me to disclose it. I am not going to disturb them. One of our Member of Parliament has also been offered.

[Translation]

.....(Interruptions)

I do not want to say. To ensure economic stability, the Government should be supported on all fronts. If the Central Government is not stable, the country cannot progress. Political stability is a must for economic stability. Regarding the public sector in Bengal, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has raised several points. He is not present in the House. I want to say that all has not been done. I cannot sing that song you please recite that. "Kuch-Kuch" Hua Hai?" I accept that nothing was done earlier. Now something has been done.

[English]

This is not in my court. This is in his court. I appreciate that.

[Translation]

I do not want to waste the time of the House. What could not be done in fifty years, has been done after all in one year. We had requested Vajpayee Ji for the Bengal package.

[English]

This is our Bengal package. Anybody can challenge it. We are happy with what we promised us. We are really very happy with this Government. We want to see the development of the States also. If the State develop then the Central Government will develop automatically.

[Translation]

Somnath Babu has spoken a lot against the Central Government. What is the condition of finance in one year? I have a list. But I do not want to waste the time of the House. There are several programmes, such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, IRDP, DDP, DPAP, other village related programmes and those related to poor farmers and unemployed youths. The Central Government provided Rs. 209 crores in 1988-89 for the above programmes. But this remained unutilised. If anyone wants to challenge this, I am willing to lay this paper on the table of the House. There is a lot of corruption there. You should fight against it.

[English]

The hon. Finance Minister is here. So many times, he mentioned about the CAG Report. They misused the funds like anything. Can the Government not hold an enquiry? I do not know why they are not doing it. Mr. Minister, are you scared of the CPM and the Communist Parties? The communists are always opportunists. We cannot support the Congress till they support the CPM at

the Centre. Shri Jyoti Basu has said one thing. I am very sorry to have taken his name because he is not a Member of this House. I do not want to quote him. I withdraw it. He said that the Bengal Congress Party is communal and the National Congress Party is secular. What is this? It is a question of double standards. the Bengal Congress is communal and the National Congress is secular ! This is the hypocrisy....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is about the Trinamul Congress Party.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The Trinamul Congress Party is more secular than you....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH-WEST) : Shri Jyoti Basu has said that the Congress is communal only in Bengal and the National Congress is secular....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is very difficult to continue this. As far as Bengal and Tamil Nadu are concerned, if one section stands up the other one blocks it. How to continue with this?....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We do not want to take advice from the CPM Members as to who are communal or who are secular. We do not need any certificate from them. It is the people of Bengal who have given us the certificate.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why are you referring to us? Do not refer to U.S.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : In Bengal the Congress is a bit finewood to help them.

[English]

Regarding Bofors to Hawala(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, kindly cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Where is the Barrister certificate of Shri Jyoti Basu? Can he show it to us?(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She is able to defend herself.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : "Bofors to Hawala, the epic journey of loot, a CPI (M)'s publication, 1996."

[Translation]

I do not want to say something about the sentiments

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

of the Congress workers in Bengal. The Congress found a friend and I failed to understand as to what is said in its publication.

[English]

"Bofors to Hawala, the epic journey of loot, a CPI(M)'s publication, 1996. The Bofors pay off has resulted in a big political turmoil in the country and the fall of the Rajiv Gandhi Government but till now the investigation has not been completed. The allegation is that Rs. 65 crore have been paid as kickbacks in the deal for the purchase of the Bofors gun."..

The Communists have said so. You deny that your Government....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : You are in the habit of saying like that and denying it later....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not provoke her.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am not going into the details....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : It is uncultured and uncivilized. You expunge it, Sir....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That will be expunged.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : If I have committed any mistake in politics, they have no rights to misinterpret my mother by calling her 'thief'.

[English]

What did she do to them? They insisted that I tell the story. My mother told me when I met her last time. I came yesterday morning. I asked my mother as to what I should do. She replied that she wanted to see that Vajpayee's Government wins. They insisted on me to say so. I am really sorry. They should know what they have to say and what they cannot say. They cannot say all these things.

Before ending my speech, I would like to say that the hon. Prime Minister had promised us regarding the Bengal package. We want that the Government must implement it. It is a fact that the number of unemployed youths is increasing day by day like cancer. Bengal is topping the list in this regard. They are criticizing this Government for

one year rule, but they are in power for 22 years, resulting in 57 lakh unemployed youth. May I request you to look into the matter seriously?

[Translation]

With these words, I wish to congratulate Shri Maran ji. They support the Government because they want to fight the mother of corruption.

[English]

The mother of a thief always shouts most.

[Translation]

It is the spirit and the feeling of the country. We should not allow anything at present so as to it brings about instability in the country. I request each and every Member in this regard. The Government should continue. At the same time, nobody should come forward to make any person indulge into practices parties even when the Government survives or not.

[English]

This House will continue but the corruption should not continue. This House is not for a day. But corruption has because a cancer-like disease in the country. That is why, I request you to take a decision to isolate the corrupt people.

Before concluding my speech, may I quote Rabindranath Tagore? I am from Bengal. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav wants to know something. I cannot explain in Bengali.

Rabindranath Tagore said :

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high

Where knowledge is free

Where the world has not broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls

Where clear stream of reason has not lost its way into dreary desert sand of dead habit

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection

Where the mind is led forward by thee

Into that ever widening thought into action

Oh my father let my country awake."

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am being interpreted wrongly. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am in favour of replacing but not bringing an end to English. I intend to

include Indian languages in Lok Sabha proceedings in place of English. We will have deep regard for Ravindra Nath. It is not wrong to study in English, but if you speak English in Lok Sabha, my opinion is still the same as it was earlier.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mulayam Singh ji, if you have to become a leader of India, you should have respect for each language.

[English]

If they do not allow them to speak in English, how will they get the support of the AIADMK.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have no objection to your speaking Bengali, Tamil, Malayalam or any other Indian Languages. But we will drive out English.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Before I conclude, I would like to request the Prime Minister that if you win the vote of confidence tomorrow, please you attend the centenary year celebration to be held in Bengal in the honour of the poet Najrul Islam. The centenary celebration committee under the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* I have also talked to Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi ji in this regard. Please attend the function being held at Churulīya, the birth-place of Najrul Islam ji. The minority community of our country has flawed perception about you. But, Sir we have figures that it is the Vajpayee Government which witnessed the least communal riots under its rule....*(Interruptions)* I have regards to all religious shrines like temples, mosques and Gurudwara. I will conclude my speech by reciting a couplet, with to regard the very thing that why the Vajpayee Government should be voted....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please do not interrupt her.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I will take only one minute more, because Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has interrupted me.

[Translation]

Although this couplet should have been recited by Vajpayee ji himself, yet I recite it.

"Mere rone ka desh mein kissa hai, Umra men behatarin hissa hain."

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Under which rule the Masjid (mosque) was demolished?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Whatever works have been done or are being done by Shri Vajpayee ji for the

benefit of minorities is praise worthy and even in coming days he will be doing good and give a befitting direction aimed at bringing the country to successful destination. If there is any person who can give package to minorities, it is none other than Shri Vajpayee. So, I demand a package from him for the minorities...*(Interruptions)* You have only played politics. Today, there is only one per cent employment amongst the minorities.

If atrocities are committed upon them, you do not take care for them. If they do not get jobs, you do not keep it in mind. You just use them as vote bank by playing nothing but politics. You do not consider their social problems.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I remain obliged to you...*(Interruptions)* He is encountering me. If I intend to do so I can do encounter anybody. But this is not right. Today it has got clear that there is no need to bid farewell to the Vajpayee Government. He would not tender his resignation. If he has been in power for the last 13 months, he will be able to continue for the coming 13 years. The opposition is free to do anything. Our Government will survive and succeed.

"Sar Faroshi kee tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai.

Dekhna hai jor kitna bajue katil mein hai"

We will win. That's just to say....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order please.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is a lot of noise in the House. Those Members who want to go to the hobby can do so quietly.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak with a little bit of dismay and disappointment on the conduct of the Prime Minister who has been running this Government for the last 13 months...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Please, deliver your speech in Hindi....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : He is the son of an Englishman.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Yes, I am. You are happy....*(Interruptions)*

[Shri P. Shiv Shankar]

[English]

This Government had faced the confidence vote on the 28th March, 1998. In the last confidence vote, the Government obtained 275 votes. Today, when Shri Chautala and Mrs. Jayalalitha ... I am sorry : 'Miss Jayalalitha.'

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR) : Has she got herself married?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : If you have not got yourself married, let us arrange your marriage.

[English]

Sir, when Ms. Jayalalitha and Shri Chautala have withdrawn the support, the Government was reduced by 22 votes as compared to what they had obtained in 1998. The political morality demanded that the Prime Minister should have resigned.

They are talking of the political morality. They have been talking of principled politics and here is the Prime Minister who instead of resigning straightaway, he and his Ministers went on record that 'we shall not move the confidence vote and it is for the Opposition to move the no confidence motion.' Those who speak of the morality, those who speak of the principles, those who talk of certain values, should they not have observed those values and those principles themselves?

Why is it that this course was adopted? In my submission, this course was adopted obviously because they wanted that when they gained the time, they could have the horse trading. They could win over certain persons and if a no confidence motion is moved it will have to be put down on the order sheet with the consent of the Government and the Speaker. They wanted to buy time in order to do certain unwanted things. That is precisely why they said that they would not like to move the confidence motion.

Today, if the confidence motion has been moved, it is not because that they are so much interested in the fairness of the democratic traditions but it has been moved because the President has so directed them to do. If the President were not direct to move the confidence motion, I am sure this Government would not have moved the confidence motion. On the contrary, as the Prime Minister and his Ministers had been saying that, 'even the minority Government could go on and therefore, we would sit pretty till we had the majority for our purpose.' This is a very strange type of an approach that has been adopted by the Prime Minister.

I expected that the Prime Minister, who claims that he has certain legacy of the past on values and principles, would have learned from people like Lal Bahadur Shastri

who, when there was an accident in Tamil Nadu, tendered his resignation. He tendered the resignation taking the constructive responsibility. That is the legacy which this country has and that is the legacy which I expected to be reported from the Prime Minister; that is the attitude which I expected from the Prime Minister. Far from resigning, he has come forth here with the motion and what is it that he has said?

While moving the motion of confidence, the Prime Minister says, 'you show us what is the alternative Government'. That does not lie well in the mouth of the Prime Minister to ask us and very rightly, my friend, Shri Lalu Prasad yesterday had answered it by saying, 'you go and within five minutes we will form the Government.'

Have you any right to tell us that we should show the alternative Government before you resign? You moved the Motion of Confidence; you are forced to move the Motion of Confidence because of the President and you are asking us to show the alternative Government; it smacks of arrogance and nothing else. You do not have the confidence in the traditions of this country. Mr. Prime Minister, you are more well read than me so far as Sanskrit is concerned. I remind you what Lord Krishna had said in the *Bhagwat Gita* :

[Translation]

"Yada Yada hi Dharmasya Gianirbhavati Bharat.

Abhyoathanam Adharmasya Tadatmanam Srijamyaham."

[English]

This is the country of that tradition. This is the country where the *rishis* and *munis* were born in order to reform the society. And when the society got afflicted of infirmities, great people were born. Do you think that you are the sole repository, that you alone can be the Prime Minister and there is no other person who can be the Prime Minister here? Do you think that you could have the audacity to ask the Opposition parties(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : You use some civilised words(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I am using the civilised words, my friend. Please for God sake, do not disturb me. I never disturbed you. You seem to be an incorrigible interrupter. Please restrain yourself. This is not fair.(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : You restrain your language(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I am restraining my language. I use my language....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, please do not disturb.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I use any one single word which is unparliamentary or unbecoming. I am a person who will myself offer the apology. I need not learn from others as to what language I should use. I might use strong language.

Therefore, Sir, the situation that develops is that a Prime Minister who comes to the House to seek the confidence vote has no right whatsoever to ask the Opposition to show and say that "what is your alternative to the Government?" there is absolutely no necessity for us. It is for you to establish the confidence in you. What happens afterwards is our affair and we are well within our rights when I say that we will from the Government.

Sir, to say the least, this trait in my submission is a trait which could easily be termed as the trait for lust for power. You do not want to lose the power. You want to continue and cling on notwithstanding the fact that you have lost the majority and you would like to throw the stones at others.

What is the basis for this confidence vote? You may kindly look at it. I was expecting – in fact it has been well argued by my friend, Shri Somnath Chatterjee – that the Prime Minister and those who spoke from the Treasury Benches should have taken up the national agenda for governance which all these parties have drafted last year and then should have made out a case before the House as to what exactly has been done under this national agenda so that they claim the confidence of this House. Not a single speaker on their side has ever referred to this document nor has tried to rely on what exactly has been said here on this and what has been done in pursuance thereof.

If somebody were to show that look, here is the document; in one year, we have completed these items; we would like to complete the rest in due course and in the larger interests of the nation, thus we seek your confidence, that could have been understood. But that is not the case. If you kindly look at this document at page eight, they claim that they would like to develop a new norm for governance by consensus. What has been written in this document is, "we will, therefore, try to develop national consensus on all major issues confronting the national by involving the Opposition parties and all sections of society in dialogue; we will also try for a consensual mode of governance as far as practicable." I would like to ask this question to the Prime Minister who heads this Government. Take the issue of Bihar, take the issue of even the Women's Reservation Bill or take the other issues. Have

you ever at any point of time called all the leaders of the Opposition and tried to develop a consensus? We passed a Resolution in our Working Committee that on the question of the Women's Reservation Bill, it is the Government's duty to develop a consensus for the purpose of passing that Bill because there were different opinions. Perhaps, it was validly so. There was an opinion that certain segments of the society would not have got the representation at all; certain segments of the society of women could not have got the representation but for the reservation. Some of us had that feeling. At no point of time you called the meeting of the Opposition leaders for the purpose of sorting out this issue.

SHRI VAIKO : The meeting has been called twice.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : You just merely got it introduced because we wanted that. You should introduce it and this was introduced in the last Session. Afterwards, you sat over the matter. Are you sincere in the case of women's representation the Assemblies and the Parliament? If you are sincere, you could have taken up their cause, you could have developed a consensus and after developing the consensus, you could have got it passed. Nobody talks now. I remember a large number of our sisters from that side and even from this side also coming in to the Well. Where are they gone? Have they forgotten it? Do they not want to have any rights on favour of the women. If the Government does not discharge its duties, what happens?

Equally, on the question of Bihar, we have taken a principled stand. As it has been talked about here, I would like to repeat I have said it outside and I will repeat it here. What we said was, at the time when the Dalits were massacred, we took the stand that Rabri Devi Government had lost the moral authority, meaning thereby we expected that Party would take their own decision for the purpose of change of leadership or whatever it is as we have done in the case of Orissa. When Staines and his two children were burnt. We did not say that you impose Article 356. It is totally untrue when somebody said so today. This is what my friend, Shri Shinde had said that he, as the General Secretary of the Party did not approach in any form either the Prime Minister or the Home Minister for the purpose of saying that Article 356 should be imposed. I am denying it with all the authority at my command. I have got his instruction. Therefore, I am denying it. You go ahead with imposing Article 356 afterwards, what did you do? Your Home Minister says here is a political person; he is a political personality; such a person should not be there as a Governor, he should be changed and an administrator should be brought. That gentleman, the very Governor, himself says he is proud to be an RSS man.

[Shri P. Shiv Shankar]

If we were not to oppose it, if we were not oppose the imposition of article 356, we should have tolerated the regime of RSS which we would never have done. Does the Government want us to tolerate the regime of RSS which was to be imposed in Bihar? Should we not find out why it was imposed? Has it developed any consensus on these issues. It goes on propagating. It has got the propaganda machinery and propagated whatever they liked and then said that we were at wrong. That is the unfortunate situation.

Where is the consensus? On the contrary, I would say that the situation that has developed today in their own allied parties is because of the fact that there had not been a proper consensus that they developed amongst their own allies.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You have left out one point. He is abusing Srimati Sonia ji and quarelling with us and you. When the Prime Minister knew that the whole country was unanimous on the subject of secularism and it was against the section 356, you called Sonia ji and asked her to have a grace and approve it so that Smt. Rabri Devi may be dismissed. Shrimati Sonia has slapped you by saying that she will not allow imposing of section 356. This is the truth and you are learning it out. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN (AMROHA) : Shri Lalu Ji had already fallen his feet.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I was speaking of the consensus amongst the allies themselves. Are the Council of Ministers realising that it is a joint and several responsibility in the Cabinet system? Each Minister speaks his own voice on contentious issue. I need not go into citations. Each Minister speaks in his own way and the resultant effect is that if the Prime Minister has lost his own allies today, it is because of his mismanagement. He has not properly deputed the persons who could have coordinated even with their allies, forget with us.

And therefore, to say that he is an efficient Prime Minister, I have not been able to understand. Of course, some people have now-a-days shouldered some laurels. They say, "He is an able Prime Minister". I do not know what it is. I would term him as one of the most inefficient Prime Ministers who has not been able to keep in his flock together.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Who will understand by your

certificate...*(Interruptions)* You are in the opposition and who is demanding certificate from you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Neither my certificate nor your certificate is required.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I will come to corruption. I will come to the corruption of the Prime Minister, if you want. I will talk about it also....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Don't oblige us to open our mouth...*(Interruptions)* We have heard much about honesty. *(Interruptions)* We do not want to speak but you make us speak again and again. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

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) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I just want to draw your attention not about Shri Shiv Shankar – and ask whether whatever remarks he has made have gone on record.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever indecent remarks are there will be expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : When we delivered our speech yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)* This floor is not meant for hurling abuses. Yesterday in my speech, I said that I wanted an academic discussion should take place. We did not attack their flaws yesterday. If this is ascertained as to who are corrupt and as to what are their misdeeds and as to what charges are levelled against them, we shall enter into that discussion also. This nation, the whole bureaucracy, entire Delhi, the entire department will come to know what happened during these thirteen months. Not only this, this is the biggest scandal. We all are against corruption. As long as Ms. Jaylalita was with you, she was very nice. The moment she withdraw her support, she became very bad, she became mother of corruption—this will not do. You want to give rise to the corruption in the country. That's why, you made us tongue-tied yesterday. We had rightly wanted the academic discussion. Give time to our party again, we would like to speak again on the corruption.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST) : Sir, under what rule is he raising the point of order? I would like to know whether you have accepted this point of order and if it is so, what reply you have given to him. He is throwing a challenge upon the House that there are a number of corruption cases against the Council of Ministers and if we start making this allegation in the House, then they will not have any reply to that. If at all they are having any such allegation, then they should make it openly. We accept this challenge...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Here anybody who is giving to refer corruption matter or any allegation, that should be strictly according to the rules. That should be substantiated or else he has to withdraw it and tender apologies. That is the procedure. Now, that is what I am going to do.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : This is absolutely wrong. He should come out with all the allegations.

[Translation]

He is challenging the House. Are they at liberty to say anything? *(Interruptions)* None was checked by anybody.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is what I am telling. Anybody who is going to allege here, he has to substantiate or else he has to face the consequences. That is the rule.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There should be no interruptions, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The situation that is arising today is in no way our creation. We stood by a principle. We specifically said that this Government is the Government of contradictions. In spite of the fact that they drafted the National Agenda, there was no occasion for the Government to act according to the Agenda. On the contrary, many a segments had their own Agenda to work out and the resultant effect was that today this situation has arisen.

We had been consistently saying that this Government cannot continue because of its inherent contradictions. It will collapse and if it collapses, we said and we

stand by our word that we will discharge our constitutional obligation. We would not shirk our responsibility to the nation. The manner in which this Government has worked amazes everyone. It acted—I would not like to use the milder word—with a little bit of an obstinacy. If flawed in its working, if flawed in its priorities and the tragedy is that the flaw is inherent in its very ideology itself. That is why, it has broken. That is why, even if they were to continue for a day, it is a harmful to the nation.

Sir, if you just look at the various items of the National Agenda—I would not like to take the aspects which have already been spoken to by my friend Shri Somnath Chatterjee—at page 7, referring to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes, this Agenda says: "The interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes will be adequately safeguarded by appropriate legal, executive and societal efforts and by large scale education and empowerment". Can this Government show what they have done in the last one year? On the contrary, what has happened is this. When the Confederation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Organisations brought to the notice of the Home Minister to withdraw the five Government Orders which were harmful to the entire segments of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, which did not allow the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to claim equality in the long run, no reply came from the Government. My friends sittings on the other side should not forget that the Preamble of the Constitution speaks of the socio-political-economic justice and equality of opportunity and equality, both. What has been done by them? What has been done by the Prime Minister in order to achieve social justice in this country, in order to see that these unfortunate segments attain the same status as that of the advanced classes in this country? I challenge that not a single action has been taken. When these organisations brought to the notice of the Home Minister that these five Government Orders should be withdrawn, and when no reply came, a Question was raised in this Parliament. And when the Question was raised in this Parliament, the answer was given by this Government that they would not like to withdraw or modify those G.Os. This answer has been given in this Parliament on 25th February, 1999. Are they sympathetic to these classes? Do they want to bring in equality in this country? Do they want to bring in social justice? How are they going to bring in equality and social justice in this country? This is unfortunate. This is the manner in which they have acted.

The National Agenda further says : "We will present a national charter for social justice" ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT

(DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Can you give us the date when those Orders were issued?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The Orders had been issued in 1997. I am not denying it. ...*(Interruptions)* There need not be any glee on the side of the Treasury Benches. I would like to tell you.*(Interruptions)* Forget about what has been done. What is important is that you are coming with this National Agenda. A representation has been made to you by the Confederation of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Organisations to withdraw those orders because you say that you are the harbinger of equality, that you are the persons who would like to do all this for these classes, that you would like to bring in social justice.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : You got it issued and you are blaming us for not withdrawing it. What a wonderful argument ! You supported that Government. That Government was running with your support....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHANKAR : I equally blame that Government. I am not trying to support them....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Chetan Chauhan, please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : They have not given money even to the Ambedkar Foundation.*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kawade, please do not interrupt him.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : We withdrew the support.*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Muniyappa, why do you not sit? Please do not interrupt him.

....*(Interruptions)*

18.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Muniyappa, he is on his legs.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Even at the cost of repeating, I would say, because it affects a large segment of

our society which has been unfed, which has been suffering for centuries, that the orders were issued sometimes in 1997 and we had withdrawn from that Government and one of the grounds for withdrawal was this....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : They did not withdraw support because of this.*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : This was one of the grounds*(Interruptions)* They may say whatever they would like to say, but I am saying that we are not a party to it.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can reply to it when you speak.

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Merely because some party supports from outside, they cannot fasten that party with liability and responsibility. What we have done is that we had withdrawn the support not only on this issue. You have seen it. There were many other issues also.*(Interruptions)* I was trying to bring to your kind notice*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, please do not interrupt. While giving reply, all these points can be replied to.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, what is more important is whether they can get away from the responsibility of what they have said in this Parliament. What is their conduct? I am asking about their conduct. They should not go into the conduct of others. They are seeking the Vote of Confidence. I am not seeking the Vote of Confidence. I have every right to bring to the notice of this House as to how they conducted themselves, what they have done as late as 26th February, 1999 in this Parliament. They have said here that they do not want to modify or withdraw the GOs. Have they any sympathy for these classes? This is the question which I am asking.*(Interruptions)* If they have no sympathy, how are they going to bring in equality in this country, how are they going to give opportunities to these classes to rise above the circumstances in which they are placed, how are they going to bring in social justice? This is the question which I am asking.

Not only that, in this document which I was trying to read out, they say :

"Further, we will present a national charter for social justice."

I would like to ask what has been done in this regard. Absolutely nothing has been done. How do they

get the confidence of the people? When they are asking for the confidence of this House, they are asking for the confidence of the nation. How do they expect the nation to give them confidence when they do not stand by their own character, by their own agenda which they have created.

Equally, I would just like to bring in another aspect. On this page itself, they say :

"We are committed to establishing a civilised, humane and just civil order which does not discriminate on grounds of caste, religion, class, colour, race or sex."

It is very good as though the others are not committed to that and only they are committed to that. We congratulate them! I would like to give certain examples. I have already give one example, their step-motherly attitude towards the Women Reservation Bill which does not see the light of the day till today. They have forgotten it. Apart from that, after they came into power for the first time in this country in the last 50 years, you find that one segment of the society being the butt end of their anger, that is, the Christians. *Sangh Parivar* is their associate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday the Home Minister was very loud in saying that during last year, there have not been any communal riots. Here is a report of the Citizens Commission on Persecution of Christians in Gujarat. It is only about Gujarat. Forget about other places.

The members of this Commission are from different walks of life. They are Justice H. Suresh, Ms. Rath Manorama, Dr. Kamal Mitra Chenoy, Shri Kirtibhai Datt and so on and so forth. It is an independent association of citizens which was constituted as a Commission. They went into the whole thing. I would like the Prime Minister to read this report. It reveals the gory tales of what had been happening in Gujarat. If this is the manner in which they say that they would like to establish a civilised, humane and just civil order where caste, religion, class, colour, race and sex alone have to rule, this country is finished. This country is not safe in their hands. This is precisely what we have been saying.

Apart from that, in Uttar Pradesh, where their Government still persists, an order was issued with reference to *Saraswati Vandana* and also *Vandemataram* having been made compulsory. After that order was issued, a very well-respected, highly educated — particularly in the lore of Islam — one Mr. Abul Hassan Ndue just said that if this order persisted they would have to withdraw their students from the educational institutions. The moment this statement was made by him, as search warrant was issued on him and his house was searched. Is this what they call

tolerance? Yesterday the Home Minister was saying that *sahansheeta* is one of the tenets of this country's culture. No doubt, it is. And this is the *sahansheeta* that they have shown. They have gone for a search of that man's house merely because he just said something. Does he not have this much of independence to utter some words? And they talk of a society without discrimination on the basis of religion. This is exactly what has been done.

On the question of Prasar Bharati, my friend Shri Somnath Chatterjee has already spoken. They got it passed in this House. Did they ever try for a consensus for the purpose of passing it in the other House? That Bill has not seen the light of the day in that House so far. Yet they talk of consensual politics. Mr. Prime Minister, it was the Government which you were running which did it. You yourself have brought it into disrepute, not others. We have taken a principled stand on that.

Sir, what has been happening is that on one side they are only trying to mark the time for the purpose of trying to win over some persons. The events that are unfolding prove the fact that the Government, under his leadership, is indulging in horse-trading and trying to win over the people. It is a highly unprincipled approach which they are taking. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the reality of the situation. Today, they have won over four persons. Yesterday they had won over Anand Mohan. These things are coming in the newspapers. This is what has been happening.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (OUTER DELHI) : Shiv Shankarji, if Chautala is horse-trading, what about Jayalalitha?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I will come to the question of governance. Their agenda says that their first commitment to people is to give a stable, honest, transparent and efficient Government. What type of transparent and honest Government these people have given? I would like to just bring to your kind notice that the honesty of this Government is that they have practically about a hundred Ministers in Uttar Pradesh. That is the honesty and transparency of this Government.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Please tell us more about Bihar.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I am not concerned. I am not the Chief Minister there. Go and ask the Chief Minister there.

People were suffering some time back for lack of

[Shri P. Shiv Shankar]

onions. People were not getting the onions in the market. I ask this Government as their Government was also there in Delhi at that time. Did they raid a single trader so that everything could come out? They did not take any action because they are only interested in certain classes because they feed them. They did not take any action. The resultant effect was that people suffered. This is the honesty of this Government.

Equally what has been done is that after the dismissal of Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat—I am not going into it—I personally feel that the civil authority is supreme. I do not believe that the military authority can overpower a civil authority because the constitutional system of ours is such. This is what I wanted to say. But the manner of dismissal etc. are different issues which can be gone into. But after the dismissal of this man, this man puts on record in his affidavit that twice the files was sent to him by the Defence Minister for his dismissal and the Prime Minister did not agree. On the third occasion, he caved in. This is what he puts in, in his affidavit. How far it is true and how far it is wrong, perhaps the Defence Minister will himself say. I am not going into that question. But after the dismissal, the Prime Minister goes to Andaman & Nicobar and stays with Shri Harinder Singh. What is the message that you are giving, Mr. Prime Minister? It has come in the newspapers. You have not said this in public earlier.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : That is wrong. I cannot accept it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Now today you are saying it. Who will believe it? What I am saying is this. I believe it. Mr. Prime Minister, you might be saying it. I believe it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : There are contradictions only for everything.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : This is what has come in the newspapers. You are saying it today.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The Prime Minister has categorically said that he did not stay. That is sufficient.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : If the Prime Minister said that he did not stay, I accept it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : He has said it.(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : (BALLIA) (U.P.) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, my friend who has been talking, is a senior parliamentarian. It is the established practice that if the Prime Minister denies something, then he has no right

to question it again. You are not only repository of honesty and integrity. You have named many persons for horse trading and all that. Shri P. Shiv Shankar, please behave like a gentleman and speak within your limits. You say that Shri Chautala and everybody is dishonest. You must observe certain rules. You are not here in this House to accuse others.(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : He said that " I cannot accept it."(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Why is he making a false allegation?(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has not alleged anything.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : He is very much angry against the Member of this House....(Interruptions) He has very much made an allegation against a Member of this House(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : They are making false allegations....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I listened what you have said. He has made a true statement. Hon'ble Prime Minister refuted the allegation mentioned by you. Now, what do you want to say? Please, tell whether you have confessed it or not.

SHRI P. SHIVSHANKAR : Let me tell you, I did say it, I admit what you are saying. I have already said that I did say it....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : He is making false allegations...(Interruptions) The hon. Prime Minister is going to contradict everything...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now that the Prime Minister has denied it, the hon. Member has accepted it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : He is misleading the House by making these allegations on the basis of newspaper reports...(Interruptions) He is a senior leader...(Interruptions) We do not want to learn from him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Satya Pal Jain, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : When he said it, I have accepted it.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Why do you not tender an apology?...*(Interruptions)* He is misleading the House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please let me conduct the House?

(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : He has spoken about horse-trading. He has made allegations...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : I said only that he has taken the name of a Member and that Member wants to clarify the position. He should be allowed to clarify the position first...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I never said that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Anand Mohan, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please allow me to speak ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : He should be allowed to clarify.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shiv Shankar has said that he has not said it and you have said that he has said it. I will find it out from the record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Let him be given an opportunity to clarify. He should be given an opportunity to clarify.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has denied that he said it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : What happened at Badaf's house, if it is not horse-trading, then what else is it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, I want to ask something what Mr. Prime Minister or Mr. Shiv Shankar said, I could not hear properly. I am only telling something to you. In U.P. there are about 11-12 I.A.S. officers, I would not name them. I summoned two of those I.A.S. officers at my residence and asked them as to why they had come to disloyalise the M.Ps. One of them answered that the C.M. was transferring him, so his wife had made him do so...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : He has taken the name of Shri Chautala; he has taken the name of Shri Anand Mohan also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ananth Kumar. I will find it out from the record...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, we have to follow some procedures.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not allowing others to speak. Will you please sit down?

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All these things will not go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Agnihotri, please allow him to continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order please. Now Shri Shiv Shankar.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please allow Shri Shiv Shankar to continue? Let him continue his speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When he gets his chance, he can speak. Now, Shri Shiv Shankar may continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you resume your seat?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (CHAIL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, MPs are being pressurised.*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him. Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas, will you please sit down?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I was trying to expatiate the point of honesty...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me also be given a chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will give you a chance only after checking the record.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I was trying to expatiate the point of governance that their agenda had determined on the question of honesty and transparency. They have double standards...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me conduct the House. What is this running commentary going on?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : When there was an issue

regarding one Minister in the Congress Government at the Centre, belonging to Himachal Pradesh, they did not allow the House to run for 13 days simply on the ground that he was dishonest. They had embraced such a person, hired him on their side and given him the position. What type of honesty is this? This is the question which I would like to ask this Government. What type of honesty are they claiming about? They have double standards.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH (BANKA) : He has been speaking for over one and a half-hour.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : All of you too have spoken for more than one hour. I have taken only 15 minutes anyway.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : We sit here only to hear you speak.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I would like to bring to the notice of the House that sometime back I had raised the issue of corruption based on the allegations made by a Member of the BJP Central Council Committee. I had referred at that time about the UTI shares in the ITC which were sought to be sold to BAT and the manner in which the value of the shares was artificially increased and that gentleman having put up the papers to the Finance Minister. I had made the allegation at that time and had said...*(Interruptions)*

AN. HON. MEMBER : How many times wil you raise it?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : As many times as it is necessary. We are discussing the Confidence Motion here and I have got to say it.

18.29 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I charge this Government that it had not been the Government of laws but it had been the Government of in-laws. I had said this in this House and I had said, how could the Prime Minister escape the allegation when the allegation is against his own foster son-in-law.

They talk of principles and they talk of values. They say that their Government is a Government of values. They say that it is transparent. When I myself asked for the JPC to be constituted on the allegations that have been made by the former Advisor to the Finance Minister, they did not agree to it. There are various allegations of

corruption. There are allegations of corruption with reference to the price fixation of hot rolled coils, allegations of corruption in respect of Enron in Dabhol II. What morality this Government has got? What morality this Prime Minister has got? I would squarely put a question. In the thirteen-days's regime that they had on the last occasion, they cleared the Enron project about which the hon. Home Minister — who is here — had said that if they come into power they will throw this company in the Arabian sea. This is what was said. Within no time—with in 13 days — the clearance was given to them. Today on Dabhol II, in spite of the fact that there is an agreement that they should bring 60 per cent foreign equity into this country, they are giving concessions. The resultant effect is that they are not bringing 60 per cent equity. It is 2,000 megawatt worth plant that is being developed in Dabhol II.

Sir, equally on the fast track power project at Vizag, the letter of consort that has been given is against all norms. There are so many other things. I would not like to go into those things. But these incidents are sufficient to show that this Government had been acting in a dishonest manner. This Government has been working with favouritism and the Prime Minister cannot absolve himself of those responsibilities. I squarely blame the Prime Minister. How could the Prime Minister be unaware of what is happening in the Government and what his Ministries are doing? How could he just gloss over them and say that he did not know anything. When we asked for a JPC to be constituted, if this Government was a transparent Government, they could have accepted the JPC. They did not even accept the JPC.

Equally with reference to the allegations made by Admiral Bhagwat, I would not like to go into those details. But allegations of corruption have been made by that man. When we were asking for JPC they had been saying that they deny the right of the JPC. The truth would have come out. What exactly is the truth and who is speaking the falsehood, would have been revealed. If you think that you are unblemished, why did you not agree for the JPC when we were demanding it with hoarse voice?

Sir, in the speech on the Confidence Motion that the Prime Minister rendered on the 27th March, 1998 he said:

[Translation]

"We would like to let the States have more autonomy. The resources should be distributed with such a framework that it could help the States stand onto their legs and perform their duties attached with development." We also wish the same.

[English]

What has been done in that regard, will you please tell us? Have you taken any action in that regard? You do not take the House into confidence and you do not take

the nation into the confidence. As I said, it was the duty of the Treasury Benches that they should have gone through this National Agenda and point-by-point they should have said that this is what they have done in pursuance of this Agenda and therefore they sought for the confidence of the House. Then I could have understood. On the contrary, they are making just some speeches and they want us to believe them.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY : This is a five year agenda.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Yes, I know that it is a five year agenda. But, tell me, what have you done in a full one year?

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY : This is a five-year agenda and you are racing away with your speech.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : What type of principled approach are these people taking? I would like to bring this to your kind notice. They talk of principled politics.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shiv Shankar, there are 22 more Members to speak.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I will conclude in a couple of minutes. They have been disturbing me for more than half-an-hour.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House that they talk of principled approaches and values. If you kindly look at their records, if you look at their whole game-plan right before and after 1989, you would find that they have been trying to go ahead with seat adjustments with disparate parties for the purpose of coming to power in some form or the other. This has been their attitude which can be found from history. Their whole approach or their only destination or aim has been anti-Congressism and nothing else. And it is on this line that they have gone into coalition with parties whose ideology have nothing to do with their working. For example, let us take the Akali Dal, Mr. Vaiko's party, and the National Conference. Except anti-Congressism, there is nothing. The coalition based on non-ideology and non-similarity of ideologies cannot persist for long and this is exactly what has happened now. This is where they have to reap the consequences.

About the achievements, the major achievements have been spoken by my friend, Shri Somnath Chatterjee in detail. The major achievement has been that Agni-II. I would like to bring to your kind notice that whether it was Pokhran or the bus ride, the Prime Minister is on record in fact that when he said that all this is an extension of the Simla Agreement. Then what credit are they taking for? While we congratulate our scientists and engineers

[Shri P. Shiv Shankar]

either for Pokhran-II or Agni-II, what is the credit that this Government is taking, when they themselves say that it is an extension?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you disturb him? Don't disturb him.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : They have talked of stable Government in the preamble of this document. They say that they will establish a stable Government and have talked of able leadership. I am trying to bring to the notice of the House and the nation as to what type of able leadership they have with the manner in which the Prime Minister is acquiescing in corruption that is taking place in his own household and others. It is matter of great shame of the whole nation. I have given the details of it.

So far as coalition is concerned, coalitions can be successful with like-minded parties who join the agenda. At least, we on this side are common on the question of secularism. There are disparate parties which do not have any common ideology of even secularism. Other parts are different. Each party had been exerting their influence and trying to dictate terms and that is how they call an able leadership and stable Government. Defence portfolio had been asked by one of our friends from the other side and he got the Defence portfolio.

Equally, the Bengal package has been given. At what cost has it been given? God only knows about it. On the threat, it has been given. Equally, the BJD wanted that since they had the legacy of steel, therefore, the Department of Steel should be given to them. That has been given to them. If this is the way, how do you call that this Prime Minister is an efficient Prime Minister? He is compromising on everything. I would like to submit that when they are in the Opposition, when this question comes up, they will clamour by saying that it is corruption. But when they are in power, they call it as a compromise. This is a compromise that they have to make. Whether it is favour or otherwise, this is what is happening.

I was surprised to hear yesterday when the Finance Minister and the Home Minister both have quoted the World Bank Report. What is it that the World Bank Report has said? The World Bank Report has said that India is the most sought after country. That is what they are saying. Is it because that in 1998 you have come to power and therefore it has become the most sought after country? Does that Report say this? Does that news say this? That is not the case. After all, here is a country of about 100 crore people. There is so much of consumerism. There is a possibility of a good market. Therefore, if the World Bank has given that Report, what credit is

Finance Minister or the Home Minister taking for? If it were to be said that because of what has been done in 1998 and 1999 that they feel it is a very good market for them, then, perhaps, the Government could have had a solace for itself. I would not like to go far beyond than this.

I have taken quite sufficient time. In my submission, this Government has failed on all fronts. It has no political morality. I have also tried to demonstrate it by giving examples. It is inefficient and an unprincipled Government. Corruption seeps through every layer and the Prime Minister is the repository of that corruption. The extra-constitutional authorities are making a heyday with the overt and covert consent of the Prime Minister. They have neglected the poverty-stricken masses. I would only urge that for God's sake, they should go and they should go at once.

I would like to conclude by saying that I am confident that this Motion will be defeated by the Members of the House and the Congress Party will stake its claim to constitute an alternative Government.

Thank you very much.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I just want to announce one thing about the facility of Members. Since we will be working for more hours, we have arranged dinner for the Members as well as the Press in Room No. 70, and also for all the employees in Room No. 73.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (MIDNAPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you would be so kind as to inform me how much time is allotted to me, it would help me greatly. I do not expect that you will give me the sort of time you have given to some of the other speakers — one hour or one and-a-half hours. I do not expect that. I am not asking for that also.

MR. SPEAKER : For you, there is no time limit. You can speak.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am sorry to say that the Prime Minister is not here at this moment because I have something to say.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : The whole Cabinet is here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Of course, the whole Cabinet is here without the head! It is headless!

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Home Minister, when he was speaking earlier as the main spokesman of the Government, had listed some parties on whom he has got no further hope that they would be able to correct themselves.

Some, of courses, on whom he has got hope and among the parties on whom he says that he still has some hope, they will see their folly and return to the

correct path, that is his party. I do not know whether I should be honoured or complimented or mystified by that compliment that he has given....(Interruptions) This was in relation to the attitude of parties towards the Congress. If he was implying that our party which has a long record and long tradition of fighting against Congress misrule in this country and misrule went on for so many years. Therefore, now he thinks that perhaps we should keep that in mind and not take up a position which could be constructed as being in favour of the Congress.

The first thing I want to say is that there is no question at all—I want to make clear—of our forgetting anything that the Congress party, while in power, has done against the interests of the people and of the country. That will never be forgotten and that is on record...(Interruptions) After all I cannot forget that our United Front Government was pulled down after less than two years by this same Congress party, some of its leaders, at any rate. They had assured us on the floor of the House that they would support this Government of ours and help it to function, but later on when their desire for power for becoming ministers became too much to resist, then the then president of their party took the lead in seeing to it that our Government was pulled down. It was not a difficult job at all because we had no majority of our own. We were dependent on the outside support of the Congress. Nevertheless, they did it on a specious plea about something which they alleged was there in the Jain Commission's Report, which was not there at all. I doubt very much how many members of the Congress party's leadership had even bothered to read the Jain Commission's Report.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILAMALI) : Even glanced it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It was my misfortune that I have to read that Report because it was delivered in my office, the Home Minister's office by Mr. Jain himself. In that Report, there were allegations made against the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu and I do not go into those allegations now. But it was stated that in view of those allegations unless we, that is, the United Front Government, agree to expel the DMK from the United Front and had nothing further to do with them, then the support of the Congress to our Government will have to come to an end. Well, we did not agree to that; we did not accept that arguments because we think, they were making incorrect, unverified charges Mr. Jain made against the DMK. I hope the DMK friends are here. Yes, because after what has happened today, they should be behind us. You were wish us but now you are behind us. Now, you are with them. I wish you well. So, Sir, our Government was pulled down. I know, I cannot forget that the Congress party was responsible for that.

I also cannot forget, I do not wish to forget and I do not wish to gloss over it that in almost the 50 years that they ruled uninterrupted with their own single party majority they have done many things which were not in the interests of the common people, the poorer sections of the people and of the country, as a whole. I also cannot forget that when the *masjid* was pulled down by some gentlemen enjoying the support of these people, the Government at the Centre was the Government of Shri Narasimha Rao. The Government in Lucknow, at that time, was the Government of Shri Kalyan Singh, but the Government at Delhi was the Government of Shri Narasimha Rao and while one lot of people were actively engaged in demolishing the mosque, Shri Narasimha Rao's Government preferred to play the role of a passive spectator. They never intervened, they never did anything to stop it. They had, with them, the armed forces, the police, the laws, the jails and everything. They could have prevented that, but they never did anything to stop it and we have not forgotten these things. Do they think that we are now rushing to embrace the Congress? Who told them that? But we are faced with a situation where if it is possible to form an alternative Government we should try for that. If we cannot do it, that is a different matter. If we fail, either this Government continues or we, all of us, will have to go for elections which also is a prospect that most of the hon. Members of all the parties do not like.

Sir, Shri Advani was trying to suggest that why a party which has, always, been anti-Congress and fought against the Congress should suddenly become soft towards the Congress. I am afraid, I cannot satisfy his curiosity, nor can I share his views because we have, certainly, not gone soft on the Congress at all. But we are living in an age of coalition politics fortunately or unfortunately and the polity of the country is fractured. Everybody knows it. That is why, it is very difficult to bring about unity even among like-minded parties. It is very difficult for the general body voters now-a-days to vote for one single party and give it a majority. It is not happening and we have seen it three times. It is because the polity is completely fractured for various reasons, for factors based on community, based on casteism, based on regional interests and based on many different things.

The polity has become completely fractured and, therefore, in this complicated situations the parties on this side are, of course, discussing about an alternative Government. They will have to discuss further about it. They are concerned because they are all interested that this Government should go. The reasons for that are given here in detail by many other hon. Members and they have to replace it with another Government which will be more democratic in its behaviour and more concerned with preserving the unity of the country. The unity of this country has not come about by accident. It has not come about in one day or two days. It has taken thousands of

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years to create a country, to create a society in such a vast country in which so many people of different origins, different ethnic origins, different cultures, speaking different languages with different levels of development are all living together, as common citizens of one motherland.

It is not an easy thing that the history has brought about it all these years. I am proud to be a citizen of this country because of that. Many people forecast and prophesied and wrote big books about India saying that if the British rule goes from India, this country will not last as a single country. These Indians will fight each other, break each other's heads, indulge in riots and killings and the whole country will go to pieces. The British people, of course, wrote many letters like that. Mr. Winston Churchill spoke in the House of Commons like that. On the eve of Independence, he said:

"It is a sorry fact that we are having to withdraw from India now due to compelling circumstances. But I am warning everybody that once we leave India, these Indians will themselves destroy their country. It will fall to pieces. Nothing will be left."

Well, his prophesy did not come true. More than 58 years have passed. We have many weaknesses, many defects and also many quarrels with each other. There is no doubt about it. Many unpleasant incidents have taken place in this country. But the country has survived. Today, after 50-60 years in the comity of nations of the world, India is counted as a major power with its head held high.

Who did this? Who has to be given the credit for this? It is not this Government or that Government. In my humble opinion, it is in the basic good sense, the patriotism and the desire of the people to live together that the common people refused to be broken up to pieces. They have held this country together all these years. Therefore, what I wish to say now is that the country has remained united. It is true. The policy is falling to pieces. We are facing a rather sad and tragic situation. The country has remained one. The political complexion of this country is being fractured and falling to pieces.

There is a crisis for all of us. This is not a crisis peculiar to any particular party. We should think sometimes above parties and think of the fate of the country as a whole. So, what I now wish to say is that, of course, Shri Vajpayee, for whom personally I have great regard, is an old friend of mine since long, that is, before he was a Prime Minister. And I was only a humble rank-and-file MP. But we were good friends. He has asked for a vote of confidence because according to the figures available, this Government had lost its majority in this House. You know why he has lost his majority. It is because a certain party with 18 MPs in this House, which was with them from the beginning, decided to withdraw its support. Now,

that gave the occasion for the Prime Minister, on the advice of the hon. Rashtrapati to come and ask the House for a vote of confidence. I am glad he did that. Some friends said, it would have been better if he had resigned straightaway. That is his prerogative. He need not resign. He can test it in the House also before he has to go.

Anyway, what I want to say now is – if you do not please take offence at what I am saying – that many Members have said here that Shri Vajpayee, notwithstanding what his personal qualities may be and all that, is not a free agent. He is working under duress. He is working under compulsions. He is working under the pressures of certain other forces, organisations, parties and so on, who are surrounding this Government.

19.00 hrs.

I wish to say, my one main criticism about the Prime Minister is that he knows very well which are these forces that are hostile to many of the policies and ideas which have been formally announced by him or his Government. But my complaint is that he has never taken a strong, firm, categorical stand against them. What this Government, under his leadership, is trying to do?

There is a saying, as you know, in English, 'Running with the hare and hunting with the hounds'.

[Translation]

Do you know its meaning, it is those hounds...

SHRI LALU PRASAD : They belong to nomads

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The hare is a small animal, it is made to run by the hunting dogs. After they catch it, they donot spare it.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : They also catch the jackal. Some times this jackal becomes the cause of their death.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I submit that the Prime Minister and his Government have adopted the same attitude with these people, that they want to run the race like both; the hare and the haund; at the sametime. I presume that both these tasks cannot be performed at simultaneously. I may be for given for my weak Hindi for I am not speaking in English, lest you should call me bad names afterwards, saying, 'He made a London's Parliament out here'

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Switched over.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Well it is switched over, but our Parliament recognises English language as well. Hindi is also there with it as Official Language. Both the Languages go along. I submit that if Atalji wants to seek confidence from this House to whom at all he asks us to express our confidence in ? What circumstances India

faces today, measuring it and I feel even if we express our confidence, to whom is it going to rest with? Ashok Singhal, Giriraj Kishore, Vinay Katiyar – these renowned names.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how is he calling those people's names who are not the members of this House? Donot the rules of the House apply on the senior members? I demand your ruling over this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have not passed any comment or remark about him, why are you so perplexed then? Why worrying? The Sangh Parivar's people are thier honourable leaders. We learn a lot about the Sangh Parivar in dailies, journals and by other means through these people. I want to ask BJP which is a political party.

[English]

What is the relationship between the BJP as a party and this Sangh Parivar? The Sangh Parivar are not enemies of the BJP, I suppose.

[Translation]

I never heard from them that they want to topple Atalji's Government.

Some of them may be thinking this way, I donot know. As far as the questions of Hindutva or the Mosque case, the Mandir Building etc. etc. are concerned, every body knows their stand. They have been speaking most fundamentalist till date since beginning. Though I admit that the Prime Minister some times very mildly intervenes and checks them, but they are not going to listen a single word. Shri Ashok Singhal, Acharaya Giriraj Kishore and Vinay Katiyar alongwith others whom I shall not name, have said that they will do what they desire. They talk of building the temple at the spot where the mosque collapsed. Whatsoever view the Court holds, they commit to build up a new temple right at the same spot and place. They talk of Kashi and Mathura. Then there comes No. two and No. three. So far as the Bajrang Dal is concerned I am mentioning the name of Bajrang Dal because recently the Minister of Home Affairs has given a certificate to the Bajrang Dal. In Orissa an Austrailian Missionary and his two children were burnt alive. It has been reported in magazines and elsewhere that most probably the Bajrang Dal is behind it. They mentioned the name of the Bajrang Dal. I do not know, whether they were planning or not. They chant slogans like "Bajrang Dal Ki Jai", etc. The slogan of "Bajrang Dal Ki Jai." has heard the day when they came for the murder. Another some slogan 'Dara Singh Zindabad, was also heard. It is asked as to who Dara Singh is?

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : The entire nation knows Mr. Dara Singh.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am an ignorant person. I do not know. You are fortunate that you are intimate with such type of persons. They have taken some steps. An Honourable Judge has been appointed for investigation 'into that incident. A very good initiatives has been taken. So I support it. The investigation is going on. No body knows. What conclusion will come after the investigation. But the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has given a statement that to the best of his knowledge there were no criminal elements within the Bajrang Dal. I want to know, what was the necessity of it.

[English]

He said that there were no criminal elements within the Bajrang Dal. I do not know as to who told him that, how he discovered it, why he should give a certificate to them.

[Translation]

The Investigation is going on I think he should not done so. It has been proved in Ayodhya that the stones are being carved to construct temple there. The stones are being brought and carved here. The artisians are being brought from different places to work. Every thing has been published in this regard and Mr. Ashok Singhal has accepted it. The most important matter is that they are reiterating on this issue. Whereas the court has ordered that the temple will not be constructed on that place. In spite of it Ashok Singhal reiterates that the issue cannot be sorted out by the court.

[English]

There is nothing to do with the court. It is something to do with the sentiment of the people.

[Translation]

So they are doing this work rapidly and they are not ready to listen to the opinion of Atalji. I mean to say that Atal Ji said to those people in a soft manner not to do it. When these incidents took place there, he visited that place and told that missionary people were responsible for this murder. He also said that missionary people are compaigning for Christianity and compelling tribal people for conversions into Christians. So the people have reported against them and murders have been committed. He said that a debate should be conducted in the country on the issue of conversions. He stopped thereafter and nothing has been done.

[English]

Sir, along with this, these organizations and their leaders, who, I think, constitute, and will constitute in future, a bigger problems for the Government and also for

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the BJP. We should have some clarity as to what is the relationship and how you propose to deal with these people and why you are so afraid of strongly condemning their utterances and their activities. Why are you afraid? There is some reason behind it. Then, Sir, I did not mention the RSS. I do not know whether formally the RSS is a member of the Sangh Parivar or not. Are they? I do know.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is the fountain-head.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is it a fountain-head? All right, but I do not generally ask anything here about the RSS because I know that all leaders of the BJP and most of the Ministers, if not all of them, actually had their training, schooling and driving licence with the RSS. They never hide it. They are proud of the fact...*(Interruptions)* I said, 'All BJP leaders'. That include the MPs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Even Shri Kumaramangalam has joined it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : My contention is that RSS organization with headquarters at Nagpur is practising back-seat driving and is practising remote control. Very often, it is their decisions and their directions which have to be carried out by the BJP Government. There is no doubt about it. So, when some of us are very loud in our praise for this Government, our support to this Government and so on, they must also remember that this Government is not in all respects a free agent. It has to act at the behest of the RSS. In that case, if you know that well, you should come out and say we support the RSS and we would like the RSS to have a firmer hold on this Government. I do not know if that is your stand. We saw something happening just now in Bihar where Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari was the Governor. He is, by the way, an old acquaintance of mine. Many of you do not know these things. You should know. He and I worked for a long time together in one committee which was a Committee to study the functioning of the CSIR.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It was Sarkar Committee.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sarkar Committee. You know that the Report is there. He and I were members of that Committee along with others and we got to know each other quite well. And Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari was appointed as the Governor of Bihar — I do not know for certain, I cannot prove it—possibly on the advice of the RSS because he was a prominent RSS man and I found no reason why he should be sent to Bihar at the particular juncture, unless it was with the intention of destabilising what Government, the Government of Shrimati Rabri Devi. Then we know that happened subsequently and all that, how the article 356 thing misfired and the

Government was removed. First of all the Chief Ministers had to go and later on she had to be reinstated because the approval for the imposition of article 356 is not confined to the Lok Sabha but includes both the Houses and it could not possibly get the approval of the other House and so it had to be withdrawn.

At that stage the Governor, Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari, or at some stage, was found to declare openly that he was an RSS man and he was proud to be an RSS man. He can be proud. I do not grudge him his pride. If he finds pride in that, let him enjoy it. But what happens to the Sarkaria Commission's Report and the guidelines which are there for the Government and for all Governments to follow? Of course, they are guidelines; they are not mandatory. But they are guidelines which have acquired over the years a considerable amount of respectability and are accepted.

One of the guidelines is that a person who is selected to be a Governor of a state should not be a person who has been very active in politics and certainly he should not be a person who is an active member or a leader of a political party or an organisation. But he was appointed and sent. Later on when he ran into difficulties there he said that "I am a member of the RSS, so what?" How strange things happen!

The Minister of Home Affairs came out with a statement saying that he felt that normally the Governor of a State should be an 'apolitical' man; 'apolitical' means 'non-political in the sense in which the Sarkaria Commission meant it. 'Apolitical' means 'above politics'. He should be a better person, like that. And then the order came to withdraw him, or transfer him from Bihar. That was understandable and it was really a commendable thing for Shri Advani to have recognised it, through at some later stage. When they appointed, they did not remember what his origins were.

But at this stage, Shri Advani said, "Yes, it would have been better to have an apolitical man as the Governor." So, he was transferred. After two, three or four days they brought him back again. Later he was again transferred, I think, now to Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : And he begged pardon.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He begged pardon or what did he do?

[English]

The coming of a visiting cricket team is a normal thing. The arrangement of cricket matches or the pro-

grammes between different countries is fixed and they were due to come here to play.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : He knuckled down.

SHRI INDRAJEET GUPTA : No, he felt at the feet of Shri Bal Thackeray ji on the matter of cricket. We had invited Pakistan Cricket Team, they were not coming forcibly.

[English]

And Shri Bal Thackeray had issued a statement saying that they would not be allowed to play, at least in Mumbai, his argument being that they were coming from a country which was hostile to us, which was trying to attack us, that it was sending armed people across the border, killing people and so on.

Why should they be allowed to come and play the cricket? I will not allow it and we will ask all our people to dig up the pitch so that they cannot play cricket here. Shri Vaiko, have you ever played cricket? Are you interested in cricket?

SHRI VAIKO : Not, at all. I am not interested in cricket. I am interested in other sports like football.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : But my only trouble with you is that out of this whole combination, only you seem to know Shri Vajpayee. You do not know the other people whom I knew. You do not know them, you have never seen them and you do not know anything about them....(Interruptions) The Leader of the Shiv Sena wanted the cricket pitch to be dug up so that no matches could be played. There was a great deal of concern being expressed about this in the media and in sports circles and in Pakistan, etc. It was in the face of these threats that Minister of Home Affairs rushed to Mumbai. Well, I am not going to say that he fell at the feet of Shri Thackeray, but there were some confidential talks and all that. That, it was announced that Shri Bal Thackeray has said very generously, 'All right, I am postponing my decision for one year. After one year, we can start digging up the pitch again, but for one year, they can be allowed to play' ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has mentioned the name of Bal Thackeray, so please allow me to speak at least for one minute. I am not interested to criticise anybody. I would like to speak the truth in the House if you allow me.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Did I tell any thing untrue?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETA : You have told the truth but the protest of Pakistan. Cricket team....(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You should express your view when you have your turn to speak. Time is over.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I want to point out truth and reality before House. You have spoken half truth. I want to tell the complete truth...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Your point of order has not been allowed(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Here Shri Indrajit Gupta ji has mention the name of Shri Bal Thackeray ji. The Shiv Sena supremo has opposed Pakistan Cricket team. He has quoted him here in this context. The country is proud of Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackerayji...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : No body is proud of him. What are you talking?(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am talking about these people, who are proud of him. I am not speaking about you...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : What is this? ..(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You are telling that the nation is proud of him.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You have not listened to me completely. You should listen to the whole truth. Those who are proud of the country those hold.(Interruptions) Is it crime to be proud of nation? They are proud of their nation. Shri Thackeray Ji is proud of the nation.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : The entire nation is viewing their drama what is the contribution of those people in this House?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : They are proud of their nation. He wants ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : They are proud of the persons who are instrumental behind murders and lootings ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Shri Mulayam Singh, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are telling wrong thing....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker Sir, Pakistan is continuously attacking our borders ...(Interruptions) Pakistan is attacking the country on the one hand and on the other hand it is promoting terrorism.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : According to him, in such a situation India should not play cricket with Pakistan. This is their our movement and this is the movement of Shiva Sena. If this type of movement is launched in our country and the Minister of Home Affairs meets the launcher of the movement, what is wrong with him. Every movement should not be treated harshly. So I would like to tell that Minister of Home Affairs has not taken any wrong step.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, I was on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order? Under which rule are you raising your point of order? Please quote the rule first if you are on a point of order.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, this morning when Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's name was taken, the entire House was adjourned only because the name was taken...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing except Shri Indrajit Gupta speech will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are you getting so excited?... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Only because the name of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was taken, the House was adjourned for nearly two hours.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Lalu Ji, why are you disturbing the House.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not disturb it. We are just sitting and listening to the orators.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalu Prasad, you are a senior leader, how can you disturb the House like this?

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Shri Bal Thackeray is a danger to the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you telling like this again and again.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, we may have differing opinions in the country and among the Members of the House on this question, but I am saying what I am saying, and I am saying that this was undignified for the Home Minister of India to rush to Mumbai to plead with the leader of the Shiv Sena to somehow get his clearance to allow the cricket match to take place. And I think my view is shared by many people. We have read the newspapers, their comments and all that.

The next point which I wish to make is about the composite society, the pluralistic society that has been constructed in India over the years. I feel that this society, the main values of this society, the foundations of this society are under constant pressure and threat now because of these various forces and factors which are operating.

If this is not checked, if the Government and the Prime Minister do not take a stronger and firm stand about this, if it is allowed to go on, it may ultimately weaken and destroy the essential unity of our country.

[Translation]

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : It has already been done.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What has been done.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The country has been ruined.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, specially about these attacks which have been taking place on the Christian community which is only two percent of the whole population, have our friends ever bothered to think about what its repercussions are and what is taking place in those parts of the country where there is a much bigger Christian population, much more than two per cent? I have particularly in mind the North-East which is such a sensitive region in which there are seven States and about which we are constantly discussing because it has become a very sensitive region which is open to all kinds of disturbances and insurgencies and all that. Everybody knows that the majority of people living in the North-East are Christians by religion. I have checked up and found out that they are deeply distressed and deeply disturbed and agitated by all this news about what is happening to Christians. So, it would be good if we do not take these things so lightly and only say that there should be some debate about conversations or say that there are no criminals within the organisations like *Bajrang Dal*. I think, this kind of thing only encourages these people more and one day retribution will come. The majority of the people in the North-East are professing Christianity. I am not going into other parts of the country. There are big populations of Christians in the South also, but the North-East is dominantly Christians and we are trying our best to bring that area closer to the mainstream of India and not to allow them to get more and more alienated. But retribution will come one day if they do not see our Government taking firm and energetic steps to stop this anti-Christians crusade which is going on.

Sir, I have one or two points more.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : The conversion should also come to an end.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Forcible conversion must be ended.

[English]

There is no doubt about it, but do not say that all conversions are always forcible. It may not happen. Yesterday, Shri Sangma spoke about the weakening or the denigration of certain institutions in our country. I agree with him one hundred per cent.

I would like to just mention that the United Front Government, when it was already functioning as a caretaker Government, had appointed two Governors in two

vacancies, one was in Mizoram and the other was in Goa. Since I was still the Home Minister, I know something about this in detail, the fact that the Governor of Mizoram was a very senior IPS officer who had been the Director-General of Police and the other gentleman who was appointed in Goa had been a very senior bureaucrat in the PMO. Neither of them was a politician or had anything to do with politics or had anything to do with any party. They were appointed and within less than three months after this Government took over, both these Governors were removed. They were dismissed, but no grounds were ever given as to the grounds for their dismissal. It was never alleged that they had misused their powers or had done something which Governors should not do or had violated the guidelines of Sarkaria Commission. Nothing like that was put forward.

Obviously, they were removed simply because they were the appointees of our Government, the United Front Government. I think this is a blatantly wrong thing that was done. This is one way of weakening the institution of the Governor. Contrasting it with what happened with Bhandari in Bihar, it is something totally different where there were good grounds for intervening. In Mizoram and Goa there were no grounds like that but still it was done purely on political considerations, partisan considerations.

Then, Sir, about the Admiral's case. I am still hoping. I do not know if my hopes will fructify or not, that sooner or later this House, the sovereign Parliament of India, will be permitted to discuss the matter, nothing else; and that the Government, the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and others will come before the House and make statements, authorised, official statements as to what led to the removal of the Naval Chief and then allow a discussion to take place. That is all we are, at least I am, asking for. There are so many instances which can be cited of democratic countries where elected Parliaments are functioning which have permitted discussions to be held on defence matters, on army matters, even in the midst of hostilities being carried on in their countries, even during war. If you like, I can bring those instances and show you how the House of Commons and the US Congress were allowed to discuss these matters and shelter was not taken behind the plea that these are matters of security concern and, therefore, they should not be discussed.

Not allowing the House to discuss this issue amounts, in my opinion, to contempt of Parliament. The media can be told, the Ministers can appear on TV and make long statements as to why they took that stance, but Parliament is not permitted to hear about it from the Government or to discuss the matter! This, I think, is intolerable. This is the first time in the history of our country that Parliament has been treated in this way. I read that the hon. Prime Minister has said somewhere, once or twice when the demand for a JPC was raised

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very stridently first of all by our Congress friends. He has said that a JPC can come only after a debate and a discussion is over. If a debate or a discussion shows that there is some *prima facie* matter of corruption, this is dealing with the corruption matters Bhagwat had raised, then a JPC can certainly be appointed to go into those matters. But without a discussion or anything, you cannot certainly have a JPC hanging in the air. Okay, I accept his argument. Why does he not allow a discussion? Allow a discussion and then if something comes out of it which we feel requires further investigation, then the case for JPC will be made much stronger. On the one hand he said 'no JPC' and on the other hand he said 'no discussion'. Then, why not abolish this Parliament? Why are we keeping it, for what purpose? This is a way of demolishing the established Constitutional Institutions of the country.

I am not bothered about this man Bhagwat. I do not know whether he has done something right or wrong, or he should have behaved in a different manner and so on. I am bothered about the institution of the Service Chiefs. Today, it is the Naval Chief, tomorrow it may be the Army Chief or the Air Force Chief. These are institutions under which there are thousands of men who are responsible for the safety and the defence of this country, thousands of trained men who carry out orders of these Chiefs.

The Chief has a big responsibility. He is not a chaprasi or a cook or something that he can be dismissed just like that without anybody being told what are the grounds for his removal, without giving him any chance to defend himself and without any inquiry being held. How can this be permitted? Parliament must be allowed to express its views on this matter. I am very much concerned about what we hear. I do not know. We are hearing many reactions or repercussions among the armed forces, as a result of the way that this removal was done. I am not saying that the removal was not necessarily justified, it may have been or may not have been, but the way in which it was done has certainly caused deep concern and anguish among many people in the armed forces including senior officers and retired officers and all that. So, I would request that provision must be made at the earliest for a proper discussion in this matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : By the new Government.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : One thing that the Defence Minister said was that this Admiral had become a security risk. It is a very-very serious thing to say. It is a very serious charge to make against the Head of one of the Defence Forces unless it is proved. If it was found that he was a security risk, when was that found? How long ago? If it was found that he was a security risk, why was he not removed earlier? If he was a security risk who

was doing something betraying the interests, he should have been court-martialled and some severe steps should have been taken against him much earlier. You did nothing. But suddenly he is removed. No grounds are given. There is no explanation from the Government and then when he comes out with some counter charges against the Defence Minister, then you start saying that he had become a security risk. But we will not be allowed to discuss these matters in Parliament. I think this is an intolerable situation. No elected Parliament in any country would tolerate this kind of behaviour towards him. Therefore, kindly see to it that in the course of the present Session, time is found for a proper discussion on this matter.

Finally, I would say with regard to the Finance Minister, well, he has said many things and made many claims. His Budget is there and we are still to discuss the Budget and we are still to come to the Finance Bill and all that. My main charge against him is against his present policies. They may be the policies of his predecessors also. I do not say it is something original which has come out of his brain. There is a continuity of these things. But ever since 1991, certain policies are being followed, economic policies, financial policies, commercial policies, which are more or less being still pursued along the same lines. My contention is that these policies, for example, the import-export policy, are being implemented in a way which will destroy, if not weaken seriously, the interests of our national industries, the industries which have been built up over the years by the toil of our people in this country, the employers, the investors, the entrepreneurs, the workers, all these people together have constructed quite a big industrial sector in our country. There is no doubt about that. They are bigger than in many other developing countries or former colonial countries. Now we want that sector to be further strengthened, to be further expanded. We do not want it to be curtailed or to be weakened by allowing unequal competition with much more powerful rivals, competitors, from abroad who have immense resources at their disposal. Such resources our investors and entrepreneurs can never hope to mobilise. You throw open the gates. You throw open the doors to them to come in. You reduce import duties all along the line. I am not the one who is complaining only. The people who are affected are complaining.

They will not be able to stand the competition from these powerful multinationals and others coming from abroad; and gradually, our establishments, factories and industries will have to close down. They will be very seriously affected by what is happening.

I think, there is something that has come up inside the context of the BJP called Swadeshi Jagran Manch. Some of them may be a part of the Swadeshi Jagran Manch. I am not very clear whether they have spelt out

exactly what they mean. Swadeshi is a very easy word to use. It can mean many things. I think, it should certainly mean some amount of self-reliance, much more than what we are practising at the moment. It should not be that only Indian monopoly houses and those who are able to collaborate with the foreign companies will prosper and all the others will go to the wall.

In the case of some very leading public sector concerns which are doing well and making good profits, the Disinvestment Commission has recommended heavy disinvestment of their shares. This seems to me to be a preliminary step towards privatisation in spite of everything. We are reassured by the Minister that they have taken a pledge to protect these industries, to strengthen them and see that they are properly run and so on but we have grave misgivings. I think, these misgivings are shared certainly by one section...*(Interruptions)* They have expressed alarm at what is taking place. So, I would request the hon. Prime Minister not to leave all of it to Shri Yashwant Sinha. He should also take interest to look into them and see that the interests of our native, domestic industries are properly protected and that they are not driven to the wall.

The global players are out to capture the markets everywhere. Everybody knows this. Globalisation means that the more powerful are out to capture the markets of the less powerful countries. There is a big drive that is going on. They have tremendous resources at their disposal. So, we must be very clear where we will allow them to enter, where we will not allow them to enter and where we will allow them to enter only on certain conditions so that the basic interests of our country and our people are safeguarded. What is wrong in that? It is wrong to sacrifice them because some rich and powerful people are pressurising our Government to open the gates wider and wider for them to come in. This policy, in the long run, I think, will harm very much the interests of our national economy. This should be looked into and wherever necessary, it should be rectified.

A new policy may not be liked by some people but we should have the courage to push through. There are some smaller countries which are doing it. Recently, I was on a visit to Vietnam. Vietnam is one of those countries, which among the South-East Asian countries had suffered from a great slump, recession and bankruptcy of firms. We know what happened in South Korea, Indonesia and all those other countries. They had prospered a lot and everybody was holding them as 'Asian Tigers'. They suddenly discovered that they were not tigers and have become pussy cats. They have suffered greatly from closures, bankruptcies, unemployment, retrenchment and all that.

We found to our surprise that Vietnam being a very small country had somehow or the other managed to avoid this crisis and escaped. How? I did not know. I took advantage of my stay there to have some discus-

sions with some of the Ministers and other people. I asked them. What they said was that their experience had been that if we go all out to mobilise our own domestic resources and not become dependent on World Bank and the IMF and shape our production process in a way which caters to the needs of our people and our domestic market not only for the purposes of profit making, then we can escape the worst offensive of this kind of capitalist crisis.

A prescription has been given — you may not like it — by the first Asian and not the first Indian to become the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, a prestigious college and later got a Noble prize, Dr. Amartya Sen, who visited this country recently. I think, all Indians should be proud of his achievement. But it was of course natural that he, being a Bengali, got a much bigger reception and felicitation while he was in Calcutta, in Shanti Niketan and other places in Bengal. It was a much bigger reception and felicitation than he got in the capital city of India. I think, he got a reception here, but it was not very much big ...*(Interruptions)*

I cannot go into the details now. But he prescribed some five or six things for poorer countries, for developing countries like ours as to how to lift themselves up. He had said that production should not be measured only in terms of quantum of output and quantum of profits, but should also be measured on the availability and utilisation of local resources for consumption of the people and their requirements and to the home markets. He has also stressed it greatly in the course of which he cited the example of Kerala, about primary education, women's education specially and education of the girl child, health care in the villages, in the rural areas, land reforms, etc., and he had said that the quality of social life and political life in any country will only improve when greater and greater numbers of women get qualified to come forward and participate in, a view which is not very easily reflected in our Parliament unfortunately. I am just telling you what Dr. Amartya Sen has said, and that is a prescription that he is going around advocating.

I would request the Finance Minister—there are plenty of documents and books—to study them and see what the implications of this policy would be, as advocated by him and if we try to follow that prescription to the extent possible and practicable in our country, it might bring us good dividends.

That is all I have to say. Therefore, I cannot support the motion of the Prime Minister because I certainly do not want to support Shri Acharya Giriraj Kishore or Shri Ashok Singhal, till I know that this Government is going to prevent them from carrying out their anti-national activities. Up to now, they have been following a very weak and a vacillating policy towards these organisations which

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are disruptive, which are communal, which are violent and which are prepared to do anything in order to reach their objectives.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (UDHAMPUR) : He is telling about anti-national activities of those who are not in the House.

[English]

How can he say that their activities are anti-national? This is a very serious word.

[Translation]

How can he comment on those people who are not here to defend themselves?

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : So, Sir, for this reason I do not find it possible to support the Motion moved by the hon. Prime Minister expressing confidence in his Government. I oppose it.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Motion of Confidence would not have been introduced in the House had the Prime Minister not visited Lahore by bus. Only after two or three days, the two supporters of the Congress Party went to meet that leader who is engaged now-a-days in chalking out the strategy of the party. They had gone to ask about the possible political situation that might be arising out of it. That leader said to them that at first, the Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has to be toppled. It so happened because he visited Lahore, both the Prime Ministers talked and took certain decisions and the way it was welcomed in India, they were concerned. They thought that if such situations continue for long their greatest slogan against the Bhartiya Janata Party being called as communal would get finished and people would think it as a secular party. There would be no political ground left for the Congress party due to this. This issue started from there and the House and the country are facing it in the form of the motion of confidence.

It was natural for Atalji to go to Pakistan because when he was the Foreign Minister of the country in the Government led by Shri Morarji Bhai in 1977, at that time his contribution towards the betterment in relations with Pakistan is unforgettable to the leadership and the people of both the countries. But it seems that the argument of secular and non-secular or secular and communalism

of the congress party which we have been listening in-side and out-side the House again and again for the last three or four days is not the part of their ideology.

20.00 hrs.

This has been their very old strategy. Actually, I have experienced it myself before the elections in 1952 and I feel that there has been no difference. I remember an episode of 1971. The problem of Bangladesh had cropped up. A circular was issued by the Ministry of Home. I got that circular in a strange circumstances. The BEST bus traffic is an undertaking run by the Municipal Corporation in Mumbai. The supervisors in the bus depots who belonged to Muslims community, were removed from their duties and were deployed as road inspectors. I was the President of the BEST Union. We went there and asked as to why did this happen? The General Manager of the BEST was an I.A.S. officer that time. He said that an order had been received from Delhi that Muslims are not to be deployed at sensitive places. The same thing happened here in Municipal Corporation. Mumbai Municipal Corporation-Mumbai Mahanagar Palika—used to provide jobs to one Lac employees those days and today it provide jobs to about one Lac and 30 or 35 thousand people. I was the President of their organization. Water for Mumbai comes from Tansa and Vaitarna the two large ponds situated at some distance from Mumbai. The people working there, the employees of the water department of Mahanagar Palika, Konkani Muslims of Maharashtra i.e. those who speak Konkani Language....

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) : Just like Antuley ji.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Yes, Sir, regarding all the Muslims who were posted there an order was received to remove them from Tansa and Vaitarna and they were assigned the work of making key, but the salary was the same. We went to ask the Municipal Commissioner. He was an I.C.S. He said that an order had been received from Delhi that Muslims were not to be deployed at sensitive places and a copy of that order was delivered by the Mumbai Municipal Commissioner. We came back to Delhi along with the copy of that order I do not remember the name of the newspaper this time, but I can tell the name tomorrow morning but I can tell you the name of the Editor. The weekly newspaper of Urdu was in the widest circulation those day's. It was given to them and they published it. Sir, one more thing happened at the same time. The hon. leader of the opposition must be knowing Dr. Dastoor. On telephone Dr. R.H. Dastoor told that he wanted to talk to me. I went there and met him. There was a lady and a baby was in her lap. She was

working in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre as a stenographer. Dr. Dastoor had shown me a paper which was the removal letter of that lady. At that time Dr. Sathna was the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. I asked Dr. Sathna about it. He replied to me that there was an order from Delhi that Muslims should not be posted on the key posts. I talked what I wanted to do and I talked with all persons concerned.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (BIKANER) : You will yield for a minute please. I have got a question.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please protect me. I am not yielding.

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I seek your protection.....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I want to say only that Indira ji was asked to remove her guards...*(Interruptions)* He said that he would not remove. You can say this. ...*(Interruptions)* what are you going to tell us.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Today I want to make only one request in this regard—the hon'ble Home Minister should trace out that circular or order from his Ministries file belonging to 1971 and place the same before the country so that the truth is known to our countrymen. The issue of atrocities on Christians has been discussed here by all and sundry including the Leader of Opposition, our senior colleague and friend Shri Indrajit Gupta and others. You people have said one thing in your speeches. You have said that number of the cases of atrocities and injustice on Christians during the last 13 months of this Government is more than 50 per cent of the total number of cases reported during the last 50 years. I have got with me these official documents from 1978 to 1998. Documents earlier to this date are not available with me. These documents pertain only to four States where most of the cases took place. In total, 178 incidents of atrocities took place between 1978 and 1998. Arunachal Pradesh registered 24 cases, Bihar 11, Madhya Pradesh five and Orissa registered 60 such incidents ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (RAJNANDGAON) : The figure of Gujarat is with me. There 50 incidents took place only in 15 days....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You must keep them with you*(Interruptions)* I have got the figures only for

four States where Congress was in power and where all these incidents took place. They were in power at Centre also. When such incidents take place, people should not confine their thinking only to a particular institution or party. They must think beyond that but this time also the same way of thinking is continuing. This time Jhabua episode was the first to happen. Much hue and cry was made on that incident. The Government of Atal Ji was formed here and Congress party is in power there. Such incidents are propagated not only in India but also in the entire world. The women, who devote themselves to the Church, are called 'nun' in English. When they were gang raped, it was announced repeatedly in the entire world that this Act has been committed by such and such kind of people. Just now you have spoken on this issue at length.

The Government of Kerala has sent a delegation there which concluded that any institution was not responsible for the incidence. The people, responsible for the incidence, were the local inhabitants. Out of the 22 people arrested, 11 are Adivasis and other 11 are Christians. The incidence took place in the Congress ruled state and the target of anger was made our Government. Half of the people, involved in the incidence are Adivasi and another half number belongs to Christian. When Orissa incidence was discussed, severe comments were hurled on we people. Statistically it was said that we did recognise the whole of Orissa in merely two hours. But we had gone to that village where the incident took place. The population of that village is around one hundred and twenty five. There are 6-7 Christian families in that village and rest of others are non-Christian families. We went to that place in Helicopter. We found that Magistrate, S.P. and other police and civil officers were present there. There most of the families were non-Christian whereas 6-7 families were Christian. We talked to everyone there. We came back from there after obtaining information from the Magistrate and police officers. We were three people, namely, Naveen Patnaik Ji, Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi and I, myself, who went there. After coming back from there, we gave our report to the Prime Minister.

20.12 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

After that the issue of investigation is there. When the incident took place, Congress was in power there and today also Congress is in power but only the Chief Minister was changed. But the change was made taking into account the next elections and not because of that incident. Many years have passed since then. No doubt the Commission, which has been set-up, will do his probe work but what action has been taken by the State Government? Why the person or institution indicated in the matter is not taken under arrest inspite of the fact that the

[Shri George Fernandes]

entire administrative machinery is in your hands? Why the culprits are allowed to go scotfree? Why this question still remains unanswered? We are discussing one another episode in which a nun was raped in Orissa.

She came from a far off village to appear in an examination. She was stopped by a woman and she took her in a Van in which two men were already sitting. Later on it was found that a male was disguised as a woman and she was raped. After some days, the Police officers stated that no untoward incident had taken place and there was no case of rape. A woman filed a complaint but there was no truth in that complaint. However, the Police Officers stated that there was only mention that

[English]

Nuns are being raped in Orissa.

[Translation]

The State Government is of your Party and you are accusing the Union Government. In Orissa not only two but a number of incidents have taken place. One such incident took place in Allahabad.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : You have mentioned that there is foreign hand in it. Please tell about this?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : An incident took place in Allahabad. The news of a person who is a doctor is published in the newspapers of the world since this news has been circulated by an Agency named Associated Press of America. That person runs a clinic, his wife is an American, that doctor is a missionary and his wife works with him in the clinic. He has to run from his house since a rape case happened there. Next day the doctor gave the statement that he was not an American where as he was known as an American doctor. He said that he was an Indian, belonging to Allahabad, he had a home there and he has a clinic there. He studied in America and married there. His wife was an American. They both live in one house and no incident has happened there. But the newspapers of the world publish this report that one more missionary family has become the victim of this tragedy?(Interruptions) When that news was published in the newspapers of the entire world and our Government is put in the dock and anti Government propaganda was made. I would like to say that there is a big conspiracy behind this and still this is going on. Irrespective of this fact that how many people are behind this conspiracy, we still consider it the weakness of the Government. This news need to be highlighted and the persons involved in this conspiracy should be brought into lime light and it should be investigated who are the persons trying to defame over Government. We should think over this seriously.

What is being done with the Christians ... (Interruptions). We need not to highlight this. We talk about secularism. Some people get irritated when we talk about it. When three thousand five hundred Sikhs were assassinated on the roads of Delhi then where was the thought of secularism had gone?

[English]

When a big tree falls the earth is bound to shake.

[Translation]

You may remember who has said this? You might have forgotten. The Sikhs were assassinated not only on the roads of Delhi but a movement was started against them in the entire country. The Sikhs were killed in running trains. These poor Sikh people and their women folk victimised and humiliated. Three children were cursed and ill-treated.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Those people who are responsible for it, are sitting on the other side.(Interruptions). Those people who assassinated the Sikhs had left the Congress Party and joined the B.J.P.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I do not understand. This matter was not limited to that assassination. The general election were held in the country in December, 1984 after this tragedy. Have you forgotten those assassinations? The people who were elected in those general elections, are present in the House.** Mr. Rajesh Pilot,

[English]

It was done in December, 1984.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : We fought the election in 1984. It was never there.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I will provide you the newspapers. You will have to take back your words. I will provide the newspapers of those days.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Our Commander-in-Chief was a Muslim and the President was also Muslim. Will we change the bus conductor? One must have some etiquettes to talk with others.

* Not Recorded.

** Expunged as order by the Chair.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I appeal to all of you not to disturb him. It is a very serious debate that is going on. Whatever statement he is making, you can refute it when you speak.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a wild and baseless allegation. How do you allow those things? It is unbecoming of a Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : If all that I have said so far is proved to be wild and baseless, I shall resign from this House and leave the House for all time to come.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Now you give reply and ask him to resign.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I shall resign from this House and go out of this House for all times to come...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Was it published by the Congress Party?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Yes, I am talking about the Congress Party to which you also belong. You seem to have very short memories...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Digvijay Singh, Shri Vaiko, let us hear him.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Shri George Fernandes, it is not even possible to think that the Congress Party will resort to such things. I am telling you, you have no ideology. You were here and you went there. You have no ideology. Do not bring such allegations. Do not do like this...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is making wild allegations, let him produce that newspaper and let him speak tomorrow. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, he should not be allowed to level wild allegations against our party. We object to it. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please listen to me?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Handique, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please hear me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is narrating something.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, he is not narrating. It is a charge that such a poster was published by the All India Congress Committee or by the Congress Party which said: "will you believe a Sikh?" It is a charge on the Congress Party. We are all part of the Congress Party ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am charging the Congress Party. I am not charging any other party ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You prove that charge.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I shall prove all the things that I have said here. *(Interruptions)* I will prove it and if I do not prove it, I will resign from this House.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Will we change conductor.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He is a leader, he should not speak like this.

[English]

Will you hold on to the Congress Party? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Don't give challenge again...*(interruptions)* You forget. Shri Rajesh Pilot should not do like this. If you do not know this, tell him you have not seen it...*(Interruptions)* I know this news was published in the newspapers alongwith the photographs of the leaders...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please hear me, Mr. Minister?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is a charge on my party. Please prove it tomorrow on the Floor of the House. If we have done this, we apologise to the nation. But this is not done by the Congress Party...*(Interruptions)* You bring that tomorrow and lay it on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)* If the Congress Party has given this advertisement, please put it on the Table of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to give the proof to the House.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I will give the proof. I would not be able to fish out the newspapers of 1984 tonight ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me hear him.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I shall give you the proof on Monday....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I shall give you the proof on Monday. The 1984 issues of newspapers are not available at my home. I do not keep those ones at home. I shall produce them in the House on Monday...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please hear me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you are referring to some newspaper or some advertisement given by some party, you will have to prove it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I shall produce it on Monday.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Produce it tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : He should resign.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Why should I resign?

[Translation]

Listen over the last 30 years your congress party has been in pursuit of looting, but you could not do so...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Shri George Fernandes, you were anti-Congress all through. You narrated a so-called incident of 1984. Were you sleeping all these 15 years? Why did not raise this allegations earlier in the House?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have talked about it umpteen times....*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : No, Sir; you never raised this issue in this House...*(Interruptions)* I have been in this House from 1980 onwards. You were so much anti-Congress raising all sorts of allegations. But you never raised

it once. Why?*(interruptions)* Now, you are concocting it...*(interruptions)* Shri Fernandes, you are concocting stories...*(Interruptions)* Let him bring the advertisements. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a wild allegation...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, he should resign...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you are making an allegation, you will have to give the proof.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Sir, what Shri George Fernandes is saying, I had said so in this House earlier while making a speech. I had alleged in that speech that advertisements were being issued by the Congress Party mentioning Sikhs. A lot of resentment was being generated against the Sikhs. I had mentioned that in the House itself...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me make it clear that unless you have that proof, you cannot make any allegation. Any allegation that is made has to be substantiated. If the hon. Minister has already alleged then he has to substantiate it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, this happened in 1984. I myself raised the matter in the House and so did Barnala ji, for being involved personally, apart from those who bear in mind the happenings of December, 1984 I remember that during those days I had made a statement regarding the same issue. It is quite impossible to produce newspapers of 1984 right now. Shri George Fernandes has said that he will definitely bring those newspapers on Monday. I will try that he should bring it tomorrow only; we will try to produce it tomorrow only...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, let him say.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, let me repeat the charge again. The hon. Minister has said that Congress Party had issued an advertisement. Let him make it clear. Tomorrow if they bring some individual's name, that will not

be recorded ...*(Interruptions)*. Let me repeat what has hurt us...*(Interruptions)* Shri Geroge Fernandes has said ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH (JALORE) : Please listen to me for a moment.

Sir, the issue raised by Shri Geroge Fernandes does not have any authentic proof. We were in the Congress Party...*(Interruptions)* The Congress Party has never issued such statements that the Sikhs are responsible for the murder of Shrimati Gandhi...*(Interruptions)* It is wrong on the part of Shri Fernandes to say that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Pradhan, it is a very serious matter. Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me hear Shri Pilot first. I will give you a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, what has hurt us is that the hon. Minister has said that the Congress Party—when I say Congress Party, it is a District Congress Committee or a Pradesh Congress Committee or All India Congress Committee or any other organisation—I am not talking about any individual, if some individual has issued it. He has said that the Congress Party had issued it and that too a poster, initially, then an advertisement. That has hurt us. If Congress Party or its any unit has issued it, he must put the proof on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, it is a very serious matter. It may create communal tension. Let him produce the proof and then we will continue tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEROG FERNANDES : December 1984.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, Maj. Gen. Khanduri, Shri Shivraj Patil wants to make a submission.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, whatever the Hon'ble Minister said here is a very serious matter for which every one be it the Minister or any other Member, will have to speak with full responsibility. He has said that Congress's account against Muslim and Sikh brethren ...*(Interruptions)* He has said about both of them; at first Muslims, then Sikhs. He has said that they should not be absorbed in jobs or posted at particular stations.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We have not said so. We said that they may not be deployed at strategic places, may be kept away from sensitive sites as the issue of Bangladesh was before us and war was inevitable. Not to be deployed at advantageous places. ...*(Interruptions)* To be kept away from fire stone industries ...*(Interruptions)* The advantageous places like fire stone industries...*(Interruptions)* To all Muslims. ...*(Interruptions)* We are the persons who fought for them...*(Interruptions)* You should have been aware of it...*(Interruptions)* I never say anything without any proof.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minsiter, I have given the floor to Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I have not yet completed. This is a very serious allegation. It should be made with full responsibility. Either the Minister should prove what he has said is correct by producing the documentary evidence or this matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee to look into it or the Minister should withdraw and express his regret...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (OUTER DELHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, these two things are already on record. At first, terrible anti-Sikh riots broke out in Delhi in 1984. The then Prime Minister had reacted at that time, that when a big free falls down, the earth shakes. This was said to justify those inhuman happenings. This reaction is on record and it is another thing seek such for its proof.

Second we are eyewitness and have also seen advertisements as proof of the fact that Congress Government had contested general elections of 1984 by creating an anti-Sikh atmosphere. If they demand proof of the Congress first commit that it shall seek for apologies from the people of the country. Please agree to it

And one thing more. During this debate so many allegations have been levelled on B.J.P. and others too. However, you did not demand any proof in this regard. If you intend to demand any proof, let all the proofs of allegations be asked for so that those who have charged allegations would be in position to know what exactly the allegations are.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Today I would request this House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ashok Pradhan. please sit down. I have given the floor to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I would make a submission with folded hands that the issue is an emotional one*(Interruptions)* Let this issue be not thrown up for debates and trading allegations on one another*(Interruptions)* My request is that*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (BALLIA) (U.P.) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very tragic and sensitive issue. No. purpose will be served by raking up this issue now after fifteen years....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA (VIJAYAWADA) : He has raised it now?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT) : Why should he raise it now?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : All right, if you shout me down, then I shall sit down; I cannot shout*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Bijoy Handique, please sit down. I have given the floor to him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I also know something about it and if I shall speak, it will be very inconvenient for many people. So, do not try to shout me down.

I am requesting Shri George Fernandes not to press this issue and I shall request the Congress Members to forget it. If there is anything offensive in your opinion, you should delete it. It is because not of Shri George Fernandes or because of the Congress Party, because this matter will have serious repercussion in the country. I am sorry to say that there is every apprehension that things may go out of control.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying the same thing....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : How can you shout me down?

[Translation]

I am also submitting that the matter is very serious

and peace has been restored with great difficulty in Punjab. About 30-40 thousands of Punjabi youth have been killed so far....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : But that was not due to your efforts. Peace was restored there only after Akali Dal and BJP formed a coalition Government*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Shri K.L. Sharma said that in the riots of 1984....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me make the procedure clear now. Hon. Members, Para 46, Procedure for making allegation against a Minister, Member or outsider, Sub-para (4) says:

"(4) As Members are not liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said by them in the House, allegations should not be made by them against a fellow Member/Minister or any individual or a public body unless the allegations are supported and fortified by strong and adequate proofs to substantiate them in the event of the Member being challenged to that effect in the House."

Now the instance is, Shri George Fernandes has alleged something which has become part of the record.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sharma, you allow me.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH) : You are equally responsible*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Whatever took place during the 1984 riots, that report has been presented in the House*(Interruptions)* I request that this matter should end now and I would like Mr. George Fernandes to withdraw his words for the sake of peace and harmony in the country. Whatever he has stated, it is totally baseless and nothing of this kind was propagated by the Congress Party. At that time I was in the Congress Party*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Many issues of this type have come up during the discussion....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am only reading the procedure.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, RSS has been termed as anti-national only just now. What about that?..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any allegations I am not differentiating them. It applies to anybody who make allegation. These are the procedures. I just cannot go and deviate the rules framed by the House. Therefore, either Shri George Fernandes may withdraw or substantiate it. It is either of the two. I think any one of them can be opted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a very serious matter. It is having a serious implication throughout the country. Please for heaven's sake, do not do that.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (BANGALORE-NORTH) : In view of what hon. Member, Shri Chandra Shekhar has said, let it be expunged.

Shri GEORGE FERNANDES : Why should it be expunged?

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF : Let it not be on record. Let us forget and let us not unnecessarily create a kind of situation where we irritate any of the communities. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request the hon. Minister to withdraw. What is there after all?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Why should it be expunged?... (Interruptions) Why should it be expunged? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, what have you to say?

(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Many allegations have been made. Will all those be expunged? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any allegation should be substantiated. If it is not substantiated, that has to be either withdrawn or the consequences have to be faced. If it is not substantiated, that has to be withdrawn or the consequences have to be faced.

Are you going to withdraw or not?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want that it should go on record, we shall furnish the proof... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : He has to either withdraw it or prove it. Otherwise it has to be expunged ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am not withdrawing it. (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Then withdraw it. It is not authenticated. If he is not proving it, it cannot be accepted. There is no choice but to withdraw and he is not. There is no choice but to expunge it from the record.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : All such remarks which came up during the discussion should be expunged. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, your ruling is being challenged. Either he should prove it or withdraw the allegation. Otherwise, adjourn the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have presented the facts. Their complaints that I should bring the documents is justified. I shall try to bring those documents tomorrow. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : You should have brought the documents first... (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I shall definitely bring those documents on Monday... (Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR (GOPALGUNJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I still remember that in this very House, perhaps while sitting here Unnikrishnan ji had levelled charge of taking bribe against Rajiv Gandhi. Shri Rajiv Gandhi rose from his seat and said that you are accusing me. If you prove it that I have taken bribe I shall resign. Otherwise you should resign. All the people sitting here, all great men sitting rise and say so. It is a simple thing. (Interruptions)

[English]

Let Shri George Fernandes resign, go away, if proved that he is wrong. If it is proved, then he — Shri Sharad Pawar — should also resign. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would be guided by experienced people.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : He will prove it. But is Shri Sharad Pawar prepared to resign if it is proved?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Unless and until he prove it, he cannot bring a reckless charge, though he is habitual for that. But this is no way. he has to withdraw it. And if he is not willing to withdraw, you have to expunge it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Very senior members of the House have very rightly said that this was a very sensitive issue and we should deal this issue in a very responsible manner.

A statement has come from a Minister and it is a statement which is likely to create some problem in the hearts and minds of the people outside and that is why we are trying to deal with it in a proper manner.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : When it was used, they had no sensitivity? When you had used this word in order to get votes. where was your sensitivity? Now, you are claiming to be secular ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sharad Ji, You will not be the Prime Minister....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We are not trying to create a problem. Let us understand it.

If the allegation is serious, it should be substantiated. If the allegation cannot be substantiated, it can be withdrawn. In your judgement if you think that both these things are not possible, then you can expunge it. If it is not done, then the privilege motion can be moved against a Member who has made an allegation and in that privilege motion it has to be proved that some statements were made by the Congress Party or some posters were given by the Congress Party. Then were printed at the behest of the Congress Party, then only that statement can be substantiated.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Absolutely.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We are not trying to create the problem. We are trying to solve the problem ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I accept it.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : He has to bring the authenticated statement. Then, only he can make the statement ...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Whatever I have said is true, so why should I withdraw it?

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Sir, you have given the ruling and that ruling is being challenged ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am going to give a ruling. You please resume you seat. Before me there are only two options.

Number one, as per the rules, it is clear, either the hon. Member or the hon. Minister will have to withdraw it or else I have to expunge it. I am only asking the hon. Minister to withdraw it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, Sir. I am not withdrawing it. Why should I withdraw the proof? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, you have given your ruling ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister of Home Affairs is on his legs. All senior leaders are here. On such an important matter I want to be guided.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not challenging the ruling at all....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the former Speaker of Lok Sabha has explained in detail as to should happen in such circumstances. He has stated that if he is able to authenticate it, then it is all right, otherwise the Privilege Motion will be moved against him. I think, whatever, Shri Shivraj Ji has said is quite right. It should be followed. It has been ascertained here that he has stated the fact. He has not come with the paper today. I have seen Shri Natwar Singh Ji making him understand. The senior members must be aware that whatever he has stated is hundred per cent true. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have asked him to prove, and he will. If he fails, you may bring the Breach of Privilege Motion.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : In 1984, I was a Member of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if somebody authenticates, the debate about its pro-

priety and impropriety would continue perhaps for a week or two weeks, one month or two months. That's why, I had said that if this debate continue, it would entail adverse repercussions. Therefore I requested Shri George Fernandes Ji nor to press this matter and urged upon my friend in the Congress not to press the matter any more I would request you to exercise your privilege and expunge, whatever, is improper because this is not the question of the rights of the members. This is the question of spreading turmoil in the country. Very humbly I request Shri Advani Ji that Shri George Ji might be having some documents but we should not create more problems by proving everything through the documents. We are already facing many problems and we are unable to find even their solution.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I cannot ignore Shri Chandra Shekhar Ji and I acknowledge whatever he has said. But, you should be reminded of the fact that as far as this advertisement is concerned, the Sikh Community will never forget it in the country, they may forget it.

He has been accused of telling a lie.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Shri Advani Ji, I have never said that Shri George has told lies. I have many personal experiences. Our colleague, Shri Indrajit Gupta, said that he never forgets the things of the past. I forget many things. So, I would request you also and not only you, I would ask Mr. George too, that sometimes it becomes essential to forget many things. It is not essential in the interest of an individual or the society, but in the interest of the country. So, Shri George should forget that thing. He might have many arguments or documents. If he does not present a document about the 1984 riots, the effect of his speech will not diminish.

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : I agree with Shri Chandra Shekhar Ji. Sometimes I get agree.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, I have expunged it. Now Shri George Fernandes may please continue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (SHEOHAR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I too have to say something. Allegations and counter allegations are being debated. Allegations have been made against me, too.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall give you opportunity after the speech of George Saheb.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : You had said that you would provide opportunity after looking into the record.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Could not get the time. I have been sitting right here.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : We shall say, Shiv Shankarji has made some accusations. He will have to prove them**. We would not demand him any reason, but I myself have been charged also. Either, you agree with me or prove the charges*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear Shri George Fernandes now.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this matter would be hanging with such arguments, I never thought so. I could have easily gone upto much more ancient history even upto 1952, but I did not do so. ..(Interruptions) As a forge debate is going on in India about Secular, non secular, communal; this debate should be ...(Interruptions) We never let it go on...(Interruptions) These people have done this only to defame this Governments in the country and all over the world as well. I decided to put a mirror before them that they could visualise their own image. But even that caused pain for them. Chandrashekharji contributed in the matter and Prime Minister consented upon it ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am going to expunge it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the Leader of the Opposition prolonged the debate opposing the motion in the House yesterday. He spoke a lot on how our Government was devastating the country on the economic front, and he spoke on the unemployment problem too.

21.00 hrs.

On the same issue, our senior colleague Indrajitji conducted the debate on that economic policy. Somnath Babu is not present in the House now, but I heard his speech. He also illustrated from the economic policies and told that how we had gone far from 'Swadeshi' concept there they made a joke of 'Swadeshi' discussed as to how we were detaching the country from the path of self dependence and complained of our strides through

** Expunged as ordered the by Chair

* Not recorded.

[Shri George Fernandes]

the policy-steps. I do not know as to how far the Leader of the Opposition knows about India's unemployment. To brief the things in a speech is a different thing but to be in constant acquaintance with the problem of unemployment to think of why it is increasing and how can it be alleviated-is another. Till date, they are nearly four crores educated in India who have registered their names with the Employment Exchanges, and a good three times more than this are those unemployed ones who donot get any registration in Employment Exchange only because they are not properly educated. They do not have any Employment Exchange nearby their villages. India has a four crore educated persons plus 13 crores less educated persons not knowing any art to sustain, a figure of total 17 crore employed ones in the country. This number is increasing. But this increase is not because of our Government's coming into power. You can tally with 1947's figures, there was also an increase per year. Why we kept talking of Swadeshi and related programmes, because we felt that we could get some help from them to in alleviating the unemployment problem. But as you decided to sign the New Economic Policy in 1991 without presenting any motion in this very House, those were the days of Raoji's Prime Minister-ship and Dr. Man Mohan Singh was his Finance Minister; and you commenced that policy without having any consideration and debate on our four decade old Economic Policy and on that proposal on Industrial Policy by Pandit Nehru in this House; and the policy resulted into be a down tailed one thereafter. In which phase it faced this condition—in 'Uruguay Round'! Then came the MARACAS, and you signed it also. I remember that we warned the people in side and outside the House, especially the labourer movement of the country, to abolish this policy only within 8 or 10 months and also said that if we would fail then the generations to come in this country should have to fight for setting the economic matters right in the country, and you succumbed to External powers by getting manacled through MARACAS. It matters not what we or Indrajit Ji speak on this issue. I did listened to Somnath Babu's very hot speech and others also may speak on as to how the economic condition worsened and how things rotted. But we are not responsible for this worse state. In a way, we are lying as prisoners and you started this ill-work from 1991 and more worse, when you signed MARACAS in 1994; as if you got us manacled. We have been warning against this for a fairly long time, not by now. We know about our limited strength....(Interruptions) I am not telling this for myself...(Interruptions) You please, sit down, your you leader has already spoken...(Interruptions) I want to discriminate clearly between policy, written policy, oral policy and practicality of it and also to bring forth it.

Firstly, I am going to present the document named :

[English]

Manifesto of the Left Parties for Lok Sabha Elections 1998, Part-2. For an Alternative Economic Policy. It says:

"The policies ushered in in the name of economic reforms since 1991 have only worsened the situation".

[Translation]

I only know about it as far as your leaders and scribes know the same.

[English]

It further says :

"Liberalisation has meant a bonanza for the big business houses, landlords, financial speculators and big traders who make super profits and accumulate huge incomes. Under the IMF, World Bank dictated model, the priorities for India's economic growth are determined not in the interests of Indian people but for narrow affluent section at home and foreign capitalists. By these policies, 10 per cent of the population have enriched themselves at the expense of the remaining 90 per cent of the people."

[Translation]

Now this is the right thing and now take note of the wrong one. I have a newspaper advertisement in my hand which I always keep with me. It works when the people differ between what they tell and what they actually do. Now it is in torn state but I possess of its photocopy. This advertisement has kept on publishing in the country and all over the world for a full year. I got the cutting from 'The Hindu' newspaper of the month of September. Its title is.

[English]

'Looking for Power?' – not political power which has eluded you, and will elude you. The advertisement reads:

"While there is a near famine of power elsewhere, West Bengal is an oasis.

Looking for an ideal location? We are closer to South-East Asia, the Pacific Rim and Japan than any other State. You even have Indian Airlines flights to Yangon, Bangkok and Singapore.

Looking for world-class company? Ours is the State that's the chosen location of such international giants as Siemens, Philips, ICI, Motorola, Sumitomo, Matsuohta, Rolls Royce, ABB Lummus Global Inc., Price Waterhouse, Itochu, Toyo Engineering Corpn., Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Caltex, Marubeni, George Soros,

Pepsi, BOC, Bechtel, General Electric, IBM, Alcoa International, UNOCAL, ITW Signode India Ltd., Lurgi, BASF, Institute Francais du Petrole, Bio-Mass Systems Inc., Arthur D. Little, Deutsche Babcock, Vesuvius, Davy, Daelim, Cheung Chi Hi, Tang Sun, Telcom Malaysia and Telstra a veritable who's who of the corporate world.

Looking for a dynamic state? Fast-improving infrastructure, a dynamic rural economy, a resurgent industrial scenario a political stable climate, an abundance of skilled and qualified manpower—its all there, waiting for you. Come to West Bengal. The possibilities are electrifying."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA : We have not surrendered, you surrendered(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : What is the industrial growth in the last one year....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I do not understand as to why are they making so much noise(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, won't I be allowed to speak in this House? This advertisement is by:

[English]

The West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation is a Government of West Bengal enterprise whose Chairman is Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I think(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We welcome it.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Then Just do not mingle the debate on unemployment with this(Interruptions)

[English]

Yes, we want. But don't make these noises that you keep on making. That is all that I am telling....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

The endeavours to put us in the dock should be put on an end. You accept it, do not worry about it and adopt it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are not surrendering like that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You wanted a world class company here.

SHRI N. JANARADHANA REDDY (BAPATLA) : What is wrong in that advertisement? Why do you accuse?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Nothing(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I do not want to sort out what is wrong? I just want to say that

[Translation]

the difference between saying and doing should be done away with.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You explain your stand.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You will have to wait for that, Shri Basu Deb Acharia....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

So I said that there is a massive wriggling over the issue of economic policies of the country. There is a policy which was formulated in 1991. We all are ruled with that policy for us. Inside our country..(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under what rule are you on a point of order?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Let my point be listened. I want clarification from the Hon'ble Minister....(Interruptions)

[English]

I am on a point of order. I am a Member of Parliament. I want certain clarification from our great socialist leader, Shri George Fernandes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you yielding to him?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He spoke for an hour. I listened to him very carefully. I did not interrupt him. Now let me speak....(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I am also listening(Interruptions) I am not interrupting. The people in the country and abroad are watching what is happening here. I want a clarification from him. I said yesterday also that you are my guru. We have been followers of the some ideology. The entire people in the country and abroad want to know that under which circumstances you have joined the B.J.P. without caring for that time and value of that

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

philosophy when you used to teach us a lesson of socialism. Let this point be narrated to us.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Whaever there is a debate on serious matters, the occasion needs some comic and relief and Shri Lalu Prasad invariably provides that comic and relief. I think the House will be grateful to him for it.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : What did the 'Panchajanya' write about you? Let it be produced here. Let that point be expressed here which was pointed out by a senior Member in 1979.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why is this interruptions going on here?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let that point also be expressed which had expressed about Atalji and Advani Ji in 1979.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How long will we sit like this? No more interruptions please, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, two aspects were produced in view of the results of economic policy.

Since we want a complete debate on swadeshi, we know that Congress party has nothing to do with Swadeshi because one year ago the present president of Congress party had ridiculed swadeshi at Shivajee park in Mumbai. We are in favour of Swadeshi. When we speak about swadeshi, self-respect is also attached to it and the very language is also attached to it, but Mr. Mulayam Singh keeps on speaking by adding language from his own point of views. But we add the language of self-respect and self-reliance to it and also add different things to it. The countries of the world use swadeshi word in their own way. They try to purchase the goods made in their own countries But maybe, it is the result of two centuries long slavery of the Britishers and due to that reason we like foreign goods by now and dislike the things on goods manufactured in our own country. We feel uncomfortable while using swadeshi goods. I do not know whether you add to your speech every point belonging to foreign countries. Nobody is foreigner in the public eyes, but I was saying on the context of economic policy. I was saying about the purchase of goods manufactured in our

country and other things which create jobs. The people of Poorvanchal are seated here and they have their problem and due to that problem. They are weeping because they do not have any industries or factories in their areas and it is the question of their hand-made things. If our Government starts purchasing their hand made goods like cane furniture from such industries of the country at the Hotels or other places and they are used in this country by the people, the problem of Poorvanchal's people will remain in half. We should do this work but it does not happen.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we like ostentatious goods whether it is the house of a Minister and a Parliamentarian or whether it is our office. But we do not like hand-made things. I, therefore, have said so. If a debate had been held inside or outside this House amidst all parties as to how we can solve the problem of unemployment, it would have been better but it will certainly take some time. We can create such circumstances for the helpless areas and for those areas where work on handloom could be done and thus we can work for them while giving them good chance of living good life.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Somnath Babu has read out the manifestos of other parties. The manifesto of our party was also read out. I am pleased to note whether some other work is done or not but at least the people did start reading out the manifestos for debate. Otherwise, I remember that the manifestos have been written and some paragraphs of the manifestos have been published in the newspapers. But, now a new practices has started here. We at least do try to refute another point, that is good. What was the reason of reading out this manifesto? This Government is the coalition of many parties and allies parties have their different policies but we have formulated the National Agenda for Governance, for ruling the Government. The Government is not being run by manifesto of individual party. We have framed a National Agenda for Governance by including the points of different manifestos whether it is from Samta Party, BJP or other parties. This document presented before the country is that document which was prepared by all of us by sitting together before formation of the Government. Now, it is necessary to read one thing in it, because a new point has been put into practice in the name of secularism as to what are the different opinions of ours over some basic point. Our National Agenda for Governance say—

[English]

We are committed to establish a civilized, humane and just civil order that which does not discriminate on grounds of caste, religion, class, colour, race or sex. We will truly and genuinely uphold and practise the concept

of secularism consistent with the Indian Traditional *Sarva Panth Samadar*, equal respect for all Faiths and on the basis of equality of all. We are committed to the economic and educational development of the minorities and will take effective steps in this regard.

[Translation]

This is the policy and this is our programme. Today I am happy to note that Somnath Babu has read out this programme, but I am, therefore, reading it out because the work in which we are engaged has some concrete and time-bound programme after it and as much could be done in the period of one year and one month that was followed and three years and eleven months are left with us. This will also be completed in a proper way. I would like to tell so clearly to the entire nation, this House and all the members. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am told that these people are going to prepare an alternative within an hour. Again, I was told that they are going to prepare it in one minute. When the tricks of Bihar work, everything will be done here within one minute. We know as to how you are going to do all this with each other. This is the document of Somnath Babu's party, CPI (M).

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You spoke well. Why do you read it out?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is not that matter. We should listen and understand when you sit here after forming the Government we will sit there, you will be having this perception. Then there will be questions also. So, some record should be kept.

[English]

"The Congress (I) Government has become synonymous with the loss of public funds. The economic policies adopted by the Congress Government have been nakedly pro-rich and beneficial to big business and foreign capital. Corruption has become a way of life for the ruling Congress party in running the Administration. This deprives the common people of their legislative right as the power of money is used to convert Government policies for private gain. The Ruling party is bent upon shielding the guilty in the Bofors kickbacks case. The Congress (I) Government is losing mass support because of its economic policies, compromise with communal forces, failure to cement national unity and its rank corruptions."

[Translation]

This has happened in Calcutta from 5th to 11th. You have formulated your policy lecture, and here I present that is the document of Marxists.

[English]

"The Congress party which was increasingly worried about the investigations into corruption of its top leaders intervened and withdraw support to the Deve Gowda Government and demanded his ouster as a price for continuing support. The United Front Government fell because of the unjustified withdrawal of support by the Congress using the pretext of the interim report of the Jain Commission. The seven year 1991-97 period following IMF, World Bank prescriptions have been a period of unremitting deterioration in the living conditions of the ordinary people particularly the rural poor."

"The percentage of people living below the poverty line rose from 34.3 in 1989-90 to 39.6 in 1994-95. Sixteen per cent of the rural population have access to less than Rs. 3 per day. The real wages of agricultural labourers fell during the 1991-95 period. Per Capita availability of pulses declined from 41.6 gms. in 1991 to 34 gms. in 1996. The Congress party's continuous decline is due to its adherence to the liberalisation policy dictated by the IMF-World Bank; its record of compromise with the communal forces resulting in the alienation of minorities; and it being corroded by high level corruption."

[Translation]

This proposal of his is not old. This proposal is few months old, from fifth October to eleventh October of last month.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What did he say about the BJP? You should refer to that also.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : That's right. But you are not going to align with the B.J.P. You are coming close to them... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : To remove you from power.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you started at 19.55 hours.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : When was I allowed to speak?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is true, but I am helpless. Five more Ministers, two former Prime Ministers and other Members have also to participate.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I will not take much time.

[Translation]

I do not want to address the Congress Party further ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : His time is up. I should be allowed to speak for the remaining time. Their strength is equal to ours. This will not do. You are being unjust.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You have spoken for long now sit down. You have taken more than one hour...*(Interruptions)* You are going on and on.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I will not take much time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Be quiet. Every one will get a chance. Five Ministers are still left.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I will finish my speech in a few minutes time.

[Translation]

They have been holding talks for several days with Congress Party for establishing relations. And the leader of his Party is renowned for such things. I wanted to place before the House some facts, relating to all this. But I will not seek time for that. I want to welcome the decision taken by the D.M.K. for two reasons. Our relations with the D.M.K. is very old. During the emergency, Shri Karunanidhi had helped us. As long as we are alive, we will not forget it. He provided me shelter in his state. He helped our movement a lot at that time. And he had to pay the price. His Government was dismissed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : He is not like you. He is grateful to us. You are ungrateful.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I had referred to two things. The second thing is that we were greatly perturbed by his act of monitoring friendly relations with Congress Party. We were perturbed because of the thinking of this Party towards the D.M.K. which was very wrong. In their 1998 election manifesto, regarding the D.M.K., they said:

[English]

"Without the support and assistance the LTTE received from the DMK led Government and a section

of the DMK leadership, Rajiv Gandhi could not have been killed."

[Translation]

During the past few days we saw that attempts were made to come close to that party. But this has been your opinion about that party. You even tried to topple their Government. But I am happy that they have been able to detach themselves from that party, which wants to seek their help to further their interests but also try to always put them in the dock. We are happy that due to this attempt of yours, we as well as you have succeeded in removing one problem to a certain extent. Some matters are related to national security and my Ministry. First, I would like to say that I felt saddened by the comments specially of the Communists, regarding the Agni test, two-three days back, which should not have been made. We respect, Shri Jyoti Basu a lot...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I want to seek a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, are you yielding?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am not yielding. Sir, you reminded me of my time. I am sure that 50 per cent of my time has been taken by this kind of interruptions. I have not been allowed to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, you do not ask him to quote the rule. Whereas in our case you do so....*(Interruptions)* This is not right*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is seeking some clarification.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I want to seek a clarification. In the leaders meeting where the hon. Speaker was in the Chair, it was decided that the voting would take place tomorrow at 12 o'clock. That means the hon. Prime Minister will reply tomorrow at 11 o'clock. I understand that there are a number of speakers from various parties. There are two more speakers from my party also. I would like to submit that we should adhere to some time limit. Or else are you deciding that we will sit beyond 12 o'clock into the night? Sir, I want your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In the morning, the hon. Speaker mentioned here that since at 11 o'clock the Prime Minister will be replying and the voting will take place at

12 noon, we will be sitting and exhausting the list. Now, I do not know whether it is beyond 12 or not. I request the hon. Members to cooperate because most of the time is wasted due to interruptions. Therefore, I think we will be in a position to complete the list provided we hear each other peacefully.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, the problem is that the small parties will not get time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can assure you that you will get time.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I felt very perturbed when Shri Jyoti Basu commented on the Agni test. He tried to belittle the national achievement, related to the nation's security, by terming it as a political stunt and that it as ridiculous. I am having two-three month old report of parliamentary Standing Committee. I would like to read out one paragraph of that report.

[English]

"The Committee welcome the clearnace of the extended range version of AGNI missile system by the Government. Pakistan continues its missile development programme which is primarily aimed against India. Recently, after the nuclear explosions carried out by India and Pakistan, Pakistan even reportedly claimed to have had their missiles targeted at Indian sites. China has also developed a large number of missile systems which can target any part of our country against which we have no credible missile deterrent.

The Committee are of the view that the Government should go ahead full steam in a time-bound manner to develop full range of missiles in addition to the variants to AGNI currently under development as a deterrent to potential enemies from using their ballistic missile capability against any of our assets."

[Translation]

It is the recommendation of the Parliament. It was the experience which was referred by the Parliament and it envisaged the security of the nation. This type of statement was not expected. A debate has taken place here regarding my interview that appeared in television and the newspaper on the issue of remove of Naval Chief. My hon. colleague Shri Purno A. Sangma is not here and he said, the Defence Minister has gone on the defensive. I have been silent for three months. I know that the affidavit he submitted was the matter of talk all over the nation. We kept mum for 3 months. The newspapers had given extensive coverage yet we kept mum. We did not speak

even a single word till three months. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha had convened a meeting here. A decision was taken in that meeting that we would discuss about the charges, which have levelled against us. We were prepared for that discussion. Then again three meetings were held in the conference hall next to the room of the Speaker. I said it there also. But several Members opined that discussion should be held in the second part of the Budget session. Whatever charges are appearing in the newspapers, I do not have any objection, because I can clarify in this regard at any place or any time. But the Ministry of Defence and the hon. Defence Minister have been facing a challenge their honesty, intention and integrity are being questioned. It will be necessary for me to reply because doubts are arising in the mind of the jawans and the officers of the Army, the Air Force and the Naval Force of India deployed on the frontiers of the country. The leaders had told in the presence of the Honourable Speaker there that I might break the silence and I could say whatever I wanted to express. I waited after that permission also. I became when I saw the people have not been preventing these things publically. But It has been told here by raising hands that I went with the file to meet the General secretary of the A.D.M.K.

Every body knows that I went there with empty hands. An appointment was fixed at the Taj Hotel. A decision was taken in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs and the members of committee to remove their doubts. So I went to meet the General Secretary of A.D.M.K. If I would not have gone there then I would have been criticised that I did not go there after even after making such a promise. Different statements were made when I went there. The most embarrassing thing on my past is that I went there with empty hand and came back in the same way. When the newspersons and the T.V. reporters asked me about file. I told them that I came empty hand. Again they asked about file when I was coming back and I told them that I am not a magician. I did not brought the file but it was discussed in the House. It is going on in the country.

I have never parried debate. I invite discussion because I do not feel necessary to defence myself regarding any decisions which have been taken by me in any matter of the Ministry of Defence but I am ready to present the facts anywhere you like. I am not an escapist and I did not fled away to avoid any crisis. If you want to know the reason for remove of the Navy Chief then discussion must be held in such a way that confidential matters need not be disclosed publically. The Discussion should take place in front of such type of persons who know about security matters. The nation will face trouble if we disclose everything publically. So, I, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs had expressed such views to the hon. Speaker of the House. The Speaker of Lok Sabha knows it that hardly 25% questions regarding the

[Shri George Fernandes]

members of the Ministry of Defence are accepted and only written replies are given. It is referred to the Speaker, Lok Sabha and requested that the member who has raised the question should be replied to in person such a simple question poses such problems, whereas as this one is related to the security of the nation. A discussion must be held on nation's security even if it will a bit harmful. T-90 T-72 have not been purchased and thousands of crores of rupees have been invested for trial of three tanks which will be brought from Russia and will be trialed in next two months. It have been reported in newspapers about are meeting at every level that deals of thousands of crores of rupees has taken. We did not go there for the deal. T-72 and T-90 are the choice of the then Prime Minister and the Defence Minister. Military officers had gone there to testify the tanks and before we assumed charge. Today a discussion was going on here and an honourable Member, Shri Shivshankar Ji, had initiated it. The question was as to who was the host of the Prime Minister when he visited Andaman Nicobar. Harendra Singh who was the Commander of the Forth Time was the host of the Prime Minister because the Prime Minister is not only the Chairman of security committee also the Prime Minister of the country. So it was the duty of Striped Service to receive him. I have been brought into the dock of the House for witness of that matter. When I replied their query then they said that why had I gone public.

Again he said another thing. The Prime Minister has proved their statements wrong.(Interruptions) No, it was not the issue of Pokharan. There was other matter. Mr. Deputy- Speaker, Sir two views have been expressed during the discussion of the House. It has been proved here as to how have they were wrong? It has been clarified here. I have been sent the comment to all members regarding the persons concerned made by his superior dated October 30, 1990. So I feel embarrassing. It is written no page no four.

[English]

In fact, his immediate superior Vice Admiral S. Jain, FOC-in-C Western Command, had this to say about Rear Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat (in his letter dated 30th October, 1990 addressed to the then Chief of Naval Staff). I quote :

"Bhagwat has made viciously malicious and false accusations ...is a disgruntled officer who is also mentally unbalanced. He is schizophrenic and needs psychiatric help... has developed a sinister information gathering net-work within the service and the Government for ulterior motives... have been spying on his superiors, subordinates and peers... has not hesitated to tap telephones... has rifled through desks of others."

It was in 1990, the Flag Officer Commanding the Western Command. Vice Admiral Jain had written to his superior.

[Translation]

Who made him such an officer? There are two persons behind it, and they are sitting in the House. But I am not going to discuss that matter. I am presenting the opinion of his superior officer, who had expressed his view against him. The facts must be discussed here and facts must be revealed here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What about the J.P.C.?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : For whom J.P.C. should be constituted? You are reiterating the name of J.P.C. If you have courage then you level the allegations, otherwise do not speak about J.P.C. Why the entire military should suffer if some body has committed a mistake. Why J.P.C. needs to be constituted. You make allegations against me, either you or any member or any five members may do so that they have proof or affidavit against me seeking clarification in this regard. Just now we have talked about a poster and you have not accepted it and changes have been imposed on me. You are bearing the responsibility of such a person who imposes allegations against me. So I am ready to go to the court instead of the J.P.C.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I and Devegowda had appointed him. What is wrong in it? Tell me please.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I do not have any type of objection to your decisions. The Ministry has proceeded on the basis your decisions. It is not only your decision but it is decision of the principal secretary, the Defence Secretary and the Cabinet Secretary and Chief of three forces. I should bring the documents here? I do not understand why the security matters are being revealed in this manner everywhere. The Leader of Opposition knows these things very well because he was also the Defence Minister. Mulayam Singh Ji also knows it. Three ex-Prime Ministers are present here. They knows all these issues very well.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : A spate of sensitive papers are released to the media from various sources. You read everyday a particular newspaper, you will find something from the Defence Ministry. How has it reached the *Pioneer*?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Defence Ministry's papers have also been hijacked.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Then, you are incompetent ...*(Interruptions)* You are not competent to continue ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The former Naval Chief has been distributing the papers. The minutes of the meetings have taken away. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Minister is responsible for that. He should tender his resignation. Who is responsible for that?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The assertion of the Defence Minister that some papers were hijacked from the Ministry of Defence is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Defence Minister has said that some information was hijacked from the Defence Ministry. What was he doing? Who is responsible for that ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I want to express my opinion. Why are you interrupting me? I want to know from you whether it was appropriate to pass the decisions taken by the Ministry to the Navy Chief. But the Navy Chief had been releasing such papers daily. I said that ...*(Interruptions)*

I want to say that those persons who are guided by him should learn the truth...*(Interruptions)*...Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words. I conclude herewith.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am on a point of order?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under what rule are you raising the point of order?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Defence Minister has said that some information has been hijacked. He should tell the House as to who is responsible for that. The Defence Minister owes an explanation to the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (AKBARPUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a debate is going on the Confidence Motion moved by the present Government. I have gone through the opinions of the Treasury benches and also of the Leader of the Opposition Shri Sharad Pawar and leaders of other parties. In the debate which has been

continuing since yesterday, I have not found any genuine interest towards the Bahujan Samaj on either side.

In the interest of the Bahujan Samaj, I could not find anyone's genuine interest whether they are treasury benches or Opposition-side. You are ignoring the Bahujan Samaj, who are a vast society by way of populace. Them, we call as Scheduled Castes, Tribes, Backward Classes and the religious minority classes like Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Parsis and Buddhists. And, I did neither find Treasury Benches nor the opposition serious in their approach towards the Bahujan Samaj. I want to apprise the House of the situation that, when the two ministers belonging to Jayalalithaji's party resigned, it resulted in a hot political scenario. The Press, mediemen and electronic media people are rushing to leaders of every party and want to know their strategies. They kept on meeting us also by and by tried their best to solicit us to speak our strategy. They also tried to know as to what would be our parties stand if the Government came under the minority situation and also that if the Government faced no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition parties. We had already made it clear even before the presentation of the vote of confidence that the Bahujan Samaj Party would not like to disclose its strategy in advance, but I make it sure that if any such opportunity comes, whether it is a vote of confidence from the Government's side or a no-confidence motion from the Opposition side, we would decide everything only after considering Bahujan Samaj's interests on priority. We would declare our strategy only on the floor of the House. What will Bahujan Samaj Party's strategy on the vote of confidence be, before signalling it I want to tell you that the Treasury Benches were in hope that the BSP would favour them at the crucial juncture and so did hope the Opposition; and yet they are hoping that the BSP will go opposing the vote of confidence, whereas we have not disclosed our strategy. So, before disclosing, our strategy, I want to make it clear the Treasury Benches and the Opposition that what we decide, we are going to do it only after considering Bahujan Samaj's concerns;

22.00 hrs.

as I have already said. If we look at the Bhartiya Janta Party, then we find that its Government is at the Centre with the help of their allies or even if they run their own Governments in whatsoever regions; still what could they do to favour the B.S.P.s interests; I would deem it urgent to say it before disclosing our strategy.

In the largest State of the country, Uttar Pradesh, we were given opportunities to form a Government twice and on both occasions, we administered keeping in view the principles of our Party and interests of the Bahujan Samaj. In Uttar Pradesh, whether it was in 1995 or 1997 or on occasion of alliance with BJP, we had made it clear to the leaders of the Bhartiya Janta Party before forming the

[Kumari Mayawati]

Government that we would be running the Government while sticking to our principles and interests of the Bahujan Samaj. How we found a chance to form a Government in 1995, and under what circumstances, both the Ruling side and the Opposition know well about it. Why we took back support from the Samajvadi Party in 1995? On the eve of coming into alliance with B.S.P. and also while forming the Government, the Samajvadi Party's leader Shri Mulayam Singh promised the National President of the Bahujan Samaj Party Shri Kanshi Ramji that he shall bring justice to the people of Bahujan Samaj in his rule and avert any type of atrocities against them. We expressed faith in the words of the national leader of Samajvadi Party and fought the election allied. And handed over the chair of Uttar Pradesh to him keeping our promise. It was a coalition Government and we happily gave a chance to the Samajvadi Party to rule for 18 months. But during that 18 months rule, the Bahujan Samaj got nothing except injustice and atrocities. When we withdrew support in June 1995, the Government of Samajvadi Party came to minority. They should have submitted their resignation on moral grounds then. Shri Moti Lal Vora was the Governor of Uttar Pradesh at that time. When we withdrew support in the same letter we mentioned the number of parties supporting us and also our total strength in the House. When we handed that letter over to Moti Lal Vora detailing our taking back support and also the number of parties supporting us, we had full majority at that juncture. Shri Moti Lal Vora should have sworn us to the Chief Minister's chair immediately at that time.

But Shri Moti Lal Vora, who has been a Congressman since beginning, and the Congress party itself pretends to be a very big well-wisher of the Dalits. Congress ruled at the Centre and other regions for a long time after the Independence. During that long ruling period, it did not give anything to the people of Bahujan Samaj except assurances. When the daughter of a Dalit was about to get an opportunity becoming a Chief Minister, it did not look good to Congress that as to how a Dalit's daughter can become the Chief Minister of the largest State of the country, Uttar Pradesh. We withdrew our support on First of June. We should have been invited to take oath, but Shri Moti Lal Vora took sides with the Samajvadi Party and did not call us for taking oath, while we withdrew our support on 1 June, 1995. On 2 June 1995, the fatal attack, which was staged by the Samajvadi Party having collected all the select hooligans and mafia-persons to kill me, will go in the black page of History. At that time also, the governor of Uttar Pradesh was directly in touch with the situation all the time, but still he did not feel any need to call Mayawati to swear her in as Chief Minister. He provided every opportunity to the Samajvadi Party leader to kidnap as many MLAs of Bahujan Samaj Party as possible, and also to bribe them. When this conspiracy came to surface, Moti Lal Vora was terribly worried. Congress Party was ruling at the Centre at that moment

and Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee was the Leader of the opposition. When all the opposition parties trapped Congress at the centre as this issue, then Delhi issued instructions. And when? When from the every corner of Uttar Pradesh, under supervision of Congress and Moti Lal Vora, they conspired of murdering me with hands-in-hands with Samajvadi Party. Because Mulayam Singhji's Government was a minority Government at that time and Motilal Vora was responsible to take necessary steps, but he always favoured Samajvadi Party. When they failed and this issue was taken up at the centre then they had to invite me to take oath with a very heavy-heart we deem Congress as a 'Manuvadi' Party. Similarly, as we deem Bhartiya Janta Party as a 'Manuvadi' Party. We formed Government in 1995 but Congress could not digest it. Then the Congress was in power at the Centre. Our brother Rajesh Pilot was Home Minister then. He is sitting here. Dalit and Backward classes were annoyed with the Congress and so was the Muslim Society. In Uttar Pradesh Babri Mosque was demolished under Congress's nose. With hands-in-hand with BJP and having a conspiracy, Congress demolished Muslim's Babri Mosque, everyone knows it. Congress was in power at the centre and BJP in Uttar Pradesh at that time. When the conspiracy to demolish Muslims Babri Mosque was on with full preparations, the central Government was repeatedly told from all sides that if they did not decide to impose President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh, the Babri Mosque was sure to be demolish. But the Congress Party kept silent. They conspired of it with the help of BJP and the President's Rule was imposed afterwards. I want to repeat once again that BJP and Congress both are responsible for the demolition of Muslim's Babri Mosque. What you had asked me, I have given its reply. Now, have a look on R.P.I. In Maharashtra some of the candidates of this party's were elected after alliance with the Congress.

[English]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (CHIMUR) : Please do not mislead the House.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Alright, I know the nature of your alliance. I want to tell you that after that, the country faced communal conflict and the people lost their lives and properties at large.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kumari Mayawati has accepted your point, what do you have to say now?

KUMARI MAYAWATI : I want to clarify that the Congress Party itself demolished the Muslim's Babri Mosque in conspiracy with BJP. All the Muslims of the country were against BJP and Congress after this. When I resumed as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1995,

Congress was in power at the Centre. It was in search of such an opportunity to be used to wash its hands off this stigma of its involvement in the destruction of Babri Mosque. When the issue of Mathura's Idgah was raised in 1995, I was running the Government with the help of BJP and its allies. They tried that the manner in which the Muslim's Babri Mosque was demolished in Ayodhya, likewise the Krishna temple be constructed at the place where Idgah Mosque located. When I came to know their plans, I explained them in clear words that we could bear to lose our Government even on the same day, but would not allow that demolition. We appointed the best and competent officers from every corner of Uttar Pradesh to prevent BJP and its allies from implementing their plans and stopped them three kilometres away from the Idgah Mosque. The Congress Party was playing some new trick at the Centre then. Shri Rajesh Pilot was the State Home Minister then. He was anticipating some danger in Mathura. Was the Chief Minister not expected to know about that? He could manage to visit Mathura without my permission, but he intended to go there by a helicopter and create some problem himself, so that he could blame my Government with the charges of failure in saving the Idgah Mosque. He visited in a helicopter three or four times and created a provocative and tense atmosphere. He wanted to prove by way of demolition of the Idgah Mosque under their conspiracy, and to misguide the people of Scheduled Caste by quoting our inability and our belonging to reserve quota. He would say that how came they elect reserve quota people as a Chief Minister and that these people were not able enough to rule. And on the other side, you would have proclaimed of saving the Mosque on your own. You wanted to kill two birds with the single stone, but we realised your conspiracy and ill-intentions and took stern action in supervising the centre to avert it from the same conspiracy they planned with help of BJP, and demolished Muslim's Babri Mosque in Ayodhya. And they wanted to encash the situation to clear the stigma of Babri demolition and for victimising the Bahujan Samaj Party for the Mathura Conspiracy. As far as 1997 is concerned, we formed our Government in that year also, but we fought the election in alliance with Congress. I do not go in details, but when we formed the coalition Government with BJP under my 6 months long leadership. We took a good many decisions in the interest of Bahujan Samaj. We paid rich tributes to the great men, who fought for social change in this country and gave messages of humanity and peace. But when we handed over the reins to the BJP after six-months, they did everything against Bahujan Samaj's interests. The decisions we had taken in Bahujan Samaj's favour, BJP's Government started altering them one-by-one then we took back support from BJP, considering the interests of Bahujan Samaj. What I want to tell you, is that we sacrificed our Government to save the interests of the Bahujan Samaj. I want to tell Shri Sharad Pawarji, the Leader of Opposition, who is now leaving the House, he should listen to me. I want to tell him that when we sacrificed our

Government to save the interests of the Dalits, Backward classes and minorities ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I suppose you are going to support.

SHRI RAM NAIK : They extend support only when they intend to join....*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAYAWATI : You should go only after listening to me. Sharad Pawarji, who always preter...s to favour Dalits, backwards and minorities, he was exposed of his fake sympathies to Dalits, on the Bihar issue. In Bihar the people of Scheduled Castes community were killed at large scale and when the matter of imposition of President's Rule in Bihar on this issue was raised, then what policy Congress adopted; this House knows it, every party knows it. Today, Shri Shiv Shankarji was speaking from their side. He was telling that they had told the RJD Leaders to let their Chief Minister step down on moral grounds if they had failed to capture the killers and culprits; but you are accentuating it only now, when you feel that the Dalit in Bihar is escaping from your net. That is why you are speaking today. I would like to ask you where your political stance was when you were demanding the resignation of Bihar's Chief Minister on moral ground. If she did not fill her morality, tendering resignation from Chief Ministership, you should have taken on your responsibilities to the oppressed at least by supporting the proposal which was to be put up in Rajya Sabha regarding imposition of President rule in Bihar. But you refused to do so at that time and now you are talking of the interests of the oppressed. So, I want to tell you that in the wake of independence our people have already experienced Congress rule for a long time. As long as Congress had been in power at the centre as well as at the States for two consecutive terms, the people of Bahujan Samaj went on all apparitions and being led astray by undesirable diminished politics of Congress making nothing but sheer assurances for them. Along with Congress other parties, too, should remember the things when Bahujan Samaj, perceived your, self designed intentions and perceptions in the long run, they went away from you. So, it is a warning to Bharatiya Janta Party that if the people coming from Bahujan Samaj did never excuse Congress, never forgive those credited to making so called Third front, you, too will not be spared by the rage of their displeasure if your policy goes against their interests. The oppressed and down trodden class of social fabrics will not be in position to excuse you after all. I would like to dispel a misconception first followed by disclosing the strateging of our party in the House. Over the last four or five days through electronic or print medias; rumour has it on wider publicity aimed at spoiling the credibility of Bahujan Samaj Party on large scale that we have to all intents and purposes to succeed to power in

[Kumari Mayawati]

Uttar Pradesh in return of casting mere five votes in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party are sitting there. They themselves, from top to bottom ones, can tell us whether we have ever talked to them anything in this regard. Whether we have ever said we will give them five votes only then if they shift B.S.P. in Uttar Pradesh in place of Kalyan Singh Government. We had never imposed a condition like that. At the same time we wish to make it clear that we have no objection to Kalyan Singh Government. Shri Kalyan Singh is making our task easy. He is working for us by weakening himself the Uttar Pradesh's Bharatiya Janata Party Unit. We will never wish to shift him otherwise. If he continues just for a few days, we will get advantage of it. If Kalyan Singh stays at Uttar Pradesh uninterrupted till the elections, it will heighten the splendour to us. We need not have to do much efforts to impoverish the Bharatiya Janata Party. Whenever elections take place in Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kalyan Singh will be the sole reason of handing over the power to us; he will be the person responsible to get his Party out of power.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the situation of law and order is very poor in Uttar Pradesh. Atrocities and surplus oppressive measures are being committed on the oppressed and downtrodden. No class of the society is left untouched with this wrongful acts. We are not in distress to do leadership-change in Uttar Pradesh. It does not matter to us. Whether you change leadership or not there. If you do not do so. It would be highly appreciated to us. It would be in our great interest. So I want to make it clear in the House on this occasion because media persons were spraying queries for a few days whether we would vote in favour or against the vote of confidence. Briefing newspapers of electronic or print medias we have already said it that whatever decisions we will take will be abided by the interests of Bahujan Samaj people. In the wake of independence so many parties like Congress, Third Front and Bharatiya Janata Party had been in power for ages notwithstanding the interests of the oppressed, backward and downtrodden could not be kept intact during those rule. That is why no party seems to me in favour of Bahujan Samaj. Seeing this Bahujan Samaj Party has decided to vote neither in favour of vote of confidence nor against of it. For us the two Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party—do not differ from each other. One is 'Nagnath' and another is 'Sanpnath'. No one of the two parties are well wishers of Bahujan Samaj. Therefore we are not going to make our votes useless. Your intentions are not clear to Bahujan Samaj. We will go neither in favour of vote of confidence nor against of it, our party was decided to abstain from voting.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today's debates witnessed every kind of discussions. In fact, I have been doubtful about the discussions right from the beginning. I do not know why the debate is

going on. As I have already said and again. I am sorry to say why His Excellency Mr. President has allowed this debate—this is too, beyond my understanding. The Budget Session of the Parliament was going on and was no hurry to topple down the Government. It could be done later, if necessary. The leader of opposition had visited the President. Had I been there, I would, too, visit him. I do not worry about the waste of time of the House but what a new convention or tradition being established is somewhat worth worrying. On the one hand we are talking of dignity and strengthening the moral values of democratic norms and decency while on the other we are repeating the same omission as convention which was committed at times earlier in the past by mistake. Once or twice if happened earlier and again it is happening, and I do not know what would be thereafter but it is a matter of great sorrow that unfortunately in today's debate some issues, were raised which should have been avoided. If the discussion, as I had already stated in the House, is necessary, it should be in a limited way on the matters of Defence affairs. I am not in agreeing with this Government—this thing not am I saying right now but always keep on doing it. The Prime Minister pointed out today that some times he agrees with us. Earlier we used to often agree with each other. At this time we both have contradictory views, occasionally we reach a common view. Contradiction exists not for individual reasons but for being a basic difference in opinions. There is a clear-cut contradiction between ours and his conception—Although I do not agree with our friend George Fernandes at all, I said without any prior meeting or asking him anything, when the statement was made with regards to security affairs, that there would be no responsible act, in my opinion, to deliver any remark against Defence Ministry in this debate especially by those ones who have certain amount of understanding about security matters, running the Government, Parliamentary convention or its future course of action. I do not mean to point at an individual but at those incumbents who have held high official positions, played their responsibilities in this regard and have knowledge of Defence Ministry. They should discuss among themselves for what reasons an Army official was dismissed. In this case you constitute any committee or allow any debate on such dismissal, it seems to me that we are not going to carry on our national duty. If any injustice is supposed to be in it., if could be sorted out by talking with Defence Minister or Prime Minister. I do assume that there may be some sorts of shortcomings or weaknesses in it. I never tried to know why and for what allegations that person was sacked. If an army personnel once is sacked, what convention follows in this regard, Shri Shivraj Patil Ji, Devegowda Ji, Mulayam Singh Ji and our friend Sharad Pawar Ji know it. Wasn't it a proper way for him to visit the President, either he or his family member appeal to him regarding his dismissal. If he goes to the media, It was the reason alone that he should have been dismissed from his office. We have

witnessed so many debates all over the world but never seen like this. If any dispute occurs between the Defence Minister and the army personnel, we criticise the Defence Minister in media.

It is true that the Defence Minister restrained himself in this regard. Debates went on discussions kept on but George Fernandes, contrary to his nature, remained silent. When a meeting chaired by the Speaker was being held for constituting a committee, he requested me to become the chairman of the committee. Our friend Sharad Pawar was objected it because he may have got some information that Chandra Shekhar has different views about it. So such Chairman would spoil the game.

Sharad Pawar Ji. I would like to make you clear that I have experienced a lot in my life and it is not my desire at all to become Chairman of any committee. You also know my views about holding higher posts. So, before I feel somewhat awkward, I said to the Chairman and Speaker of-Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha respectively-that I do not want to become chairman of the committee since, I have already said in the Lok Sabha, such an investigating is not proper and against the Parliamentary convention. However, debate will go on. Just now our friends were speaking loudly perhaps with the intention that each statement made by an army personnel is true while the same one by the Defence Minister assumed to be false. We wish to proceed this entire discussion. Even today I would like to say it firmly that it would not be appropriate to constitute any committee or undertake any debate in this regard. At that time I said that Shri Shiv Shankar, Prof. Kurien, Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Pranav Mukherjee, and Shri Manmohan Singh know about defence matters. I also said that five members Shri Gujral, Shri Deve Gowda, Shri Mulayam Singh and the Defence Minister with other 9-10 members may look into this matter and which matters not debatable may be kept secret while the rest of the matters may be taken up for discussion. But on the last day an affidavit was put up and naturally George Fernandes got annoyed. Anybody would get angry upon it. That day he said that the debate should be undertaken and the same day it was decided that if the debate is not possible right now, he is free to answer the questions. Therefore, now the question to be raised that the Defence Minister speak out through the print and electronic media seems to be ridiculous. Over the last three months the opposition has always been speaking against Shri George Fernandes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Gupta Ji too, were there.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Sorry, Shri Chatterjee and Gupta Ji were also there. I forget one or two names.

On the one hand there is discussion, different state-

ments are given in newspapers, affidavits distributed and interviews are given on electronic media while on the other hand the Defence Minister asked to keep silence since he has to speak in the Parliament. I never said this, everybody had accepted it that they provide the authority to the Defence Minister. So, it is not proper to criticise Shri George Fernandes today. I want to say so because the entire matter is regarding that and the discussion would be held on that. But that did not take place and other matters were discussed. It has become our habit to associate each and every matter with corruption. I am against it. What impact do we like to make around the world. There is nothing in our country only corruption prevails. This practice is not good. If corruption prevails anywhere, it should be checked. If a charge-sheet filed against anybody he can be prosecuted. You were going to constitute Ethics Committee, constitute it, but it is not proper to make allegations or cast aspersions against each other? What do we like to make this Parliament? Is every Member of the House dishonest? Should we put the question about dignity of each and every member? We never think that our dignity is already degrading and why are we trying to degrade it more? I, therefore, say that if this debate is stopped here, it would be better. It is very unfortunate that I often oppose the Government's move at every step. For instance I could not agree to the steps earlier taken by our friend Dr. Murli Manohar Ji. First of all you made a valiant deed by conducting Nuclear test. In this way you tried together a lot of praise, not only you but our other friends also, stated that they were also in a position to conduct these test but unfortunately could not do that, otherwise the credit would go to them. Nobody left behind in spirit of such a rivalry. But when I took part in the debate, I made it clear that the nuclear missile is a catastrophic weapon and I strongly oppose to its production. People say it is for our defence. I said that it is not for our defence. Hon'ble Prime Minister, not only the political people but also scientists got a lot of praise; you all were highly appreciated and, you had conferred 'Bharat Ratna' overnight on a scientist.

In this way the Government of India may have displayed that now our country has nuclear bomb and prepared to fight against any power. Nobody will be able to challenge our strength. But within seven days when Pakistan conducted the tests, the voice of Government of India changed that we now intend to develop friendship with Pakistan. On the one hand we prepare for war and becoming Nuclear Power while on the other we want to develop friendship with other countries and changing our attitudes just within one month. Such a thing may be a play for children but not a strategy of matured, able and competent leadership. It is good to visit Lahore by bus. Once Lahore was part of our country and this event has been projected as 'March in the History'. Where was the history made? Suddenly a bus was sent to Lahore and the Lahore declaration was signed there. Some countries

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of the world mentioned it a very good declaration. That declaration was fully appreciated in the media but when we went to Lanka, the Pakistani started telling in SAARC that it was a commendable declaration and this declaration should be amalgated with SAARC declaration, then we started hiding our faces. That declaration was not fully amalgated with SAARC but a part of recommendation was amalgated. It is very great achievement of this Government. During the span of 50 years, Pakistan inspite of its best efforts could not make the Kashmir issue as an international issue, but this government has made it an international issue and we are watching the results of this achievement. The way Pakistan is giving statement and giving threats is really alarming. Tension has mounted between the two countries, can Agani Test be deferred for the next four days. Can their test be conducted after the conclusion of this debate. By conducting Agani Test this Government has tried to establish its supremacy. Its result is that Pakistan is adopting the same strategy which we were afraid of. Their fear has proved today. This region is once again becoming the weapons race. The cold war had stopped between Russia and U.S.A. please apologise me. I was having such sort of an apprehension. I am not such a great politician to understand the great international politics but knowingly and unknowingly we are committing a mistake to make it a battle field of International arena. Therefore I have all sorts of apprehensions. I am neither a great stalwart nor a warrior. Please apologise me. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have some fear in my mind and this is helping me to remain tensed. There are certain major powers in the world who want to reeve the entire world into one thread and make them run on their path by making them disciplined, sometimes these powers can activate in Korea, viatnam, Iraq and Yugoslavia. Whether it is not possible that they may have an eye on India. I do not want to mention the name of a particular area but there is a danger on our country and it is not good that we keep on hiding this fact by keeping the people in dark but the reality is before us.

Where we stand in the international world. You have just heard that we have a great name among the various countries of the world. Recently about 3-4 days ago I went Gujarat to unveil the statue of Morarji Desai. There I met Chandrashekhar Dharma Adhikari, a son of Dada Dharma Adhikari. He is a Chairman of that Committee which is investigating the position of the prostitution in our country and whatever he spoke in the public gathering is really a heart rendering. Not a one or two but Millions of our sisters are indulged in flesh trade. Today they are called as sex workers in our country. An organisation has been constituted in the name of sex workers. This is an achievement of the man in the cultural field.

You wish to give 33% reservation to women but have you ever thought of the plight of the poor people living in the villages. Shri Yashwant Sinha is just like my

younger brother and I have a great regard for his brain and thoughts. But, I do not understand what has happened to him. One day when I listend his speech, I was surprised.

[English]

Whatever may be the political consequences, reforms will go. Shri George Fernandes, it was your Finance Minister who was speaking.

[Translation]

I think that those people who introduced liberalisation policy had done a crime, I had said in this House earlier that whatever Shri Manmohan Singh had contemplated, was no more better than what all former Prime Ministers right from Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru to Smt. Indira Gandhi had contemplated. I do not think that Shri Rao was an extraordinary intelligant person, Shri George Fernandes had given a very encouraging speech but I would like to ask whether the Government have taken any step to change that policy? It is very easy to raise the slogan of Swadeshi but whether you have taken up any step to implement this move. You have submitted vast figures and I know that my colleague is in favour of indigenisation. Whatever is being done by the different State Govts, West Bengal is no more any exception. Today all Chief Ministers are free to take loans from other countries, World Bank and I.M.F. Indian economy is under immense pressure and this must be in the mind of Shri Yashwant Sinha even when he goes to bed. Don't take the illustration of R.B.I. all State Governments have taken huge loans and when they will not be in a position to repay the loans, then their liability will felt on the shoulders of the Central Government. Whether the Government has thought over this issue? whether you have ever stopped any Chief Minister for publishing such type of advertisement? Have you ever talked about swadeshi? Whether you have asked the public that such a big advertisement is being published? Whether the Ministry of Finance has ever asked the people to buy only home made things. Mr. Joshi what has happened to your pursuit and exertion. I used to tell you again and again "Mor Mukut cut Kashni Bhale Bane Ho Nath, Tulsi Mastak Tab Nave Jab Danush Ban Ho Hath" that bow is no more in hand. You have lost the battle. It is very easy to criticise others but the craze of power is very difficult. I know that there is no dearth of courage in you. Advaniji is a man of full of potentials, there is no lack of contemplation in Atal Bihari Vajpayee but the chair which you are occupying is very difficult to quit. It requires self-confidence, self-sacrifice and the spirit of that level. It also requires foresightedness which you do not possess. How much progress has been made in the economic sector and the number of unemployed persons has increased to

a greater fold. Mr. George Fernandes is very fond of presenting figures. He could have presented the figures since 1952 and but shut the mouths of Congressmen or the people who were in the Government but he had not presented those figures. Ever since the introduction of liberalisation policy during the last 8-9 years a number of industries have been closed, how many industries have been closed, how many public sector industries have been disinvested or being disinvested during the span of your Government. You are selling the property of 50 years and meeting the expenses. "You are raising high names and a big slogans". I have heard Shri Laloo Prasad's speech. He had mentioned that every thing can not be proved with the help of statistics...*(Interruptions)* He is incorrect to say that everything can not be proved with it. You can imagine the position of statistics in the world and I have asked the Government to assess its achievements after the introduction of liberalisation policy. Whether it is a question of raising the foreign capital or increasing the number of industries and raising the job opportunities or abolition of unemployment, our all cottage industries are being closed one by one. In our country about 40 to 50 per cent cottage industries have been closed. About 20,000 workers have been retrenched in Tata company. My colleagues must have figures with them about the closure of Industries. I do not want to raise this issue at International and national level. You want to start Swadeshi Movement and in addition to it, implement the policies of Smt. Sushma Swaraj declared on Television. Just have a glimpse of T.V. How much it is contributing the name of Swadeshi. Even in the era of Television, Umaji is an ascetic. Whether sometimes watch on that T.V. or not, is there any relationship between T.V. and Swadeshi? I understand that there is no relationship between T.V. and Swadeshi but you can impose some restrictions on the programmes being shown on T.V. I know that after signing W.T.O. we are forced to do all these things. Was it necessary to conceal the recommendations of the Law Commission at the time of passing the Patent Bill? Was it not necessary to present that report in the House? Why the changes were not incorporated in that Act? Even my colleagues of Congress Party do admit that the changes were required in that Act. So far as the money matter is concerned, there is no difference between you and them. So far as the foreign relations are concerned, S/Shri Inderjit and Somnath are not my friends. I want to say to S/Shri Mulayam Singh and Laloo Prasad that S/Shri Shiv Shankar and Rajesh Pilot are also great supporters of Swadeshi. My friend Shri Sharad Pawar is in favour of bringing the foreign capital in this country. I need not to say that a drunkard person can not give up wine at any cost though he had to embrace the death. "*Kanak Kanak se so guni Madakta Adikai, Ek Khai Baurat, Ek Pai Baurat*". The man becomes mad, when he gets gold, he becomes mad when he eats belladonna. Don't run like a mad for gold, life in very long. You must have seen many people rolling down in their life those who called themselves

Asian Tigers about 2-3 years ago, where are they now? Where is Gandhiji Slogan which we learnt from him. Therefore, Mr. Prime Minister, I am not complaining that you have done a new mistake but you have not attempted to amend those mistakes which had been done earlier. I do not want to go into those matters as to whom you have contracted and under whose pressure you are compelled to degrade the dignity of the post of P.M. As my friend has mentioned that Advaniji has tried to pacify the someone and in this process he has lost his dignity. Since you are running the administration sometime have you to take up the weapons and sometimes you have to pacify the people and sometimes have you to make them understand. If a member of our family gets mad and starts quarrelling, will we not try to pacify him. If somebody does not agree we get him agreed by his friends. The way to sort out things at our homes our the way to fire with the sons of Mother India is the way to show off courage every time. The gun did not disappear, from the minds of our Communists friends. Marx and Lenin died but they did not leave the gun. Friends gun is not the only solution to every thing. In this very country Mahatma Gandhi had made crores of people stand against the British imperialism. Advaniji, do not be afraid of criticism, make people understand if necessary but show off courage also if need be. One formulae can not work at every time that compromise be done in a submissive way. You are in the Government and sometimes the Government have to take hard decisions and those decisions have to be taken in the national interest. I have heard Shri Jaswant Ji. He said what you have to do with it. You come for "*Ooka Booka teen taduka ke liye*" Do not treat Ooka booka teen taduka as small one you forget the next of it. "*Chanda Mama Aare Aavey. Paare Aavey, Nadiay Kinare Aave, Sone Ki Katoria mein doodh bhat lene Aavey.*"

This is what Dadi Ma used to teach us. There is principle and ideal behind it. We have confidence in our natural resources. We have faith in self power, sense of owning and will power. This is the concept of swadeshi. This is the centre point of swadeshi if you understand it. Do not take the things lightly which have been uttered in the dialect. Lakuji, say serious things seriously. We weaken the dignity of the country by saying serious things lightly. This is high time to do it. I have friendship with Mr. George. I have nothing to do with Mr. George. Our friends from Congress were in anger. What will they do by getting angry? The paper just came to them which they wanted. They wanted to see that paper. *(Interruptions)* Somebody said that that paper had come. Do we want to show this off to each other? Does Parliament stand for it? Do confidence motion or no confidence motion stand for it? Does the parliament stand for this debate only? Are we for it?

Sir, I do not speak. I had no intention to speak. I am very grateful to you that you have given me permission to speak now but lest misunderstanding be had. When the

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golden jubilee of independence was celebrated, I had said, can we not forget our old mistakes for one year? Be it there any government, we should work together on the question of hunger, thirst, unemployment and education. Can we not do those works? Will we keep on quarrelling like this way daily. I therefore, had said that it would be better if that dispute was not raised but Hon'ble Prime Minister, you did not create that atmosphere. Advaniji, I would not say those things what others say but the debate that goes on daily. I do not know what Sangh Pariwar wants to say and do? Do they want to be dominant over the country by being on collision path or by pulling your leg? Does they want to bring about a new system in the country? It is a dangerous thing. If this thing is in their mind and which is out of the jurisdiction of parliamentary democracy, it is but natural to have apprehension in the minds of people. That is why this danger is seen in the minds of people. Many a thing get worsened, because we do not interact together.

Our friend, Mr. Mulayam Singh is angry with the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and that is right too. He had a word with me in the morning. I came across the Chief Minister at noon. I asked him as to why he committed such mistake? He said that he had not committed any mistake. We took steps to correct that mistake. We will correct that mistake in four days. I will say nothing in detail. I asked him to tell this thing to Mr. Mulayam Singh personally. I could not remember it. While discussing this thing came to my mind. Some times debate and talk should be held.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : He had met me in the wedding. I had talked to him.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : There are differences on economic and political question. After all we are human. We have 10% of politics in us. We are 90% away from politics. We can not build the country and do the construction work if we do not develop that ninety percent. How will we be able to build the country by having support of crores of people if we do not have cooperation amongst us? The solution to our problems is not with London, Washington, I.M.F. and world Bank. Jaswant Ji. The solution to our problems lies with the morale of our youths, the arms power of the farmers living in the streets of our villages, and the arms power of the labourers working in the factories. Come, let us equip, and unite them. Mahatma Gandhi Ji had got country liberated. Had you people not committed the biggest offence? Shiv Shankar Ji, forgive me for saying this, you had started the biggest political offence in 1991. All of us are responsible for the wreck of moral strength which was build up by Mahatma Gandhi Ji in this slave country. We had compromised with that situation. I am satisfied with one thing, that some one may or may not listen to me but I have never compromised on these things. Therefore, Advani

Ji, although I want to support you but I can not do this. This is not because of any bitterness in my heart against you. I don't know as to what extent Mr. Mulayam Singh, Lalu Prasad or my Communist friends or sitting on the otherside Mr. Sharad Pawar would be successful in this regard?

But you people always remember that you will not achieve everything simply by coming to power. Concluding I would like to recite a few lines of a Hindi poem.

"Jin hathon may shakti bhari hai rajtilak dene ki
in hathon mein hi takat hai, sir utaar lene ki.

22.56 hrs.

(SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : On behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, I rise to support the Motion of Confidence moved by the Prime Minister.

Sir, the Telugu Desam Party stands for federalism, secularism, democracy, development and social justice. Over four-and-a-half decades of Congress rule was marked by corruption, nepotism, favouritism, groupism and mal-administration. Shrimati Sonia Gandh, the All india Congress President, has a number of times dubbed the regional parties as destructive forces. The Congress Party has criticised the regional parties a number of times. I would like to say that the DMK of AIADMK are also regional parties. Why is the Congress joining hands with them? The Congress Party has declared umpteen times that the regional parties lack national perspective and are irrelevant. History has repeatedly proved Congress wrong. Since the last Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha, no Government could be formed at the Centre without the help of the regional parties. In future also coalition Governments are inevitable. In the Eleventh Lok Sabha, the Congress Party was responsible for the dismissal of two Governments at the Centre; both Shri Dave Gowda's Government and the Government headed by Shri Gujral, without their committing any fault(Inter-ruptions)

Sir, my State has suffered decades of dictatorial rule. This period was full of evil, corruption, communalism, stagnation, lawlessness, disorder and anti-peoples' policies. All this gave birth to the Telugu Desam Party. Within nine months of its formation by Shri N.T. Rama Rao, the Telugu Desam Party came to power. Anti-Congressism is in our blood, and bone marrow.... (Inter-ruptions) Our founder President NTR's dreams have been converted into deeds by our dynamic leader Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu. He has moulded the State as a model State with a smart Government which is simple, moral accountable, responsive and transparent. The

Andhra Pradesh Government extended support to the farmers who were committing suicides. This problem of suicides by the farmers was there even in Maharashtra but that State Government did not do anything. They criticised the Telugu Desam Government for this. Even today, the Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are sending teams to Andhra Pradesh to see the development works so that they can adopt the same policies and programmes in their States also.

Sir, 1996 elections were marked by a historic change. Congress was thrown out by the people. At that time, the Telugu Desam Party was a part of the United Front Government. Our Leader, Shri Chandrababu Naidu was the initiator of the United Front. A meeting place for all regional and national parties was created. Telugu Desam, being an important partner of United Front, tried to provide alternative and better system of governance based on the policies of unity, stability, secularism, development and social justice...*(Interruptions)*

23.00 Hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding .

[Translation]

Please take your seat....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, they are disturbing my speech...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (NARSAPUR) : Sir, I am on a point of order. I want to know whether a speaker can read his speech...*(Interruptions)*. You started reading. You talk about the BJP.

[Translation]

Chairman Sir : There is not any question of order.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, but this experiment was not destined to last. For the Congress, it is impossible to stay without power. From the first day, they started indulging in their favourite game of destabilisation. They created problems continuously. The Congress Party created problems everywhere. The whole country knows it. Even in this Lok Sabha, from the beginning they want to destabilize this Government. After the completion of 13 months period of BJP led coalition Government, what is the necessity to destabilize this Government? You tell me even one reason for this.

Coming to power by hook or crook is the only goal

for the Congress. They want to come back through back door after having lost the people's mandate. The elections of 1998 made BJP the largest single party and along with its alliance it was the largest single group. In tune with the people's mandate and public sentiments which favoured BJP as a ruling party and Shri Vajpayee as the Prime Minister, TDP decided to extend issue based conditional support. We have extended support to the BJP led Government on the basis of National Agenda for Governance. Our friends have decided the National Agenda. They have completed only 13 months. They have said many things in the National Agenda. You give two-three years' time to them and then you criticise them. Our Party is committed to improve the lot of weaker sections, women, youth and minorities.

Our State of Andhra Pradesh is pioneering the women welfare activities. We are taking up people's welfare programmes like Janamabhoomi programme. The Congress Party has recently announced that if they come to power they would cancel the Janamabhoomi programme. That is why, my fear is that if the Congress Party comes to power, they would cancel the Janamabhoomi programme. Now, this programme is appreciated by each and every person in the country. All the States are sending their delegations to see the progress of this programme. Even the Congress leaders like Shri Mani Shanker Aiyar has praised the activities taken up by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I noticed that the Congress is back with its favourite game of political opportunities and power grabbing without shame. It is changing colours and contradictory statements are coming from the stand of no-coalition to coalition, and only outside support to joint participation. Congress is synonymous to chaos and instability. Unless and until it gets power, it will continuously carry on the game of destabilisation. Once they come to power, they will stop destabilisation. Otherwise, it will be a continuous game of the Congress to create destabilisation of any Government. This was experienced by Shri Charan Singh, by Shri Chandrashekhar, Shri Deve Gowda and Shri Gujral. Sir, why cannot we leave politicking to election times and get down to good governance aimed at all-round development? People's suffering is so large that we just cannot afford an era of continuous politicking. It may be the Congress past time but it can cause a national tragedy. The national needs stability and stability is the need of the hour. We continue to adhere to our principle of an issue conditional support to BJP. Therefore, we whole-heartedly support the Motion of Confidence.

DR. RAVI MALLU (NAGAR KURNOOL) : The Motion of Confidence is moved by the BJP Government and not by the Telugu Desam Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Our main aim is to stop the Congress coming to power through back door method without the mandate of the people...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You don't have the permission to speak. You please take your seat. We have called Mr. Devegowda.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN) : Hon. Chairman Sir, today we are debating the Motion of Confidence moved by the hon. Prime Minister. This is the second Motion of Confidence moved by the hon. Prime Minister in the last 13 months. When he assumed the office of the Prime Minister in March, 1998, he had moved the Motion of Confidence. We had taken a stand at that time and there is no change in our stand. We took a consistent stand to oppose this Government. There was no need to make any more explanation. We know that Congress withdrew its support and we had lost our Government. I have no hesitation to say that but in 1998, when we all had combined, there was so much of internal contradictions amongst ourselves. We opposed each other. We fought with each other. Even then, we took a decision to vote against the Motion of Confidence.

I want to make myself clear while saying that there are so many types of gossips going on. Three days back, the media published that Devegowda had called all the Opposition Members for dinner and that Soniaji and Jayalalithaji were going to attend that dinner meeting. These types of gossips and blackmailing had manipulated the news item. I am sorry to say that there must to be some limit for all these things. I am sorry to say that even when I was the Prime Minister, there was an allegation against me that I met the Chief Justice of India to save some person who was facing some charges. Even after my denial, the present Finance Minister at that time made a challenge saying that he was going to prove that I met the Chief Justice of India at night 2 o'clock. These types of baseless allegations in public life are not going to help anybody. It is going to destroy the political system, political parties and political leadership. I want to make myself clear on this point before I go further.

Why do we want to oppose this Government ? Let us be very frank about it. Shri Vajpayee has been the Prime Minister of this country for the last 13 months. I am not going to say that this Government has not done any thing for the people. This Government has made certain achievements. Yesterday, the hon. Home Minister tried to list out the achievements. Naturally, the Government is bound to list out the achievements and we are here to make a critical analysis of the achievements. The Opposition is meant for that. We are not going to give certificates for the lapses committed by the Government. We are meant for making a critical analysis. What are those critical areas in respect of which we want to say that this Government should not continue in office?

Why did the Prime Minister go for a one-day hunger strike? He went and sat on a *dharna* for one day. What made him do that? Are they responsible? I would like to pose this question to them. Let the hon. Home Minister enlighten us as to what made the hon. Prime Minister go and sit on a hunger strike? What was his intention? For what mistake he has to do the *prayaschit* ? I would like to pose this question.

The hon. Prime Minister is ruling this country which is one of the largest and biggest democracies. Nearly 100 crore people are living in this country. It is one of the largest democracies in world. About that event, he says that it is a national shame. I am not going to say who has committed the national shame. The Prime Minister says it. Why should be express national shame for an event that took place either in Orissa or in Madhya Pradesh or in Gujarat? I would like to pose the straight question to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who is the Leader of the House today. Tomorrow, he may or may not be the leader. I do not know what is going to be the decision of the House. I am not going to canvass for anybody. Let me honestly speak. Let my Congress friends also realise that even though they destabilised the Government, yet they also have to share the responsibility for the situation which the country is facing today.

I would like to pose this question to the hon. Home Minister. When we were running the Government, the BJP Government was there in Gujarat. The same Shri Keshubhai Patel was the Chief Minister. Why was the *Bible* not burnt? Why were the Churches not burnt during our period? What is the reason? It is because of the fact that once they took the responsibility of running the administration, those people got the inspiration that there is a Government which is going to protect them. That is why, this type of an heinous act of attacking one community started. I am not going to them without any background.

Sir, I personally travelled 920 Kms by road in order to find out what has happened there because I do not want to believe merely the Press version, I went there. I visited one town which is a semi-urban area. On the one side, there were the Muslims and on the other side, there were the Hindus, the tribal people. One tribal was killed by stabbing by some Muslim anti-social elements. After the burial, those Hindus were going back. In our custom, while going back, they would touch water and then go home. Some boy shouted that the Muslims are coming with some weapons. The police rushed and shot the person who was inside the house, who was no more connected with these events. I went and saw for myself where the bullet was hit. The bullet hit the door, passed through his chest and hit the mirror.

This is what has happened in Gujarat. I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that when the

Home Minister of Gujarat goes to that village with a population of about 10000 to 12000, he only visits the houses of Hindus and never bothers to visit those of other persons who were killed by the police. When this is the attitude, how can we support this Government? If the Prime Minister wants to have a *prayaschit* that means, there is something wrong. Even though the Prime Minister wants an impartial administration, there are certain elements which are trying to pull his leg. Why do you only try to find faults with your own allies who have deserted you? I would like to ask this question. What has happened in Bangalore in the Executive Committee meeting of the BJP? I do not want to narrate it. I got all the cuttings as to who has said what. I do not want to go into those details.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs yesterday said, "We have appointed a Supreme Court sitting Judge?" I welcome it. But before the investigation started, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs says that one particular organisation was in no way connected with it. How do you expect an impartial inquiry if the Minister of Home Affairs himself passes a judgement even before the inquiry started? His three Cabinet Ministers go there and say that a particular organisation was not responsible. When three Cabinet Ministers give their judgement even before the investigation started by a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court, how can we allow this type of things to go on?

Sir, I would like to highlight some of the issues about the priorities of this Government. He mentioned his achievements, Pokhran-II and Agni-II. It is all right. I am not going to comment on those things. In 1998, when the Pokhran-II tests were conducted even the Opposition leaders belonging to the Congress party in both the Houses went and issued a statement. That was on 11th and 13th. The tests were conducted on two days. In fact, on the 15th, I wrote a strong letter objecting, particularly on the issue of the tests. What will be the implication? Some people have said – I do not want to name them that they were all important Prime Ministers and the potent Prime Minister has taken a decision to have the nuclear tests as if in 30 days they had manufactured the bomb. We took a decision at that time not to allow them when we were running the Government because of the economic situation. Now, I do not want to again dilate particularly on that issue. What has happened? Pakistani has also conducted two tests. They have a population of about six or seven crore. We have a population of about 100 crore but we have now come to an equal level in the eyes of the entire world. That is all what they have achieved. I do not want to go beyond that.

Yesterday, I was hearing the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance. He said, 'Do not regret afterwards'. What is there to regret, Mr. Finance Minister? How are the farmers suffering and how are the rural masses suffering

for the last one year? When you took over, the hon. Prime Minister had said that he was going to take very seriously the problem of the farmers. Several farmers have committed suicide. This was the assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister in this very same House.

I would like to ask a straight question. It is not your mistake that the farmers are committing suicides. I am not going to say that. It is the cumulative effect of the blunders we have committed in the last 50 years.

We have neglected that sector. There is not hesitation for me to say that. I would like to ask a question. Why are you regretting when you are going to lose Shri Vajpayee's Government? What is the contribution made by Shri Vajpayee in this regard? As soon as he became the Prime Minister, he constituted two high-powered committees to advise. Who are there in those committees? They are all big industrialists. How many members of those committees visited the villages? They might have gone to Switzerland to pass on the money which you are going to give. Is there a single agricultural economist in those committees to advise the hon. Prime Minister? Those two committees have formed further sub-committees and I do not want to go into the details of those sub-committees. But in those committees, how many are there to represent the farming community? You think that the people belonging to the farming community are ignorant people and they cannot function in such committees. There are some big industrialists in those committees who can improve your GDP or who can improve your economy, but agriculture is not going to improve your economy.

Sir, we have invested more than Rs. 20,000 crore of institutional financing on the steel industry. When the steel industry is suffering because of the global glut, you want to bail them out and the IDBI has agreed to give Rs. 4,000 crore to about six or seven industries. I would like to ask one question to the Finance Minister. I am not going to charge him. He said that he is not involved in the matter of advancing further assistance to bail out these steel industries.

When the farmers are suffering today and selling their onions at one rupee per kilogram and selling their tomatoes at 50 paise per kilogram, what assistance did you extend to them? What is their fate today? What action did you take to bail them out? Please tell me. Why should we support a Government which wants to help only such of those people who are very close to them?

Sir, I have got the Report of the IDBI with me. I do not want to say what Shri Mohan Guruswamy has said. I am not going to raise all those issues now. He is not a man on the street. He is the person who has enjoyed certain status in your Government and discharged certain responsibilities. He has made certain serious allegations.

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

Our Government had rejected the Maharani Power Project in Orissa. The Hinduja's pressurised our Government to give the guarantee to bear the demurrages in case there is no constant flow of coal. That is the issue. We refused to give the guarantee. We rejected it. The Finance Minister can get up and refuse it. If I am not correct, I am prepared to accept and withdraw my remarks. When I was the Prime Minister there was so much pressure on us, but we refused it. Shri Chidambaram is present here and he knows it. I do not want to go into the details now. But I can read out as to what decision you have taken on that issue particularly, because all these things have appeared in the newspapers. I do not want to waste the time of this House by going through all the allegations which he has made. The allegations are before the House.

How the money, which has been given for some of the steel industries, has been diverted? It has all been narrated here. The IDBI Report is in my hands. I do not want to go to the extent of reading the Report. For the benefit of the House, the way in which they have diverted the funds, has appeared in the newspapers. Not only that, even when they submitted the project reports, the value of the projects has been manipulated. They have mentioned here about pelletisation and all these things. One of the reports indicates that nearly \$ 280 billion worth of Indian money are in the Swiss Banks and other foreign banks.

I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister that when he took so much interest in deciding to bail out the steel industry, why has he not given at least a little help to the farming community? Please tell me about that.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Will you yield for a moment? Hon. Shri Devegowda, you are repeatedly addressing your questions to me : "Please tell me. Please tell me." I did not want to get up. I do not want to join issues with you.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : I have no objection.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Probably, you were not present in the House yesterday when I was intervening. Many of these questions have been answered by me when I was intervening in the debate.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Tell me, Sir.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. former Prime Minister, now, unfortunately, you do not remember the facts of your own tenure in office. What can I do? You are reading. I know what you are reading. We will have time to discuss all that. Who is the person you consider to be God? You are reading that. I am saying, "Please cross-

check. Please verify your facts before you make an allegation".

You were asking me what we have done for the farmers. You are talking about the steel industry. I do not know what the IDBI has given.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : The report of the IDBI is here.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, it is not a function of the Ministry of Finance to decide what the financial institutions will do and what loans they will give. Shri Chidambaram is sitting here. Let him challenge me if he wants. Did he decide as the Minister of Finance what loans will be given by the banks and the financial institutions? What bailout package will be given? What will be given? They are autonomous within their jurisdiction and they decide. The Minister of Finance or the Ministry of Finance does not interfere. I have not interfered with that decision. Let me make it very-very clear.

You wanted to know how much we have given to the farmers. Yesterday and in the Budget speech, I have said that in 1997-98. If Rs. 31,000 crore were given as loans by the institutions and the banks to the agriculture sector, in 1998-99, it has gone up to Rs. 30,000 crore—a 20 per cent increase. This is what we have done for agriculture, Mr. former Prime Minister.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : For industries, you have given more than Rs. 98,000 crore, Sixty-five crore people are agriculturists. You are telling that you have given Rs. 38,000 crore. I do not want to argue on this issue. You have mentioned that you have done a lot for the agriculturists. For fertilisers, there was zero import duty. You have increased it. Now, you have levied five per cent import duty on fertilisers. That is the major help you have rendered.

Regarding the subsidy on sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation, what we decided and what you have given has been scaled down.

For the small tractors, they have removed the subsidy that we had given. I would like to inform you that in the irrigation the allocation has been reduced. Even on the rural development, the allocation has been reduced. I do not want now to quote the figures. But if the hon. Finance Minister wants, I can read them out from his own Budget.

Sir, I would like to tell you that the agriculturists are the worst sufferers today. They have been treated in a shabby manner. About Rs. 42,000 crore are non-performance assets. This has been mentioned by the hon. Finance Minister and by the hon. Prime Minister. It is due to the institutions which are autonomous, as he has rightly

put it, or the banks. They have classified this amount of Rs. 42,000 crore as non-performance assets. It may be accumulative and it may not be in one year. I agree with him. But those people, the autonomous financial institutions are lending further advances to bailout those industries.

But in the case of farmers what are they doing? Suppose, if he is going to become a defaulter, all coercive steps are going to be taken to recover the money. In this country, why the farmers commit suicide? What is the reason? Because he cannot tolerate that humiliation. It can be either a private money lender or a banking institutions or a cooperative bank or the commercial bank, but this is the fate of the farmers today.

I am totally convinced on this matter that this is not a farmers' Government. This is a traders' Government. There is no hesitation for me to tell this. The hon. Finance Minister is willing to allow a discussion on some of the charges made by a former Advisor to him. That is there, if this Government is going to survive tomorrow. As the promise was made by the Government to allow a discussion on the allegations made by Shri Mohan Guruswamy, let the matter be taken up for discussion under Rule 193 in this House.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is already under discussion and three Members have already spoken.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : No, I said, if the Government survives then we would take up.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The discussion is already on under Rule 193. It will even survive the Government and we will have a discussion whoever is in power. We insist on that because I want to clear the position of the Government.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Whether it is going to survive or not it is for the Speaker to tell him, if I am correct. Whatever motions have been moved and if the Government changes, the changed Government has to give its own acceptance. I do not want to go into the aspect whether the Government is going to remain or going to be changed. It is for the House to decide tomorrow.

Sir, why I am mentioning all these things is that in the last one year, how on one side the farming community has been treated and on the other side the industry, that too specifically the steel industry, has been given all encouragement by the Government. The hon. Finance Minister says that they had not interfered. Then how the price for the steel has been affected?

The hon. Member, Shri Chidambaram had quoted by a.d.o. or a notification the other day. It has been just

mentioned by him. The hon. Finance Minister had said that 'only the Commerce Ministry and the Steel Minister were responsible and I am in on way connected with that. 247 dollars or 384 dollars were the floor price or the Preference price which has been fixed by the Commerce Ministry and the Steel Ministry and not by the Finance Ministry, and I am in no way connected.'

This is what your good-self has said. I would like to ask from the Minister as to what made the Government now to revise it from 382 dollars to 260 dollars. In the last three or four months, the profit has been made by some of these hot coil roll mills. What is the deal? That matter should be considered by the House. Why do you want to help the steel industry? When you had fixed 302 dollars as the floor price, why have you all of a sudden in three months reversed it back? So, there must be some reason which should be accepted by the House. I do not want to go into that now. The time is the essence now.

Now, I now want to deal with T-90 tanks. The hon. Raksha Mantri mentioned about T-90 tanks and also about Vishnu Bhagwat issue. Sir, he has circulated a book, 'Government of India, Ministry of Defence'. Part-I deals with Vishnu Bhagwat issue. Part II has been reserved for T-90 tanks. Now, he tried to print in this book, which has been circulated to all the Members of the House, only one letter which I have written to the Prime Minister on the 8th November. It was very convenient for him and that is why, he has printed that letter, where certain typographical errors were there. On the 10th November, within two days, I wrote another letter making the correction.

Sir, I would like to just bring to the notice of this august House that these are the letters which I have written to the hon. Prime Minister and the Defence Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman Sir, there are 20 more speakers to participate in this debate. Please fix the time limit...*(Interruptions)*

• SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Sir, this is a serious matter. Please allow me to speak. Otherwise, it is going to one-sided argument, which has been advanced in this booklet circulated to all the Members.

Sir, Kindly see as to what plea the hon. Defence Minister had taken. In his reply, the Defence Minister had taken the plea that this was decided by the previous Government. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, as the Raksha Mantri, had gone to Moscow in October, 1997. In November 1997, a meeting was held in the room of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; so and so persons were present there. The Army Delegation evaluation performance of T-90 tanks was made in February 1998. The Technical Evaluation Report was given on the 25th of

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May, 1998. The visit of the Defence Secretary was made in June 1998. The Cabinet Committee on Security gave the approval in principle for the procurement of T-90 tanks on the 3rd December 1998. The date of arrival of the Russian Delegation for the Price Negotiation Committee meeting for T-90 tanks was on the 20th January 1999.

I raised this issue not because I have any interest of a particular tank. This was the issue raised by the Member of the very same House, who is also the Chairman of the Standing Committee. He wrote a letter to the Raksha Mantri on the 3rd November, 1998.

In that letter, he has categorically mentioned that T-90 tank is the state-of-the-art tank but it never came into production for reasons best known to the Russians. Therefore, the induction of these tanks cannot be done within the acceptable time frame in view of the absence of production line in Russia. To produce, the same at Avadi will not be cost effective both in money and time taken for production to commence. Moreover, T-90 has never been trial evaluated in India in summer or winter. Russia has now gone to their state-of-the art tank, 'Black Eagle', which is the tank of the future. This was written by the Chairman of the Standing Committee who is also one of the officers who served in the Defence. Shri George Fernandes is not an expert. I am not an expert. Or Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is not expert. A person who has served in the Defence has written the letter to the Defence Minister on 3rd November, 1998. I would like to again, particularly, stress one point. He says, T-72S, on the other hand, has many common features with T-72M and the production of this tank can commence without much delay. It is pertinent to clarify here that all the add-ons of T-90 can be fitted into T-72S which has a tank fire control system, latest technology, 125 mm tank gun, 1000 horse power engine, anti-tank and anti-helicopter missile, SBIR and anti-tank guided missile protective system. With all these add-ons, T-72S has virtually become as good as T-90 and the cost is about Rs. 5-6 crore, whereas T-90 is about Rs. 12-13 crore. This was the letter addressed by the Chairman of the Standing Committee.

In addition to that, there is one more letter written by Lieutenant-General Foley. What has he written? This is letter dated 6th June. The hon. Defence Minister should go through the letter which was written by a retired Army General whether we should go for T-90 or not. Yes, Shri Mulayam Singh went there somewhere in November, 1997. Yes, I have quoted the date. Subsequently, the Principal Secretary has taken the meeting. He has tried to shift the responsibility on all these things, including the initiation made by us. Who has initiated this purchase of T-90 tanks? It is the UF Government. Have they said anywhere you should not consider T-72? (*Interruptions*) No, Sir, this is the issue which I cannot avoid.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : There are 20 more speakers thereby meaning that the proceedings will continue till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : No, he has misled the House. He is very much competent to mislead the House....(*Interruptions*) I am not going to yield so far as this particular issue is concerned. He has made charges against me. Otherwise, what can I do? He has raised that issue here. He has also circulated the booklet where he has tried to shift the allegation subsequently against me.

This is his interview in the *India Today*. I am quoting the Question and the Answer.

"Q. The Opposition believes there are enough charges.

A. I presume it is because they see political possibilities in this whole thing. They do not realise the damage they are causing to the nation's security. They are questioning the integrity of officers. Forget George Fernandes: I am dispensable.

Q. What are you referring to?

A. Well, you have a Deva Gowda who wakes up one morning and says we should not buy T-90 tanks but T-72 Tanks from Russia for reasons he is yet to explain. And in doing so he questions the integrity of one of the finest officers in the Indian Army—General S.S. Mehta (who headed the army committee that recommended its purchase). If there was a situation of conflict and we had to fight in the Rajasthan desert, General Mehta would have led a corp with 1,000 tanks into action."

"If I have to make a choice between General Gowda and General Mehta"

—at least he has given me the status of a General!
Your Raksha Mantri says,

"If I have to have a choice between General Gowda and General Mehta, I won't take a second look at General Gowda. General Mehta has lived with tanks all his life. He and his men would have to fight, not Gowda's sons."

I have got the cassettes of one and a half hours marathon TV interview. I went through them for one and a half hours. He says that I went to Russia with my son and I met President Yeltsin. President Yeltsin asked me, "Gowdaji, will you take the T-72 tanks?" And Gowdaji asked President Yeltsin—he has dragged the name of the President of the other country—"Is the tank factory in your

constituency?" Now I have brought it. I have brought the TV cassette. "Is that tank factory in your constituency?", I asked Mr. Yeltsin. Then Mr. Yeltsin said, "Yes". Then I will consider. That is what Gowda replied to that!

That is according to that tape!

Is it a joke? Is it a joke by the Minister of Defence? Your Minister of Defence goes to the extent of making fun! Whom is he going to convince through the electronic media? He wants to use the electronic media because he does not want to come before the Houses. About one week back he went to the electronic media. The questions were so framed to see that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : We cannot stop it here. I am a diabetic. I waited since morning. I am not going to leave this charge which has been made against me at this stage. It is practically impossible. What for are we here?

Here is a letter written by him. He says that,

"It is sad and unfortunate that a person like him has chosen to make insinuations against senior officers like Lt. General S.S. Mehta who has an impeccable record and an unblemished integrity and professional competence. Perhaps you have not realised the amount of damage your insinuations could cause to the General officer's morale in particular and the Army in general."

By writing a letter about the simultaneous trial evaluation in Rajasthan desert, I had committed a blunder, or I had made a mistake. It is a letter which was written by the Chairman of the Standing Committee much earlier than me.

And not only that. General Foley says on the 12th June, 1998, that "the DRDO is our main, strong and obstructive impediment." He says in his letter and I will read the relevant portion:

"Pending decision, the T-72S and T-80 tanks were evaluated in 1992-93—prior evaluation—to establish the induction of either or both as a progressive step to replace All-T-55 Vijayanta and T-70 tanks, the T-72S and T-80s are NVC protected but had defects. T-80 has failed in the desert for reasons of the turbine engine. T-72 fulfilled all operational parameters."

"...and 300 were to be inducted at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crore each. The Trial Report is available with the DG Mechanised Forces. In addition, the Avadi Tank

Factory was to be upgraded for overhauling T-72 tanks to a T-72S profile for Rs. 25 crore only, as all other facilities suited upgradation. This estimated potential was delayed and still lies in limbo for reasons of bureaucratic manipulations, possibly with Arms Dealers."

This letter was written by the Army Officer, the retired Lt. General.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. There are 22 Members in the list.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : With the blessings of some of the secular forces after Vajpayee's Government was removed, I was also asked to head the Government for about 11 months. Now at least, he is given a status of a General. If I have taken the military training, I would also have become the Chief of the Army.

Shri Fernandes is a very eloquent speaker. He produced so many documents. But why has he failed to produce all the documents in this book which has been circulated to the Members? He knows how to give a distorted version. He is very capable enough in that. He has criticised the Congress. Did they not take the support of the Congress to remove Morarji Desai's Government? Was Shri George Fernandes not in that operation? Has he not taken the Congress support to remove Morarji Desai's Government? I do not want to go into all these details...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : We were opposing you at that time also, only Congress supported you.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : They have removed me, I do not care. I am not at their mercy. But here the Army Officers—one of them is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence and another is the Lt. General—have categorically mentioned about it. The Finance Minister went to the extent of explaining in the TV interview...(Interruptions) I am sorry. I have made a mistake. The Minister of Defence has written a letter to me. He said that the morale of the Army in general and the morale of that particular officer has been destroyed because of my writing this letter. Let the hon. Prime Minister, when he is going to give the reply, try to clarify the position. What exactly was the decision taken by the Government? Without evaluation where was the hurry to purchase T-90 tanks? The person who went to Moscow—Gen. S.S. Mehta—is the Chairman of the Price Negotiation

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Committee. During the last 50 years, the Chairman of the Price Negotiation Committee was a Civilian Officer. Why was that procedure changed? According to the Raksha Mantri, Gen. S.S. Mehta is one of the competent officers. Up-till today, till your Government came to power, the norms that has been adopted for purchase of any tank were the technical evaluation and the field test. If all these things are going to be cleared, then only the question of Price Negotiation Committee comes up. The Price Negotiation Committee is going to be headed by a senior officer, either by a Joint Secretary or by an Additional Secretary or by one of the senior officers in the Ministry of Defence.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Why is he changed? That particular officer was cooperating with the Ministry of Defence.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Is this how every Member is going to get the time, Sir?

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (AJMER) : He is an ex-Prime Minister and speaking on the issue of national security.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : If the dismissal of Vishnu Bhagwat is going to be discussed, it is going to further damage the security threat. From the point of view of the security aspect, we should not discuss the various issues in the House, that is the stand taken by the *Raksha Mantri*. About this officer he says that where he has written he has written a letter to have the trial evaluation of both T-72 S and T-90 Tank simultaneoulsy, that is the mistake he has committed. And now he is talking about that particular officer's integrity, competency and all those things, which are going to give credit to that officer.

He has made several charges against Vishnu Bhagwat. **Let all the documents be produced before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. He has said that if what he has said is not true, he will resign from the House. Let all these documents be produced before this House. **

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Afterall, he has been the Prime Minister.

** Expunged as ordered by the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, conclude now.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Sir, you were the Minister and Deve Gowdaji, was the Prime Minister. Please consider it. You are ringing the bell. You were a Minister of State in his cabinet. It is going to be the 12 o'clock, it is a documentary proof and Hon. Defence Minister is not present here. He left the House after his speech. We are talking of the documents and the Defence Minister is absent.

MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURALI MAHONAR JOSHI) : Enough is enough, now he is the speaker ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Has he been appointed the Speaker? He is on the panel of Chairman. Well you become the Speaker from tomorrow.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI) : Mr. Lalu's comment on the Chairman of being a Minister in Devegowda Government and thus asking for more time to Mr. Devegowda is totally out of place. This is contempt of the Chair.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, for how long are you going to allow him like this? He has the right to speak but he should be brief. This is not the way that he should take two hours...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You are Sena, he is a leader...*(Interruptions)*

24.00 hrs.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Everyone has to speak. He has got important points. We have also got important points...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Chairman Sir, he is getting impatient. He belongs to the Sena which is needed in the field, he need not speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Have you been to the border? What are you talking about?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Sir, his next allegation is ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : It is not the place where you are going to settle all your accounts when you speak.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : It is not the question of setting accounts. It is the question of telling the nation....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Mr. Chairman Sir, he is speaking on a very important issue of national security with all the facts and should be allowed to complete ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : It is being discussed under Rule 193. If his Government comes tomorrow, he should bring it for discussion. It is not a subject of discussion today....(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Hon. Raksha Mantri, before concluding his speech, said that there was an allegation made against him that thousands of crores were taken by Raksha Mantri. The allegation was made by some people and that is why, he was forced to answer some of those allegations made against him, including the dismissal of Vishnu Bhagwat. If he had not raised that issue, there was no need for me to clarify it. He went to the electronic media which has relayed it three times, four and a half hours and more than 20 lakh viewers have seen it. Where should I go to clarify? Shall I go to the electronic media? Why?... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Because he had gone to the electronic media... (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : I am a Member of this House... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : He is also a Member of this House... (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Then, let him come and defend himself, ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : He will defend himself.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Let him come and defend. Let the Prime Minister defend. (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : This subject is entirely different.... (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : Let him prove it... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : He has taken one hour.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : He has already spoken a

full day. He started on 16th and it is 17th today ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : A lot of time is wasted by hon. members, disruptions. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Many an hon. Members are wasting time by standing.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, there are so many speakers.... (Interruptions) Some persons may come to the central Hall... (Interruptions).

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : You could get it discussed at the time of formation of your Government.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL) : Mr. Chairman Sir, my suggestion is to stay the proceeding since it is already 12.00 o'clock. Mr. Prime Minister should reply tomorrow at 2.00 o'clock... (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : The same Raksha Mantri had made an allegation that when I was the Prime Minister, in connection with clearance of the Cogentrix project, Rs. 60 crore had changed hands. I was sitting on the other side then. It was alleged that an amount of Rs. 60 crore changed hands in the Cogentrix project. I wrote to the present Prime Minister as follows:

"One and the only fast track project coming up in Karnataka has been held back. I am aware that reckless allegations have been made by two of your Cabinet colleagues. I am the last person to ask you to get over the project."

And, I asked the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to order any inquiry into the issue and find out if Rs. 60 crore changed hands. There was no question of shirking my responsibility, if I have done anything wrong in the eleven months of my Government.

An allegation was made by the Congress leaders about the import of wheat and this Government had agreed for a CBI inquiry into it. Most probably, it was Shri Barnala who had replied to a question in this regard on behalf of the Government. In that connection also I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister. During the eighteen-month period of U.P. Government, I was there as Prime Minister for eleven months and Shri Gujral was the Prime Minister for seven months. We had taken several decisions during those eighteen months. This Government had agreed to

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conduct CBI inquiry into the wheat imports deal. In the letter I wrote to Prime Minister I asked him to review all decisions that we had taken in the eighteen-month period of UF rule. I requested him to appoint a high-powered committee to go into those decisions and to order an inquiry if any financial irregularity is found. I stated that we were prepared to face any type of inquiry, whether CBI or any other, if any financial irregularity is found in any of the decisions that we had taken.

They have also dragged the name of mine and of my son. I demand this Government, if it survives in the voting tomorrow, or the Government that would be coming in to constitute a JPC to inquire into this matter.

I would like to know as to what was the interest of this Government in going for price negotiation without completing the simultaneous field tests. What was the need, what was the haste, was the background?

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (QUILON) : It is a clean case of corruption.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA : I do not know whether it is a case of corruption, or favouritism or involvement of areas dealers. Lt. Gen. N. Foley, whom this Government had nominated to this House, had stated in his letter to the Raksha Mantri, "Political pressure must not compromise national security." He also said, "Arms dealers are going to put all pressures." This is a letter written by him to the Raksha Mantri. I am not influenced by any arms dealers. I have not asked anybody to purchase a particular tank. An per the view of the experts who worked in the Army in different capacities, I had ordered trial evaluation of both the tanks simultaneously with the idea that we can go in for the tank which performs better. This is what I said.

He knows the art of arguing. The allegation is Dr. Yeltsin has influenced me because the tank factory is in his Constituency. He has dragged the name of President Yeltsin. If the Hon. Speaker is going to permit in your room to see this cassette, let the Defence Minister and other Cabinet colleagues, all of them, go and see that cassette.

He made allegations in connection with Shri Vishnu Bhagwat issue. According to him, these are truths. Who has to decide whether these are full truths half truths or no truths? The House has to decide it by appointing a Committee. That is why, I am going to demand a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

With this background, what he tried is to shift the allegation to UF Government. I totally deny and let this present Government or the future Government constitute any type of inquiry.

With these words, I oppose this vote of confidence motion. This Government should go. It is a traders' Government. It is not the Government of the common man or of the poor man. This Government must go.

[Translation]

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak. I had asked for the time on 16th but you gave me on 17th. Even then I thank you very much.

I am standing do speak for the resolution presented by Shri Vajpayee Ji before the house. (Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Every Member of Parliament should get a copy of the cassette kept on the table by Hon'ble Devegowda ji. This cassette should be available to us at every where lest it should be changed. A copy of the cassette be given to us...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : What kind of a cassette it is?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : It is about that deal.

SARDAR SURJEET SINGH BARNALA : As much time has passed and many speakers are still left to speak. I therefore would try to say my point in a very short time.

This Government has a lot for the country in a very short span of time. One year or thirteen months have passed and in these thirteen months many a discussion have been done about which I would like to tell in brief.

National security is the first and foremost thing for the Country for which Pokhran-II was mentioned. It was done. This test created self confidence amongst the country men. It empowered the country but they made noise about it why it was done. Most of the noise was made from these benches. They said that it had been done by Mrs. Gandhi some time back. It had been named Pokhran-I. She had received Bharat Ratna after doing that. She had taken the credit on her own. The country remains at a loss which can not defend itself. This has happened with us. Kashmir was attacked in 1997 just after India's independence. Tribal came and the forces of other countries also came and a small part of Kashmir was captured. Deliberations started in the United Nations and cease fire was being talked of. Our Generals who were fighting said to stop for a couple of days. We would push their back and the whole of Kashmir would be in our hands but we did not wait, cease fire was ordered due to which a large portion of Kashmir went into their hands. That is called line of actual control, was established. A small portion of our Country slipped from our hands

because we did not use our power properly. We could push them back but under some pressure it was decided to cease fire. The same position was when China attacked us. We were not ready. We had not better security arrangements. That's why a major portion of our Country went into the hands of China that form thousands of square miles. We lost that area and we sat silently. Now when we have attained a bit power objections are being raised that this should not have been done. It is wrong. Our neighbour country had full preparation to that but we should not have been done. After that Agni-II was tested. Objections are being raised why it was done so early. It should have been done latter on. You can defend the country if you have power and other too are afraid of you. But you should not use power first even after being power. Shri Vajpayee has said that we would not use it first. As Guru Teg Bahadur had said —

Bhaiy Kau Ko Det Na, Na bhaiy manat Aan.

I am not afraid of any body nor frighten anybody this has been decided here. I would like to say that something has been done in this regard. Country had gained power countrymen have gained courage.

The Second important thing is food security that is as equally important as defence because we have been over populated. Food security is a must for such a vast population. I feel proud to say that in our national agenda we had said that we would double our food production in ten years. Work has been started in that direction also and results have started to come. For the first time we are going to achieve the production of 200 million tonnes of food grains. We had not even thought of it earlier but we are going to cross 200 million tonnes this year. Our stock is also comfortable. The specified buffer stock of 16 million tonnes is required as on 1st April. We have 21 million tonnes of stock at this time. Wheat crop is being transported in the market and its procurement has begun slowly. I expect that we will be able to procure 13 million tonnes of wheat this time and it will be a record. At the same time, it is also being exported. Around 40 lakh tonnes of non-Basmati rice has been exported this year. It is for the first time when stocks have been made in north-eastern States. There were certain difficulties like floods, transportation, etc. but open stocks have been made there now in good number. Likewise, there were difficulties also in Kashmir as foodgrains have to be carried in far-flung areas. Therefore, sufficient stocks have been made there also. Now, there is availability of foodgrains in our country and there is nothing to worry about there. Consequently, the prices of foodgrains have been the same throughout the country.

At the same time a point regarding sugar has also been discussed here and many a member has spoken

on it. Our country is the largest producer of sugar in the world. Our consumption and production both are the largest in the world. You must have observed this time that sugar prices have been stable in full year. There have been no fluctuations in the prices. There have been no such fluctuations when some times prices have come down by Rs. 13 and gone up by Rs. 18. These have been constant. I have the figures upto 7th March. There was record production of 7 million 102 lakh tonnes upto 7th March and I expect the production upto 150 lakh tonnes this time. We had 53 lakh tonnes stock for the last year and it is expected that we will be having 150 lakh tonnes stock this year and so we will be in a good position. We could not stop sugar import. The import started during your regime, open General Licencing System started during your regime. We have tried to restrain it by imposing import duty on it and as a result of it some shortage has also been there.

Onions were also discussed here. They (Congress people) have taken advantage of price hike of onions at some places. Therefore they mentioned about onion. Onions prices had risen abruptly and they won in three States due to this price hike. We said it in the House earlier also that it was due to bad weather and unseasonable rain that the onion crop got destroyed. Now, there is a bumper crop of onions. Mr. Devegowda was saying that its prices have come down heavily...*(Interruptions)*

We have started its export. We have allowed its export demand-wise. Its export is being made approximately at 50,000 tonnes per month. We have demanded its export from Gujarat and Maharashtra also. Export is being done from the areas of high production. We are happy at the estimated production of onions at 48 lakh tonnes. Same is the case with potatoes. Potato prices went up owing to loss of crop due to bad weather in two-three places. But, there has been a bumper potato crop this time. I expect it at more than 150 lakh tonnes. Potato prices are stable now. It is around Rs. 3-4 or 5 per kilo at some places. We have formulated scheme for the construction of cold storages to store sufficient quantities and use it as per requirement.

A point regarding our relations with neighbouring countries was also arisen. Relations with neighbouring countries have been improved during the last 12-13 months of the regime of this Government. We need good relations with Pakistan, the most because of strained relations between the two countries. The bus plying between two countries has also been discussed and praised and said that many people have come from Pakistan this time. A 350 member congregation came to Anandpur Sahib on the occasion of celebration of tercentenary of Khalsa Panth from Lahore, Pakistan; since one of the Panch Pyaras whom Guru Gobind Singh baptised first of

[Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala]

all, belonged to Lahore. This Panch Pyara was a Khatri. The congregation told us that the Lahore bus goodwill mission was the best thing to happen during these last 50 years. It has brought a big difference in the attitude of the people of both the countries. People of both the countries have started visiting each other's country. The cricket match was also discussed. Some people claimed not to allow the match but the Government took firm decision and the match took place. And, both the teams tasted success. This congenial atmosphere is unprecedented. Bangladesh is also asking for the bus service and relations with Bangladesh are improving. Relations with Nepal have also been improved. Old agreement with Nepal has been renewed de nova. Relations with Sri Lanka were a bit strained but they have also been improved now. A few years back, relations were in such a bad shape that a soldier hit our Prime Minister during inspection of parade at the time of his visit. This was unprecedented incident. Sir Lankans had hate for us but things have changed now. Therefore, I reiterate that our relations with neighbouring countries have improved ...*(Interruptions)*

Out budget has been praised from every side as it is acceptable to all. I will not say much about it since the Finance Minister has already said a lot about it. Of late, South Asia's economy has been unstable but our economy remained stable. Our economy has been stable as compared to the neighbouring countries and the credit for it goes to this Government.

It is for the first time when federalism is being discussed, as said by the T.M.C. people. When we started this talk, we were termed as separatist and were opposed. A debate has started on making a federal structure. A thought process has been started in this direction and the share of the States is being raised. I hope that our 'will' shall prevail. Long drawn water disputes are being solved. D.M.K. leader were praising it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Ministers should restrict themselves to their departments. A list of 22 Ministers is there and if every minister takes 5 minutes time lot of time would be needed.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Whenever these people are out of power, they work upon 'divide and rule' policy. They followed this policy at the time of Prime Ministership of Shri Morarji Desai and alienated Choudhary Charan Singh from us. They kept on telling him to make him the Prime Minister but he could not see himself as a Prime Minister. Then again, they followed the same policy at the time of Shri V.P. Singh...*(Interruptions)* What if made him Prime Minister for ten days? Mr. Chandrashekhar has gone; they did the same to him also. This toppling game has been in use of late. Mr. Devegowda was made the Prime Minister under the compulsion of no other option...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : Vishwanath Pratap Singh Government was toppled by the BJP. Please remember...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : We were also a part of that. We continued to support Morarji Bhai till the end. They got Devegowda Government made, let it run a few days, toppled it and brought Mr. Gujral forward. And, toppled him also after a few days. They keep on playing toppling game. They followed the same policy in the states also. They did the same in Punjab. They picked up a small group, supported it and got a new Government formed. Not only Punjab, they did the same in the sensitive State of Jammu-Kashmir. They started this game from Shaikh Abdullah's time. They brought forward Mr. Farookh Abdullah's brother-in-law and supported him and toppled Farookh Government. They not only toppled Governments but supported terrorism also. They were behind the terrorism in Punjab and Jammu-Kashmir. Those in Jammu-Kashmir say it openly. They are the creators of militancy the question of alternative and their coming together was cropped here. They claimed very easily that all secular parties would come together. Mr. Lalu, look at their secular faces. This is the party responsible for operation Blue Star. They sent the army in the most holy places. Armies march to attack other countries, not the religious places of its own country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI) : The operation Blue Star was supported by the BJP.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : I am not yielding.

[Translation]

They destroyed the Gurudwara. You say they are secular. You talk about them who as behind the demolition of the mosque? Ms. Mayawati has told in the House earlier that they were behind the demolition. Their secularism was on display on the roads and the markets Delhi; killings continued for three days. They did not feel concerned on killing of three thousand five hundred people. They could not move even a resolution to that effect in the Parliament. These atrocities did not restrict to Delhi; it happened in all their ruling states and even trains. Such is their secularism. Now, what is the alternative? They say, do not ask us about the alternative. They claim to take the decision with in a minute. What will they do? Some correpondents asked the most senior member about the alternative and he said "I do not know what is going to happen?" Their only object is to topple this Government. No member of Parliament wants elections. Elections at very short intervals weaken the country. Elections put a heavy burden on the country's economy.

Their contention at the time of Devegowda Government was for elections but with the advent of Gujral Government they advocated otherwise. But, they forced the M.Ps. towards the dark well of elections. Now, they say move ahead, everything will be set right. What will be set right, when you are again forcing the M.Ps towards elections. You have no alternative, no programme, neither are you united. There are at least four persons ready to become the Prime Minister. Mr. Devegowda, not present now, have been one of them, Mr. Gujral is a nice person but unfortunately, no one is projecting his name. That is why I call you directionless. This Government is working properly and should continue. ...

SHRI LALU PRASAD : You were also a Minister then. Now you are not heard, only used.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : The Government is running properly and it will continue, so take side with it. I request all the members of the House to vote in favour of the motion otherwise, you will be pushing all M.Ps. towards the elections.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (SIVAGANGA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to make a brief intervention in this debate on the Motion of Confidence moved by the Prime Minister. I have listened to most portions of this debate either sitting in the House or watching television and I am left with the feeling that it is an unreal debate. Many hours have been consumed discussing the performance of this Government. This debate is not about the performance.

00.37 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

This debate is about principles. This debate is not about the efficiency of the Government. This debate is about the ethics of the Government, either honouring those ethics or breaching those ethics. In fact, this debate is not about governance at all. This debate is about how the system of Government has been brought into ridicule and contempt. That is why I do not believe that it is necessary for me to dwell at great length on the record of this Government in the last 13 months. When this Government assumed office, it said and did many things which I thought would take India into the Jurassic age.

There was a frontal attack on secularism. A very passive minority in this country has been pushed to the corner that it has to come to the streets to protest. There was an onslaught on educational institutions and this has been discussed at great length over the last two days. There was encouragement to lawless elements. The famous statement made by the Home Minister and the Defence Minister after the outrage in Orissa is but one example.

The period 1998-99, in terms of economic development, was a wasted year. Contrary to what the Finance Minister proclaimed, the growth will be less than five per cent. The fiscal deficit will be more than 6.5 per cent. In fact, it will be the worst fiscal deficit in eight years and the lowest growth in seven years.

Thanks to the confused and muddled policies that this Government has followed, India is virtually friendless in the world today. Far from increasing India's security, they have increased India's insecurity and pushed India into a splendid isolation. The long train of abuses, deprivations, misgovernance and incompetence is enough to show the door to this Government. But there is more. You, lived through the last 13 months dangerously in the company of a party about which we warned that it would let you down when the time comes because you lived through the 13 months dangerously, now, you have come to us today begging for support. In the last 13 months, your ally extracted every drop of juice that could be extracted from you. Your ally tried to do to the Government of India what they did when they were in office in the Government of Tamil Nadu. Every rule was to be bent. Every system was to be violated. Every opportunity was to be exploited. Officers were changed. Prosecutors were changed. There was even a blatant attempt to change judges. You swallowed your pride and suffered humiliation after humiliation. The long line of Ministers who stood outside the door of your ally and suffered humiliation will be recorded in the pages of history. Starting with Sardar Buta Singh and followed by Shri Pramod Mahajan, Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, Shri Ram Jethmalani, the Home Minister Shri Advani, Shri George Fernandes and Shri Yashwant Sinha...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Shri Chidambaram, please get your facts rightly.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You did not stand outside your ally's door but yet you were humiliated. I correct my facts, Finally, my good friend Shri Jaswant Singh who stood there and who has been branded virtually a traitor. I give one example. When the Prime Minister could not change the Law Minister, he changed the laws. The example is Sections 370 and 372 of the Companies Act. Shri Ram Jethmalani knows why that amendment was brought forward. Because the Prime Minister could not change the Law Minister, he changed the laws. At least on one occasion, the attention of the Prime Minister has been drawn to the fact that a Minister passed orders that any contract over rupees two crore should bear his personal signature. Your Prime Minister knows that. You can ask him to confirm it. Since this Government lived dangerously, it has no reason to expect our support. I have some acquaintances in the BJP. They appeal to my head and say that I should vote according to what my

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

head tells. Why are they not able to appeal to my heart? Because they are consumed by a sense of guilt and a sense of shame. They have been *In pari delicto* with this ally in the last 13 months.

When one Government goes, another Government would have to come in. The Prime Minister did ask a very pertinent question this morning. I have asked myself this question. My Party has asked itself this question. I gave expression to this morning when I said that I must know the contours of the shape of the next Government. It is not an irrelevant question. It is not a question which we in the Opposition can duck. We must answer that question squarely.

We must be able to look at the people of this country squarely and say when this Government is shown the door, the Government that comes in will be a Government with a difference. We are not opening the door to lead a communal and incompetent Government out, only to lead in a Government which has within its structure, a party, which abused its office in one State and abused every system, every rule and every procedure while sharing power for 13 months in the Government of India. Let me make this very clear. The Congress lifted the spirits of this country, the spirits of all Congress men, of all shades, when it adopted the declaration in Panchmarhi. That is a very high pedestal that you erected for yourself and I urge the Congress to stand on that pedestal; I urge the Congress to learn the lesson of the last 13 months; I urge the Congress to stand by the principles that it proclaimed in Panchmarhi. But if the Congress and other parties fail to discharge their duties, my party however small we may be, we will oppose them with the same determination that I oppose this Government. We will oppose the next Government; we will expose that next Government if it does not appear to have learnt the lessons of the last 13 months.

We regard communalism and corruption as twin evils. One is no more an evil than the other, one is no less an evil than the other. Corruption eats into the vitals of the Indian society. Communalism is an attack on the very ethos of India. Both have to be fought. My party, Sir, small or big, we believe that we have the courage, we have the conviction to fight these twin evils. Today we show the door to communalism not to lead corruption into Government. Let me make this very clear. We will oppose this motion. We will vote against this motion. We will join hands with the Opposition in defeating this Government. We will not grant any reprieve to this Government. Yet, at the same time, I appeal to my colleagues in the Opposition that the Government that you will bring in, after this Government goes out, must be a Government which is different, it must be a Government which is honest, it must be a Government which is resolute in its determination to fight communalism and corruption and it must be a

Government which would repair all the damage that has been done in the last 13 months and take India forward. That is what the people of India expect of you and I hope you will not fail the people of India.

With these words, I conclude by saying that my party will vote against the Motion of Confidence moved by the Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI (KARUR) : I want to one clarification before the House. Just now, our hon. Member, Shri P. Chidambaram has made certain allegations regarding the functioning of the Law Ministry. I am totally not accepting what he has said. I know my power. Everybody knows that. The Law Minister cannot transfer any Judge. Only the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court can do. I have no power. Therefore, to make some kind of an allegation that I did it as a Law Minister was totally wrong.

Secondly, regarding the company affairs. He said about why they have brought to amend Section 372. He said that due to some motivation, the Prime Minister did so.

As far as amending Section 372 of the Companies Act is concerned, the same person, Shri Chidambaram, when he was the Finance Minister, had himself suggested that. Based on that only the hon. Prime Minister suggested and we have brought that amendment. There is no other motive behind it. But he has said something as if it was brought because of my intervention, which is not correct.

Then, he said something regarding the contracts. I have functioned under the powers given to me and to attribute some motives for that in the House is not correct because it has no connection at all. Let us see how they are going to function. This is the clarification I want to make.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : This is how they are going to humiliate you. This is only the beginning. They are not going to spare you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jain, please do not interrupt.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI : My records are perfect. You can find out.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that it is against the etiquette of the House for any hon. Member to leave the House immediately after making a speech. Shri Chidambaram has made his speech now, but he has not even waited

for two minutes and he left the House immediately. It is against the etiquette of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When there is late sitting, this has been the convention now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH (BHARATPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister should be sitting here. So, let him not talk about etiquettes.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, neither the Prime Minister is here nor the Home Minister is here. Actually the Prime Minister should have been present here.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : That does not matter. That has got no relation to this. There are 'Dos' and 'Don'ts' for the Members. Please do not justify what he has done.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Sir, the Prime Minister has asked for confidence vote, not us...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not waste the time of the House. I have given the floor to Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Mover of Motion is not here.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Motion of Confidence was moved by the Prime Minister. But he is not present here and even the Home Minister is also not present....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has moved one motion yesterday which says:

"That this House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers."

I, on behalf of my party, rise here to support that motion.

[Translation]

I have been waiting since 11 o'clock yesterday morning.

[English]

Please try to understand what I am saying. Then you can intervene.

[Translation]

My turn has come after a long, 12 hours waiting. It

is becoming a practice of this House that people leave the House soon after they have spoken.

[English]

We say it is a practice and privilege of this House.

[Translation]

Those who do not get a chance, keep sitting here. There are many people here who exhaust more than one and a half-hour time in speaking.

[English]

Why have they been given this priority ? It is only because they are the ex-Prime Ministers or ex-somebody. Therefore, you get ample of time. They speak and just walk away.

[Translation]

I fail to understand, what kind of Parliamentary practice this is....(Interruptions) The Ministers are sitting here since morning or even since day before yesterday. It is not that they come, speak and walk away. They are sitting here for hours together...(Interruptions). But I have also seen, how much time your people devote here. If you interrupt me, I will also react in the same way. There is no need to interrupt me. I have not interrupted anyone.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sirpotdar, you straightway come to the subject.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I will not say anything if nobody interrupts me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will see that nobody interrupts you but you will not provoke interruptions.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : The Motion of Confidence was moved due to the withdrawal of support by one of our allies. They went to the President and told him that our Government no more enjoys their support. After these developments, I thought that the budget session is on. The Hon'ble Members had a good opportunity to decide every thing after introducing a cut motion. But it did not happen because there was politics behind it who played that politics? Shri Subramanian Swamy, who is sitting over here, played that politics. He says that they are 'Pandavas' and these people are 'Kaurava'. 'Pandavas' came but finally they changed their side. I want to ask Shri Swamy that if these people are 'Kauravas' then you were also one of them and playing the role of 'Shakuni Mama'. 'Shakuni Mama' deserted the 'Kauravas' and joined

[Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar]

the other camp. What is the role of Shakuni Mama—is known to our entire India. He went there to play his role which is understandable because every body has got his own individual interest.

[English]

The individual interest has got the top most place in one's life. Dr. Subramanian Swamy is not an exception to that.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions) Not Chandra Swamy, it is Subramanian Swamy.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Chandra Swamy is the friend of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : May be. There is not much difference between that 'Swamy' and this Swamy. After all you are 'Swamy' and we have to accept it. Accept somebody or other as your 'Swamy' and run after him...(Interruptions) But I am not a 'Swamy' so, no question arises for me to run after any one. Today Jaylalita Ji has withdrawn her support from our party. Right since the very first day when formation of the coalition Government was in the offing, I have never seen Jaylalita Ji here. I do not want to criticize her because if I speak something, she will have no answer to my question.

[English]

The mistakes have been committed by other people. But I will not commit the same mistakes.

[Translation]

But one thing I must say. When she was in our Government, our people used to go after her. But today such a situation has arisen, thanks to Swamy Ji, following which now she has to go for door to door contact and the process has begun therefor. Earlier we used to go after her but now she has to follow others. Now it is a piquant situation. Just two days ago I read a statement according to which nobody came to see her in spite of a half day of waiting.

1.00 hrs.

[English]

That gives the indication of future developments.

[Translation]

The state was such that it led me to believe that

[English]

'They will move the No-confidence Motion.'

[Translation]

I could not understand as to who was going to move the Motion. If Congress or CPM or CPI does not move it then who is going to move the Motion. Swamy Ji thought that he would move it but that would have required the support of at least 50 MPs. Only 18-19 M.Ps including himself were with him and with that meagre strength, it was not possible to move the No-confidence Motion. Then how could he move the Motion—with the help of T.M.C. or with the help of D.M.K.? No, not at all. Then who were others to help him—were they T.D.P. men or Congressmen? Again, no. if T.M.C. or D.M.K. or T.D.P. or Congress was not going to help him then who was going to support him—probably nobody from these parties.

[English]

How is it going to materialise? I was just thinking over that.

[Translation]

Ultimately a novel idea came in his mind. All of them gathered together and went to the President. There they requested the President to tell us that we have been reduced to minority.

[English]

Let them move the Confidence Motion, although in our Constitution and in our rules, there is no provision or the Confidence Motion.

[Translation]

To which, the President agreed.

[English]

We must respect him, he is the Head of the entire Nation.

[Translation]

But those who proposed the Motion did not think or to what extent it was correct. I thought, since you people are sitting here with such a huge strength, therefore, you yourselves would move the Motion. One day, I heard the name of Subramanian Swamy as one of the aspirants for Prime Ministership. I said that it was a matter of great happiness.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : You must have read it in 'Samna.'

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : No, 'Samna' does not give any coverage to you. I read it in some other newspaper. After that when Amma Ji came here, she was

asked whether she was also aspiring for the post of Prime Minister?

[English]

She has not negated that. It means, double meaning always carries the news.

[Translation]

May be or may not be—a matter of half truth. I was thinking that since 'Pandavas' have switched over to that side, Amma Ji would be playing the role of 'Kunti', there. All other warriors are likely to participate in the 'Mahabharat'. I was wondering about other probable warriors in that camp, I wonder, who would be playing the role of Draupadi. I am sure that Swamy Ji must have thought something in this regard and he would disclose it when he initiates his debate. Because he will once call somebody, these are all Kaurvas. But these are modern Pandavas. They are not Pandavas, they are modern Pandavas. People say so many things about them. Today Shri Maran talked. Just now Shri Chidambaram has talked and gone out of the House. Both are good friends. What did they want to do to each other, they do. Every body here comes to know about it. What is most important is that mutual enmity comes an end after one comes here. What is hopping there, is our achievement.

After that, I was thinking that three years have passed. Three years will be completed on 10th of May. This is our fourth Government in these three years. A conspiracy is being hatched to topple the fourth Government. Who is doing this work to topple the Government. Our friends belonging to Congress are sitting here. They are like fish out of water. They are out of power. They shall be writhing in pain as long as they do not come in power. They will be hatching conspiracy against whosoever is there in treasury side....(Interruptions). This is their wisdom. I do say no. You will have to confess it. You have been in power. You have learned only one thing and that is how to remain in power and if it does not happen and other party comes then they contemplate on how to topple them down. I know that you have learned politics properly. I had spoken at that time also. How to remain in power and how to topple others from power. Can be learned from you and for it I would like to thank you. (Interruptions) You do not know because you have never come in power. I do not know. What portfolio you would get if they ever form Government. Shri Ramdas Athawale, when you sat alone in Maharashtra Assembly, there he was welfare Minister. I had then asked Shri Pawar Ji that he stood for Dalits, he stood for Dr. Ambedekar, Jyotiba Phule and then he stood for Chhatrapati Shivaji but I saw that ever since he has come here, he never stood for these three great personalities. While I saw in Maharashtra that he stood for them, I used to ask, him that if he was a messiah of Dalits, then let him make Ramdas Ji the

Chief Minister of Maharashtra. But nobody listened to me. Athawale Ji, it may be in your memory. What politics is done in the name of Dalits, you should understand this.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I too had demanded that you should be given ministership but nobody listened to me.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I will be happy wherever I go. I feel that one should work where one gets opportunity. This is not necessary that every body should be made minister. I have never demanded it nor will I do even today. I would not hanker after ministership. Ministership will follow me if I have quality in me...(Interruptions) I do not worry if this does not happen. You know how to become minister because you have that quality. But Ramdas Athawale will not become minister because he does not have that qualification.

Deve Gowda Ji spoke here and went away. I interrupted him once or twice when he was speaking. What was the problem? It was only that some Corruption problem of Gowdaji was being talked of. When did it happen, whether it happened in his own time or this time, is known neither to him nor to me but they level charges each other. What did Mr. George say at that time? What is he saying now? For telling this and about Mr. Bhagwat he has spoken for one and a half hour. I was telling him that you come, talk and go. Why is some one given priority. Because he has been Prime Minister in past. Like-wise Shri Chandra Shekharji comes raises his hand and Chairperson whoever he may be, gives his permission to speak and he leaves after speaking. Is this the way to run the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is the convention of this House that the former Prime Minister is allowed an opportunity to speak.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I do admit it but punctuality too is a must. He must be paid due regards. Senior members should be paid regards. There is not much difference in the ideas of these persons and any other member who comes after being elected. Let he be Prime Minister, minister, able parliamentarian. Shri Indrajeet Gupta, Shri Somnath—all are given opportunity on priority basis. I have no objection to that but at the same time they should sit here and guide others.

[English]

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY (NAGPUR): Please come to the main point...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Yes, I am coming to the main point.

[Translation]

When Bofors was being talked of, I was listening

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patiently to Shri Somnath ji. He gave out very long statement, he levelled many allegations which I was not aware of. Shri George gave that information. He is Chairman also of some industrial corporation. He gave out an advertisement also which was for a foreign company. All facilities are given to the companies coming during communist rule. The people opposing them try to condemn them even by going there. I have come to know this. As far as my information is concerned, the policy of Communists is against it. I do not know if they have formed some new policy in which they are asked to rule. People here say that they are all Capitalists and the people there say that these capitalists are not fair. They suck blood of the poor.

[English]

(Interruptions) This is the point I am making. Have you got any problem?

[Translation]

(Interruptions) I will reply to whatever you speak. I have no objection. Shri Somnath had spoken on 28th April 1998 and it is 17th April 1999. He had said:

[English]

"The common method of the *modus operandi* adopted as we had seen prior to emergency also is to divert people's attention by making all sorts of loud noises regarding destabilization etc."

There were the allegations made against the Congress by Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

[Translation]

What is the situation nowadays? Shri Somnath Ji has become advisor to the Congress Party. He sometimes gets up and goes to them. Shri Somnath is doing pleading work which the Congressmen do. I am surprised whether they do not have experts with them. They have more experts than you have but the policy is that they both want to walk hand in hand. The poor Ms. Mamata Ji loudly laments here. A group therefore alienated from the Congress but they consider them to be congressmen. Our communist colleagues are sitting here. They are ruling over Bengal for the last 20-22 years. They should tell here about the achievements of West Bengal. What did they do for the poor by ruling over a State for such a long period. I had gone to West Bengal. I went in the villages also. I want to ask them, they criticise everybody here, criticize us also. It is your right but reply to my question whether you have provided toilets and made arrangements for water for the poor in the villages of West Bengal.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : You please speak about Maharashtra.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I shall speak about Maharashtra....(Interruptions)

[English]

Do not worry. I will come to Bihar subsequently ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

You may ask this question after we rule that State for many years.(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : It is not in your destiny...(Interruptions).

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : We will see things when it is in our destiny...(Interruptions) Whatever is in your destiny and whatever you are doing, is being seen by all. I want to ask him.

[English]

They have been criticizing us like anything. So, whenever they come out with some criticism against any Government, it is absolutely necessary that they should also declare as to what they have done in their own States...(Interruptions) So, it is necessary for those people.

[Translation]

Somnath Babu asks so many questions. I therefore asked him a question. He should put forth data if he has done good work.

[English]

That is one.

[Translation]

But it has never been heard like that.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCH BEHAR) : One thing has happened in West Bengal. Land reforms have been made and the poor have been allotted land on lease also.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I will praise you for the good works, but I am criticizing for the work which have not been done.

[English]

I congratulated you.

[Translation]

We talked about Shri Somnath Ji here but he is not

here. It is very interesting to talk whenever he is present here. (*Interruptions*). Shri Somnath Chatterjee had asked Congressmen on 11th July 1997 during the budget session.

[English]

After 20 years of their rule what have they done in their own State and they are now criticising when our Government which has been in power for only 13 months. In 13 months, according to Shri Chatterjee, we should have completed all the items on the national agenda for Governance. What have they done in 20 year. That is what I am asking.

[Translation]

Why? They withdraw the support to the United Front Government, that was the reason. I want to ask the Congressmen what they have to do with the budget. You could have moved a cut Motion. You left a very good chance and you went to the President. What demand do you make?

[English]

Shri Somnath Chatterjee said :

"The Budget is yet to be passed. We have now to think of novel methods of passing the Budget. The Speaker is worried. The hon. Rashtrapatiiji, I believe, is also worried.

That was also a Budget Session.

[Translation]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Why are you talking of the Congress men. Please talk only about yourselves.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Do you have any objection to my speaking.

[English]

What is their demands? That we should establish our majority by passing the Vote of Confidence Motion. That is the thing.

[Translation]

An opportunity is left out and an effort is made to create problems and difficulties for the country by Congress.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Why do you talk of the Congress again and again. You should talk of yourselves.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I am telling about you. I am talking about the deeds done by you.

Shri, Kurien, when Shri Shiv Shankar was speaking, you did not stop him.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR : You are merely harping only on one point.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sister, what is objection?

[English]

I am sure that he is worried. All of us are worried. "What will happen after the 31st of May when the period of passing the Vote on Account will expire? How do we have a new Government before the 31st May? If there is a dissolution how do you pass a new Vote on Account? Nobody gives any thought to this."

These were the questions and queries raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee at that time on the 11th April, 1997. Why am I pointing out this?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You please do not ask him any inconvenient question.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I will not ask much inconvenient questions. I have a lot of material but I do not want to ask...(*Interruptions*) I heard Shri Inderjit Ji very attentively. I felt he will comment something on his statement but he did not do. Shri Rajesh Pilot is not present here. I want to say exactly what he had said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not get angry about those not present here. Please talk about the persons present here.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Some body will tell those who are not present here. I want to tell what Mr. Indrajit Gupta had said.

[English]

"People are not our slaves to expect that they will listen to whatever we tell them to do. Some people are very enthusiastic, I find, about the idea of elections again. I think that is the public posture that they are putting on. I have also some friends in BJP. I know many of them. I do not think they are enthusiastic or happy at all. But anyway it is normal and that is to be expected. I think, we have done a bad service to the country. I do not know if anything can still be done. Many hon. Members have made suggestions here that after today's proceedings are over, the voting is taken, the Government is defeated, Shri Deve Gowda has to submit his resignation, I presume, to the Rashtrapati. After that, what is the

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future? If there is time, let all people who have got the future of this country at heart sit together, talk and see if any way out can be evolved and do something by an agreement. I do not think it is beyond the bounds of possibility."

Regarding these elections also, he uttered some words. At that time, he was very unhappy. His Government was defeated twice by the Congress. Initially, when Shri Deve Gowda formed the United Front Government, at that time, I was standing over there and I told all these people, if you want to take care of somebody, then you have to take care of the Congress Party. The moment they will withdraw the support, you will go on the street. Again, there will be no Government in this country. This has become the trend of our country. Do the people of this country expect this kind of an approach to the democracy? Is it a form of democracy that we are having in our country? Is it the intention of the democracy that we are having in our country? Is it the intention of the democracy that we will have to find out some excuse, remove the Government, destroy the Government, again go to the people and again face the elections? Once an M.P. is elected, in the normal course, he should be an M.P. for a period of five years.

AN HON. MEMBERS : What have you done in 1997?

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : We did not do anything. They were responsible for the fall of United Front Government inspite of good performance by Devegowda Ji. He has left. Mr. Gujral had also done a good job. I do not say that he had something wrong. Who is responsible for the fall of his Government? With whose support his Govt. was surviving and withdrew support? We have to think over it. Mr. Subramanian Swamy, who is responsible for withdrawal of support from us, will be reaching you very soon with Jayalalitha ji. He is going to form the Government on this ground. I don't think that this dream of Mr. Swami is going to materialize.

[English]

(Interruptions). No. You are having the sweet dreams that you will have your Government and all the parties together will go into the Cabinet. However, I am sure, this Government will not be defeated by such a combination. It is not possible. You will see the result tomorrow.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Today.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : It is all right, today...(Interruptions) We are not at all confused.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, I have heard practically everybody. Please allow me to speak just for a couple of minutes.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : He is speaking in our favour, Sir, so he should be allowed to speak.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I always pray for Shri Swamy. He is an intellectual. He is capable of doing and undoing anything. And since he is especially spoiling the situation, I shall again tell all my Congress friends that he is a leader and he will be taking them to all other people and then he will lead them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sirpotdar Ji, you are wasting your time with Swamy.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : No, I am not wasting my time. As you know, Sir, Swamy is in the central position. He convinced Jayalalitha Ji. He brought the messages. He was moving all over the country. He was going to Sonia Ji. He was going practically to the BSP people also. He had gone there to convince them. I have seen his photograph on TV. He was offering some shawl to Kashi Ram Ji. I have seen that. Let him deny.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Again you are going off the track.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Probably you might remember that there was role of Narada in Hindu culture.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : Are you speaking on the Motion of No-Confidence against Shri Swamy?

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I am speaking on the prevailing condition of this country, about the political developments.

Now, Sir, here is one more version of Shri Indrajit Gupta...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : One version is sufficient.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : He said : I quote:

"On that, I wish to say finally that with all my experience in these years in Parliament, I never witnessed such an extraordinary thing, that is, the supporting party, which was a party that run the Government of this country for the last almost fifty years and which has so many Members here, declared on the

floor of this House that they will unconditionally support a Government formed by secular forces. Of course, they have got the right to withdraw their support, but they have not got the right to keep the House in the dark. They must tell us as to why they have done this and they must try to justify it. They cannot keep quiet like this. It is an insult to the Parliament. Therefore, I hope that even at this late stage, some senior Member of the Congress Party should at least try to inform the House as to what the mystery behind this whole thing is."

This was the statement made by Shri Indrarjit Gupta. He was not aware as to why that support was withdrawn. Shri Rajesh Pilot is not here. He had made some statement in the House. We know because we were here. Shri Natwar Singh was not here, so he will not know it. But some people here like Shri Shivraj Patil know all these developments.

Shri Sharad Pawar has brought out a number of points here. Now I shall deal with all those things.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not deal with all those things. There is no time for that.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : At least now one should not look at the watch because when all these members were delivering their own views, no one had at that time looked at the watch, although I had been reminding the Chair about that. I was just showing them my watch. An hon. Member of a party having only three Members in the House, was allowed to speak for more than one hour. Why should it happen like this?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We do not have time, otherwise we could have spent more time. We still have another 15-20 Members to speak. Till morning we may have to go like this. Please understand all that.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : If you ask me, I shall sit down. I shall not utter a single word.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I know that. That is why I am requesting you.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : But I would like to keep one thing on record...(Interruptions) I am not yielding. If you want to say anything, you can say. I will not yield.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to recite a Urdu couplet :

Jab salibon ke kareeb aane wale hain,
Tab Kayade Kanoon samjhane lage hain.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I could understand this Urdu couplet if at all it had some meaning. They know it.

[English]

You can see the faces of all these people. Just see the number of people who are seated over there. They are fully confident that they are going to be defeated, they will not succeed. Because of that, no one wants to sit over here. They go out.

[Translation]

Sharad Pawar Ji had mentioned here in his speech about condition of industry, economic condition, foreign policy, unemployment, sugar, Christians etc. in this country. Earlier I had once mentioned about Christians and secular. Today also I want to say something about it. Every person in our country takes birth in some caste. Birth is beyond the control of every individual, but, Karma is within the control of every individual. I just want to say that.

[English]

Not a single person in this entire House is secular.

[Translation]

Every person takes birth of one's parents. If the parents are Hindus then the child born to them also becomes a Hindu, if the parents are Muslims child born to them also becomes a Muslim, if they are Christian then their child becomes a Christian, if he takes birth in some other caste then he would be of that caste. But a person should be recognised by his (Karma) own work. What is going on now a days?

[English]

What is secularism ? What I could understand very little about secularism is...

[Translation]

I understand just one thing that every person should follow his own religion, but as far as the country is concerned, all those who come this country should join their hands to protect the country.

[English]

That is called secularism. There is no meaning of secularism other than that. One should not consider that this man is a Muslim and so, he is a minority, this man is

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a Christian and so, he should be considered as minority, this man is a Neo-Buddhist and so, he should be considered as a minority. One should not have that consideration at all. Let us see the persons who are staying here in this country and those who have got love and regard for this country. Love and regard are very essential and important.

[Translation]

What are we people doing? We are creating the concept of secularism and communal to create tension amongst ourselves. If something happens to Christians, put the blame on the Government. The B.J.P. Government is not at all responsible for what has happened in Orissa. The people had been burnt alive there, and some other incidents had taken place, which should not have happened but who was duty-bound to arrest the culprits? It was the duty of the State Government and it failed to do so.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : What happened to Sri Krishna Commission Report? You and Bal Thakrey's name has been mentioned in this report.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I have said that if they want to discuss about Srikrishna Commissions Report, I am open.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : According to Shri Krishna Commission report, you people are responsible for the killings and riots. Say something about that also. Your name is there in the report Mr. Sirpotdar....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : If you force me to speak about it, then, the congress will also be in trouble. I myself had appeared before the Sri Krishna Commission.

[English]

I had filed my affidavit. He never summoned me as a witness....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

If you don't know the facts then it is better to keep quite, but I am always ready for debate.

[English]

As far as Srikrishna Commission Report is concerned, I am very open. I was very open in the presence of Srikrishna also because I have deposed before him for not less than 15 days. I was examined and cross-examined also. After completion of the Report, I told

Srikrishna one thing that I had filed my affidavit in order to help this Commission, but he had been treating me like a criminal only because of this and he should not. If he is....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Now, Motilal Ji is looking of the watch, I can continue till morning. Don't see the watch now. You should have seen it before during the speech of each member(Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised after listening the speech of Shri Sharad Pawar because he has not mentioned Babri in his one hour speech. There are two or three hon. members who, whenever stand up to speak, used to mention Babri first. Shri Sharad Pawar is one of them, another is Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some others. They never proceed without mentioning Babri issue. They have felt so much shocked. I had spoken about Babri once and I speak about it time and again. The Muslims of our country have forgotten it, No body remembers Babri episode anymore. But these people don't want to forget it and repeat the something again and again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to think about time.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : If you say then I will sit down.

[English]

I have undertaken some exercise of preparation. I have been sitting here since day before yesterday. All the hours of the day I have been sitting here(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Why will you sit, you speak, I will sit....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (NARSAPUR) : We have come to listen you.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I will listen you patiently....(Interruptions)

I have to mention about Shri Devegowda Ji's speech, he has already gone after delivering his speech. This is very important and relates to congress. Today, they are together and wants to move together. But what the same Devegowda ji had spoken, that is very important, to tell you, otherwise how the things will proceed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now you please conclude.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I am concluding. Now you are coming together, make him the Prime Minister, never mind. What once Shri Devegowda Ji has spoken, probably you don't remember..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They remember it, this had happened very recently. It is fresh in the memory of all.

[English]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Sir, I am on a point of order?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under what rule are you raising your point of order?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : It is under Rule 356 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House. Rule 356 says:

"The Speaker after having called the attention of the House to the conduct of a member who persists in irrelevance or in tedious repetition either of his own arguments or of the arguments used by other members in debate, may direct him to discontinue his speech."

This is my request only, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sirpotdar, please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : You please ask them to understand the rules correctly. They don't understand the meaning of rules. They quote the rules and raise point of order. Dr. Ahmad, you have to learn a lot yet.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Sirpotdar, you please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I will quote what Shri Devegowda had said and conclude, Sir. I am trying to finish my speech since they are not anxious to hear me. Shri Devegowda had said:

"I am never afraid of anybody who wants to play a bullying politics. I may be a calm man outwardly but if I start fighting, then I have already shown in Karnataka as to what I can do. Now, I am going to show that Devegowda is with support of my United Front. Somebody wants to crack it. It is because if it cracks, then only they can push through as they are the only alternative party. But we would not allow to crack."

This was the threat given by Shri Devegowda to the Congress Party. It was a challenge.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (GUWAHATI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I know from which document the hon. Member is reading?

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, I have just read a part of Shri Devegowda's speech made on 11-4-1997 on the floor of the House. I read it out for the information of the hon. Member who was not in the House at that time.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, how can the hon. Member speak if he is interrupted after every sentence? After all, he is the leader of a Party. There should be some decency on the part of the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that the Congress Members are not serious about the debate. It seems they know what the outcome would be. Hence they have decided to prolong the debate. The more restless one is, the more the debate would be prolonged.

[English]

SHRI P. SANKARAN (CALICUT) : Sir, they were interrupting Shri Somnath Chatterjee after every sentence. He was also a senior leader.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : You should appreciate the fact that I have not interrupted him.

SHIR MOTILAL VORA : Sir, it is wrong to say that Congress is not interested in the debate. Senior leaders of the party are sitting here waiting to participate in the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Shri Lalu Yadav is not in the House at present, let me allow to speak about him.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : It is 1.30 A.M. There should be some limit for the speaker.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Now you woke up.

[Translation]

Laluji comes here, and speaks in a lighter vein. In a democratic set up when there is tension, it is good to make a humorous remark. But what does he say?

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : How much time you need?

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Have you taken this stand during the last two days at any time?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You should know that it is now 2.00 A.M.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : That is not my fault.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You address the Chair and conclude now.

[Translation]

While speaking here Laluji made a comment. He said that his wife is the daughter of Bihar and that he had made her the Chief Minister. I want to ask Laluji, he is not in the House. Otherwise I would have asked him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In the beginning I said not to comment about anyone who is not present here...

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : It is not my fault.

[Translation]

What is the situation of Bihar ? Fatmi Saheb is present here. I had said that I would reply about Bihar later. He has brought Bihar to this situation. Since eleven years he has been ruling in Bihar. In eleven years the situation in entire Bihar has become precarious. There are no employment opportunities available in Bihar. There are no industries. There is no arrangement of drinking water in Bihar. No facilities are available to the poor. Apart from this the money send from here is also misused there. At times that money is not utilised. Dalits are killed there. All this happen there. In spite of this they come here and say that all is not well here. Shri Mulayam Singh jee is our friend. But, today, his condition is such that he is caught in an unenviable situation. If he crosses over to that side he would be lambasted by the Congress and if he comes to this side, the C.P.I. would criticise him. Regarding the person he is going to befriend, I only want to know, in what way he would be useful and how long would long would this friendship last? My feeling is that, it is the policy of the Congress to befriend with him and after a few months declare elections. Election is going to become like sports. The people of the country should keep this in mind.

[English]

No body is supposed to listen to me.

[Translation]

What more is needed. The entire nation is watching the game being played by the Congress with their allies.

[English]

They are playing with the life of this country.

[Translation]

This is not good. What programme have we for the commonman? How can we look after the poor? What is the solution for unemployment? Yesterday, Shri Sangmajee stood up and said 'the quorum of the Parliament,' not thrice but four times Sangamajee pointed out this.

[English]

"I am ashamed of occupying this seat only because of indisciplinary activities within the House".

[Translation]

If this was the situation, I would like to ask one thing from Sangmajee. A special session was held. A resolution was passed. And the first thing in that resolution was that no one would come to the well. I want to ask the Congress, who violated this resolution? Shri Sharad Pawar's signature is appended on that resolution as also of all the Members of that time. You are the first to break this resolution and come to the well. After this a resolution was passed not to suspend the Question Hour. Who first gave the notice to suspend the Question Hour? The Congress. Today morning, in the House the talk of Rs. 100 crore was going on. I do not want to mention about Sonia jee's as she is not present here. I can understand. But she did not understand as to why you lost your temper? Can Congress pepole indulge in corruption involving only Rs. 100 crores? It would have been dignified if thousands of crores of rupees were mentioned. Rs. 100 crore is mentioned. Check all records. You name Sukh Ram. This corruption is of huge magintude. Take the case of urea. This is a huge scam. Take the case of Bofors. It was less than Rs. 100 crores. Anything less than Rs. 1000 crore is not worth mentioning. That is to say, no one would believe that anyone can indulge in corruption for such a small amount. If corruption is to indulged in, first siphon off a huge amount and later you constitute a commission or constitute a J.P.C., it is not right. We all have to take the country forward. And for this...

[English]

I know that there are a number of good people. In

Congress Party I know each and every person individually. There are very good persons.

[Translation]

By meekly submitting, the country can not be taken forward. I am reminded of the song, 'Pardesion se Na Ankhain Milana'. Regarding extending the hand of friendship with the foreigner, my humble request to the Congress is that, efforts should be made to take the country forward. We will be with you for all noble cause. In such cases we have supported you. But you are on the wrong path. Find out whose help you are seeking. And do not ditch your ally whose help you have sought. If you betray your ally you would be betraying the country. Betrayal of the Country would be the betrayal of the people. And the people, if betrayed would never tolerate this. With these words I thank you all. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I had said earlier also, and again I repeat that I support this proposal.

SHRI RAMADAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH CENTRAL) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when will I get a chance to speak. It is going to be Two O'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will also get an opportunity.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get your chance.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH (BHARATPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not take much of the time of the House as it is quarter to two in the morning and distinguished Members like Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Chidambaram, Shri Sangma and Shri Sharad Pawar have done a very good job of demolition of this Government and its non-performance.

I think, the speech made by Shri Indrajit Gupta was one of the outstanding Parliamentary performances of recent years. I saw the Ministers of this *gathbandhan sarkar* squirm in their seats as he spoke because they could not answer a single point.

AN HON. MEMBER : The Prime Minister will answer.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : He will probably leave permanently tomorrow.

Their agenda promised a stable Government and an able leadership. We will tell you what stability is. We ruled in the Centre for 42 years; you ruled for 13 days and talked about the principle that you will not join any coalition. Shri Sangma made a prophetic statement last year. What happened thirteen months ago? A caterpillar Government of 18 motley parties with nothing in common

got together. Your performance has been so dismal that it is pathetic. You know it.

Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee's name would have gone down in history as a great leader and politician if he had not become the Prime Minister of India because he has been an utter failure as the Prime Minister of India. His ineptitude, I will elaborate upon.

Let us first talk about 'a stable and an able Government.'

About stability, we have just seen. They are living on daily wages for the last 13 months! Now, we will see about his ability.

Here is a Prime Minister who has been in Parliament for 45 years and he writes a letter to the President of the United States in the month of May 1998 to give an explanation as to why Pokhran-II was undertaken. The President of China did not write to Mr. Clinton in 1995-96 when they exploded; the President of France did not write to Mr. Clinton to say that there was a threat from Germany, or China did not say that there was a threat from Russia. But Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee writes to Mr. Clinton instead of calling a special Session of this House. He owed an explanation to this House and not to Mr. Clinton. And what does he write to Mr. Clinton? I would like to come and sit here. He signed a letter in which two countries were named.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Your leader did not carry out the tests under the pressure of America, the leader you are talking about...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Listen, I have not interrupted anybody from your party. My dear brother, I request you with my folded hands, please have patience. Let us wait and watch. My advice here is "Abhi To Ibdita-A-Isq Hai Hota He Kya". Dear brother, I do not know when you came here, I have spent my life in it. You listen please. I have been learning till now, but you are not prepared to learn anything, what can I do? The Hon'ble Prime Minister writes a letter. He writes that we have danger of nuclear power from this country or that country.

[English]

He could have written to Mr. Clinton—if he had to write at all—saying that just as France and China exploded nuclear bombs to keep their nuclear technology up to date as sovereign independent countries, it is India's sovereign right to keep its nuclear technology up to date. So, do not invent threats when they do not exist because there is no threat existed and nothing has been proved

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

in these 13 months. Had the Chinese troops moved into Arunachal? Had Pakistanis moved into Amritsar?

This is the ability of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I am not here to praise him. He is a good man; that is another matter. We are judging him and his performance as a Prime Minister. The indictment is so severe and it has been made all around in clearest terms.

The Finance Minister was waxing eloquent that he will present three more Budgets. My friend Shri Yashwant Sinha is a sensible man and he should know better than to move such outrageous statements? How does he know what is going to happen tomorrow? When the Prime Minister of India, in a letter to the President of the United States, says that India is facing a nuclear threat from China and Pakistan, who, in the name of heaven, will bring any money into this country? Please answer me, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, you are sitting here on behalf of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[Translation]

If you are saying yourself that your shop is set ablaze, who will come for purchasing, who will invest money here so long as disturbance is there. It is a very simple thing.

[English]

Every day he goes on saying that Congress has lust for power. We do not. You have lust for power. We have ruled for 42 years and to say that nothing happened here flies in the face of facts because they knew what was there in 1947 and what was there in the 42 years' rule of Congress. Shri Yashwant Sinha is taking credit for the reforms started in 1991.

So, please let us see what this able Government has done in foreign affairs because all other matters have been dealt with and dealt with brilliantly by Shri Indrajit Gupta.

Their Agenda for Governance says :

"We will, therefore, strive to develop national consensus on all major issues confronting the nation by involving the Opposition Parties and all sections of society in dialogue; will also try for a consensus mode of governance."

Shri Jaswant Singh, a great diplomat of this Government, has been talking to one whom he calls 'my friend Strobe Talbott', Talbott has not called him as 'my friend Jaswant, I have read his article in the last issue of 'Foreign Affairs'. He does not concede one inch to India. There have been eight rounds of talks but we have not been told, what transpired. The Government says that

there is consensus but it broke consensus within six weeks of coming to power. A consensus on Foreign Policy, which existed for 50 years, was destroyed by this Prime Minister and his Government on the 11th and 13th of May. Instead of calling the Leaders of Opposition or a special Session of the House, he writes to the President of the United States.

[Translation]

Justifying it he said so we have done this, what should we do?

[English]

And Clinton leaks the letter to the Press. The Chinese next day say, 'for the last 10 years after Shri Rajiv Gandhi's visit, relations with China have been improving.' There has been no tension on the border. Trade has increased. Exchanges have increased. I asked the Prime Minister very respectfully last time, first of all who drafted that letter and why he signed it. If he is so able, he should have read it. If he had read it, he would not have signed it. He signed it because he had not read it. He had no answer.

[Translation]

I have no any answer . So much for his ability.

The younger is even worse than the elder.

What to speak of his ministers, yesterday the Home Minister Shri Advani Ji mentioned my name, I thank him what did Natwar Singh Ji say? Last year, in my speech I said what will be the outcome of this action.

[English]

Kashmir will become the central issue. From September, 1965, when Sardar Swaran Singh walked out of the Security Council, Kashmir was not discussed in Security Council till the 5th June, 1998, after the formation of this Government. For the first time ever we were condemned in the Security Council. There was not one single Member who spoke for us. This is the achievement of this Government. G-8 condemned us. Mr. Clinton in his speech to the National Geographic Society Centenary said, when India and Pakistan discuss Jammu and Kashmir, China should sit on the table. This is a great achievement. Now, we are sitting with Mr. Strobe Talbott, the Minister of State who parleys with a Cabinet Minister of India. I have spent 31½ years in the Foreign Service. Protocol matters. If Mr. Talbott goes to Pakistan, there he talks to the Foreign Secretary, who is a Civil Servant but in India he talks to Shri Jaswant Singh, who had a Cabinet rank even as Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and now he is a fullfledged Cabinet Minister. Why

cannot Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ask Shri Brijesh Mishra to do the talking? He can do a better job than Shri Jaswant Singh. We would like to know why this has been allowed to go on. In foreign affairs protocol matters. When we get into Office, if Mr. Talbott comes next time he might have to meet the Foreign Secretary. These things are important. They will not try these things with China.

2.00 hrs.

They tried this with this weak Government. They would not have tried this with us.

Now, last year I had asked Shri Advani, do you know what hot pursuit means and what pro-active means? Why have you not practised this in 13 months? Because the consequences would have been very serious. The Members of the BJP say that he is Sardar Patel number two. We are very delighted that you want to be like a Congressman. Sardar Patel was not a member of the RSS. He was never member of the Jan Sangh. The Jan Sangh was not even born at that time because Sardar Patel died on 15th December, 1950 and Jan Sangh was born in 1951. Sardar Patel would not have gone to Mumbai to parley with the head of the Shiv Sena. He would have sent for him here and the head would have come here. Advani ji as Sardar Patel number two! Please have a heart.

Then we have another Chhotey Mian, Shri George Fernandes who is rather good at crossing over from here to there. He says; "Threat number one from China". Wonderful ! In one minute, the man has destroyed ten years of hard work, on Sino-India relations. I had just been to China. I went there with the Congress delegation and I spoke there with our Chinese friends. I spoke as an Indian about your Government, you know because the Ambassador had reported it. They said: "We want to know where have we posed a threat". No proof is coming. He has repeated this and the Prime Minister has not hauled him up. The Prime Minister has not said that no, you do not talk out of turn. Why? It is because the Defence Minister said that he would bring their Government down. And this is a Government of principles; the Government of ethics; and the Government of morality. You do not even know these words mean.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER : Show him the dictionary.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Let him acquire some education before consulting dictionary. He may have some capability to consult the dictionary.

[English]

Sanctions have been imposed on India for the first time. Then the World Bank gives you 150 million dollars and you are dancing with joy.

[Translation]

Its a matter of great shame. The value of India is 150 million dollar! India is invaluable. No one can buy it. Ask them to keep their dollars with them. How dare you are ready to sign on CTBT without consensus. Tell us what are you doing. Prime Minister should answer regarding your statement that India would sign on CTBT by September. An Hon. Member was saying to sign by May, June but how it could be without the consent of the House. We also wish to sign on CTBT. We want that there should be no atom Bomb. Rajiv Gandhi has said.

[English]

The CTBT is about non-proliferation and it is not about nuclear disarmament. If you do not know the difference, then you know nothing about foreign affairs. Our policy has been and will be non-proliferation to be directly linked with time bound nuclear disarmament as mentioned by Rajiv Gandhi in his action plan. That is the bottom line. Talk it with Mr. Talbott. I have read his articles in the Foreign Affairs magazine very carefully. Not an inch has he given to this Government and they do not intend to. Mr. Inderfurth says one thing and Ms. Medliene Albright says another thing and the Minister of External Affairs has to come here and say that no, he stand by what he said earlier. Let us see if you do. You may not be there tomorrow or the day after.

Now let us deal with some other areas. The most important is Pokhran. I had made my views known last year and I will do so again. For 50 years, we were ahead of Pakistan in every respect. On 28th of May, 1998, for all time, Pakistan got parity with us in the nuclear field. The Prime Minister has offered Pakistan a No-First-Strike proposal. They will not accept it, because if they did, then disparity in conventional weapons will again reappear and this they no longer will accept after Pokhran. Our superiority in conventional weapons is now not relevant as it had been for 50 years.

So if the Government had acted with greater wisdom, skill and foresight, the results would have been different.

Now the bus ride. His visit to the Minar-e-Pakistan was bandied about as something extraordinary. Actually I read in the papers that some fanatical Pakistani had washed the area with water because he said that the Indian Prime Minister had walked around it.

Now that we both, Pakistan and India, are nuclear powers, let us talk with one voice to these P-5 nuclear powers, who want to maintain their nuclear monopoly. They have broken all the rules. We have not broken any of the rules and yet, we are being pilloried. Why should we talk with them on CTBT? Why should this country talk

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

to anybody on CTBT? I cannot understand this point. We are an independent sovereign country. We can make our views known at the Conference on Disarmament. You may make them know at the United Nations. Why this parley? Eighth round of talks, and no result. If you had foresight and imagination, you should have said to Pakistan, "Let us sit down together and we will have a common nuclear policy." No, it has not been done because you lack experience and you are not willing to learn. You talk of consensus. You could have consulted us. We are as patriotic as any of you. But no attempt was made to take Parliament into confidence.

The Prime Minister went to New York. I would like to ask the Foreign Minister as to whom did he meet when he stayed for ten days in New York. Mr. Clinton left the day when Mr. Vajpayee arrived there. Ms. Madeline Albright was there for ten days when Mr. Vajpayee was there but she did not meet him. Even Mr. Chandan Mitra who is not exactly critical of the BJP wrote that the Prime Minister of India was on a holiday there because nobody had met him except some leaders of small countries. I do not want to name those countries. We have good relations with them.

Now, the Americans are asking us, "Please tell us about your minimum deterrent". Who are they to ask us? Do we owe them an explanation? So, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee may take this House into confidence tomorrow and tell us as to what precisely had been discussed between the Foreign Minister and the Minister of States of the United States in the Eighth Round of talks and on what terms have they agreed, if they have agreed to sign CTBT. Let us know about it. If you have not agreed, then say so. We would like to know about it because China has not ratified CTBT. Russia has not ratified and US has not ratified it. The White House has made six reservations and unless these are fulfilled, they will not ratify the CTBT. But we are being pressurised, arm-twisted, sanctions, imposed, condemned in the Security Council and Kashmir is made a central issue and after 33 years, we are asked to sign the CTBT unconditionally because CTBT cannot be amended.

We also want non-proliferation. We also want nuclear disarmament but we are not going to be pushed around to sign CTBT unless we know precisely what we are signing. You do not have to sign till September and even in September, you need not sign because you can go till March, 2000. Parliament has not been told about all these facts.

I was Ambassador of India to Pakistan nearly 20 years ago. Thus, I have a vested interest in having good neighbourly and friendly relations with Pakistan. I want to ask : What precisely has been the concrete achievement of the bus ride? We have read the speeches of Mr. Nawaz Sharief made by him after Shri Vajpayee's return from Pakistan and it is clear that euphoria is totally one

sided. This Government is calling the bus ride as a great achievement. What did he achieve? He is a master of language. He is very eloquent. He made a beautiful speech in Lahore.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVJI BHAI TANDEL (DAMAN AND DIU)
What are you saying.

[English]

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I did not interrupt anybody. In Lahore, all those wonderful words and phrases went into the sky like fireworks and they came down to earth in two seconds as ash and dust because nothing concrete or substantial was achieved. We want to know the concrete results. We also want to have good relations with Pakistan. The late Shri Rajiv Gandhi went to Pakistan not once but twice.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVJI BHAI TANDEL : You were sleeping.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : We were not sleeping. It is not that we did not do anything in this regard. We made efficient foreign policy with open eye. I do not know how much experience you have in this. If you have much, tell us also. I want to ask that what for celebrations were held? Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani participated in celebrations held in Haus Khas and Bangalore claiming big achievements in their 13 months rule. What have you done? Please tell us, whatever you have done.

[English]

What are the concrete results that you have achieved? All that you have done is that you destroyed the national consensus, ruined our relations with China, Pakistan, the United States and the Europe. You go to South Africa and take on cudgels with Dr. Nelson Mandela. Why? Mr. Mandela listed eight areas in the world. He need not have done it. If you had any experience in diplomacy, all that the Government had to do was to send the Vice President of India to South Africa before the Summit and brief Mr. Mandela. We had been the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Summit. I have myself been the Secretary-General of the 7th Summit. We could have said that these things are not mentioned. But this was not done. There was no cooperation with South Africa.

Then, what happened? The Principal Secretary of the P.M. at a Press Conference says that Dr. Mandela has apologised. Suppose Dr. Mandela had done so, should we have publicly of shouted over it. The South African High Commissioner made a statement saying that

they did not apologise. Even if Dr. Mandela had done so we should have shown restraint. He is a great man. Was it necessary to shout about it? Is it diplomacy? Is it courtesy extended to a great man. All that you have achieved is that you have antagonised South Africa. When the discussion took place at the United Nations, the South African delegate looked at India and said that we are not speaking as the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement but we are speaking here as the South Africa delegate. They were critical of us. Is this good diplomacy? We would like to have some answers to these questions. We want to restore national consensus on foreign policy. We want to restore national consensus on CTBT. We want to restore national consensus on disarmament. Have you made any effort? You have not made any effort. That is why, we oppose this Motion. We hold you responsible for the damage that you have done in 13 months to India's foreign policy.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Subramanian Swamy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (COOCHBEHAR) :
What about us?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get your turn. How can I allow both of you together? I called Dr. Subramanian Swamy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whom you allow or not is your decision? My only appeal is, earlier everything was done according to the strength. But now it is according to the strength.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I was called on the basis of 19 members. In that case, I should have been called earlier.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : I do not know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Pradhan, it is not like that. I am only going according to the list I have drawn here. Please bear with me.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (MADURAI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the countdown to the demise of this Government has begun with less than ten hours to go. This Motion, which the Prime Minister has brought, which the majority of the House will reject in a few hours today from now, was necessitated because following the withdrawal of support by the AIADMK, the President directed

the Prime Minister to bring this Motion. If they had practised what they had preached earlier, following the withdrawal, they would have resigned. This House has witnessed that when Kumari Mayawati's party withdrew support to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav's Government in U.P., Shri Advani is on record in this House of having described the refusal of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav to resign and to seek Vote of Confidence as a political crime. The statements made by various BJP leaders at that time are documented in a book written by the then Governor of Uttar Pradesh and today they are insisting on seeking a Vote of Confidence. The withdrawal of support by the AIADMK's leader was necessitated because the leader, Kumari Jayalalita found that this Government gravely jeopardized our national security and demoralized our Armed Forces by the reckless dismissal of Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat. The Admiral was dismissed on 30th of December and as early as the 2nd of January, the leader of the AIADMK issued a public statement on this issue. The dismissal of the Admiral and the statements and counter-statements that followed has unraveled and uncovered a sordid saga of the Defence Minister's active abetment of terrorism and foreign insurgency and the Prime Minister's capitulation to a corrupt arms lobby. In other words, the core issue today is that this Government cannot be trusted to safeguard our national integrity, our national security and our national interest and therefore, it must go. It is not as it has been made out by the leaders of the BJP who spoke in the debate that because the BJP leadership did not dismiss the DMK Government that the support was withdrawn. That they did not dismiss the DMK Government was a betrayal of the promise they made to the electorate, but the issue here today is the betrayal of the nation itself by undermining the morale of the Armed Forces. What we want, therefore, today is the Government should go to save the nation from this decline. For us today, therefore, the dismissal of the DMK Government is not a priority issue. What is priority is to save the country.

They could have agreed to the formation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee. But what was their response? They said : "Have a discussion, bring out the materials and if we are convinced, we will agree to the formation of a JPC." Even in jurisprudence, the accused has a right to select his court. Here, the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister were under a cloud on the accusations made by the dismissed Admiral. The Prime Minister cannot say that he would assess whether the material against him is adequate to have a JPC or not. The Parliament wants a JPC. A large number of Members of Parliament want a JPC. The Prime Minister is under a cloud. So, it would be in the fitness of things that he should have immediately agreed to the formation of a JPC, rather than say that he would sit in judgement on the evidence presented. How can the accused be the judge? The mere fact that they stoutly refused to agree to the formation of a JPC proves that there is something which they wanted to hide.

[Dr. Subramanian Swamy]

Now, let us look at the main point of Admiral Bhagwat's dismissal, because that point has not been brought out here. A lot of disinformation has taken place. So, I would like to place this in sharp focus. Vice-Admiral Harinder Singh in Andamans had put in a request to be posted in the Naval Headquarters at Delhi after the present Government took over. Admiral Bhagwat, as the Naval Chief, instead recommended Vice-Admiral Madanjit Singh for the post of Deputy Chief of the Navy. Both were Sikhs. Yet a canard was spread that Admiral Bhagwat was anti-Sikh. He recommended another Sikh, not the Sikh that they wanted, but someone else who, he thought, was a better officer. The Minister did not agree and he asked the Admiral to reconsider. But the Admiral stuck to his decision and recommendation. The Government then overruled that decision and the Appointments Committee approved Vice-Admiral Harinder Singh, sent that approval and the draft appointment letter to the Chief of Naval Staff, namely Admiral Bhagwat. But the Admiral did not implement it saying that it is unimplementable. This led to his sacking under Section 15 of the Navy Act.

Now, what is the legal position? The Navy Act, under which he was sacked, has, under Section 184, a subordinate legislation called Rule 134. This Rule was drafted in 1965 and I read Rule 134.

"Appointments of officers of all branches of the rank of Captain and above shall be made by the Government on the recommendation of the Chief of Naval Staff."

The words are, "shall be made by the Government". Anyone with a minimum knowledge of law knows that when the word "shall" is there, it means it is mandatory for the Government to implement, to act on the recommendation of the Chief of Naval Staff. So, indeed, the Admiral was right as per law. He has been recommending and all through our history, whenever a recommendation has been made by the Chief of Naval Staff for appointments of Captain and above, without exception the Government has accepted it, except this one particular case.

Now, the reactions to the dismissal have been widespread amongst the Armed Forces. Of course, those who are serving cannot express their opinion, but those who have held high positions and retired said as follows. The former Chief of Naval Staff R.S. Tahliani said:

"It is terrible and totally unwarranted. The decision reflected a total lack of sensitivity on the part of the Government. Today's events have hurt the morale of the Forces irreparably."

Lt. Gen. V.K. Madhok (retired) said :

"Just because a Chief holds a certain view regarding promotion and transfer, it is absolutely unjustified to sack him."

Gen. V.N. Sharma, former Chief of Army Staff said :

"This kneejerk decision is not the right way to handle such high-level appointments"

Lt-Gen. Kalkat, former Army Commander, said:

"it is a sad development for the Armed Services and the nation as a whole."

02.26 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

There is a widespread condemnation in the Armed Forces and a total demoralisation that took place after that.

Now, the question is : "Why was it then necessary to defame this Admiral?" The question also is, "Why was the Defence Minister so keen to publicly humiliate a Chief of Naval Staff?" If you have differences with him, you could have called him and asked him quietly to put in his resignation. If he had refused, there could have been something else. You could have taken some other step. But why did you publicly do this? There, I can say, hangs the most sordid tale of national betrayal.

According to my perusal of the materials that have become available, there appears to be two reasons why the Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes, was particularly keen to humiliate Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat. First is Mr. Fernandes' links with the LTTE and the LTTE' hatred of Admiral Bhagwat because Admiral Bhagwat was the person who intercepted the number two man in LTTE on the high seas, popularly known in the LTTE as 'Kittu' in 1995. And he had to swallow cyanide and kill himself. Since then, all LTTE publications have been carrying on singularly a campaign against Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat.

The second reason for Admiral Bhagwat's conviction was that Mr. Fernandes was a national security risk of which he had given many documentation.

I had given all the materials and documentation to the Speaker before this debate started saying that I will be referring to it. Let me read out some of it from *The Hindustan Times* of 14th April this year. There is a newsitem filed by Shri P. K. Balachandran which says:

"In a laudatory box item in its latest issue, the pro-LTTE Tamil magazine 'Thinamurasu' recalled that ...(*Expunged as ordered by the Chair*). Mr. Fernandes had not backed out of his commitment to the LTTE cause.

The paper, which is the most popular weekly among Lankan Tamils across the globe, said that among the reasons given for the sacking of Admiral Vishnu

Bhagwat was that he had passed on information about the LTTE's arms ship movements to the Sri Lankan Government. It was on the orders of Admiral Bhagwat that the ship with LTTE leader Kittu on board was intercepted. Approving of the change of guard at the Indian Naval headquarters, the paper said: "The present Chief would not pass on any such information to the Sri Lankan Government."

In his edit page piece in 'The Island' on Monday, former Sri Lankan Ambassador Kalyananda Godage pointed out that as per Article 2(16) of the letters exchanged between Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and Mr. J.R. Jayawardene, India was obliged to intercept LTTE arms vessels and passed information to Sri Lankan Government".

What the Admiral was doing was performing his duty as per an agreement that we have with the Sri Lankan Government. So, here is a case where Shri Fernandes is being issued by the LTTE magazine because...* Even as Defence Minister, he is supporting the LTTE cause—a certificate from the LTTE itself.

Shri Fernandes' involvement with the LTTE is something which this Parliament needs to take a very serious note of and maybe a future Government to prosecute him for it.

Here is a document or a newspaper cutting of *The Telegraph* of 16-3-1999. The heading is 'Fernandes plays Saviour'. The Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes was the Chief Patron of the LTTE backed Fund Raising Committee for 26 convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case. The Body called 'Fund Raising Committee for protection of Tamils' has been seeking donations to save 26 persons sentenced to death through advertisement in Tamil publications for funds. A document in possession of *The Telegraph* names Fernandes as the Patron of the Committee. Fernandes confirmed to this paper that he was Patron of the Committee but added, 'I ceased to be associated with them once I became a Union Minister.'

According to Nedumaran, who is the LTTE Comissar in India and who lives with Shri Fernandes when he comes to Delhi, though Fernandes continues to be associated with us in this cause, the Defence Minister is convener of another outfit formed to express solidarity with the Tamil Eelam. Appeals for funds have been periodically circulated since the 26 convicts moved the Supreme Court after being sentenced to the death row by the Special TADA Court in Tamil Nadu.

Now, the pamphlet which is circulated in Tamil Nadu, I have a copy of that and I have given a copy to the hon. Speaker. Shri Fernandes has been campaigning around the country for a long time now for the LTTE. According to *The Times of India* of 6 -1-1997:

"It is Pirbhakaran all the way, Pirbhakaran is self-confessed facilitator of the murder of Rajiv Gandhi. He has proudly claimed that it was he who ordered the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi to teach him a lesson. He is accused No. 1 in the Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Trial."

This is what *The Times of India* says.

Shri George Fernandes declared that 'there was no doubt that Pirbhakaran and the LTTE were the only representatives of the Tamils in Sri Lanka fighting for the cause of an independent nation. India's record is nothing to write home about, it does not inspire confidence. Rajiv Gandhi's understanding with Sri Lankan Government to send the so-called IPKF is a shameful chapter in India's history'. This is what he said on the 5th of January 1997 in Bangalore.

He wanted to hold a meeting in Delhi for the LTTE in November of 1997.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI) : It was reported in the Jain Commission's Report.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The Jain Commission was over by then. These are all post-Jain Commission matters. There should be, of course, a fresh commission, in my opinion because the Jain Commission has left much to be desired and I think, may be the next Government should appoint a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court to enquire into it.

In November 1997, when the United Front Government was in power and Shri Indrajit Gupta was the Home Minister, Shri Fernandes wanted to hold a meeting here in defence of the LTTE. The United Front Government banned it and Shri Indrajit Gupta wrote a letter saying, 'please do not hold this meeting'. He wrote to Shri Fernandes that that meeting was not desirable in the India's national interest. Shri Fernandes defied that ban and held the meeting in his Government given accommodation, in the lawns of his house.

According to the Jain Commission Report, Vol. 5, page 232, there is an account given by one of the accused in the Rajiv Gandhi Assassination. A Printer says:

"I printed books in the midst of this work on the request of Baby Subramaniam who is the Propoganda Chief of the LTTE.

I printed another book with matters given by him. George Fernandes wrote the preface to this book. This book is full of abuse of Rajiv Gandhi and why Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is a threat and should be put away with."

* Expunged as order by the Chair.

[Dr. Subramanian Swamy]

Shri George Fernandes writes the preface to that.

We know who Mr. Veeramani is. Mr. Veeramani is the General Secretary of an organization called, 'Dravida Kazhagam', which has been traditionally asking for an independent Tamil Nadu. Public meetings after public meetings he has been praising Mr. Pirabhakaran. Here is newspaper cutting dt. 24th January, 1999, which says:

"For Veeramani, Pirbhakaran is not only the leader of the Tamil community but he is the younger brother. When the Government claims that there is no movement of LTTE in the country, where is the need to ban it? He opposes the ban."

That is what it says with this photograph.

Now, why do I mention this is that I was surprised to learn, as a Member of the Standing Committee on Defence, that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Defence Research and Development Organisation and Periyar Maniammai College of Technology for Women of which Mr. Veeramani is the Chairman.

What does this MoU say? It says that this remote Women College in Thanjavur will do research on frost bites suffered by Indian soldiers in Siachen Glacier. It is a signed surprisingly by Mr. Abdul Kalam on behalf of the Ministry and Mr. Veeramani on behalf of the College. But the last line says, "This MoU is made in duplicate and signed on the 5th November, 1998 in Delhi in the presence of the hon. Defence Minister"; that is on the direction of the Defence Minister.

These are not suddenly I brought out. I wrote to the Prime Minister several letters. I have got acknowledgements from the Prime Minister. Here is an acknowledgement of November 3, 1998 written by Mr. Vajpayee, it says:

"Dear Dr. Swamy,

I have received your letter of October, 29, 1998 alleging that some of the Union Ministers are helping the LTTE."

After that, I heard nothing.

Now, let us look at the issue dealing with the national security angle. I would not take much time now; I know it is getting on time.

The Hindustan Times of the 16th March, 1999 says:

"Gun runners hoodwink Navy in Andaman. An Indian Navy operation launched on the Sri Lankan Government request to nab the gun runners near Andaman Islands ended in a fiasco. The operators who were said to have close links with the LTTE

escaped after sinking their trawler. The failure of the operation has been detailed in a report to the Defence Minister raises serious questions about the manner in which it is being handled by the Naval brass of Andaman. The Command at that time was headed by Vice Admiral Harinder Singh who took over as the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff today.

Highly placed sources in the External Affairs Ministry said that the Sri Lankan Government had on March 6, requested the Indian Government to help intercept a 500 tonne trawler, *M.V. Maniamma*, which was believed to have supplied arms and ammunition to the LTTE of the northern part of the Island Republic.

Last Thursday afternoon, the Indian Navy ships closed on the trawler. However, inexplicably it was decided that *M.V. Maniamma* would be intercepted in the night instead of the day. But at that night, the Indian ship found that the trawler was sinking 200 kilometres off the Andaman coast. Search operations reveal that there was no person or weapons on board. It is understood that the operators on board and trawler escaped on a Gemini boat after dumping the arms over board."

Now what all this boils down to is that there is impeccable, incontrovertible evidence that the Defence Minister is actively abetting LTTE. When Shri Vishnu Bhagwat was Vice-Admiral, he was responsible for intercepting the LTTE, particularly, the second senior-most leader, and having intercepted him, he had to take cyanide. There is today, no doubt, that the LTTE regards this Government as theirs. They think this is a friendly Government. I have read it out.

Shri Sirpotdar is here. His leader, Balasaheb Thackeray says, "I am proud of the LTTE; I am for the LTTE and I am proud of these tigers." This is what he said in a public meeting.

There are other Ministers in the Government who are also pro-LTTE and I have documents. I have written to the Prime Minister about it. There is one more document. Before I conclude, what I have to say to this. *The Times of India*, dated 17-3-1999 says:

"The senior naval personnel say that the failed attempt to board an LTTE supply vessel on March, 11 was deliberate. 'The orders were delayed on boarding the vessel till nighfall ensured that these LTTE personal could live to fight another day', a Naval officer, formerly in operation, said. He added that modern equipment have made it easy to locate and intercept boats which made their escape. Thus, there was obviously orders to avoid pursuit."

This is a very, very serious matter. It jeopardizes. This is what is the core on which the leader of the ADMK withdrew the support, not because they did not dismiss the DMK Government. In any case, the DMK Government is on its way out. Even by normal terms, they got only two years more. If there is a new Government and they find out about their foreign exchange violations and all, they will anyway go in the normal course. We are not worried about their dismissal. The issue is that the Armed Forces are being demoralized. The issue is that the foreign terrorist organizations are getting a foothold in this country. This is essentially the fundamental reason.

Now, how intimate LTTE is getting to this Government is described in another newspaper cutting. "Special guests at Vaiko's son wedding". Is Shri Vaiko here?

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Yes, I am here.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

"It was a VVIP wedding in which leaders of major political parties in the country registered their presence. Apart from Union Minister, Shri L.K. Advani and the Defence Minister, Shri George Fernandes, Vaiko had some special guests at his son's wedding in Chennai on Sunday. Outlawed LTTE Chief, V. Prabhakaran's parents and several hard-core Eelam supporters were there in full strength at the wedding."

Then, it goes on to describe how LTTE people praise this Government as a sympathetic Government ...*(Interruptions)* You will get the chance.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL) : You have taken his name.

SHRI VAIKO : You have referred my name. I have to explain.

MR. CHAIRMAN : if you agree, he can speak.

AN HON. MEMBER : He has made wild allegations.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : It is not wild allegation. I was reading what is written here.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as usual all malicious, vicious and fraudulent allegations have been made...*(Not recorded)*

AN HON. MEMBER : It is vulgar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Shri Vaiko, you are given time. Please understand that we have 10 more speakers and we have to wind up our discussion.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, allegations are malicious, vicious and false.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That you can say but the second part of what you have said should not be there. That will not form part of the record.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, they are allegations of malicious, vicious and utter falsehood. They are nothing but falsehood. Regarding the wedding of my son, he made a reference.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, he has only read the newspaper item. If you have anything to say on that, please state.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Chairman, you have to permit me.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (COIMBATORE) : Sir, allegation has been made. You have to expunge it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Does he authenticate the document?

MR. CHAIRMAN : If any body wants, he will authenticate. That is all.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : They never authenticate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask for that.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : He has not authenticated it.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the parents, of Shri Parbhakaran have been living there in Trichy peacefully for many years. They have nothing to do with the organisation. Therefore, on my invitation, they came to attend the wedding. They were very much there but it cannot be alleged as if hard core LTTE people can come. Therefore, it is an insinuation and they are living there for many years. The previous Government was there. So, all these years they have nothing to do with the organisation. So, what is the point he is making?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T. R. BAALU (MADRAS SOUTH) : Sir, he has made wild allegations against me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. No allegation was made against you.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not allowed. Nobody is allowed except Dr. Swamy.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He has made wild allegations against the DMK party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not allowed. Shri Baalu. Please take your seat. I request you to take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please take your seat. Will you please take your seat? I am requesting you to take your seat.

There were no derogatory remarks by Dr. Swamy. In spite of that I have allowed Shri Vaiko because it is a sensitive matter about his family. Please do not insist on talking. It is not necessary.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Please give me one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not necessary. I am not allowing anybody.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He has yielded. You should give us a chance. He has made wild allegations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : You give me only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Swamy, have you yielded for him?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have not yielded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, you take your seat. You are not allowed. Whatever you are saying will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot command the Chair like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I am requesting you to take your seat. Nothing of what you say is going on the record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. This is not allowed. Do not dictate like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Once again I am requesting you. Please do not dictate to the Chair like this. I am not allowing you. Dr. Subramanian Swamy, you please complete your speech. Shri Baalu, you take your seat. There was no reference at all to you or the DMK party.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not allowed. Nothing except what Dr. Swamy is saying will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Only Dr. Swamy's speech will on record. Nothing else, except Dr. Swamy's speech will go on record.

I request Dr. Swamy to complete his speech. I am not allowing anybody else.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I am requesting you once again to sit down.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : You can speak when your turn comes....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, please hear me. In Dr. Swamy's speech, there was no reference about your name. This is not the way. There are some parties which did not get an opportunity to speak in the House. They are all waiting patiently. We have to at least complete the discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, I am not allowing you. You have to take the seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, Sir. It is not fair...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is the direction of the Chair. You cannot do that.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing you. There is no question. I have called Dr. Swamy to complete his speech. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not waste the time of the House. Not a word of what you are saying is going on the record. Why are you wasting the time of the House?

(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Please give me one minutes
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Dr. Swamy, please complete your speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Please give me one minute
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given the ruling, please.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am not yielding.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record other than Dr. Swamy's speech. Please take your seat. How can we go on like this?

*(Interruptions)**

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am not yielding.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has made a wild allegation...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Dr. Swamy has yielded at one place. Please give him one minute...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, if you are not obeying the orders of the Chair, then I have nothing to say. But I am giving you the warning. I have given the ruling. I am not allowing you. Whatever is your opinion, whatever you may shout, nothing will be there on record. I am not allowing anybody else. Wherever there was a derogatory remark or wherever it was necessary. I have given the time. I am explaining the position of the parties. They are not allowing the time to them. I cannot do injustice to other Members who are waiting to speak.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am disallowing your submission. I am not allowing you to speak. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : If you do not allow us to speak, we will walk out...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this? A number of parties are to participate in the debate. What is this?

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : The Minister should not make such a statement...*(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am not yielding.
...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, before you allow him to proceed, please ask him to clarify...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you are not permitted to speak. Then, how can you speak?

(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, he has made an allegation against Shri George Fernandes. He has to substantiate it...*(Interruptions)*

2.55 Hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Subramanian Swamy made an allegation that a Minister has links with LTTE. Now he must explain to whom he is referring. That is what the Members are asking.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : And also he should tell us what is the basis of that. He has to substantiate that...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : He was talking about the Defence Minister of the country, Shri George Fernandes.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am asking Shri Swamy.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has made sweeping remarks on my party...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, before you proceed, please ask Shri Swamy to substantiate that. He did say that a Minister has links with LTTE. He further proceeded saying that the Minister is actually abetting the LTTE...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am asking Shri Subramanian Swamy. You do not want even me to speak. Shri Subramanian Swamy, kindly tell me what you said.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has made sweeping remarks on my party. We are here to protect our party.

*Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am asking him Shri Baalu.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I read out a letter, which is an acknowledgement of the Prime Minister to me.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, he has said that a Minister is having links with LTTE. He further said that the Minister is actually abetting the LTTE. He must tell who is the Minister....*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, he must behave like a Minister....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Subramanian Swamy, have you stated that a Minister has some links with LTTE?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Yes, Sir, he said like that. Further he said that the Minister is actually abetting the LTTE. He has to substantiate that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I am asking him. Let me first of all understand what he said.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, those references should be expunged....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, why do you jump to a conclusion? Let me understand first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Only on these two references we want a clarification, Sir..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sankaran, what is going on here?

(Interruptions)

3.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is a matter of only one minute.*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First of all, I should give him the opportunity to speak before you.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : May I make my submission? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me hear him.

(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I read out the acknowledgement received from the Prime Minister to a letter that I had written, in which he has said :

"Dr. Swamy, I have received your letter of October 29, 1998 alleging that some of the Union Ministers are helping the LTTE."

Now he wants to know...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Did it say that a Minister has links with the LTTE? We should go by the record. Did he say that? We should go by the record. If he withdraws that, he should say that he is withdrawing it. If he wants to withdraw, that is very good. Let him withdraw that. What is the record?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me fully hear him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : That is an acknowledgement. What is the problem in it? He has written the letter to the Prime Minister. That is on record...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : He is saying that a Minister has links with the LTTE. He has to substantiate it...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : In that letter, I have made an allegation documenting that Shri George Fernandes has links with LTTE and he is abetting the LTTE. I assumed that the Prime Minister would investigate and write to me saying that my allegations are baseless. The Prime Minister has not done so and if they appoint a JPC, it will be very easy to establish what the substance of my allegations is. I have written to the Prime Minister.

Now, as far as my allegations against the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu are concerned, I read out a news item quoting a pro-LTTE magazine. I have given the photocopies of these newspaper cuttings to the hon. Speaker in the morning itself saying that I am going to reply on them, in which that magazine *Dina Murasu* said that unlike the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who is a chameleon, George Fernandes is a stout defender of the LTTE. That is all I read. Then I have also said that is not a priority issue for us to dismiss the DMK Government. A future government can always take care of them under the foreign exchange laws and other laws. We do not need dismissal. That is what I have said. Now, may I continue? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : He can write any number of letters in what way is he right...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has mentioned the name of the Minister in his letter to the Prime Minister and that letter was acknowledged by the Prime Minister.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, that is not my question. I want to know...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : There is a procedure for making an allegation against a Minister in this House. He can write to the Prime Minister. We are not concerned about it. But as far as making an allegation against a Minister is concerned, there is a certain procedure. Has he followed that procedure?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have followed procedure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has written to the Prime Minister. He has read out the acknowledgement of that letter.

(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : He is making an allegation against the Minister in the House. There is a certain procedure for it. Has he followed the procedure?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have followed the procedure.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Has he given notice to the Minister?*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am relying on the photocopies given to the hon. Speaker and making the allegations...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Has he given notice to the Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : May I continue now? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Please give me one minute. I will conclude within one minute...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Has he given photocopies of the papers to the concerned Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This is not a court of law. What are they talking? They do not even know the rules. They should read the rules...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the matter is simple. If any

Member has to make any allegation against a Minister, he has to give notice not only to the Speaker but also to the Minister. The first point is whether he has given notice to the Minister. The second point is whether he is going to support it with evidence here.

In the afternoon, the Chair has given a ruling that allegations cannot be made without substantiating them. He is not substantiating his allegation. He has to give notice to the concerned Minister so that he could be present here to refute the allegations...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have only read out from newspaper cuttings which I have given to the hon. Speaker. I have relied on them.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : That is not sufficient, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Swamy, it should be authenticated.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have authenticated it in my letter to the Speaker and said that I shall rely on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me find out from the Secretariat whether notice has been given.

Shri Swamy, I have been informed that no such intimation has been received in the Secretariat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I personally delivered it in the Speaker's office. I have got copy...* I gave the entire cutting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has to be given to the Secretariat in a proper form. If you had given it to the Secretariat, they must be having a copy.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have given it in the morning.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : He is supposed to give it to the Secretary-General.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take only one minute. He made serious allegations against my party. I have to safeguard the interests of my party. That is what we are here for.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am not yielding. He can speak in his own time. I am not yielding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, the hon. Member is not yielding.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is my duty to defend my party. He has made serious allegations against my party. It is a principle of natural justice. I request you to kindly allow me to speak for a minute.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, no notice has been given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The whole thing will be set right now. The Speaker has not received any paper cutting.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, expunge the whole thing.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir,*... When I went at 10.30 in the morning, neither the Speaker nor the Secretary General was there...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, he has misled the House. He is not supposed to mislead the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 353 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Rule 353 says:

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply".

There are two points in it. One is that any notice to the Speaker has to be given one hour in advance to the beginning of the sitting, that is, 10 o'clock today. The hon. Member says that he went to the Secretary-General's office at 10.30 a.m. That means, he has not given the notice in time.

Point number two is he is also to give the copy of that notice to the Minister. About that he is silent and I think silence is speaking. These are the two points on which I am raising a point of order.

SHRI T.R. BALLU : He has misled the House.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : He has betrayed the House.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Please find out if the Secretary-General did not receive what I have given. Let there be an inquiry as to whether I gave these papers or not. I gave to the Secretary-General. Let there be an inquiry...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARBELA SWAIN : Notices are to be given to the Notice Office. Now we demand for another JPC to find out where these notices have gone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under Rule 353, it is clear now. It is not only to the Speaker but also to the Minister concerned.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : May I on a point of order explain to you that I have made it clear in this entire speech of mine?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : The rules are clear.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : It is a general observation. It is not an allegation.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : He is misguiding the House. How can you allow it?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Should notice be given for everything? Should notice be given for speaking against a Minister?

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have been making this point all through my speech.

SHRI VAIKO : All the references made against the Minister should be expunged.

SHRI T. R. BAALU : He has misled the House.

SHRI VAIKO : As a custodian of the House, you have to protect the right of the Members.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In the afternoon, I gave a ruling. It is strictly according to the rules. Now you will have to either substantiate or, according to the rules, you will have to withdraw it, if you are not going to withdraw, I will expunge it.

SHRI VAIKO : You have given the correct ruling when Shri George Fernandes made some allegation against the Congress party.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please don't waste the time of the House.

SHRI VAIKO : He has not given the notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already expunged now.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI T. R. BAALU : I want to have the clarification.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Either he should withdraw or the charges should be expunged...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already given a ruling that I have expunged it. What is the point in talking about it.

...(Interruptions) →

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, what about the allegations made against my party?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Swamy, you may kindly proceed.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Yes, I am proceeding. I was reading a news item...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (SHEOHAR) : Sir, it is too late. House should be adjourned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I know, but you see, they are not ready to get rid of me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I was reading a news item. 'The special guests at Vaiko's son's wedding', it says'...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, whatever he says should be expunged...(Interruptions) He is reading the newspaper report again and again; the time of the House is being wasted...(Interruptions) He is a political blackmailer...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Swamy, I have already given my ruling. You may please take up something else.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Are you saying that I cannot read out a news item?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can quote.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Yes, I am quoting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is the newspaper and what is its date?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am quoting from *The Indian Express* dated the 6th December, 1998 and I would like an inquiry into what it says.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : It has already been expunged.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He is quoting the same thing.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (RAMANATHAPURAM): Are you ready to deny the news item?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Baalu newspaper reports can be quoted.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He is quoting it once again.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is only quoting. I have given him permission to quote.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I do not know why they are afraid...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have expunged whatever was objectionable according to the rules. It is his right to quote. Why are you objecting to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He is representing a one member party and he has taken more than forty minutes.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : I think, his time is over now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : That was read by him earlier and expunged by you...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You may please allow Shri Baalu to speak for two minutes after Dr. Swamy completes his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Sir, let the House be adjourned now, to meet again at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How is it possible? The Tamil Nadu matter is on now.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir already one hour has been wasted on this. My humble suggestion is—it is all because Shri Baalu is insistent—that after Dr. Swamy's speech is over, he may be given two minutes to make his point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs also supporting this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is a good suggestion. Let him say what he wants to, for two minutes, after his speech
...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I was reading from *The Indian Express* dated 6th December 1998....(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : He read out from some newspaper and that was expunged. Again, he is reading it out now...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Shri T.R. Baalu will reply. Why are you reacting to it now?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you may see to it, please...(Interruptions) All matters of Mr. Swamy go on in such a haphazard way
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ashok Pradhan, let me conduct the House. He is quoting from the paper. He is entitled to quote...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : We are not under dictatorship, this is democracy...(Interruptions) When you people speak, don't you even quote? ... (Interruptions) This is democracy...(Interruptions)

[English]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Sir, he made it already. You were not present here, I was here. Shri Vaiko had made some points. But it is again being repeated. That is the point...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am not repeating
...(Interruptions) I was interrupted when I was reading it out. What does the news item further say? It was not contradicted by Shri Vaiko. This news item further says:

"Interestingly, the hardcore Eelam campaigners including Kasi Anandan who is listed among the 21 suspects in the Jain Commission's final report on the Rajiv Gandhi's assassination not only attended the wedding, but made pro-Eelam speeches and even some pro-LTTE references. The Jain Commission has said that the role of Kasi Anandan apart from 20 other suspects in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination should be investigated."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what I am saying is this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have only quoted that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Yes, I quoted.

In fact, if you read my speech, all through I have given only quotations. I have not made any specific allegations, except to say that I wrote to the Prime Minister, making these allegations and I had expected the Prime Minister to investigate it and give me a reply. He has acknowledged my letter. But he has not yet investigated and given me the report or if he has investigated, he has not sent me the report.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your letter concerns this report?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : No. My earlier letter had allegations about two Ministers of his Government having LTTE connections.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is that the one which I expunged now?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : It is upto you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. But I was quoting my letter only and this was not defamatory. I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and does it become defamatory? Is it defamatory to write to the Prime Minister?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, it is not like that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : If the Prime Minister becomes so defamed, then I cannot write to him. I have only written to him and I have got an acknowledgement. He should find out whether it is a cock and bull story, and if it is so, then the Prime Minister should not have acknowledged. But he has acknowledged; so then, he should investigate because a Member of Parliament writes a letter to the Prime Minister. So the Prime Minister should investigate...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Why is he quoting it, if he is not making any allegation? He indirectly makes those allegations...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him now...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : It is very cunning of him. It is actually an allegation...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, you are within your powers to expunge anything which you think is defamatory, but I have not made any such thing ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, he is not the only intelligent person here...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri, Subramanian Swamy, I have not expunged anything and everything. I have only expunged the item which is referred to under this Rule.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : But that Rule does not apply to any part of my speech because I have quoted entirely from newspapers. It is now upto you and I have not made any allegation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right. You may go ahead.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I now come to the final point.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, under the relevant Rule, he has to produce and place the documents before the House—whatever letter which he has written to the Prime Minister and the other newspaper clippings that he has got in hand should be placed here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is already over because it is already expunged.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, it is this angle of the dismissal of Admiral Bhagwat that is ominous which has raised serious questions and it is on this basis that the AIADMK leader withdrew her support to this Government.

Before I conclude, there was one refrain that was there in the speeches made by Ministers and certain speakers on behalf of the ruling party, that is, in 13 months not a single case of corruption has come to light. Here, let me read out a question that was filed by me and was answered by the Prime Minister on 24.2.99. With your permission, I would like to read it:

"Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Prime Minister has received any petition seeking his sanction required under the Prevention of Corruption Act against any Minister; if so, the details.

"Whether attention of the Government is being drawn to the news item appearing in the Free Press Journal, Mumbai dated 13th January, 1999 where it has been reported that the CBI has completed its investigation concerning certain charges levelled against the particular Minister; if so, the details."

The answer has been given by the Minister of State of Personnel.

"A petition has been received from Dr. Subramanian Swamy, Member of Parliament seeking sanction of prosecution of a Central Minister under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and the matter is receiving attention to the Government.

I also received a letter directly from the Prime Minister himself dated 21st January, 1999.

"Dear Dr. Swamy, I have received your letter of January 14, 1999 regarding sanction of prosecution of Shri Ram Jethmalani, the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment."

In that letter I had enclosed the extract of CBI Report on Shri Ram Jethmalani's corruption. I had enclosed it to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister also got it directly from the CBI but I had also enclosed the extract of the report which I got from my source and wanted to know whether it was correct. According to CBI, the orders issued by the Minister would reportedly had huge financial implication and was not in consonance with the allotment letter and the order of the Delhi High Court and the order of the Additional District Judge. The loss according to HUDCO, if the Minister's order were to be implemented can be perceived in so many ways. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, again the same rule applies here also.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I had asked for sanction to prosecute. It is statutory right.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, he is making an allegation against a Minister. The rule is very clear...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Please do not interrupt. I have asked under the statute of Prevention of Corruption Act. A private citizen has a right...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : Sir, he should follow the Rules of Procedure.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : There is no Rule of Procedure...*(Interruptions)* The Prevention of Corruption Act is a statute and under the statute I had asked for sanction from the Prime Minister to prosecute him ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Is it correct on your part to quote correspondences here and violate the Rules of this House?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I asked for sanction from the Prime Minister to prosecute...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, Rule 353 very much applies in this case also.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am bringing to the notice of the House that there is a petition seeking sanction of the Prime Minister to give me permission to prosecute a Minister on charge of corruption. It is wrong for

[Dr. Subramanian Swamy]

them to say that there is no single case of allegation of corruption.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Swamy, the same rule applies here also. You are writing to the Prime Minister is under certain rule.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The Prime Minister is the statutory authority to give me sanction. Without sanction, I cannot proceed...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you take up that very matter on the floor of the House, you have to do it under certain rule.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I am not making an allegation here...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is coming in the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, it is an allegation...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am asking for sanction to prosecute the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have asked the Prime Minister. But that is being taken up on the floor of the House. It is going to be a part of the proceedings. If it is going to be on the record, it has to be under the rules.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, you please look at the rules and you apply the rules. If you feel that this is not under the rules, you strike it out...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your reaching of the question and answer is all right.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : If my question permissible on record then all that I am saying should be permitted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, it is not linked with that.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : He is trying to mislead the House.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : There is a petition pending where I am seeking the permission of the Prime Minister who is a statutory authority...(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, you should not allow him to speak like this...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, the Minister must know how to maintain the decorum...(Interruptions). I know the background under which you come.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : He should apologise for that.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : He said that 'he knows the background of the Minister'...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Minister belongs to SC/ST community...(Interruptions). He is casting aspersion on the Minister who belongs to SC/ST community.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, I have every right to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he is casting aspersion on the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If there is anything unparliamentary, I will expunge it.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I will tell you what is the background...(Interruptions). He belongs to Pattali Makkai Katchi Party...(Interruptions).

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (DINDIGUL) : Sir, he is ready to explain it. Sir, you are the custodian of the House. He will explain everything...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has to withdraw those words...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All those things that you have referred here, if they are not permitted within the framework of rules, I will expunge them.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, that goes without saying...(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : Sir, he said : "I know about your background"...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What did he say?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : I am not a smuggler; I am not a racketeer; I am not a blackmailer. Then, what background is he talking about?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Background of whom?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : How can he talk about a Minister like that?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Fatmi, why do you not sit down? I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BALLU : Sir, he has to withdraw his remarks...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : A Dalit Minister is talked in such a way...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Why is he talking so, he should apologise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whether the House will be controlled in this manner, you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may conclude now, Mr. Swamy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will examine all those derogatory remarks and if they are found to be derogatory, I will completely expunge it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. There is a limit. I ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to control him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JEHANABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Mr. Prabhunath Singh can speak for three days, why not Mr. Swamy can speak for two days.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What to do now?

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Adjourn the House....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please conclude Mr. Swamy ?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : This is too much, Sir. How can we come at 11 o'clock tomorrow?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : We will not be able to listen and understand it by sitting so late in the night. When the Parliamentarians themselves will not understand, how will the people?

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : I am on a point of order under rule 376.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No point of order, you will have to speak only after Mr. Swami yields, you sit down.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : In conclusion, I would say that this Government has brought disgrace to the country whether it is on the question of national security or national integrity or demoralisation of Armed Forces or on the question of corruption.

Therefore, the Government must go. The Motion must be voted out. I would tell them that it is better to get out before they are thrown out.

With these words, I conclude. Thank You.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I will be very brief. The entire nation is plunged into political turmoil because of the foolish act of the political broker and the blackmailer...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (PERIYAKULAM) : Sir, can he utter such words ?...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I have not referred to anybody.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It was a request made from both the sides that he would speak for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN (TIRU-NELVELI) : It is an unparliamentary expression. It must be expunged...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I have now referred to anybody. I have not taken anybody's name...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, I will expunge the unparliamentary words.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Our leader has given the letter of withdrawal of support. The whole thing is going on. Is it an act of foolishness? Is the Presidential order an act of foolishness? You must give a ruling. All the Members are equal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, if there is any matter which deserves to be expunged, I will do it. Why are you shouting now? Shri Baalu, do not provoke them.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Dr. Subramanian Swamy has made wild allegations against our party during the course of his speech. He has made certain remarks saying that foreign exchange violation has been committed by the DMK and its party people. But here is a letter addressed to the Governor of Tamil Nadu. Dr. Swamy, is it correct?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : What is the relevance of this letter? Sir, did he produce the letter?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I know about it. Sir, he has written a letter in November 1993 seeking permission of the Governor to prosecute Ms. Jayalalitha. This is a letter which was written by a Member of the House. I quote:

"Ms. Jayalalitha is guilty of foreign exchange violations and racketeering. Ms. Jayalalitha owns a secret illegal bank account worth at least \$21 million (about Rs. 62 crore) in the Union Bank of Switzerland, Zurich."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on Friday in the leaders meeting, it was decided that all the political parties will get time. I am sorry to say that I did not get the chance and the time is going to be 4 now. I do not know why I am not getting the chance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your party is there, Shri Owaisi is there, the Republican Party is there. Five or six names are there. I am going to call all of them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : If all the senior Members should get respect, am I not a senior Member? I should get the chance. Am I a new Member? My party is a smaller group. Why are you ignoring it? I would like to know it very clearly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not mistake me.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : It is not a question of mistaking. I would like to have some justice from your end because you are supreme as long as you are in the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Pradhan, your name is there. You are going to be the next speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : You should not deal in such a manner. It is a matter of sorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity for speaking although late. I have stood up for supporting the Confidence Motion moved by the Prime Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is about to go. He has wasted nearly an hour.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : If I have stood up for speaking in favour of the confidence motion, it does not mean at all that we agree to the economic philosophy or policies and the principles of B.J.P. I also do not believe that B.J.P. has suddenly got any remarkable feature and thereby we have been compelled to stand up in favour of BJP. I believe, even today, that the quantum of alterations that have taken place in the BJP after coming into existence must not have happened in any other party of the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the budget was presented and the debate is yet to take place over it. But I believe that there is no difference in the budget of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Shri P. Chidambaram and of Shri Yashwant Sinha. There is no difference in the economic policy of the Congress and the BJP either. As per the patent, the distance between the treasury and opposition has reduced.

Both embracing each other, brought together an anti-national Bill like the Patent Bill in the Rajya Sabha. A

person like me believes in this regard that this is highly dangerous for the pride of the country. Both, the treasury and the opposition have signed on the document of the thralldom of the country. The future generations will have to pay heavily for this in the coming days. I believe that the class that is oppressed and being ignored for thousands of years is that of the women. I do not hold Shri Mulayam Singh Ji and Shri Lalu Prasad Ji so that responsible for the endeavour made to bring this bill as the treasury and the opposition are. Thereby half of the population has been cheated. If the Congress, the BJP and our revolutionary friend C.P.M. were in favour of providing reservation to the women, a party of 37 members could not have mustered that much power so that it could get the Women Bill passed. They kept this bill pending. In this connection, I believe that there is lack of will-power and political honesty. Today, if I have stood for expressing my views, it does not imply at all that the Government have no policies and principles. If we have stood for speaking in favour of this Government, I definitely believe that in view of the present political scenario, I sense a great foreign conspiracy behind it. It is our firm opinion that nothing abnormal was going to happen so as to destabilise the Union Government. There is no guarantee as such that the future Government will be stable since they are trying to form Government with the help of their disloyal friends.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Five or six persons will speak. Please conclude soon.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : There was no time limit till now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time limit is coming to an end.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : The Congress wants such steps to be taken by which their Government may be formed at the centre and the elections may take place under their patronage. This is a great conspiracy intending imposing an unwanted election and misleading the whole country to a lie that non-Congress parties do not know how to run the Government. In it lies the deep conspiracy of the Congress. Every time, bogey of the communalism is created. We accept that communalism is dangerous for the country but we also know that casteism is greater danger to this country. Those who want to destabilise the Union Government and are worried about the future Government, are not only casteist but also corrupt. We stand surprised and we are obliged to say that every time the bogey of communalism is raised. This is also a part of the conspiracy.

The former Chief Minister of my State Shri Lalu Prasad is not here. He has gone. He said in his speech that we lost the reins from 1977 to 1979 because we

were resolved not to compromise with communalism. I want to remind him and his counterparts that from 1974 to 1977 at the time of emergency, we and the left parties stood united. At that time the Government had gagged up the press. We had fought together this second battle of freedom. R.S.S., Jansangh, and left parties were on our side in this battle. At that time when the Janata Party had formed the Government, there were not only all these friends in this party who are raising the issue of communalism but also the people of Jansangh in the Janta Party at that time.

Then they were not threatened by communalism. Lalu Ji had returned in this House in 1989 and the same year V.P. Singh Government was formed with the support of Left wings as well as Right ones namely Jansangh, led by Advani Ji. At the time no abstention was made in getting their support; communalism was out of question raising Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya's slogan to form non-Congress Government. In the same fashion a non-congress coalition was formed once in Bihar colligating not only left parties but Jansangh also apart from socialist and congress (organisation.) They all together had run the coalition. At that time there were, I state, where non-Congress Governments were formed. Then no bogey of communalism had been raised.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, as far as Laluji is concerned, I would like to remind his colleagues, as he is not present in the House at the moment, that he too, had run his Government in 1990 with the help of Bharatiya Janata Party. We had fought it too. But today a bogey of communalism is being created on large scale. I, therefore, would request the left Parties as well as other ones not to define secularism attuned to their own conveniences. The trend of self defined secularism should be stopped. We do assume that the country is not threatened by communalism. Its secularism too is not facing any threat. Of 100 crore population of this country, there is not much differences to be seen at all in all—from Abul Kalam to Khudiram Bose and from Chandrashekhar Azad to Ashfaqullah Khan. We are often in pursuit of getting political mileage by raising this issue only at the time of election to meet our political ends. We deceive people in this way.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, here is a question which is raised repeatedly and it is said that the ruling party receives messages from Nagpur. In this way, the name of Nagpur is being frequently pronounced in this discussion. At this juncture I would like to say candidly that if need be, we will receive message from Nagpur, we will feel warmly towards R.S.S. or Jamaat-e-Islami, but it will never be possible for us to run the country by receiving any message from Italy or get help from America by pawning our country to its hands. These days there is apprehensions over such things. It is today's newspaper

[Shri Anand Mohan]

which has covered a news item captioned, 'Tomorrow's Govt. Led by Sonia', stated by Arjun Singh, an additional spokesperson of the congress. Among 100 crore population of this country, wombs of 50 crore mothers are still left safe to provide leadership to the country.

4.00 hrs.

And one thing more which I would like to mention in this regard that it is the same lady that took sixteen and half years in getting citizenship of this country. She became bride but did not get country's citizenship immediately.*

[English]

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (NARSAPUR) : Sir, what is he talking about? Why are you listening to him, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All those derogatory remarks will be expunged.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (MADHUBANI) : What he is speaking is not justified...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : *After all what are the reasons behind it? I think, there is a deep rooted foreign conspiracy behind all these and there is a pursuit aimed at destabilising the country. On our part, the reason of supporting the Vajpayee Government lies in the fact that it conducted Nuclear Test in Pokhran...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : Sir, have you expunged those derogatory remarks made by him?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that those derogatory remarks generated by him will be expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Despite all sanctions Vajpayee Ji made every possible attempt to emancipate this country facing economic problems and he was successful in it. We support this Government also since it made successful test of Agni-II...*(Interruptions)* I can claim with all confidence that this is nothing but all deep-rooted conspiracy framed by a foreign lady.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I have called Shri Pradhan.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, let him conclude it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : I will conclude my speech in one minute. I want to make it clear that if I have to choose between Rabri Devi and Sonia Gandhi, I would prefer to elect even an illiterate and an uncultured person like Bhagwati Devi, and not Sonia Gandhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All those derogatory remarks are expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (IDUKKI) : Sir, we have been raising this. What is your ruling?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All those indecent expressions I have expunged. What more do you want?

Yes, Shri Pradhan, please speak.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Just now Congress people levelled an allegation against me. Shiv Shankarjee of Congress referred about horse trading. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you said you will go over the record. Have you seen it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Has the allegation levelled against me in the record?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : Shri Shiv Shankar made a charge ...*(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

* Not Recorded.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand to oppose the Motion of Confidence moved by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, Shri P. Shiv Shankar made a reference to Shri Anand Mohan....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND MOHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir*..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All those expressions made by Shri Anand Mohan will not go on record. Shri Anand Mohan, this is not the way to speak.

...*(Interruptions)**

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, he is referring to the horse trading charge..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Major General Khanduri, I have examined the matter. I have already conveyed it to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : I want to know in what context his name was mentioned ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have examined it and I have conveyed it to him. What are you talking?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Amar Roy Pradhan speaks.

*(interruptions)**

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Home Minister is here. He speaks off and on about the nation's unity and integrity. As a patriot, I too, feel that India in one from Kashmir to Kaynakumari and from Kutch to Kohima. Naturally it is our motherland. If it is so.

[Translation]

Janni Janam bhumishch Swargdipi Gariyasi.

[English]

But the BJP Government's action is not for the integration. They are encouraging communalism; they are encouraging casteism; and at the same time they are encouraging regionalism.

The hon. Finance Minister is not here. I can say that within these last 13 months, this Government has neglected the eastern part of the country, particularly the North Eastern part of the country. Because these areas mainly have the tribal population and the Christian people, the Government is neglecting that part of the country.

Sir, they are widening the regional imbalances further. Most of the investments were being cornered by a few States. The entire House should know that these investments were being cornered by Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. The share of these three States accounted for 73 per cent of the total number of 1,349 foreign technical and financial projects which had been cleared in the first nine months of the year 1998-99.

They are developing only three States in the country Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. They are not thinking about the rest of the country. Out of 1300 projects, only two projects are in the North-Eastern Region. These are the regional imbalances. These regional imbalances are going to be widened more and more.

The hon. Home Minister is here. Let me ask him one question. Shri Advaniji knows that there are 126 Indian Enclaves. When he was on this side and Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister, he raised this question.

I too supported that question. What is going to happen to these 126 Indian enclaves? You know at that time, it was very clearly stated. Yes, I can give you the number also. It is Question No. 205, dated 5th December 1991 of this Lok Sabha. The Question was raised by Shri L.K. Advani and Shri Amar Roy Pradhan. The main Question related to the Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh. At that time, it was the hon. Minister of State for External Affairs who stated that the Supreme Court had clarified that. He has quoted the International Court of Justice, including the judge, who was one of the most eminent judges of Supreme Court that the right of the servitude is a right of access which under International Law every country must provide to every country enclave of other country. This judgement was given by the Supreme Court Bench comprising of the then Chief Justice, S. Mukherjee, Justice M.H. Kania, Justice K.J. Shetty, Justice K.N. Saikia

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

and Justice S.C. Agarwal. The judgement was delivered on the 5th May, 1990. This was the position.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what is the condition in these 126 enclaves? In your Lakshadweep, I think, the total population is near about one lakh but here in these 126 enclaves, the population is about two lakhs. But they are living in the rule of jungle. There is no school; there is no hospital, there is no road; there is no relief; there is no Panchayat; there is no police; there is no military; and there is nothing of the sort. Are they not Indian citizens? It is the highest democratic body. We all should be ashamed that in India for the last 50 years, two lakh people are being isolated from the mainland. They have got nothing to do. They are only at the mercy of the Bangladesh people. But my question to you, hon. Home Minister is this. When you were in the Opposition, you spoke loudly about these Indian citizens. But in the last 13 months, you did not take any care of them. Why is it so? It is because you know very clearly that 80 per cent of these people who are living in that part of Indian enclaves surrounded by Bangladesh is Muslim and the rest 20 per cent is Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. That is why, you are not taking any care. At that time when you were in the Opposition, you only shed crocodile tears. But now within 13 months, have you enquired about their condition? How are they living in that part? Do you know there is starvation death of 64 people? Do you know that? Have you enquired about it? Have you asked the Bangladesh Government that you would like to have talks across the border and you would like to go to the Indian on enclaves? Have you ever asked them? Can you tell me? Your earlier decision that they are Indian citizens was only to take some political mileage. That is why, you spoke for these people. But while you are in the administration for the last 13 months, you forgot them. Certainly you forget them. Is it because of the fact that you know that these people are Muslims, these people are Scheduled Caste people and if they once come to the country, to India, then, the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes people will be more?

Sir, today, I would like to say only one thing with a heavy heart. I read it in my college days. I can endure your brutality but not your hypocrisy. I charge the Government.

I charge the Government, this hypocrite Government that they shed crocodile tears for those people. But they did nothing for the people. They have got good relations with Bangladesh. Why did they not do it? Can the Government tell me?

So, I oppose the Motion that has been moved by the hon. Prime Minister. Though as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee I have got great regard for him—only for Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as a person I have had regard—he may curtail that part of the Prime Minister of India. Except for

that Prime Minister of India, for Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I have got great respect for him.

Anyway, I oppose the Motion that has been moved by him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM DAS ATHAWALE (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was forced to seek the confidence of this House. The Government tried to run this country with the help of various parties. Whether this Government would be stable or not, should have been pondered by Atalji and his partners. But persons having non-secular outlook and the socialists professing secular ideology, remained in the Congress throughout their life. Several such persons met the President, Bahujan Samaj Party, in order to gain power sometimes criticised Congress Party, and sometimes B.J.P. Shri Kumaramangalam did so. Since our school days we use to hear about Shri George Fernandes of Socialist Party. He was a Socialist. But since the past two years, he has harmed socialism. He confined himself to Bihar Politics. The Government formed by the Secular, non-secular parties was perhaps not going to last long.

Taalian Aap Kyon Baja Rahe Hain
Atalji Ko Aap Kyon Saja De Rahe Hain

Bharat Ki Asmita Ka Aap Kyon Maja
Le Rahe Hain

B.J.P. Ki Sarkar Ko Kyon Raja De Rahe Hain.

Seven hours are left. And this Government would be ousted. That which comes, has to go. You came to power thirteen months back. We did not introduce the Confidence Motion. You had decided to form an alliance with Ms Jayalalitha, P.M.K., M.D.M.K. and other parties together formed the Government. You did not run the Government properly. No such paper should be presented on the Bhagwat issue. But I am not supporting Bhagwatji. Later Bhagwatji raised some questions. Our Defence Minister tried to show the documents. And these documents were missing. Who is responsible for the loss of the documents? Some action should have been taken against those responsible for the loss of the documents. But this was not investigated.

I just want to say that our party follows the ideology of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Our party is the real secular party. Our party do not create obstacle anywhere for power. If you will call us and offer the post of Prime Minister to Mr. Gawai or anyone else, we never alligns with B.J.P. This is our question before B.J.P. Our friends Radhakrishnan Ji was asking that why are you opposing B.J.P.? Kumaramangalam Ji we do not oppose you but

Bhartiya Janta Party has to think one thing that the Sangh Parivar's Hindutva ideology means not Nationalism. I understand, if you know that Hindutva means unity and equality, Baba Saheb Ambedkar never tried to adopt Buddhism on 14th Oct. 1956. Baba Saheb was demanding from centuries that we are the people living outside villages and even though we have adopted our country. Efforts have been made to insult us several times in the name of caste and religion, even then we are strongly attached with the country. I am proud of the country. Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Ji has taught us Nationalism. It is good thing that parties, caste and religion differs, but all Indians are one.

Republican Party supports friendship with Pakistan. Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has visited Pakistan by Bus, but we do not know about its outcome. There should be friendship with Pakistan, but the area of Jammu-Kashmir occupied by Pakistan, not even a single inch land should be given to her. That is our land. Therefore do friendship, but now you have no time for friendship, only seven hours are remaining. Advaniji is also a good leader, we request you that you do not try to create problems for Mr. Atalji ...*(Interruptions)* I need five minutes more. Kumaramangalam Ji, I just want to say that we will win in today's voting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please conclude now.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHALWALE : We will win in the voting and it is in the interest of India. Mr. Atal has to go, this is the slogan of Ms. Jayalalita. It is in the interest of Mr. Atal to leave this office.

You are trying more. Our Anand Mohanji was on this side, we have no objection upon anyone, you are a good activist, but we want that you should be in this side. If you will try to go other side, it is also good. I just want to say that whatever is happening since 2-3 days, it is distressful activity for morality. We know that the ideology of Bhartiya Janta Party is different, our course is different, but whatever is happening since two-three days, it is very dangerous for our country. Therefore we appeal to you that let the voting be done. We are going to win and you are going to be defeated. I am not asking Mr. Atalji to resign. I want to say Mr. Anand Mohan that he comes from Bihar, he participated in student's movement now he is supporting B.J.P., it is not good for him but it is good for those and it is not good for his future. I appeal from this House that the parties on that side, either it is Samata Party or P.M.K. oppose this motion...*(Interruptions)* Radhakrishnan Ji, you are in B.J.P., you can not come alone this side, you are my friend and there are so many friends in B.J.P. I just want to appeal that the motion of confidence moved by Mr. Vajpayeeji, should be opposed by all the members and we are also opposing it. We do not oppose Atalji but oppose those all 17-18 supporting parties who are in power. If they will win, President will face trouble. If you

will go now we will be in power for four years. There is strong protest of this motion on behalf of my party. We will promote the ideology of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and maintain secularism.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (SONEPAT) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion is going on the confidence motion moved by Prime Minister since day before yesterday. Motion of this type had been moved one year before also. The purpose of this motion is only one that after withdrawing support from this Government by Ms. Jayalalita and our party, the President has ordered to prove majority in the House. Therefore this confidence motion has been moved. This Government has to prove her majority alongwith achievements and failures of this 13 months old Government are being discussed. As far as the achievements of 13 months old Vajpayee Government is concerned, one year is very small period for any Government to show their achievements, works and winning the confidence of the public. In this situation, where there is a coalition Government of 15-16 parties, to run a Government is difficult. In spite of that I congratulate Vajpayee Ji and his Government that in such a small period he has glorified the name of this country through foreign policy not only in India but in abroad also. He has made the defence strong, economy of this country has been reformed, communal violence has been controlled, and so many achievements are there. But in spite of these achievements, this Government has oppressed 80 per cent of farmers of this country. Farmers hoped a lot from this Government but since last one year they have been fully ignored. Economic burden has been forced upon the farmers. There is devastation due to flood in the whole country, especially Haryana has been fully ignored by this Government in every field. 40 percent of total area of Haryana has been destroyed due to flood. Our party submitted memorandum to the Prime Minister. We have raised question in the House also but no relief has been provided. We had kept some of the problems of our State before the House when the first Confidence motion was moved. Sir, our party is the first party who had declared, unconditional support to Vajpayeeji before election results. We have contested election against Bhartiya Janta Party and Congress but we thought in the interest of the country that Congress do not come in power again therefore we have supported Bhartiya Janta Party in the graceful leadership of Vajpayeeji. We did not join any Ministry, we were supporting from out side. We had not any temptation, we only supported in the interest of the country. The way in which our State has been ignored, our problem became unsolved and the public of our State became annoyed from us. We have demanded on the first day in the House and put our problem that the water of Haryana is flowing in Pakistan continuously from last 32 years. We should get our part of water. Haryana's thousand crores of rupees have been spent on SYL Canal, only six Kilometer part of canal, is

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

remaining to complete, that must be completed so that people of Haryana get water.

Sir, I congratulate Vajpayee Government. He has done a good job by solving the water problem of four States and Cauvery water dispute. Prime Minister has solved a big problem of the country by solving Cauvery water dispute but we regret that our 32 year old capital issue is still pending.

This Government has not taken care on that side. This issue must be solved by calling the leaders of both the States. We have demanded in this House that new trains should be started for 8-10 lakhs people of Haryana who come Delhi by train. New Trains should be started from our State and number of coaches of passenger trains should be increased but we received no response yet. Nobody has listened the problem of Haryana regarding water logging. Employees of that State were oppressed and more than thousand people of Valmiki Community had been sent to jail. The striking nurses had been sent to jail. We raised voice in their support but nobody has listened our voice. We were not heard neither in the view of development nor morally and our public continued to be annoyed. Let alone solving other problems, subsidy has been reduced on fertiliser to add more problem for farmers. By this, the whole farmer community became annoyed. We have made effort in this regard and said that we will not allow excesses on the farmers. We decided that either the prices of fertiliser be reduced or our party will withdraw support. We have also decided that we will not allow Congress party to form Government even at the cost of casting vote to anyone. The reason behind this is that the congress party has ruined this country during last fifty years. This is anti farmers party, they have always taken anti-farmers decisions.

We had assumed the responsibility of the opposition according to the decision of our party. The question was raised whether you would change tomorrow, our votes were reserved for you till yesterday, this was our decision till yesterday that we would not allow the congress to make its Government. But when we have got reports that the congress is going to make its Government, we reconsidered our past decision and decided to support the B.J.P.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUHERIA) : Tell the truth.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : We are asking about the inner thing that has not been disclosed so far.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : I am sorry that Mr. Mulayam Singh is not present here now. He has levelled an allegation without mentioning the name. He

levelled an allegation on Choudhary Devi Lal and Mr. Chautala that they had sold out Haryana. Mr. Devi Lal who went to jail 54 times and was a freedom fighter, he has been alleged that he has sold out Haryana. He must be ashamed of levelling allegation on such a person.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We people and the Rashtriya Loktantrik Morcha respect Choudhary Devi Lal.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Today Mr. Mulayam Singh has made an allegation.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Somebody has misguided you.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : I heard it with my own ears. You please go through the proceedings.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : You don't know about Haryana. There is practice of frequent defection in Haryana. If somebody is with us today he will be with you tomorrow.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Choudhary Devi Lal is the man who has made four Prime Ministers in this country. He was himself the Deputy Prime Minister. There could not be any other person like him in the country who has made such sacrifices. The whole country had appointed Choudhary Devi Lal as the Prime Minister of the country in this Central Hall but he had promised publically that he would make Shri V.P. Singh Prime Minister and he fulfilled his promise. But here such allegations were made on such an ascetic. The people who were always praising him earlier, are blaming him now. I have felt very sorry after knowing them. Morally, we are not the supporters of BJP but we think that the congress is the biggest enemy of the country. We thought that if there would be any Government of third front barring the B.J.P. and the congress, then we will support it. We are pained to learn after the allegations against Mr. Devi Lal. Mr. Mulayam Singh could be the candidate. Mr. Devegowda could also be the candidate and there could be any candidate from the third front, then we could have supported him but when we know that the whole country is going into the lap of congress, i.e. the lap of foreigners. We decide immediately that we would prefer the Government by a compatriot to that by a foreigners. We are the people who made Haryana. The Congress wants to mortgage this country into the hands of foreigners. This is a very regrettable.

AN HON. MEMBER : Tell the names of the people who belong to Pakistan.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Pakistan was a part of this country. Do you know many Pakistanis are living in this country? Will you consider them Pakistanis?

Will you not consider them the citizens of this country? This is a very shameful thing that on the one hand you talk about secularism and on the other hand you level such type of allegations.

At last I want to say that this Government have got the vote of confidence. And there is no power which can topple this Government but I request them to be sympathetic with farmers. The farmers have been destroyed. 90 per cent people live in villages. They should make all out efforts to protect the interest of farmers to keep aloof all other things. This is my request.

SHRI S. S. OWAIISI (HYDERABAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I oppose this motion of confidence. The reason for opposing this motion is that this Government has passed thirteen months and thirteen days in resolving their own disputes. We have not seen any constructive work of this Government. And the only work that has been done is that the people who had earlier told that they would not support this Government, are supporting it now. I fail to understand what has happened today, that they one doing so. I remember a couplet:

Akhlaakh ka jalta hua ghar dekh raha hun
Dekha nahin jata magar dekh raha hun.

Please don't do this atleast. But you see that a very critical situation is being created by your Government. The world is watching it. You are saying that there has been no riot in the country during your tenure. Now, you see, every thing has happened here. Atrocities and excesses have been committed on Christians, the report of Shri Krishan commission has not been accepted. Christians have been burnt alive and many other atrocities have been committed on them. Yet you say that there is peace. Such types of crimes have been committed and you are saying that there is peace. If this is peace then I have nothing to say. If this is your approach then I don't want to say anything else. You may see yourself, what types of speeches are delivered after your arrival. The inflammatory speeches are delivered by the Vishva Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal and it is said that every thing is all right. I just want to say that you are trying your best to save this Government. But your Government are in minority now. So, you are so much embarrassed in thirteen months and we are bearing it for the last fifty years, think over it. Please think over the present situation of the country. What have you done? What has happened after you went to Lahore under duress? And what is its outcome? It is known that this has been done under pressure. The important thing is that what policy you are adopting what are its results. If the results are good then the policy is also good. But you have only one policy and we feel very sorry to see its results.

We have seen how the atrocities and killings have

taken place in Andhra Pradesh but there has been no discussion of President Rule there, because they want to protect their ally. It merits the attention of the Government as to what have they done so far for the largest section of the minority of this country i.e. the muslims now. Why have the Government deprived us of our rights. At least fifty per cent of our labour earnings should be provided to our community. You tell us, is this not an atrocity. What has been done regarding the educational institutes for minority community? Has any constructive work been done in this field so far?

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Your party was behind riots in Hyderabad. Who had been arrested in that case?

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Who had been arrested at that time, to which party did the Mayor belong? Who had circulated the pamphlets? It was the Mayor who belonged to your party, he distributed pamphlets and caused riots. Who had been arrested?

SHRI S. S. OWAIISI : You are talking about riots. How can a muslim causes roits, would he like to destroy himself by causing a riot? You may speak so. But no one is going to believe you. Those who have an iota of intelligence accept that the muslims have been the worst sufferers in every roit during the last fifty years. How can he think of causing riots, you should consider it. There is a minority commission today but it has no legal rights. Some people talk of bringing an end to the present minoirty commission. They talk to ruin our language. They just want to harm them in every possible way, but please remember it, if you try to suppress them extremely then they will react drastically. Don't reach the extreme point from where you will have to be compelled to return. I have nothing more to say. I am thankful to you for giving me permission to speak here. Thank you.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNNAI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Prime Minsiter is seeking a vote of confidence. I rise to oppose this....(Interruptions) In my view he should be given two minutes to present his views and I will speak thereafter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not give the permission.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I rise to oppose this resolution. The question is why did this situation arise. Why did this situation arise, in which the Prime Minister has to seek the vote of confidence? The fact is that the Prime Minister was not able to keep his allies united. Some left earlier. Now A.I.D.M.K. has withdrawn the support. It is surprising that the Prime Minister himself failed to convince his colleagues and is expressing doubts to how the Opposition would form the Government. The Prime Minister should have come before this House and

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

sought forgiveness for not being able to keep his alliance intact, due to which this situation arose. Sir, when this Government was formed it was claimed that the Government would strive for consensus. Consensus eluded the alliance. What to talk of consensus with the Opposition. And in this situation before us it is being said that the Opposition, is trying to destabilise the Government. The truth is that, not only is this Government destabilising the secular democratic foundation, but trying to bring it down. The claims regarding the riot free reign is surprising. Whereas the minorities, the Christians are being openly attacked...(Interruptions) It seems as if those classes who subscribe to the outlook of the biggest party in the ruling coalition, have been given full freedom to spread hatred, violence and to bring about devastation to finish secularism. What I am saying is not based on hear-say. The Secretary and Member of Parliament of our Party. E. Ahmed Sahab toured several places in Gujarat and presented his report. The Home Minister is sitting here. Letter was written to him also. What was needed was to control the sister organisations of B.J.P., which have ideological similarity with B.J.P. They looked on helplessly. I also charge them with aiding and abetting. Not only me, but the allies of the ruling coalition have also charging the B.J.P. for giving full freedom to some people for destruction and devastation.

You might be remembering that a meeting of the Co-ordination Committee or what ever you may call it, took place. Later a statement was issued. I will quote it from 'The Hindu' dated February 3rd, 1999 published from Chennai. This is the statement of the allies. I quote :

[English]

"The Joint statement issued at the end of the meeting and signed by almost all those who were present in the Coordination Committee meeting, demanded that the BJP should ensure that the prestige and cohesiveness of the coalition are not diluted by organisations belonging to its ideological fraternity."

[Translation]

The allies of the B.J.P. warned and charged the B.J.P. for giving a free reign to its ideological sister organisations, to destroy the country's secularism and democracy. And asked it to put a check on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now finish your speech.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I am yet to begin. I will conclude very soon. What could be more severe indictment than this. Churches were burnt down. Missioneries were attacked. People were burnt alive. The Muslims of entire hamlet were forced to flee. Efforts were made to put the stamp of Hindutva on education. Attempt was made to re-write history through saffronisation.

Such people were appointed in the Indian Council of Historical Research who had a particular outlook like them and having the power to present history in a twisted manner.

5.00 hrs.

Sir, how can one express confidence in such people who declared to construct the Temple, irrespective of the judgement of the Supreme Court and who are helpless against their sister organisations, having ideological similarity.

Total freedom has been given for raising a temple in place of Babri Masjid. Construction materials are being prepared with great intensity and zeal and the Government have given full freedom. Yes, the issue of minorities has come up. There is package for everyone. There is package for Kashmir, Bengal, and North-east. I have no objection to it but the minorities have been ignored. There is no package for the minorities...(Interruptions) I shall conclude very soon. As I was sitting patiently, so I expect the same from you. The minorities are scared in Assam because it is being said that Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act will not be repealed and the minorities are scared as if the by-gone era of atrocities, injustice and bunglings may stage a come back. Such conditions are emerging before us.

Yes, a statement about Orissa was made here. A Commission has been set up there because a missionary was burnt alive. First, a clean chit is being given by the Home Minister to a class charged with the commission of this crime. Undue protection is being given which is adding fuel to the fire. He is giving more encouragement to them. Then we are told, yes, Justice Vadhwa Commission has been constituted. What happened to the Justice Vadhwa Commission? No infrastructure is being provided. Vexed with this, Justice Vadhwa Commission wrote to the Government about the treatment being meted out to it. Justice Vadhwa was sad that he was told to hold hearing within his house. Justice Vadhwa writes a note to the Govt. and he writes in the note, I quote.

[English]

"It also show perhaps the General Government is not serious about the functioning of this Commission".

[Translation]

This is the situation. Yesterday, it was said that the Institutions are being denigrated.....(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for us you had rung the bell within two minutes but he has been speaking for 15 minutes...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not caste aspersion on the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The reality is sour. The Prime Minister has stated that we would have to initiate a national debate on conversions, if Christians are attacked. It is a kind of encouragement. A national debate on conversions is a horrible attempt to divide the country into two parts i.e., one of those who agree with conversions and the second of those who do not agree with conversions. Seeing your importance and restlessness, I going to conclude. It is being claimed today from defence point, we have emerged stronger after Pokhran and Agni tests. I also extend congratulations for conducting Pokhran test but what clumsiness the country saw later, belittled the dignity and honour of the country. But this is the position of defence.

[English]

Government expenditure has fallen to 14 per cent from 15.40 per cent.

[Translation]

The defence expenditure is being curtailed and it is said that we take care of it. If you look at the Gross Domestic Product, it has come down to 2.28 per cent from 2.54....(Interruptions) I would conclude after thanking Mr. Advani, the Home Minister. He has said that Muslim League is also not politically untouchable. Thank you, very much. I want to assure you that as far as we are concerned, our opposition to someone, is based on the principles, programmes and performance. Today, this Government has become a threat to the democracy, secularism, and national security and for this we fully oppose this motion on the Vote of Confidence, we oppose it and we believe that the country will get rid of this very soon.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, on behalf of my party, the Biju Janata Dal, I support the Motion moved by our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

In the last few days, there has been a talk of numbers game but Sir, I think we should all remember in this august House that there is only one number that matters and that number is the millions of citizens of our beloved country who are forced to live below the poverty line eking out a living on the very margins of existence. Yesterday, my hon. colleague Shri Yashwant Sinha pointed that the economic well-being of this nation should be the

primary concern of each one of the people's representatives regardless of party affiliations. It should be a matter of pride for each Member of Parliament that today, our Government has kept India's economy stable when the economy of the world has been crashing around us. Countries like Russia, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia and CIS countries have all tried to save their economies but India has succeeded in it. We have been the lions at the gates. We have truly acted as the servants of the people. As the hon. Members of the Opposition are aware, our Government came into being during the worst slowdown in the steel industry that the world has ever known but as the cricketing slogan says, we have truly been a safe pair of hands. As the world climbs out of the steel slowdown, my Ministry has ensured that Indians would not have to import steel from abroad for anything from taps to voting booths, railway lines, to housing construction. Instead, we will be exporting these, the fact recognised by the United States of America which is already trying to stop the import of various Indian steel items.

There are other achievements too of our Government and as far as my Ministry is concerned, I would like to point out some of those achievements. Many of our Public Sector companies, namely, Hindustan Zinc Limited, NALCO, KIOCL, BALCO, NMDC etc. are doing very well. Also, in the mining sector, to simplify procedures and to delegate powers to State Governments, to attract capital and the state-of-the-art technology, the mining laws are being amended and it has been cleared by the Cabinet.

Setting up of a Nickel Extraction Technology Pilot Plant, if successful, will enable the State of Orissa to exploit its vast resources of nickel. Many licences for large area prospecting have been granted. Expedient clearances of prospecting lease and mining leases have been ensured for the mineral development of the country. Again, I repeat that the world is going through a serious recession so far as the steel sector is concerned. But we certainly hope that steel will firm up at the end of this year both in our nation and in the world. So, we are also going for a turn-around proposal for SAIL and for the Vizag Steel Plant. These are being considered by the Government. Packages for the Bharat Refractories have been cleared. HSCL is under consideration.

Now, I would like to turn my home State of Orissa. When my Party joined our coalition Government, the Vajpayee Government, we stated that we represent the poorest people of the poorest State in the nation. If our Government were to improve their conditions, then, indeed we will have achieved a great deal. In one year, our Government has committed itself to the massive development in Orissa. Nilachal Ispat Nigam, a Steel Plant, will go into production within a year. A new oil refinery at Paradeep in Orissa at an investment of almost Rs. 10,000

[Shri Naveen Patnaik]

crore is also being set up. This is the biggest single investment in the State made by the Centre in the Independent India's history.

The Centre has taken great notice of the disparities of various regions in Orissa for the first time. We have ensured that the people of western Orissa will be partners in the development of the State by massively investing in communication networks, rail line, namely, the Talcher-Sambalpur line which was completed on last year's Independence Day. In fact, the survey of this very important line, which connects western Orissa the coastal Orissa, was done virtually a century ago. During the tenure of our Government, we have completed this historical line which was important both for goods traffic and for the passengers in our State.

The Kurdha-Bolangir line is an extremely important line. It has also got an increased allocation. I would like to mention here that Mahatma Gandhi said that India is a nation of villages. But it can certainly be said that Orissa is a State of villages. Irrigation is critical to our State. It was the Biju Janata Dal which introduced the particular passage on irrigation in the National Agenda for Governance. I can proudly say that very recently the Cabinet agreed that for small, medium and large-scale irrigation projects, we would have the same benefits—as the North-Eastern States have — of 75 per cent grant and 25 per cent loan. This is particularly important for the KBK Districts. You cannot call it a State package.

You have to call it a national package. As a whole as every Member in this august House knows that KBK has been known for its alleged starvation deaths. It is triply important that irrigation be paid particular attention there and especially for the whole nation which has heard its name for alleged starvation deaths ...(*Interruptions*) Certain Members of the House have mentioned the State of Orissa and they have also mentioned secularism. I do not think it is out of place to mention today that it is the second death anniversary of my late father, who was a Member of this House. I do not think anyone need doubt the patriotic and secular credentials of my family. I would like to mention here one such detail. My father always contributed his freedom fighter's fund to Mother Teresa. I would also like to mention when you talk about the tragic episode of the murder of the Australian Missionary with his two sons. I think, the Congress party, its own Chief Minister resigned because of that. So, I think it is quite clear as to who took the responsibilities for that particular and horrible incident. I repeat again...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : He took the moral responsibility. Nobody else took the responsibility.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : He took the responsibility or whatever you may call it. Again just go back to our

State. A number of other decisions like the opening of various railway lines, huge project to improve health care system in Orissa being aided by the World Bank, increased allocation under the State Plan for Orissa for speeding up development activities, greater focus for development of the KBK areas, by increased allocation of funds, and frequent monitoring by the Central Government. On the last Independence Day, the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort declared the good works that would begin for the deprived KBK areas and indeed that has begun. Indeed, that is a great credit to our Government. I would like to end by saying about what will happen this morning. It is rather interesting that a little more than a year ago, I was a recent entrant to politics, a little more than a year ago, I had been a Member of Parliament for six months. It is extraordinary that the Congress then withdrew its support to exactly the same structure it is now recreating. While it is fascinating to see whether the Congress party will have this as a Sports Day every year and whether they think parliamentary elections should be held once in five years or once a year.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : Make it a sports event or you say whatever you want. You are a good man, we allow you say whatever you want.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Indeed I am a good man. I am a new incumbent in this august House. I am asking you a question. Is it going to be an annual function?

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : You observe it.

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : I am observing it already. I have been an MP for about two years. So, indeed I observe it for myself. Over frequent elections are a colossal expense to the nation, a colossal loss of manpower to the nation. It is nothing to be taken lightly. What more can I say? Again I wish to thank you for letting me speak. Again, I want to congratulate and to thank our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for what he has done for our great nation and for my beloved State.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : It is a privilege to be the last speaker. It is more of a privilege to speak at 0516 a.m. the Government is facing this Confidence Motion not because the Opposition parties thrust upon the Government such a situation.

It is a situation which has come because of the contradictions within the coalition and within the major party. I think this was not expected at this period of time, but we are witness to the activities of the Government which they were undertaking. The enemies were from within and not from outside. Shri Vajpayee is really a good statesman, but he is a fish out of water and has been facing so many difficulties from his own side. He has been facing these problems mainly from within his party.

Sir, Shri George Fernandes was saying in the House that some defence documents have been hijacked from the Government. I am sure that the Government itself is being hijacked by the contradictions within the Government. Due to paucity of time, I will not be able to present all the analysis which I wanted to present because we have to consider the fact that many hon. Members want to participate in the debate. So, I will spell out only the main points.

With regard to the attack on the minorities, much has been stated here. About 30 churches have been burnt in Gujarat and I also an opportunity to go there and visit those places. But we have not been given any reply as to what exactly has been done there. A team has gone from here, but the team did not go to the exact places where the atrocities were committed. There have also been cases in Maharashtra where a resolution was passed by one of the *Sangh Parivar* organisations to the effect that the Christians, especially the Christian missionaries should leave the State within a particular period of time and if not, they will have to face the consequences. I do not think that any action has been taken in this regard.

Sir, many incidents of atrocities on the minorities took place in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and in other parts of the country, but I do not think that the Government has come out with a proper account of what exactly could be done to see that such atrocities are averted in future. I think many incidents of atrocities took place because of the problems which arose within the major party.

Sir, saffronisation of education was intended to be done and it was a hidden agenda of this Government. It has been dealt with by many hon. Members. We saw it in the first Conference of State Education Ministers and it was widely reported in the Press. But this was not stopped with that Conference. We find that many persons heading the various academic bodies in this country have been changed and the tradition of bringing in very senior scholars and Vice-Chancellors of Universities to head such institutions has been done away with in the institutions like the NCTE, NCERT, ICSSR etc. In the Maulana Azad Institute of Asian Studies, a Director has been appointed recently. But he said that he was a retired police officer. Then, there is a criticism that scholars, who used to head institutions like the Indian Council of Historical Research, have been changed and new persons have been posted by the Search Committee of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. That Committee itself is a body of scholars and eminent persons, but that has also been changed to suit the needs of the present Government.

I do not want to take time of the House any more. But, I think, I should touch the issue of farmers. As you know, it has been dealt with by many hon. Members. There have been suicides by farmers in many parts of

India, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and some areas in the South. In Kerala also, the Government knows very well that the farmers are getting a very low price—mainly in cash crops. Not only the farmers but also the whole State of Kerala has been ruined. The Government of India could not do much in this respect. Especially the price of rubber has come down from Rs. 70 per kg to Rs. 25 per kg. within a period of two to two-and-a-half years. The Government which has been in power for one year, has seen it coming down from Rs. 40 to Rs. 25 per kg but nothing could be done. This has affected not only the economy of the Kerala State but it has also affected the whole of India because we are producing about six lakh tonnes of rubber. We are one of the major producers of rubber in the world. So, this is something which the Government should have taken up very seriously. The price which was fixed at Rs. 34.05 has not been given to the farmers. Now, if this Government could spare, say, Rs. 200 crore or Rs. 300 crore for the farmers, they would survive. Now, the farmers could not survive. I do not know whether this Government will get a chance to do anything in this regard now because its hours are numbered.

With regard to tea, cardamom, coffee, pepper, etc., the Sri Lankan Award is causing a lot of problems. The Government had stated that something would be done. I do not think that much could be done in this regard.

With regard to the new import policy, which has been mentioned by many hon. Members, especially, the farmers of Kerala have been very seriously affected because free import of tea and many of the spices and rubber goods, etc., has been allowed. This is going to cause a lot of problems.

Now, with regard to other aspects like corruption, inefficiency and bureaucratic problems, which have been caused during the regime of this Government, I do not want to deal with these any further. But I would say that the hopes have been lost. The youth of this country and the rural folk of this country are totally dissatisfied with what has been delivered. So, I think, it is time to go. Therefore, we will call it a day. I think, I will stop by saying this. I oppose the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we are sitting here for the last 14 hours. Only one member from every party has spoken so far. We are 17 persons.

SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL : Laloo Ji has staged a lot of drama.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Since you have allowed me to speak only at this hour when dawn is about to break, therefore, whatever I speak, I will speak truth and nothing else. Also I will hide nothing.

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Call the name of Sonia Ji.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : That also I will do....(Interruptions) They are uselessly levelling charges. They are on the brink of ouster but even then raising their fingers at us. They are feeling greatly pained for they have been asked to seek vote of confidence. When the support has been withdrawn and the Government have been reduced to minority and finally the President has asked them to seek the confidence vote, then, there is no justification on their part to say that they should have been allowed to seek the confidence vote later on.

Meanwhile, if they get in between the time of two to three days, it will be used by them for horse-trading....(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not proper on his part to say like this...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This Government is likely to be defeated within 6-7 hours. Now no power on this earth can save this Government. All their supporters have switched over to this side. What are the reasons which have driven them to that side...(Interruptions) Much is being spent on getting support. Rumours are spreading like anything. People are ready to spend crores of rupees...(Interruptions)

Their various Ministers are engaged in this mission. They are keeping telephone receivers near their ears round the clock. His submission is as to what is the substitute for this Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is not speaking the truth. His submission should not be recorded...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : In the name of foreign origin, you are trying to mislead the people. They say that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is a foreigner. He want to demoralise us. Dr. Lohia had once said...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I am on a point of order. He cannot take the name of somebody who is not in the House....(Interruptions) I am sorry, yesterday morning we had to adjourn the House with a similar situation.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : But there is not allegation in that...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : He should not refer to anybody who is not a Member of the House. There were no allegations at that time also...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Dr. Lohia had said, when Svetlana visited India...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Otherwise, we will made the same charge. They should also give a proof for that(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : How is it that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stood up? Like Madan Lal Khurana Ji, you may also be sacked..(Interruptions) Dr. Lohia has said that when Svetlana came to India and got married to Brijesh Singh, she became 'Bahu' of Rama and Krishna. She became 'Bahu' of Hindustan. Will you still treat her as a foreigner? Do you still doubt her culture? The Indian culture believes in giving love and affection to its "Bahu" after accepting her. Our culture does not believe in showing any disrespect to our 'Bahus'. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is the wife of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Attempt has been made to demoralise us by calling her a foreigner. You people look deceptive. You are misinterpreting the Indian culture. This is not an effort to strengthen our culture. Please, do not mislead the people.

"Jal Ka Deep Na Jal Payega,
Chhal Ka Raj Nahi Chal Payega."

You want to divide Bihar but we protest it. We want to push out such a Government. We want to take course to agitation to remove this Government. It is a great pleasure now that they will be removed on this basis of number game. This country will get rid of a communal Government(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : You hon'ble Member has charged us with horse-trading and spending crores of rupees therein. This should be expunged from the record...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Truth knows no fear. We will prove everything and reveal the names of the Ministers involved in this business...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will expunge all those things. Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again today at 11 a.m.

5.35 hrs.

(17-4-99)

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock.

CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Friday, April 16, 1999/Chaitra 26, 1921 (Saka)

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
101/9	THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEDGE)	THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE)
117/13	COMMECRE	COMMERCE
125/1	THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HAGDE)	THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE)
133/6	SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE	PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE
173/23	(b)	(c)
229/8(from below)	SHRI SAMNATH CHATTERJEE	SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
239/6(from below)	THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF NON- CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF LAW,JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R.KUMARAMANGALAM)	THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON- CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM)
275/8	SHRI DUTTA MEGHA	SHRI DATTA MEGHE
314/1	SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETA	SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE
388/10	MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURALI MAHONAR JOSHI)	THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR.MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

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