

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Fifth Session**  
**(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)**



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*(Vol. XI contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

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**NEW DELHI**

*Price : Rs. 50.00*

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# CONTENTS

*Thirteenth Series, Vol. XI, Fifth Session 2000/1922 (Saka)*  
**Friday, December 01, 2000/Agrahayana 10, 1922 (Saka)**

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
*Starred Question Nos. 181-183, 185 and 186. ....	1-29
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
Starred Question Nos. 184, 187-200 .....	29-44
Unstarred Question Nos. 1996-2225. ....	44-295
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE. ....	295-317
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS. ....	317
Eleventh Report	
JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT. ....	317
Second Report	
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE. ....	318-320
RE. REPORTED KILLING OF PEOPLE IN ASSAM BY THE MILITANTS .....	321-323
REGISTRATION AND OTHER RELATED LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL. ....	344
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE DISAPPROVAL OF THE CENTRAL ROAD FUND ORDINANCE AND CENTRAL ROAD FUND BILL. ....	344-377
Motion to consider. ....	376
Shri Kharabela Swain. ....	344-348
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. ....	348-352
Shri K. Yerrannaidu. ....	352-354
Shri Ramji Lal Suman. ....	354-356
Shri Trilochan Kanungo. ....	357-358
Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. ....	358-362
Shri Prabhunath Singh. ....	362-364
Shri Rajo Singh. ....	364-366
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. ....	366-368
Shri P.S. Gadhavi. ....	368-369
Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Shri B. C. Khanduri. ....	370-375

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.....	375-376
Clauses 2 to 15 and 1.....	377
Motion of Pass.....	377
<b>MOTION RE : TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.</b>	<b>377</b>
<b>RESOLUTION RE : RESERVATION FOR SOCIALLY AND EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD CLASSES .....</b>	<b>378-404</b>
Shri E. Ahamed.....	378-387, 401-404
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.....	387-389
Shri Bal Krishan Chauhan.....	389-391
Shri Anadi Sahu.....	391-396
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.....	396-397
Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.....	398-401
<b>RESOLUTION RE : PROBLEMS OF SUGARCANE GROWERS.....</b>	<b>405-420</b>
Dr. M.P. Jaiswal.....	405-410
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.....	410-413
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan.....	413-416
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.....	416-420

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Friday, December 01, 2000, Agra-hayana 10, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[ MR. SPEAKER in the Chair ]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Disinvestment in Maruti Udyog Limited

\*181. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state-

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to sell Government's stake in Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Heavy Industry has opposed this move of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (d) The Government, after taking into account the views of all concerned Ministries/Departments, has decided to look into the possibilities and modalities of disinvestment of its equity in Maruti Udyog Limited. The Government has constituted a Group of Secretaries to recommend optimal ways of disinvestment in Maruti Udyog Ltd.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Respected Speaker Sir, Maruti Udyog Ltd. is one of the most profit making public sector undertakings in India. I do not know why the Government wants to dispose of such profit-making industry. I would like to know whether the Government have had consultations with Suzuki Motor Corporation

of Japan, who are equal partners in this venture. If so, what is their reaction? I would also like to know whether there was a difference of opinion on disinvestment of Maruti Udyog Ltd. between the Ministries. If so, the details thereof.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, three separate questions have been asked.

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

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Firstly, on the question of Suzuki, yes consultations have been held. Their Directors who are from Japan, and their local head of the India office, had met the Secretary of Disinvestment yesterday. We have asked them to spell out their reaction. They will be meeting the team of Secretaries today. Yesterday, they just listened to the various proposals or several alternatives that are before the Government. They said that they would consult their Directors in Japan and come back to us about what their reactions are to the these.

Secondly on the question of the profit making status of the company, I would like to say that till three years ago, Maruti Udyog Ltd. made a profit of Rs.650 crore. Last year the profit fell to Rs. 330 crore. In the first seven months of this year, Maruti Udyog Ltd. has made, I am told, a loss of about Rs. 128 crore. Its market share, which was 83 per cent of the market just three years ago, has fallen and it wavers now between 55 per cent and 60 per cent.

I could list various factors, but perhaps this is enough, for the questions the hon. Member had asked.

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Sir, I would like to know whether there is any plan for preferring Indian companies while going in for disinvestment. There are press reports that Bajaj Company is interested and ready to pay Rs. 2800 crore for the stake. Why do we not encourage Indian companies? I would also like to know whether the Employees Union would also be consulted before taking any decision on disinvestment as their future is also at stake. How are they going to protect the employees?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, again two questions have been asked, one on Bajaj or Indian companies, and second on Employees Unions.

It is absolutely premature to identify any company at all. We have had no contact with Mr. Rahul Bajaj or any of his representatives or any other Indian or foreign company.

The second point is that in all disinvestment transactions, a completely settled and open procedure has been adopted in which we would try not to have negotiations with individual parties because that leads to many grave problems and many allegations. In the end, after parties have been shortlisted, there will be competitive bidding. We would hope that, Suzuki would agree to this because under the agreement their written consent is necessary. As you know, the 1982 agreement was altered in 1992 and 1996 and there is a clause now in which neither side can sell its equity share without the written consent of the other side. So, if we go in for any partner, whether it is Bajaj Auto or any other company, it will have to be with the consent of Suzuki. Our hope would be that Suzuki itself would not come only with one proposal for only one company because then they can fix the rate. Our effort would be that they give us a set of names, let us say, of ten companies in which there can be at least, limited competition by international tendering. Certainly, Shri Bajaj or anybody else would be most welcome to participate in that competitive bidding.

The second question which the hon. Member has asked is about Unions. Again there is a complete misapprehension because we do not realise that Maruti Udyog Ltd. is not a Government company today. As you know, under Section 617 of the Companies Act, a company is a Government company if the Government has, at least, 51 per cent of the equity of that company. In this case, the Government has only 49.74 per cent of the equity.

This is a thing that you may not recall, but first Suzuki used to have just 26 per cent share of the Maruti Udyog Ltd. in 1982. In 1987, this was raised to 40 per cent, in 1992, in a transaction which invited great public censure, Suzuki was allowed to raise its share to 50 per cent and about 0.26 per cent share was given to employees. So, the Government's share came down to less than 50 per cent. That was done at a price of Rs. 269 for a Rs. 100 share when even the Hindustan Motor's share at that time was selling, I am told, at about Rs. 770 for Rs. 100 share.

So, there is an history Maruti is not a Government company today. The worker' interests are governed, as in the case of all non-Government companies, by, the normal industrial laws of the country, and they will continue to be governed by the same laws even if the Government were to go ahead and decide on disinvestment of its remaining equity.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, this is a very important question and this House is very sparsely attended today, so I would seek your indulgence for little more time to be explicit on this question.

Sir, Maruti Udyog Ltd. was a company which was in private sector.

MR. SPEAKER: We are also going to discuss the disinvestment policy in the House next week.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Yes, but then this is on a specific point.

Originally, Maruti Udyog Ltd. was in private sector. Then it was started in public sector. It was because of Maruti that automobile industry in the country has acquired new technologies, and new kinds of cars are available to the consumers in the country. Maruti was making profit and we are told that Maruti is not making profit now. Now, if we have to turn an industry from profit-making industry in loss making industry, we can do it by grounding the aircraft or having the strike or mismanaging in such a fashion as to show that it is not a profit making industry and that it is a loss making industry.

The Government has been saying that it would like to be transparent and they have introduced the Right to Information Bill also. The Question that has been asked is this: has the Government decided to sell it, disinvest it and whether the Ministry of Industry has opposed it?

The Question that was asked is to what is the rationale behind disinvesting it. The reply given is very cryptic. It does not say anything at all. It rather hides than discloses anything. The reply says:

"The Government, after taking into account the views of all concerned Ministries/Departments, has decided to look into the possibilities and modalities of disinvestment of its equity in Maruti Udyog Ltd."

That means, the Government has not come to the conclusion that it has to be disinvested. The next sentence says:

"The Government has constituted a Group of Secretaries to recommend optimal ways of disinvestment in Maruti."

The second sentence says that the Government has come to the conclusion and the first sentence says that they are looking into the possibilities. Now, these are two contradictory things. The information is not given. Why is the Government doing this? What is the rationale behind it?

A profit-making industry is being disinvested. Industry, which can take new technology is being disinvested. Industry which can really get new technology

in automobile industry and can see that the automobile industry reaches the great height is being disinvested. Everybody is trying to give new models and new models are all dependent on petrol. Nobody is thinking of having a vehicle which can run on solar energy or battery energy. This is an industry which can help us in this matter. We do not know what is the rationale, and what is the policy. Is it to be done at the whims and fancies of some individuals? Is it to be done because somebody wants that it should be done or is to be done because of some policy which has been formulated by the Government? Is there any policy by the Government in such matters?

We would be happy if the hon. Minister dispels our doubt, dispels our misunderstanding, be a little more transparent and a little more informative to the House.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, a series of very important questions have been asked. I will certainly reply to them.

Sir, as you have just now mentioned, you have been pleased to fix a debate on the question of disinvestment for the 7th December, and many questions of this kind will be taken up and I will answer them.... *(Interruptions)* I am at your service. I will answer this particular point which you have made.

The policy has been clearly enunciated by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech. We have circulated it. I have mentioned it last time. I have read it verbatim in this House.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There is no policy. You do not even give a White Paper. What is the policy?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will come to the question.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You have been transparently opaque. He has asked you whether there are differences between you and Shri Manohar Joshi. You tell us honestly. Let us know the answer to that.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I will answer each one of these questions now.

Firstly, the verbatim decision of the Government is as follows:

"The Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment has set up a Committee of Secretaries to recommend optimal ways of disinvestment in Maruti Udyog Limited by *inter alia* opening a discussion with Suzuki Motor Company. "

This is the verbatim decision of the Government. The reason for wording it in this manner is precisely that clause 6 (i) in the agreement, with which you, Sir, are very familiar, of 1992 and 1996, in which it has been laid down that the Government cannot dispose of its equity without the written consent of Suzuki. You will find it a strange clause....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The Right to Information Bill is pending before the House. You are violating that.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, this is not the proper way to raise it in the Question Hour. First of all, you hear what the Minister says.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Right to information is a fundamental right. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this? You are not allowing the Minister to reply.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That clause says that the Government cannot dispose of its share in the equity.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is what I oppose. Right to information is a fundamental right. You cannot disclose. Why?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is not disclose, it is dispose.

The Government cannot sell its share in the equity without the written consent of Suzuki Motor Company. For that reason, it is just not possible for the Government to peremptorily announce that they would do so. That is exactly what Shri Manohar Joshi had emphasised.

The Committee of Secretaries will open discussions - it has opened discussions - with Suzuki to tell them that there are five or six ways or alternatives, and ask what they have in mind, what the future prospects of the company are and what we can do. That is one point.

The second point - this keeps coming up — is about the differences between the Ministry of Heavy Industries and the Department of Disinvestment. I have been pleading with my friends that they should not hunt for or invent differences as they would be greatly disappointed in the end. It is a good thing that when the Cabinet meets it must have vigorously argued and well-documented points of view from various quarters. It is only then that a Cabinet can collectively deliberate and

come to a decision. In this case, the different points of view and the different sets of arguments were presented to the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment and as I recalled to you, that was their verbatim decision. After the alternatives have been explored by the Secretaries they will report back to the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment you point to Shri Manohar Joshi. He is a very senior member of that Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment. And all of us know, in the Cabinet nothing can be done without the enthusiastic endorsement of important Ministers.

**SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL :** In my question I did not ask about the difference. I asked about the rationale behind it.

**SHRI ARUN SHOURIE :** I am coming to that. I am responding to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar's intervention. I will come to the rationale that you have asked.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Minister, you must reply to Shri Shivraj V. Patil, not to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar because he has asked the supplementary.

**SHRI ARUN SHOURIE:** All right. Sir, I will do that. I am sorry about that; it was put with such a force. It had been put earlier in the main question also, that is why I wanted to reply to it.

On the question of rationale for this, the first point is, in a country besieged with problems as we are, with questions of poverty facing us and a hundred other tasks with which Shri Shivraj V. Patil is so well-acquainted which the Government must attend to, whether the Government should devote its resources and attention to producing cars, private passenger cars, costing Rs. 2 lakh to 8 lakh per car—rupees two lakh to eight lakh - when all the time members are saying that the towns of its work should be anti-poverty measures. That is one of the points.

The second point is, we keep talking of companies making profits. But we must see the prospects for those companies continuing to make profits. I do not want to say anything....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:** Sir, I am on a point of order. ....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**Mr. SPEAKER:** This will not go on record. Please take your seat.

Mr. Minister, you continue.

... (*Interruptions*)\*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please sit down.

**SHRI ARUN SHOURIE:** On the prospects of Maruti as assessed by us,... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** You sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have not permitted you, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. What is this? Without the permission of the Chair how can you raise the matter? Please take your seat. What is this?

**SHRI ARUN SHOURIE:** The four points to remember in regard to the rationale are, one, it is a low priority sector because it is meant for passenger cars..... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, why are you unnecessarily provoking them? The hon. Minister is here. Why are you unnecessarily intervening?

**SHRI ARUN SHOURIE:** The second is that the Maruti which had a commanding position in the market has been rapidly losing position. In the last two years it has already come down from 83 per cent to 55 per cent to 60 per cent.

Its profitability, which was Rs. 650 crore, has now come to a loss of Rs. 128 crore in the first seven months. Thirdly, three new models which Maruti with 'Suzuki' as its partner, has introduced have not exhibited adequate competitiveness. In the three new models which have been introduced since Zen, I have been told by the Ministry of Heavy Industries that the market share is 5 per cent to 8 per cent to 10 per cent in the case of these..... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Minister, there are other questions. Please understand. This is the first question and we have already taken 20 minutes on this question.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARUN SHOURIE:** So, all these considerations have been taken into account ... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Government have invested the money and now when there is a hope to earn profit, they are talking about disinvestment. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I will answer these questions fully, if I am allowed to answer. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have not permitted you. Mr. Minister, please complete your reply.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, as I mentioned to you, we have to assess not only just the profitability, and the current position; and, in our view, the prospects of that company in the coming years. It is in view of these factors that, this decision has been taken.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Kharabela Swain.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, we want a Half-an-Hour discussion on this..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, we are discussing the Disinvestment Policy in the House, next week.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : My question is very short. ... (Interruptions) Sir, there should be order in the House. How can I ask a question?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, we are discussing the Disinvestment Policy in the House, next week.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, please allow us Half-an-Hour discussion on Maruti Udyog Limited. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I have called Shri Kharabela Swain.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, there was a Calling Attention on Maruti Udyog Limited two days earlier.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Shri Kharabela Swain, what is your Supplementary?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The department, of Industry is against it. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : My supplementary is this: How much has the share value of the Maruti Udyog Limited fallen within the last three years, and had the Government sold the Maruti Udyog Limited three years back, how much profit you would have earned?... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, actually, Maruti's, is not a traded share. So, it is not possible to say that share value was that and its share value is this. Secondly, 'yes', about four-and-a-half to five years ago, it seems that conversations did take place by the then Government for disinvesting the Government's stake in Maruti. In retrospect the figures given to me were quite astonishing. I do not want to give the figure now because ye would be negotiating with others. I do not want to that figure to become a ceiling or a floor in either way, but on the telling of the persons who received that figure, it was very high compared to today. This is known to the Hon. Minister for Heavy Industries. The figure is known to him.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Why are you taking resort to Heavy Industries? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That high figure was because of the dominant position of Maruti, then 83 per cent of the market today, when it has fallen to 55 to 60 per cent... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, had we sold it just three years back, we would have fetched more than Rs. 5,000 crore... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can avoid this confrontation. You address the Chair please.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, with the policy of liberalisation and other competitors being allowed to come into the market... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this, Shri Rupchand Pal? I have not permitted you. Please understand that.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may not reply to him; you have to reply only to Shri Kharabela Swain's Supplementary.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, as Shri Swain said, a very attractive offer was made to the Government of India and the Government did not take up that offer for all sorts of reasons—I do not know. The position is that today, the Government of India would be struggling to get anywhere near that amount.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, we do not find any reasons why the Government is in so much hurry to sell the Government's stake in Maruti Udyog Limited. My pointed question to the Minister is whether the market share of the Maruti Udyog Limited has fallen to its all time low in the current year, which has resulted in bringing down the value of the Maruti Udyog Limited. That is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is whether it is a fact that in the last six months, the production of vehicles has fallen to 1.77 lakhs compared to 4.07 lakhs in the previous year. If so, what are the reasons behind it? Please give the details.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the first point is that in negotiating for the price or in accepting international bids and in valuation of Maruti Udyog Limited, we will not go only by the current loss of Maruti or its falling share of the market, we will look at the market potential of Maruti. It has a strong strategic presence in the Indian automobile industry and the bidders will have to take that into account. This is not a distress sale, this is an option for the Government. Secondly, the Government is in no hurry. If the Government were in a hurry, we would not have appointed a Committee of Secretaries to explore several alternatives for this purpose... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply to other Members please.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the third point is that the fall in production is certainly not as precipitate as has been mentioned by the Hon. Member. I can give the precise figures. But the main point is that, yes, in the last few months, because of the deteriorating industrial relations, which have to do with many persons and

outsides also, naturally the company will suffer, and if industrial relations are spoiled by outsiders in this or any other enterprise, then the Government's ability to get the best price will be that much impaired. That is obvious.

MR. SPEAKER: Since already half-an-hour is over and next week we are going to discuss the Disinvestment Policy, let us go to the next question now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : One small question, Sir. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the automobile sector as such is in total doldrums? The Government of India has opened up the automobile sector for the foreign companies and some of them have started production and marketing in the small car sector also..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, this Question is regarding disinvestment with regard to Maruti Udyog Limited.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I would like to know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that the capacity utilisation in respect of the private automobile sector is also in total chaos and doldrums and Maruti still commands a very good competitive position.

Is it not a fact that to give advantage to the competitors this dismantling is being proposed?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the last is just a surmise and an allegation and there are different versions about the essential industrial unrest. These issues were addressed by the Hon. Minister for Heavy Industries just two days ago. On the automobile sector as a whole, it is precisely for the reason which the Hon. Minister is mentioning the volatility of this sector do you want to expose the Government of India to such a volatile and a sector when it is not a priority sector at all? The argument works the other way around. ... *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, the result of this volatility all over the world in the automobile sector is that a great consolidation is going on among automobile majors. I could read out to you the great consolidations that have taken place between Daimler and Chrysler; between FORD buying up various companies like Matiz and General Motors buying up various companies including 20 per cent stake in Suzuki in Japan.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : They are profitable companies. You are making them sick... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

### Computerisation of Public Sector Banks

\*182. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :  
SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several branches of public sector banks have not been fully computerised so far;

(b) if so, details thereof, branch wise;

(c) the time by which all the branches of public sector banks are likely to be fully computerised; and

(d) the impact on the strength of employees as a result thereof ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL.) : (a) to (d) A Statement to laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Earlier the public sector banks had targeted to computerise only those branches having a daily workload of more than 750 vouchers as per recommendation other Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee which submitted its report in November, 1989.

Subsequently, in accordance with direction given by the Chief Vigilance Commissioner vide his circular dated November 27, 1998, Indian Banks' Association (IBA) representing management of banks has entered into an agreement with their workmen unions on March 27, 2000 to computerise 70% of their business. As per the information received from the Reserve Bank of India for the period ended 30th September 2000, 61.45% of business of public sector banks has been computerised. 6982 branches are fully computerised and 9304 branches partially computerised. The bank-wise position, of computerisation is given in the Annexure.

(c) Banks are not targeting to computerise all their branches at present since computerisation of branches with low business is not commercially viable and in certain areas, computerisation is not possible due to power shortage and infrastructure bottlenecks. Thus, no time frame can be indicated for computerising all branches of public sector banks.

(d) Public Sector Banks are in the process of reassessing and planning their manpower, in the context of introduction of new services such as seven day banking, extended business hours, shift system, treasury management and introduction of computerisation etc. so that they are able to provide efficient and economical financial services in growing competitive environment. In the context of computerisation, the IBA has signed an agreement with their workmen unions that there will be no retrenchment and existing staff would be suitably redeployed.

#### Annexure

Bank-wise position of Computerisation in India Public Sector Banks for the period ended 30th September, 2000

Sl. No.	Bank	Total number of Branches	Number of Branches Fully computerised	No. of Branches Partially computerised	Branches not Computerised
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	State Bank of India	9007	22327	2758	4012
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	796	126	24	646
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	876	94	157	625
4.	State Bank of Indore	404	58	45	301
5.	State Bank of Mysore	597	33	72	492
6.	State Bank of Patiala	714	144	28	542
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	408	60	58	288
8.	State Bank of Travancore	671	135	120	416
9.	Allahabad Bank	2015	53	342	1620
10.	Andhra Bank	1018	154	182	682
11.	Bank of Baroda	2619	255	808	1556

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Bank of India	2515	515	91	1909
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	1203	126	185	892
14.	Canara Bank	2398	336	564	1498
15.	Central Bank of India	3105	526	103	2476
16.	Corporation Bank	649	288	0	361
17.	Dena Bank	1171	246	276	649
18.	Indian Bank	1477	249	37	1191
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1423	287	396	740
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	918	158	271	489
21.	Punjab National Bank	3872	214	283	3375
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	873	37	347	489
23.	Syndicate Bank	1717	176	675	866
24.	UCO Bank	*1774	*33	*509	*1232
25.	Union Bank	2139	108	676	1355
26.	United Bank of India	1325	95	271	959
27.	Vijaya Bank	838	239	26	573
Total		46520	6982	9304	30234

\*Indicates figure as on 31st March, 2000.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of report of Rangrajan Committee and the agreement signed with bank employees, Hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply that 70 per cent banks will be computerised. However, more than 30 thousand banks or their branches have not been computerised till date. Hon. Minister has mentioned that it is not viable to computerised some of these branches. Moreover, these figures are up to 31st March. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, the number of banks where computerisation will increase the efficiency, save time and banks will be able to work in a healthy competitive environment. By which time, this work is likely to be completed?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rangrajan Committee has decided to computerise 70 per cent business of the banks but till date it has been taken up for 750 banks only.

[English]

Now the banks are going in for computerisation as per their business requirements. We have fixed a target of more than 5,000 branches for computerisation. I have given the statistics to you. I want to tell you that the total number of branches is 46,000 out of which the number of branches totally computerised is 6,900 and

the number of branches which are partially computerised is 9,300. However, for banks, there is no target fixed. As per the requirement of the banks, they are proceeding with the computerisation. As on today, this is the situation. We have not fixed any targets for the banks.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has not replied to my question. I have asked whether rest of 30 thousand branches of the banks have been computerised. I would like to submit that as per the discussion held between the unions of Bank employees and Rangrajan Committee, public sector banks are to be provided with new services under which seven day banking, extended business hours and shift system were to be included. The branches with treasury were also to be provided with these facilities along with Internet facility. I would like to know from the hon. Minister which banks or their branches have been provided with the facilities like seven day banking, shift system and internet in the treasury branches so that banking services could be made more viable and efficient and could stay in the growing competitive environment.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : As regards working on all the seven days of the week, we do not have so much details as to which banks have seven



working days in a week. As regards the branches with ATM facility, more than 400 centres have been covered by this ATM facility.

[Translation]

Electronic Funds Transfer and Electronic Services are being provided through Rangarajan Committee. As he has stated, Indian Financial Network has also been created and 474 V sets have been installed at several places to cover the entire banking network. The entire banking network will be covered under it after installing 5 thousand V sets. This work will go on gradually.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Sir, I would like to know the number of banks provided with internet facility. Will you please State the exact number of branches where this facility has been provided?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I will send you the exact number. However, the branches which are being computerised with ATM and V sets facility are provided with internet service to facilitate the banking service. We can also monitor the personal account and transactions through it. It also include a list of facilities. We have listed 5-10 facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have exact number he is asking for?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Internet banking through computerization does not cover the entire banking. Only the computerisation is going on. I do not have all the figures of internet banking.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can send it later.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Yes, I will lay it on the Table.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, computerisation was introduced to enhance the efficiency of the banks and to make their work more effective. I would like to know whether there is any other way to make the banks more efficient, effective and competitive. If so, what are the details.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about computerisation of banks.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Sir, it is not so, merger of the banks is also discussed here.

MR. SPEAKER: Merger is not being discussed. Please ask if you have any supplementary question regarding computerisation.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Sir, I would like to know whether there is any other measure. Today a psychosis fear has arisen due to computerisation, labourers are rendered jobless. Whether there is any other way to do it. The issue of merger of the banks was came up during discussion, four banks were proposed to be opened. I would like to know whether there is any proposal for North, South, East and West.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: There is no retrenchment in the banks due to computerisation rather more than 18 thousand people have been recruited during the past three years. There is no other way except computerisation to enhance the efficiency and profitability of banks. Computerisation is the most effective and modern equipment in information technology.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Please speak about the merger.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: No merger is taking place.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of a Circular issued by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India about introduction of computerisation in the private sector as well as Government sector. According to that Circular, three conditions are laid down. First, there should not be any retrenchment. Second, it should be done in consultation with the employees. Third and the most important condition is that the economic gain which will be received by the private management or Government management should be shared with the employees and workers.

On account of computerisation, the staff strength in the banks is reduced. So, there is a gain to the Government in the form of salaries which are not to be paid. I want to know what benefit is given to the employees who have agreed for computerisation.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of this Circular of the Ministry of Labour, but as per the agreement with the Bank Unions, there is no retrenchment. Definitely, the cost of the transaction

is coming down. So, naturally, the banks' profitability will grow. When the profitability of a bank grows, the bank union and the bank management are free to negotiate further.

**SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE :** Sir, the Minister in his reply has said that IBA has signed an agreement with the bank employees saying that due to computerisation, the employees will not be retrenched. But it is a fact that after banks have started computerising no new recruitment is being made. That is also aggravating the unemployment position in this country. Along with that, the Government is planning to disinvest from the public sector banking field.

My point or my question to the hon. Minister is this. Disinvestment and privatisation are also going to affect the employees in some other way, if not by computerisation. By computerisation, the popular belief is that efficiency will go up. Disinvestment is primarily being made on the plea that there is mounting arrears of debt. The NPAs, non-performing assets, amount to Rs. 1,00,000 crore.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You are clubbing many issues.

**SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE :** I am trying to make the point. If you are going to fully computerise and thereby the efficiency is going to go up, what is the need for the Government to disinvest from public sector banks? I would like to have an answer from the Government on this.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:** Basically, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of 'disinvestment' is not covered in this question. So far as the first part of his question is concerned, I have already answered that there is only recruitment and no retrenchment. In 1996-97, 4,689 persons were employed; in 1997-98, 7,078 persons were employed; and in 1998-99, 5,345 persons were employed. So, there is no question of any retrenchment there.

### Loans to Film Producers

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\*183. **SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:**  
**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Financial Institutions have decided to finance the film producer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the guidelines issued in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) :** (a) to (c)  
A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A notification has been issued by Government under section 2 (c) (XVII) of Industrial Development Bank of India Act 1964 on 16th October, 2000 whereby 'entertainment industry including films' has been declared as an "industrial concern". Government has advised Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to evolve well-recognised and acceptable standards in this regard to enable Financial Institutions to fund such ventures.

(c) IDBI has constituted a Committee consisting of representative of all the financial institutions to look into various aspects relating to financing entertainment industry including films and suggest strategy and guidelines to be adopted by institutions in this regard.

**SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :** Sir, thanks to the hon. Minister for declaring entertainment industry including film industry as an 'industrial concern'. But the question remains that if we have decided to finance such an industry, then on what basis would it be done and whether it would be against some mortgage? What norms are going to be applied for recovery? This is my question.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the IDBI Act, the Government has given this industrial status to the entertainment industry. According to that, the IDBI has appointed a Committee. They have submitted the report, and it has been sent to the RBI for its comments. The RBI wrote to all the banks saying that based on their own judgment, they can disburse the loan. I do agree with the Member's impression that a collateral security is always required for the bank loan. Previously, the Indian banks disbursed Rs. 145 crore for a similar purpose, and the NPAs were to the extent of Rs. 135 crore. There was such a situation also. But the industry has been feeling that if it is given the industrial status, then they can get the loans from the banks. Naturally, they will comply with the conditions imposed by the banks.

**SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :** Sir, I am working in the banking industry, and my experience is, whenever a loan is given without proper mortgage and security, then it is difficult to recover the loan because some producers are not completing their films; even if they are completing, they are not getting good bookings. That is why, it is impossible to pay the loan which they

have taken. So, will the Government take the liability of such a loan, and will the Government give any guarantee for such a loan?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The Government will not give any guarantee to anybody. The bank concerned will take its own decision.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMARAO JADHAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much loan has been given to films and entertainment industry. Especially in Maharashtra, loan is not being given for Marathi film and entertainment industry. I would like to know the total amount of loan given to it.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Each and every State Government has its own system of giving loans for documentaries and other things.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any figures?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : But at the national level, the National Film Institute was giving the loans. For the last five years, they have not given any loans. Initially, Rs. 14 crore was allotted, and thereafter, nothing was allotted.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, films come under entertainment industry but whether 'Tamashas' and plays are also included in it and whether the loans has been given for that also ?

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I agree with the Member. I know the case.

[Translation]

He is Talking about cultural environment.

[English]

'Tamasha' is a Marathi drama in the rural stage. Banks are giving loans according to their rules. Sometimes, they are giving conventional loans to encourage the artisans. Naturally, case by case, they can decide about these things.

### Violation of FERA by Foreign Companies

\*185. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have expedited the legal proceedings against breach of FERA Act by foreign telecasting companies;

(b) if so, whether many foreign telecasting companies including Zee, Star, Sony have not taken proper permission from the RBI for foreign remittances;

(c) if so, whether legal proceedings are pending against them;

(d) the present position and reasons for the delay in action against them;

(e) whether the subscription collected by these companies in India are also remitted to the foreign countries;

(f) if so, whether one of these holding companies has recently shift its headquarters and registered office to Mauritius; and

(g) if so, the present headquarters, registered office, the country, where these companies and their holding companies have been registered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (e) Investigations into alleged violations of FERA by foreign telecasting companies as also examination of permissions regarding foreign remittances given by RBI have been taken up by the Directorate of Enforcement. The cases are also under judicial scrutiny in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Court has been issuing directions from time to time for expediting the investigations.

There have been no delays in investigation. Seven Show Cause Notices have been issued by the Directorate against the agents as well as their principal foreign telecasting companies. Two Write Petitions are pending in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the same matter. The progress reports of investigations are being submitted to the Hon'ble High Court and their directions are being followed by the Directorate.

The quantum and nature of subscriptions collected and remitted abroad by the agents of these foreign telecasting companies is also under investigation.

(f) and (g) The authorised agent of M/s Asia Today Limited, Hong Kong, namely, M/s Zee Telefilms Limited, Mumbai, has advised on 19th February, 2000 change of address of the holding company to Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, it is mentioned in the answer that seven show-cause notices have been issued. I would like to know as to when these notices were issued; for what amounts; what were the charges levelled against each company, what were the violations; and what was the period involved.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I have two problems in regard to giving replies to this question. One is that this whole matter is *sub judice* before the Delhi High Court; and the second is that the Director of Enforcement who is inquiring into these cases is an independent entity. Government does not play any role in the investigation and the conduct as far as the Director of Enforcement is concerned. However, on the basis of the information that has been supplied, I will try to reply to the factual part of the question.

The first notice was in violation of Sections 9(l)(e), 9(l)(f), 229(l)(a) and 49(l)(a) read with Section 68 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973. The show-cause notice was issued on 8-10-1999 by Special Director for an amount of Rs. 1,64,22,916. The parties to whom the notice was issued were — M/s Ambience Space Sellers Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, and its following Directors: Shri Jawahar Goel, Shri Ashok Kurien, Shri Puneet Goenka, Mrs. Meenakshi Madhwani; M/s. Asia Today Ltd., Hongkong, C/o M/s. Zee Telefilms Ltd., Mumbai; and Shri Subhash Chandra, Director, M/s. Asia Today Ltd., Hongkong, C/o M/s Zee Telefilms Ltd., Mumbai. I have this information in respect of the other six show-cause notices also. If you wish, I can read them out before the House.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I wanted to know for which period this amount was collected.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: According to the information available with me, M/s Ambience Advertisement Private Limited were granted permission by the Reserve Bank India to act as an advertisement collection agent of M/s Zee Telefilms Ltd., on 1-1-1992. This will cover the period from 1992 onwards.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : When would the hon. Minister think the investigation be completed? In the answer it is mentioned, "The quantum and nature of subscriptions collected and remitted abroad by the agents of these foreign telecasting company is also under

investigation." I would like to know as to what amount of subscription were the foreign telecasting companies collecting within India, and what amount they were remitting outside India. Mostly, it has been happening since 1995-96. What amount were they collecting? Which company has collected what amount for which period and how much have they remitted outside India?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, as I mentioned, seven show-cause notices have been issued. I have read the amount involved in the case of one notice. In the case of the second notice the amount involved is Rs. 11,06,30,762.

In the third case, the amount involved is Rs. 13,93,74,445. In the fourth case, the amount involved is Rs. 4,11,27,833. In the fifth case, the amounts involved are Rs. 88,46,845 and Rs. 47,27,684. In the sixth case, which involves the State Trading Corporation, the amount involved is 97,356 US dollars. And, in the last show cause notice, that is the seventh case, the amount involved is Rs. 55 lakh. These are the issues.

Sir, as far as the investigation is concerned, I would like to mention to the House that the matter is pending before the Delhi High Court. The Delhi High Court is closely monitoring the progress of the case. The Delhi High Court has directed the Enforcement Directorate to complete its investigations by the 18th December, 2000.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, the FEMA had been introduced in place of FERA. In view of this, what is the position of these cases or subsequent cases which are pending? Will the hon. Finance Minister enlighten the House in this regard?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I had clarified this point when the FEMA was being considered in this House. The House will recall that we had provided for a Sunset clause in FEMA which will entail that for all cases which are under investigation under the old FERA the investigations will have to be completed by the 31st May, 2002, because the FEMA came into operation on the 1st June, 2000 and any violation of FERA within this period can also be taken up for consideration. The whole purpose of the Sunset clause is to ensure as if the FERA has not been abolished for this period.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, in answer to Q. No. 185(f) and (g), the hon. Minister stated: "The authorised agent of M/s Asia Today Limited, Hong Kong, namely, M/s Zee Telefilms Limited, Mumbai, has advised on 19th February, 2000 change of address of the holding company to Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius."

Sir, will the Government make any inquiry as to why this change of address has taken place? Is there any intention of evasion of taxes? Will the hon. Finance Minister reply to it?

**SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:** Sir, the company had informed the RBI that in February this year, they had shifted their address to Mauritius. I am informed that it will make absolutely no difference to the tax liability.

### Industrial Growth

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\*186. **DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :**  
**SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :**

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

(a) whether industrial growth during the first half of the current year has slipped to 4.8% from 7.3% as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year;

(b) if so, the sector-wise details alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target of industrial growth for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the year-wise and sector-wise targets fixed;

(e) the extent to which target has been achieved in each year till date and the factors responsible for low performance, if any; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the industrial growth?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) :** (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) and (b) As per the quick estimates of Index Production (IIP) (Base: 1993-94) during the first half of the current year overall growth rate of industrial production was 5.5% as compared to 6.4% for the corresponding period in the previous year. Sector-wise details of industrial growth rates are as follows:

<i>Index of Industrial Production &amp; Growth Rate</i> (Percent)			
Sector	Weight (%age)	1999-2000 (April-Sept)	2000-2001 (April-Sept)
Mining & Quarrying	10.47	0.5	6.6
Manufacturing	79.36	6.8	5.6
Electricity	10.17	7.7	3.4
Overall	100.00	6.4	5.5

The slowdown in industrial production in the current year can be attributed to poor performance of the 'Manufacturing' and 'Electricity' sectors.

(c) and (d) Details of the sector-wise targets (annual average) set for growth of industrial production during the Ninth Plan and the corresponding achievements are as follows :

### *Industrial growth - Targets and Achievements during the Ninth Five Year Plan*

Sector	Target	Achievement*
Mining & Quarrying	7.2%	1.6%
Manufacturing	8.2%	6.6%
Electricity	9.3%	6.4%
Overall	8.2%	6.2%

\* Average of first three years (1997-2000) of Ninth Five Year Plan.

(e) Average overall Growth Rate of industrial production during the first three years of Ninth Plan stands at 6.2% against the target of 8.2%. As per the highlights of the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan of the Planning Commission the reasons for slowdown in industrial growth are :

- Slackening in aggregate demand coupled with decline in rural demand owing to low agriculture output in 1997-98,
- Showdown in general investment climate,
- Erosion of competitive advantage of Indian exports due to steep depreciation of South-East Asian, currencies,
- Persistence of infrastructure bottlenecks, and
- Indian industry will have to gear itself up to face increasing competition from imports which are already beginning to affect some sectors as a result of the opening of the economy.

(f) The Government has been taking various policy initiatives to accelerate the industrial growth rate supported by continued reforms in industry including foreign Direct Investment Policy, EXIM Policy, infrastructure, information technology and financial sectors to help industry to improve its efficiency, productivity and international competitiveness.

[Translation]

**DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :** Sir, out of the total production in the country 40 percent comes from,

the industries. Presently the production of the industries is decreasing and as a result of it, growth rate of the country is declining. In its reply, the Government have stated that it is due to the manufacturing poorness and electricity but it is not correct. In fact, the closure of Industries in our country is due to the Globalisation or liberalisation and wrong policies. Presently whether it is Cement industry or Edible oil industry and Electricity or cement these are being closed down in the country. It is leading to the increase in unemployment and the farmers are suffering heavy losses as dairy industries are also being closed down. The Government itself have admitted that the production is declining. As the production is decreasing, the growth rate is also declining. I would like to know whether the Government is taking any immediate measure to protect all these industries?

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the concern of the hon. Member in the context of growth rate, I would like to inform that during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 the slow down had been of 6.5 and 1.1 respectively. Similarly, in the second part of the question he had enquired about the target fixed for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the achievements against the said targets in this connection. I would like to submit that in Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors, the average growth rate of the last three years slipped down to 6.2 against 8.2 which is due to the perennial famine conditions and resultant decline in production in rural areas during the post famine period. As a result of decline in food production and rise in the price of petroleum products the rural consumers had to bear the extra burden. It is due to this burden and several other reasons that some decline is apparent but it is not continuous phenomenon. I would like to remove the concern of the hon'ble Member regarding the present situation that the import is increasing. If you refer to the export-import ratio of the last three years, you will find that there is decline in import and the export especially during the previous six months has sharply increased. The Government have formulated new industrial policy and have extended delicensing to all the sectors from coal to lignite and petroleum except the crude oils to improve the conditions of the industries. The sugar sector has also been delicensed. Apart from that the Government have also accepted the report of the National Task Force for Information Technology regarding the action plan for 1998. The Government have expressed its concern regarding the improvement in the policy matters and the development of the infrastructure. All the policy matters regarding the funds for North East and South West corridor and infrastructure and the funds amounting to Rs. 2500 crore for the rural areas have been taken up. We have given enough concessions regarding the FDI. We have opened up several sectors

for direct route. There are very few subjects left after relaxation in FDI. The Government is continuously incorporating changes in the policies that will bear fruits in the long run. He has enquired about the ratios for the last six months of the year. The main reasons for this are the sharp rise in the price of petroleum, decline in purchasing power of the rural and urban consumers and there was some impact on the consumption of cement and iron in rural area due to the decline in purchasing power, but all that is swiftly changing and now we are marching forward.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have set up 71 growth centres all over the country for the development of industries and growth centres are being set up in several districts of Rajasthan. My submission is that Alwar district is the biggest industrial centre within Rajasthan and it is also my constituency. The biggest industrial units are in Alwar district which are in very bad shape. I want to know whether the Government propose to set up growth centre there? If not, the time by which the centres are proposed to be set up?

DR. RAMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is concerned with the growth centre. We have identified 71 growth Centres. The Growth Centres have been finalised on the basis of the recommendations of the State Government. There are some problem concerning 71 Growth Centres. The work will be taken up on the Growth Centres which have been identified and funded. There is no need to identify new Growth Centres and get these funded.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : This district is the biggest district of Rajasthan which has maximum number of industrial units. It is the biggest industrial centre. What can we do if there is partiality on the part of the Government of Rajasthan?

DR. RAMAN : The hon'ble Member has genuine concern. If the Government of Rajasthan sends any scheme for the growth of industries, new growth centres and for the development of infrastructure it will be welcomed.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, this is a very serious issue. The overall growth of industrial production has been coming down drastically. The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan has given certain reasons for that. It is very clear that because of the slackness from the Ministry as well as the wrong policies being pursued by the Central Government, the industrial growth is coming down.

In the answer, the hon. Minister has mentioned that certain important policy initiatives are being taken by the Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the policy initiatives that the Government is taking to accelerate the growth of industrial production this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Now it is 12 o'clock. Mr. Minister, you can send the written reply to the concerned hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMAN : I will send you the information.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

### Speculation in Money Market

\*184. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to take stringent steps to check increasing speculative activities in money market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) RBI has intimated that since no undue speculative activities have been observed in the money market, for the present, no steps are contemplated.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*English*]

### Prasar Bharati Board

\*187. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the composition of Prasar Bharati Board;

(b) the date on which the Board was constituted;

(c) whether the Government have framed rules for the selection of Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and other Members of Prasar Bharati Board;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in framing rules of recruitment and the time by which these are likely to be framed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The composition of Prasar Bharati Board, as per section 3 (5) of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990 is as follows:

(a) a Chairman;

(b) one Executive member;

(c) one Member (Finance);

(d) one Member (Personnel);

(e) six part-time Members;

(f) Director-General (Akashvani), ex-officio;

(g) Director General (Doordarshan), ex-officio;

(h) one representative of the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, to be nominated by that Ministry; and

(i) two representatives of the employees of the Corporation, of whom one shall be elected by the engineering staff from amongst themselves and one shall be elected by the other employees from amongst themselves.

(b) The Prasar Bharati Board was constituted on 23rd November, 1997.

(c) to (e) The rules regulating the salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of Chairman, whole-time Members and part-time Members have already been notified in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) on 10.11.2000.

[*Translation*]

### Plantation Companies

\*188. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a data of public equity deposited with the plantation companies functioning in the country;

(b) if so, the amount collected by such plantation companies including those which have gone underground during the last three years;

(c) whether these companies are collecting funds from the public without having any licence;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any scheme is under consideration of the government to ensure safety of public funds with these companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) :** (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulates collective investment schemes (CISs) schemes through which instrument such as agro bonds, plantation bonds etc. are issued. As per information available with SEBI, there are 645 collective investment entities which have raised about Rs. 2681 crores from the market.

(c) and (d) The SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations were notified on October 15, 1999. With the notification of the regulations, no entity other than a Collective Investment Management Company which has obtained a certificate of registration under the regulations can carry on or sponsor or launch a collective investment scheme. Also, no existing collective investment scheme can launch any new scheme or raise money from investors even under the existing schemes unless a certificate of registration is granted to it under the said regulations. So far, 49 entities, which have reportedly mobilised approximately Rs. 492 crores, have applied for registration.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. However, with the notification of the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999, the activities of CISs, including that of mobilisation of money from the public, are regulated by the provisions of these regulations. Those existing collective investment schemes which have failed/did not wish to apply for registration, were required to wind up their existing schemes and repay their investors by May 28, 2000. In the case of entities which failed to respond to SEBI's show cause notices and/or failed to wind up their schemes and repay investors, SEBI intends to initiate prosecution proceedings against these entities and their promoters/directors and write to State Governments/local police to register civil/criminal cases against them.

*[English]*

#### **Insider Trading in Stock Exchanges**

\*189. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's major bourses are in talks with London Stock Exchange for implementing a sophisticated system for curbing insider trading as directed by SEBI;

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

(c) whether any MoU was also signed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) :** (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that neither of the two major stock exchanges of India, the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE) and The Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE) are in talks with the London Stock Exchange (LSE) for implementing any system to curb insider trading.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) SEBI has intimated that NSE and BSE had signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with LSE to facilitate exchange of information, knowledge and experiences between the two exchanges, for a safe and orderly development of the stock markets. The MoC provides for exchange of information on (i) knowledge and experiences useful and vital to future business development, (ii) cross-listed securities, and (iii) the market under their regulatory jurisdiction.

*[Translation]*

#### **Export of Sugar to Pakistan**

\*190. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindi daily '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated 17 October, 2000, captioned 'Bharat se ayatit chini ko nimanstriya bataya pak vyapariyon ne' ;

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

(c) whether the sugar exported from India was infact of poor quality;

(d) if so, the action taken against the exporters so that the country's credibility is not affected in the foreign countries; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :** (a) Yes, Sir.



(b) According to the news item under reference, the traders in Pakistan are not showing interest in lifting sugar imported from India as it is of "low quality". The news item also states that main political parties, farmers' unions and big farmers in Pakistan have also opposed the import of sugar from India.

(c) No such complaints has been received by the Government. Sugar from India continues to be exported to Pakistan. The quantity of sugar exported to Pakistan during the current financial year (upto 23-11-2000) was about 1.00 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

### NABARD Loan for Agricultural Sector

\*191. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of advances provided by the NABARD for agricultural sector to State Cooperative Banks from April 1, 1997 to March 31, 2000, year-wise;

(b) the total advances given to the farmers from the amount mentioned above;

(c) whether only a meagre amount of advances are met by NABARD for agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate finance to agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) (i) The details of short-term refinance provided by NABARD to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) for financing seasonal agricultural operations are as given below:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	ST (SAO) Credit Limits Sanctioned	Maximum Outstanding borrowings	Percentage of Utilisation
1997-98	5210.03	4446.76	85.3
1998-98	5998.99	4498.01	75.0
1999-2000	6094.51	4951.45	81.2

(ii) The amount of refinance provided by NABARD to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) under investment credit during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is Rs. 333.54 crores, Rs. 340.84 crores and Rs. 460.10 crores respectively under agriculture sector.

(b) NABARD's support to banks is by way of refinance, whereby banks disburse credit and thereafter claim refinance. Cooperative Banks add their own resources also to refinance given by NABARD, for lending to their constituents.

(c) The share of NABARD's refinance to ground level credit flow to agriculture sector for last 3 years is given below :

(Rs. Crore)			
Year	Total credit flow to Agriculture Sector from commercial banks, cooperative banks and RRB's	NABARD's Refinance	Share of NABARD's Refinance
1997-98	31956	9922	31%
1998-99	36897	10747	29%
1999-2000*	41764	11842	28%

\$ Provisional.

\*Estimated.

(d) In our country a multi-agency approach for dispensing agriculture credit is in operation through a wide network of branches of commercial banks, cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks. The ground level flow of credit to agriculture sector has increased from Rs. 31,956 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 41,764 crore in 1999-2000. This is expected to go upto Rs. 51,460 crore during the current year. The Reserve Bank of India and NABARD have taken several measures to further strengthen the flow of credit to farmers. Some of these are:

- (i) Introduction of cash credit facility for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having good track record;
- (ii) Introduction of the Kisan Credit card Scheme for agricultural borrowers;
- (iii) Banks have been advised to open specialized agricultural branches to take care of financing of high-tech agricultural projects;
- (iv) RBI has introduced simplification of loan applications, delegation of powers to branch managers, introduction of composite cash credit limit to farmers, introduction of new loan products, cash disbursement of loans, discretion to banks on matters relating to margin/security requirements for loans above Rs.10,000/- and dispensing with 'No Dues Certificates' as a compulsory requirement;

- (v) Any shortfall in the target of lending to agriculture has to be contributed to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) which has been established with NABARD for assisting State Governments and State-owned Corporations in quick completion of on-going projects relating to rural infrastructure.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken to rectify the same and to boost the export of good quality coffee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The coffee produced in India during 1999-2000 was 2.92 lakh tonnes. On an average over 80% of the coffee produced in the country is being exported.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Recently, the Government of India have received four complaints from foreign buyers from Geneva, Italy, Switzerland and Germany regarding shipment of sub-standard coffee by a few Indian exporters.

(e) To ensure export of good quality of Indian coffee, the Coffee Board has revised the terms & conditions of export registration and issue of export permit in order to facilitate for inspection of coffee curing, surprise inspection of export-consignment, and use of logo for quality coffee etc. The Coffee Exporters Association and exporters have also been advised to maintain the reputation of Indian coffee in the international markets. In addition, the registration of two Bangalore based firms has also been cancelled for their involvement in shipment default and export of substandard coffee.

Further, the STC, who were intermediary in some cases, have been advised to settle the quality problems with the foreign buyers in accordance with the terms & conditions of the contract and to be more vigilant in ensuring quality of the coffee contracted for exports.

### **Liberalisation of Import**

\*194. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up an Inter-Ministerial Group to study the likely impact of Liberalisation of Import on Indian Industry;

(b) if so, the terms and reference of this Study Group;

(c) whether the Group has conducted any studies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) Government has constituted an

[Translation]

### **Private Companies in Insurance Sector**

\*192. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector companies have been allowed to enter into insurance business;

(b) if so, the fields in which the private sector companies are likely to start their services; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by the Government to safeguard the interest of insuring public in case of the companies going bankrupt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. IRDA has intimated that they have granted certificate of registration to 5 insurance companies—3 in life and 2 in general insurance business. In addition, provisional registration has been granted to one company for general insurance business.

(c) The IRDA has been mandated by the IRDA Act, 1999 to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies. They have made regulations regarding solvency margin requirements to be met by all insurers so as to ensure their continued solvency.

[English]

### **Annual Production/Export of Coffee**

\*193. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

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

(a) the total quantum of coffee produced annually in the country;

(b) the percentage out of that being exported every year;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints from abroad regarding supply of sub-standard quality of coffee;

Inter-Ministerial Group under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary on 28.07.2000, to assess the likely impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and to suggest suitable corrective measures.

The Group has already met twice on 17.8.2000 and on 8.9.2000, and made some interim recommendations. Based on these recommendations the following steps to regulate imports have already been notified through Notification No. 44 (RE-2000)/97-2002 dated 24.11.2000.

1. Import of all packaged commodities has been made subject to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable on domestic producers.
2. Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic foods. For compliance of this requirement all manufactures/exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The list of 131 products includes various food preservatives and additives, milk powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, house hold and similar electrical appliances, gas cylinders and multipurpose dry batteries.

#### **New Auto Policy**

\*195. SHRI BHIM DAHAL :  
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Government have finalised the new Auto Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features;
- (c) whether the Government agencies have been importing second-hand foreign cars in the past;
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to stop the import of such cars; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) :

(a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Import of second hand cars is not permitted under the EXIM Policy currently in force.

#### **New Foodgrain Policy**

\*196. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are formulating a new foodgrain policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have also favoured exemption of levy of any tax on the movement of foodgrains to check increase of prices in future;
- (d) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out;
- (e) whether the Government propose to take State Governments in confidence before announcing the new policy;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the extent to which the new foodgrain policy is likely to play a greater role in providing food to the needy and also make necessary arrangements for increase of storage capacity of foodgrains in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :

(a) to (g) A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices has been constituted recently for formulating a long term Grain Policy. The terms of reference of the said Committee include matters relating to minimum support prices and price support operations, functioning of Public Distribution System, policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention & export/import, allocation of foodgrains for rural development programmes and other welfare programmes and FCI related issues, which also include the scope for reduction in the economic cost of foodgrains. Consultations with the State Governments will be held before finalising the Policy.

#### **Investment norms for LIC and GIC**

\*197. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :  
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority have notified the liberalised investment norms for LIC and GIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount invested by these companies in Government securities after the liberalisation;

(c) whether LIC and General Insurance Company have finalised their plan of investment of the year 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the expected amount of investment proposed to be made by these companies during the above year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority has notified the Investment Regulations on 14th August,

2000. These regulations cover investment by all insurers carrying on life business, general business and re-insurance business.

(b) Investment guidelines relating to life insurance and general insurance business as notified in Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) Regulations, 2000 are given in enclosed Statement. The amount invested by LIC in Government securities in the month of September and October, 2000 is Rs. 2226 crores and the GIC and the subsidiary companies is Rs. 214.97 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. According to the provisional investment budget, the expected amount of investment by LIC for the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 34,425 crores and for the GIC and the subsidiary companies is Rs. 3060 crores.

#### Statement

#### Investment Guidelines relating to Life Insurance and General Insurance Business as notified in Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) Regulations, 2000

S.No.	Type of Investment	Percentage
1	2	3
<i>Life Insurance Business</i>		
(i)	Government Securities	25 %
(ii)	Government Securities or other approved securities (including (i) above)	Not less than 50%
(iii)	Approved Investments as specified in Schedule I	
(a)	Infrastructure and Social Sector	Not less than 15%
<i>Explanation: For the purpose of this requirement, Infrastructure and Social Sector shall have the meaning as given in regulation 2(h) of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2000 and as defined in the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Obligations of Insurers to Rural and Social Sector) Regulations, 2000 respectively.</i>		
(b)	Others to be governed by Exposure/Prudential Norms specified in Regulation 5	Not exceeding 20%
(iv)	Other than in Approved Investments to be governed by Exposure Prudential Norms specified in Regulation 5	Not exceeding 15%
<i>Pension and General Annuity Business</i>		
(i)	Government securities, being not less than	20%
(ii)	Government Securities or other approved securities inclusive of (i) above, being not less than	40%
(iii)	Balance to be invested in Approved Investments as specified in Schedule I and to be governed by Exposure/Prudential Norms specified in Regulation 5%	Not exceeding 60%
<i>General Insurance Business</i>		
(i)	Central Government Securities being not less than	20%
(ii)	State Government securities and other Guaranteed securities including (i) above being not less than	30%

1	2	3
(iii)	Housing and Loans to State Government for Housing and Fire Fighting equipment being not less than	5%
(iv)	Investments in Approved Investments as specified in Schedule II	
(a)	Infrastructure and Social Sector	Not less than 10%
	<i>Explanation:</i> For the purpose of this requirement, Infrastructure and Social Sector shall have the meaning as given in regulation 2(h) of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2000 and as defined in the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Obligations of Insurers of Rural and Social Sector) Regulations, 2000 respectively	
(b)	Others to be governed by Exposure/Prudential Norms specified in Regulation 5	Not exceeding 30%
(iv)	Other than in Approved Investments to be governed by Exposure/Prudential Norms specified in Regulation 5	Not exceeding 25%

### Amendments in Price Control Order

\*198. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Price Control Order for the introduction of Price Control Mechanism and to maintain a healthy ratio between demand and supply of various consumer products;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to appoint an Expert Committee to study the mechanism of price control and ratio between demand and supply in order to control the prices of essential commodities in the market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry do not administer any Price Control Order for the consumer products like paper, cement, salt etc. Therefore, the question of amending the Price Control Order does not arise.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for introduction of any price control mechanism for essential commodities nor to appoint any Expert Committee to study the mechanism of price control and ratio between demand and supply in order to control the prices of essential commodities in the market. Except the administered prices of certain essential commodities, the prices of other commodities are determined by the inter play of the market forces.

### Indo-US Economic Relations

\*199. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to expand Indo-US economic relation;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with U.S.A. for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The Government of India and the Government of USA agreed to establish a joint forum on economic and financial matters known as the "India-United States Financial and Economic Forum" as an element of a broader economic and commercial dialogue between the two countries. An agreement in this regard was signed on 17th April, 2000 between Finance Minister of India and the US Secretary of Treasury. The objective of the Forum is to strengthen the financial and economic relationship between India and the United States through regular contact between economic policy makers of each country. The first sub-Cabinet level meeting of the Forum at the level of officials was held in Washington D.C. on 23rd June, 2000 and the first Cabinet level meeting of the Forum was held on 14th September, 2000 in Washington D.C. at Ministerial level.

[Translation]

### Telecasting of Regional Language Films

\*200. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of films in regional languages telecast by "Doordarshan" during each of the last three years; language-wish;

(b) whether some languages have been given less importance;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received proposals for film making from film producers in regional languages during the year 1999-2000;

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

(f) whether the Government propose to allot equal time slot for all regional language movies; and

(g) if so, the details in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The details of regional Language films telecast on national network of Doordarshan are as under :

Language	Year		
	1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4
Assamese	2	1	1
Bengali	1	5	5
Gujarati	1	4	1
Kannada	1	5	4
Kashmiri	-	-	-
Konkani	-	-	1
Malayalam	-	5	4
Manipuri	1	-	1
Marathi	2	5	3
Nepali	-	-	-
Oriya	1	5	3
Punjabi	1	3	-
Sanskrit	-	-	-
Sindhi	-	-	-
Tamil	1	4	4
Telugu	-	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>

(b) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati does not give more or less importance to any regional language. The variation in number of films of individual regional languages telecast on Doordarshan arises because of difference in number of films made in individual regional languages.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Prasar Bharati have intimated that they have not received any such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Prasar Bharati have intimated that there is no discrimination in time allotment for different regional language films which are scheduled for telecast in alphabetical order in the respective regional languages. While efforts are always made to maintain balance in this regard, it may not be feasible always or even practicable to allot equal time in a rigid manner considering that production of language films in the country vary in number from language to language.

[English]

### Bid for the Petroleum Companies

1996. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has favoured the oil companies i.e. Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum to bid for the IBP in order to get the best price for the 33.59 percent stake put for the sale to a strategic partner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these oil companies have shown interest in the stake;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons put forward by these oil companies; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken a decision in principle in October 2000 to disinvest in IBP Limited through strategic sale and the process is in the preliminary stages.

### Filing of I.T. Return by MTNL

1997. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL is filing Income Tax returns form 1993-94 regularly;

(b) if so, whether the MTNL is claiming certain benefits in its returns for which it is not entitled to; and

(c) if so, the action taken or propose to be taken against MTNL giving the details of benefits claimed to which the MTNL is not entitled, year-wise?

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

(b) and (c) MTNL has claimed from assessment year 1994-95 onwards License Fees paid to the department of Telecommunication as an allowable deduction in its income tax returns. Previously a nominal license fee of Rs. 101 was being charges upto assessment year 1993-94 of the license granted by the Department of Telecommunication to MTNL. License was granted by the Department of Telecommunication to MTNL under the Indian Telegraph Act conferring upon it non-exclusive rights to establish, maintain and work telephone services with in the territorial jurisdiction of Delhi and Mumbai. The reasons advanced by MTNL for allowing the deduction on account of License Fees have not been accepted by the Income Tax Department. For assessment years 1994-95 to 1999-2000, the position of assessment proceedings are as under :

- (i) A. Yr. 1994-95: License Fees of Rs. 124.85 Crore was claimed as deduction by the MTNL. Reassessment proceedings have been initiated to tax the Licence Fee. The reassessment proceedings have been upheld by the Delhi High Court, while deciding the Writ filed by the MTNL against such proceedings. MTNL has filed a Special Leave Petition in Supreme Court against this decision.
- (ii) A. Yr. 1995-96: License Fees of Rs. 147-95 Crore was claims as deduction by the MTNL. Commissioner of Income Tax has cancelled the

order of the assessing officer accepting this claim and has directed the assessing officer to disallow the License Fees. Assessment proceedings are in progress.

- (iii) A. Yr. 1996-97 and 1997-98: License Fees of Rs. 198-68 Crore and Rs. 234.70 Crore, respectively was claimed as deduction by the MTNL. This was disallowed by the assessing officer. Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal) has upheld the decision in assessment year 1996-97 and for assessment year 1997-98 appeal is pending. In assessment year 1996-97, MTNL appeal is pending before Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.
- (iv) A. Yr. 1998-99 and 1999-2000: License Fees of Rs. 271.10 Crore and Rs. 306.60 Crore, respectively was claimed as deduction by the MTNL. The assessment proceedings are in progress.

### Industrial Development Package for Kerala

1998. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for the Industrial Development of Kerala State:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Government of India has received the following proposals for Kerala during the last three years:

- (i) 3 Industrial Licences applications for the period 1998 to 2000 (October).
- (ii) 2 proposals for setting up Industrial Parks.
- (iii) 6 proposals for setting up Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre.

(b) Details are as under:

#### (I) Industrial Licence Applications :

Name of the firm and location	Item of Manufacture
1. M/s Cochin Refineries	Rubberised Bitumen Limited (Ernakulam)
2. M/s Rubberwood (India) Pvt. Ltd. (Kottayam)	Planned Wood, Wooden Boards etc.

1	2	3
3.	M/s Kochi Refineries Ltd. (Ernakulam)	Mineral Turpentine Oil
<i>(II) Proposals for setting up Industrial Parks:</i>		
1.	M/s Kinfra Export Promotion Industrial Parks Limited	Ernakulam
2.	M/s Western India Kinfra Ltd.	Pallakad

*(III) Proposals for setting up Integrated Infrastructures Development (IID) Centre*

Proposals have been received for setting up IID Centres at following six Districts in Kerala :

- |               |             |                   |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Malappuram | 2. Kasargod | 3. Wayanad        |
| 4. Ernakulam  | 5. Trichur  | 6. Pathanamthitta |

(c) (I) Out of the three Industrial Licence Applications M/s Cochin Refineries Limited has been granted the Letter of Intent.

(II) Both the applications for the Industrial Parks Mentioned above have approved.

(III) IID Centres at Malappuram, Kasargod, Wayanad and Ernakulam have been sanctioned.

Receipt and consideration of proposals is a continuous process.

**Amendments In the Chit Funds Act, 1982**

1999. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to make amendments in the Chit Funds Act, 1982;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be made; and

(c) the time by which a Bill in this regard is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2000 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in the current session. The details of the amendments in the Bill are as under:

- (i) to enhance the ceiling on discount to be foregone by a prized subscriber from thirty percent to forty per cent;
- (ii) to enhance the aggregate chit amount commenced or conducted by a foreman other

than a firm or other association of individuals or company or cooperative society, from twenty five thousand rupees to one lakh rupees and the ceiling of aggregate chit amount of the chits conducted by the firm or other association where the number of partners of the firm or the individuals is not less than four from one lakh rupees to six lakhs rupees and in any other case from ceiling of twenty five thousand rupees calculated with respect to each partner or individual to one lakh rupees.

- (iii) Security to be given by a foreman for proper conduct of the chit, deposit in the name of the Registrar for an amount equal to fifty per cent of the chit amount in cash in an approved bank and fifty per cent of the chit amount in the form of bank guarantee from an approved bank.

**Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998**

2000. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to pursue the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 1998;

(b) if so, whether recommendations of Standing Committee on Finance in regard to intensify action against drug traffickers are also likely to be incorporated in the Bill;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Bill is likely to be presented before the Parliament?

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

(b) Major recommendations of the Committee are incorporated in the Bill.

(c) The details of recommendations which have been accepted are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th July, 1998 and the proposed amendments have been passed by that House after discussion on 27.11.2000.



**Statement**

1. Inclusion of a proviso in sub-section 20(b) (2) (C) under clause 7 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill 1998 to empower the Special Courts to impose a fine exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs in the case of offences relating to cannabis in order to make this provision uniform with respect to similar provisions contained in Sections 15, 17 & 18 of the amending Bill.

2. Inclusion of all the eight circumstances whose presence should make an offence more serious as mentioned in sub-clause 5 of Article 3 of the UN Convention on Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances of 1988 instead of only five circumstances mentioned in the new section 325 proposed in the Amendment Bill, 1998.

3. Amendment of proviso to the new sub-section 36A(4) under clause 15 of the Amending Bill, 1998 by substituting the word "may" for the word "shall" so that special Courts may have discretion to accept or reject any request for filing complaint beyond 180 days and within one year in relation to more serious offences mentioned in the Section.

4. To replace the words "within a reasonable time" under the new sub-section 42(2) with the words "within 72 hours" under clause 19 of the Amendment Bill, 1998, so as to make the provisions relation to search, seizure and arrest more specific.

5. To replace the words "within a reasonable time" under the new sub-section 50 (6) with the words "within 72 hours" under clause 19 of the Amendment Bill, 1998 for the reasons stated in (4) above.

**Revival of Tyre Corporation of India and Jessop**

2001. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive Tyre Corporation of India Limited and Jessop and Company Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be revived; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) On the issue

of revival of TCIL, Government of India (GOI) has conveyed its views to BIFR. BIFR has now invited offers for a change in management.

As regards, Jessop, BIFR, vide its order dated 19.9.2000 declared that the revival scheme of Jessop sanctioned on 6.5.1998 had failed and directed the Operating Agency i.e. SBI to issue an advertisement for change in management giving 12 weeks time for submission of offers. BIFR also stated that GOI, as promoter, can submit a scheme for rehabilitation of Jessop in response to the advertisement with or without a joint venture partner. Government had already initiated action for a joint venture formation on 30.3.2000. Therefore, an appeal was filed in AAIFR against the order of BIFR on 6.11.2000, which is pending.

**Import of Mother Boards and Circuit Boards**

2002. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of mother boards and circuit boards by several computer majors as separate computer components, 'barebones' is likely to result in a revenue loss of over Rs. 100 crore to the Government in the current financial year;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Nil, in view of reply at (a) above.

(c) Nil, in view of replies at (a) & (b) above.

**Production of Tea in North-East Region**

2003. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea is the principle commercial crop of Assam and other States in the North East Region;

(b) if so, the annual production of tea in each State of the region during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and the likely yield in 2000-2001 as compared to other tea producing States to the country;

(c) the percentage contribution of North East Region States in the total production of tea of the country; and

(d) the quantum of tea out of total production of North-East States exported during the above period and target fixed for exports for 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Tea is a principle commercial crop of Assam. However, tea plantation has started to come up in other North Eastern States except Tripura from the beginning of the 6th Five Year Plan. Tea industry in these States is either in commercial plantation stage or trial stage.

State-wise production figures of tea are maintained on calendar year basis. State-wise production of tea during 1998 and 1999 are as follow :

State	1998	1999
Assam	460.78	414.13
Tripura	7.17	6.71
Aruanchal Pradesh	0.96	0.99
Manipur	0.07	0.07
Nagaland	0.03	0.03
Meghalaya	-	-
Mizoram	-	-
Sikkim	0.11	0.11
West Bengal	197.70	180.21
Bihar	0.14	0.13
Uttar Pradesh	0.36	0.35
Himachal Pradesh	1.63	1.50
Orissa	0.08	0.07
Tamil Nadu	125.09	128.09
Kerala	70.62	67.79
Karnataka	5.67	5.43
All India	870.41	805.61

(Source: Tea Board)

The production of tea during 2000 in the State of Assam is estimated at 455 mn. kgs against 414 mn. kgs during 1999. In the other North Eastern States also 10% increase in yield is expected in 2000 over the previous year.

The contribution of North East Region States in the total production of tea during the year 1999 was 52.39 %.

Teas are exported mainly in blended form. In this process the origin of tea is lost at the time of blending. Hence export of tea by origin of production cannot be ascertained. The target set for exports of tea during 2000-2001 is 225 mn. kgs.

### Insurance of Motors

2004. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether motorists are being harassed by the Oriental insurance Company Ltd. in Delhi in the matter of immediate inspection of the accidental vehicles and there is inordinate delay in making the payment of the claim preferred after permission from the insurance company;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received by the company, branch-wise, in Delhi during the last three years and the action taken thereon by the Government;

(c) the time limit fixed for settlement of cases of motor accidents and theft;

(d) the reasons for the delay in inspection and settlement of the claims and the steps taken to check the same henceforth;

(e) whether full reimbursement of the cost of vehicle, road taxes and other fittings is not given to the motor owner in case of its theft;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken to make full payments to the motorist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (c) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.(OIC) has informed that on intimation of the accidental claim a surveyor is immediately appointed to inspect the vehicle and assess the loss. The claims are expected to be settled within 30 days completion of all requirements including submission of all relevant documents. On receipt of all documents, including the survey report, the motor claims are generally being settled within the prescribed time limit.

(b) The company has informed that they have not received any complaint regarding delay payment or delayed appointment of surveyor.

(d) Generally, there is no delay in settlement of claims. Claims are expeditiously settled on completion of all requirements by the insured. The industry has,

from time to time, initiated several measures for expeditious settlement of claims. These include settlement through Lok Adalats & Jald Rabat Yojna, simplification and standardisation of claims settlement procedures, setting up permanent claims review Committees at regional offices, etc. However, there is always a scope for improvement and efforts are being made in that direction.

(e) to (g) The reimbursement is made upto market value or insured value whichever is less. Road Tax is not payable as not covered under the policy, but, fittings, if insured, are reimbursable.

[Translation]

### Capital Market

2005. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bearish phase has set in the capital market due to strict norms as has been stated by the Prime Minister's Advisory Council; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the regard?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Price fluctuation on stock markets is a market phenomena and depend on several factors which include *inter-alia* domestic and international events, economic fundamentals, market sentiments, expectations of investors regarding the performance of the corporate sector and the economy in general, about economic policy of the Government, developments in international capital markets. Globally the markets are on a downtrend and this has also affected Indian markets.

(b) The objective of the Government and SEBI the market regulator, is to ensure that capital markets operate in an orderly, transparent, safe and fair manner. To ensure this, SEBI has put in place several surveillance and risk containment measures such as capital adequacy norms, margining systems, exposure controls and price bands.

[English]

### Export of Tea under Food-for-Oil Programme

2006. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq proposes to import four million kilogram of tea under the food-for-oil programme from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bag more orders under the food-for-oil programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Iraq has been importing tea under Food-for-oil Programme in accordance with the procedure prescribed by UN. However, no quantity has been fixed to be imported from India as the process is based on selection through tenders. As per information received from our Indian Embassy in Baghdad, Indian companies have been awarded contracts for supply of tea to Iraq for a total quantity of 6700 tons under phase 7 of the food-for-Oil programme.

(c) A number of steps has been undertaken to enhance the share of Indian tea exports under this programme. These include greater participation in the Baghdad International Trade Fair, step up Indian exports through the mechanism of Indo-Iraq Joint Commission Meetings, contact through visit of Indian business delegations to Iraq etc.

### Fiscal Management of State Governments

2007. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given or proposed to give any advice to the State Governments regarding their fiscal management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have held or proposed to hold any dialogue with the State Governments on their fiscal problems;

(d) whether there will be any involvement of world agencies in the proposed talks or formulation of suggestions on fiscal management by the States; and

(e) if so, the details in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) The State Governments are autonomous under the Constitution and financial management of the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Some States have undertaken their own medium term fiscal reform programme aimed at reduction in revenue deficit through increased revenue mobilisation, reduction in non plan revenue expenditure, correction in prices & subsidy and disinvestment. In 1999-2000, Government

of India created a facility for extending medium term assistance to those States who have entered into an agreement with Government of India for initiating monitorable fiscal reform programme. Some States with the concurrence of Government of India, have also availed of assistance from World Bank/Asian Development Bank, for financial restructuring.

[Translation]

### Subsidy to States

2008. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has been conducted recently providing subsidies State for purchasing food products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of subsidy likely to be given to States in this regard. State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, a scheme on Decentralised Procurement of foodgrains has been started in the States of West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Under this scheme, the State Governments procure, store and distribute wheat/rice under the Public Distribution System. The difference between the economic cost of wheat/ rice, and the Central Issue Prices is reimbursed to the State Governments as subsidy.

(c) The amount of subsidy likely to be provided to the State Governments under decentralized procurement depends on the quantity of foodgrains distributed. The amount of subsidy already released to State Government of West Bengal for rice, Madhya Pradesh for Wheat and to Uttar Pradesh for both Wheat and Rice is given below:

Year	State	Commodity	Subsidy released (in Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4
1997-98	West Bengal	Rice	28.00
1998-99	West Bengal	Rice	53.83
1999-2000	West Bengal	Rice	56.64
	Uttar Pradesh	Wheat	194.00
	Madhya Pradesh	Wheat	92.64

1	2	3	4
2000-2001	West Bengal	Rice	65.00
	Uttar Pradesh	Rice	55.69
	Uttar Pradesh	Wheat	94.31
	Madhya Pradesh	Wheat	35.27

[English]

### Procurement of Rice from Millers in Andhra Pradesh

2009. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh is planning to procure rice from the millers for supply under Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of rate fixed for procurement; and
- (c) the extent to which the State Government has been able to procure rice for Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

There is no procurement of rice by the State Government or its Agencies for Public Distribution System. The rice is delivered by the rice millers to the Food Corporation of India for Central Pool at the procurement rate. The procurement of rice by the Food Corporation of India for Central Pool is about 55 lakh tonnes, and out of this, about 23 lakh tonnes of rice is drawn from Central Pool for Public Distribution System. Procurement price for delivering of rice to the Food Corporation of India are as follows:

Crop Year 2000-2001	(Rupees per quintal)	
	Common	Grade 'A'
Raw	899.80	949.60
Par-bolled	949.60	950.00

As on 22.11.2000, a quantity of 7.23 lakh tones of rice has been procured by the Food Corporation of India for Central Pool in Andhra Pradesh.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Import of Foodgrains

2010. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether substantial financial losses has been caused to the national exchequer of import of foodgrains at higher rates since 1997 despite abundance of the same in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains imported in 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 alongwith the names of foodgrains imported and the total expenditure incurred on this import;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action against the persons responsible for these financial losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool vis-a-vis the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the county, procurement trend, requirement for public distribution system/other welfare schemes, open market prices etc. and decision to import foodgrains is taken depending on the overall situation. The following quantities of wheat have been imported through STC during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 to augment availability of wheat in the country:

Year	Quantity (lakh MT)	CIF Cost (Rs. Crores)
199798	14.19	962.05
1998-99	14.15	939.23
1999-2000	Nil	Nil

(c) to (e) In accordance with the assurance given by the Government during the course of discussion on the subject in Parliament on 9.6.1998, Government asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on 20-7-1998 to look into the wheat imports on Government account made during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99. CBI has registered a PE 14(A)/98-Delhi dated 4.8.98 to enquire into the imports of wheat contracted by STC from Australian Wheat Board on 26.2.1998. The relevant records pertaining to State Trading Corporation (STC), Food Corporation of India (FCI), Department of

Agriculture, Department of Food and Cabinet Secretariat have been collected and CBI has scrutinized the same.

### NABARD Loans for Road and Bridges

2011. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is providing financial assistance to the State Governments for construction of roads and bridges;

(b) if so, the amount provided to Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh had sought loan from NABARD for construction of metalled approach roads in the rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the number of roads and bridges on which the construction work has started/to be started with the assistance of NABARD in Madhya Pradesh?

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

(b) The amount provided to Madhya Pradesh by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during each of the last three years are as under.

(Rs. in lakh)		
Year	For Roads	For Bridges
1997798	8919.55	3106.72
1998-99	8024.80	2080.38
1999-2000	9223.32	5861.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>26167.67</b>	<b>11049.07</b>

(c) and (d) The NABARD has reported that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought loan for the construction of black topped (Bitumin/asphaltic) surface roads. This type of road is permissible under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) Schemes. The details are given in replies parts (b) and (e).

(e) The number to roads and bridges sanctioned by NABARD with financial assistance under RIDF on which

the construction work has started/to be started in Madhya Pradesh is given as under :

Year	Roads (No.)	Bridges (No.)
1997-98	128	55
1998-99	93	34
1999-2000	84	49
2000-2001	34	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>156</b>

### Commodities under Forward Trading

2012. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of commodities included under forward trading; and

(b) the steps taken to penalise the persons violating Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) :

(a) Futures trading is permitted in following commodities:

Pepper (Domestic and international)

Turmeric

Castor seed

Casor Oil (International)

Gur

Potato

Hessian

Sacking

Cotton

Coffee

Soyabean, its oil & oil cake

Rapeseed/Mustardseed, its oil and oil cake

Groundnut, its oil and oil cake

Sunflower its oil and oil cake

RBD palmolein

Recently the Government have given the in-principle approval for futures trading in the following additional commodities in which the concerned Commodity Exchanges are in the process of completing the formalities for commencing trading:

Rice bran its oil and oilcake

Cottonseed, its oil and oilcake

Copra/Coconut, its oil and oilcake

Sesamum, its oil and oilcake

Safflowerseed, its oil and oilcake

(b) The Forward Markets Commission has been in close liaison with State Police authorities with a view to take enforcement action against the violators of Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 and State Police to launch prosecution against the culprits.

### Sugar Import Agreement with Pakistan

2013. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar import agreement with Pakistan stands terminated; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) :

(a) Import of sugar is on Open General License (OGL) since March, 1994. Beign an OGL item of import, the individual traders or the corporate entities, whether in the private or public sector, are free to import sugar from any country, including Pakistan, based on their best commercial judgement. There is no agreement with Pakistan for import of sugar.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Strike by Bank Employees

2014. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of nationalised banks throughout the country went on strike recently;

(b) if so, the total financial loss due to this strike;

(c) the main demands of the bank employees; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Strike in banking industry does cause inconvenience to the public and financial loss to trade and industry as the business cannot be transacted and clearing operations get affected on the day of strike. However, it is not possible to quantify the loss on this account.

(c) and (d) The issues against which bank employees went on strike and Government's reaction thereto are given below:

Issues	Government's Reaction
1. Public Sector Banks should not be privatized	Government has no plans to privatise public sector banks. It is proposed to introduce a legislation in the current Session of Parliament reducing the requirement of minimum share holding of Government in public sector banks from 51% to 33%. However, this is being done to enable banks to raise equity from market to meet their capital adequacy requirements. It has been made very clear that the public sector character of the banks will be maintained while doing so.
2. Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Public Sector Banks	Indian Banks' Association representing the management of banks has circulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the banks for consideration and adoption by their Boards. This is being done with a view to enabling the banks to optimize their human resource. As is evident from the nomenclature of the Scheme itself it is voluntary in nature. It has been made very clear that no employee will be coerced to accept voluntary retirement.
3. Reduction in retirement age from 60 to 58 years	This is just a recommendation of the Committee on Human Resource Management. This is yet to be examined and no final decision has been taken.

#### **Imposition of State Tax on Advertisement**

2015. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to make a Constitutional Amendment to enable the State Government to impose a tax on advertisement in radio and television; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) There is no proposal to impose a tax on advertisements on radio and television at present. However, the income arising from such advertisements is already subject to payment of income tax, and service tax is also leviable on services rendered by advertising agencies.

#### **Bifurcation of MPEDA**

2016. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate the Marine Products Export Development Authority;

(b) whether the present location of MPEDA is way out of the main sources of marine exports;

(c) the extent to which the present MPEDA unable to guide and assist marine product exporters on the East Coast; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve functioning of MPEDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Although MPEDA has its Headquarters at Kochi (Kerala), has a number of formations to cater to the requirements of the marine product exporters from East Coast viz., Regional Office at Chennai, Calcutta and Vizag, Sub-Regional Office at Bhubaneswar, Prawn Farming Regional Centres at Bhubaneswar and Vijayawada and Prawn Farming Sub-Regional Centres at Calcutta and Bhimavaram.

The Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) is responsible for the development of marine products industry in the country with special reference to exports. MPEDA has taken several steps in this direction, which include developing and regulating off-shore and deep-sea fishing, providing assistance to the industry for modernising the processing facilities, facilitating upgradation of quality of export products, educating farmers on steps to prevent and eradicate diseases affecting shrimp farms, providing testing facilities at Regional centres of MPEDA etc. These steps are available to marine products export industry in various maritime states, including those in the East Coast.

### Reimbursement of Losses

2017. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has requested the Union Government to compensate the losses suffered by it due to damage of wheat stocks procured for Central Pool by flash floods during July, 1993; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government for reimbursement of losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As the responsibility for storage and preservation of procured stocks before these were taken over by the FCI, was that of the State Government/its agencies, for which storage charges were paid to them, the request of the State Government was not acceded to. The State Government was advised to prefer their claim to the Ministry of Agriculture for relief under natural calamities of that agencies could be compensated from the funds collected through Mandi Charges, Purchase Tax etc.

[Translation]

### Advertisements on TV Channels

2018. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to impose ban on the advertisements of liquor and other objectionable materials shown on various channels of television;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any ban has been imposed on objectionable advertisements shown on television recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 have been amended through a notification on 8th September, 2000

and, *inter alia*, prohibit advertisements of liquor/tobacco products and advertisements containing references which hurt religious sentiments.

### Competition due to DTH

2019. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of viewers will increase on private T.V. Channels after opening up the DTH service by private sector;

(b) if so the estimated number of viewers of Doordarshan vis-a-vis the private channels;

(c) whether the widespread improvement is needed in Doordarshan to suit taste of viewers in order to remain in competition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Worldwide experience is that DTH system generally targets niche audiences. Moreover, Doordarshan channels will also be available through DTH platform.

(c) Doordarshan continuously endeavours to make its programmed more attractive and popular.

(d) Does not arise.

### Scarcity of Sugar In Delhi

2020. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rajdhani Mein Rasan Ki Chinee Apurti Vayavastha Gadabadayi" appearing in the Hindi daily '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated November 6, 2000;

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

(c) whether the consumers are not getting sugar from the Fair Price Shops in Delhi from September 2000;



(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to the consumers in Delhi and to ensure timely supply of sugar to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The distribution of sugar allotted by the Central Government for Public Distribution System (PDS) is the sole responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. According to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT), the distribution of sugar to all the fair price shops in Delhi was completed in a staggered manner by 23rd October, 2000 i.e. three days before Diwali. Likewise, the distribution of sugar was completed by 21st November 2000 in respect of November, 2000. The date of starting and completion of distribution of sugar to FPS during three months is given below:

Month	Date of starting	Date of completion
Sep., 2000	25-8-2000	27-9-2000
Oct., 2000	26-9-2000	23-10-2000
Nov., 2000	28-10-2000	21-11-2000

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

(e) The Government of NCT of Delhi have taken the following steps/measures for timely supply of sugar to the consumers in Delhi :

- (i) The levy sugar quota for a particular month is allotted during the previous month to the nominated agencies who procure the assigned quantities from the specified sugar mills so that they can lift the same in time for distribution to the fair price shops during the first fortnight of the month.
- (ii) All the nominated agencies have been advised to maintain the stock of one months requirement.
- (iii) All the Zonal Assistant Commissioners have been directed to ensure that the sugar should remain available in each fair price shop (FPS) throughout the month till each and every entitled card-holder obtains his/her quota.
- (iv) A Control Room has been set up in Head Office under the Enforcement Branch which works from 8.00 A.M. to 10.00 PM including holidays to receive complaints regarding non-supply of sugar

from general public. The contents of such complaints are looked into and necessary action is taken immediately.

- (v) In order to ensure timely supply of sugar to the consumers, all FPS holders have been directed to deposit draft (i.e. cost of sugar) upto last date of previous month so that nominated agencies are able to distribute the sugar to retail outlets by 10th of the month and cardholders are able to draw their supply in time.

[English]

### Demerger of GIC

2021. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to demerge General Insurance Corporation to function as separate entities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government companies have geared up to meet the competition; and
- (d) if so, the details of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The restructuring of General Insurance Corporation is under consideration.

(c) and (d) A number of measures have been taken to strengthen public sector insurance companies including grant of greater autonomy, upgradation of technology, development of human resources through training, cost reduction and introduction of productivity linked incentives.

### Credit Cards to Members of Parliament

2022. SHRI SAHIB SINGH :  
DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that ICICI refuses issue Credit Card to Members of Parliament only on the ground of being Member of Parliament,
- (b) if so, whether any such instance has come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) the time by which Credit Cards are likely to be issued to M.Ps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) ICICI Bank has reported that they do not refuse credit cards to MPs on the ground of being M.Ps.

Based on their commercial judgement banks are free to have their own sets of norms, which they follow for issue of credit cards to any applicant and Government has no role to play in the matter.

#### **Duty exemption for import of materials used in Knee Surgery**

2023. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prosthesis consisting of an alloy cap and ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene plastic used in case of knee-joint replacement surgery is imported from USA and other countries;

(b) whether such organs and medical inputs are exempted from duties;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the conditions and circumstances under which import of such items is exempted from duties?

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

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. All instruments and implants for severely physically handicapped patients and joints replacement and spinal instruments and implants including bone cement are exempt from all import duties unconditionally under Notification No. 16/2000-Customs dated 1st March, 2000 read with Notification No. 6/2000-Central Excise, dated the 1st March, 2000. Prosthesis for knee-joint replacement surgery is also eligible for the aforesaid exemption.

#### **Hawala Transaction**

2024. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:  
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hawala Transactions have gone up several folds since FERA was repealed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government's attention has been drawn into the view expressed by the Enforcement Directorate Officials that FEMA was not strong enough to deter hawala operations and Government have to bring about changes in the present Act to strengthen if further; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Hawala is illegal transaction of money and there cannot be any accurate assessment of such an activity.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is constant interaction of Government with the field formations and any operational difficulties in a new Act like FEMA will be subject to a continuous review to optimise the effectiveness of the Act.

*[Translation]*

#### **Import of Soyabean from America**

2025. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to import 10 lakh tons of Soyabean from America;

(b) whether it is also a fact that soyabean is unfit for human consumption;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that importers from Europe and Japan have refused to take this genetic Soyabean of America in 1998 after discovering five types of weeds and seven types of viral therein;

(d) if so, the reasons for importing such soyabeans;

(e) whether the Government propose to cancel this import deal of soyabean; and

(f) if so, by when and if not the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) (a) to (f) Soyabean is split and cracked form is classified under Exim Code No. 12010000.20 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002 and import of this item is free since 15.10.1998, subject to plant quarantine condition. Consignments not meeting the plant quarantine conditions and other human, animal and plant safety norms would be appropriately dealt with by the authorities through measures including but not limited to, denial of entry at the port of disembarkment and/or reshipment.

### Foreign Direct Investment in Mining Sector

2026. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:  
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

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

(a) whether Foreign investment Promotion Board (FIPB) have approved 60 applications involving Foreign Direct Investment to the tune of Rs. 3,467 crore in mining sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The Government have approved 297 proposals envisaging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of Rs. 14330 crore in Metallurgical Industries Sector during the period 1.8.91 to 30.9.2000 out of which 37 proposals are for Mining service which involve FDI amounting to Rs. 4148.26 crore.

The details are incorporated in Monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which is widely circulated, including the Library of the House.

### Sugar Mills

2027. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of functional/non-functional sugar mills in each State/U.T. under his Ministry at present;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to privatise such sugar mills of the country which are lying closed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The number of functional/non-functional sugar mills in each State/Union Territory are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) So far as the Central Government is concerned, there is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

### Statement

State/U.T.-wise number of Functional/Non-Functional Sugar Mills (as on 30.09.2000)

State	Functional or Working Factories	Non-Functional or Non-Working Factories	Total
Punjab	21	1	22
Haryana	13	-	13
Rajasthan	2	1	3
Uttar Pradesh	109	19	128
Madhya Pradesh	7	2	9
Gujarat	18	4	22
Maharashtra	124	10	134
Bihar	10	18	28
Assam	1	2	3
Orissa	7	1	8
West Bengal	2	-	2
Nagaland	-	1	1
Andhra Pradesh	35	6	41
Karnataka	34	3	37
Tamil Nadu	37	-	37
Pondicherry	2	-	2
Kerala	1	1	2
Goa	1	-	1
All India	424	69	493

[English]

### Unrest amongst Sugarcane Growers

2028. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCIINDIA :  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the serious unrest lately brewing amongst sugarcane growers in different States particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh over the growing arrears of sugarcane dues;

(b) whether the farmers have demanded clearance of arrears in Padrauna in Uttar Pradesh in this year; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) :

(a) to (c) For the 1999-2000 sugar season against cane price payable amount of Rs. 10,868.81 crores as on 30.9.2000, cane price paid is of Rs. 10,338.67 crores. The cane price arrears are of Rs. 530.14 crores, which is 4.88% of the cane price payable amount. However, there are a few sugar factories particularly in Uttar Pradesh, which have cane price arrears of past sugar seasons. These sugar factories are sick and some of them have been registered with the BIFR. The Central Government is aware of the unrest amongst the sugar cane growers particularly in Uttar Pradesh on account of non-payment of cane price dues any some of the sick sugar factories. The Central Government, from time to time, has written to the concerned State Governments for early payment of the cane price arrears. Besides, the following measures have been taken to enable the sugar factories to pay the cane price arrears.

- (i) The Central Government have reduced the levy obligation of domestic sugar factories from 40% to 30% with effect from 01.01.2000.
- (ii) To restrict inflow of imported sugar in the country, Government, with effect from 09.02.2000, have increased the custom duty to 60% along with the existing countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne. The imported sugar has also been brought under levy obligation and monthly release mechanism.
- (iii) The Central Government are also pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious releases of freesale sugar quotas.
- (iv) Advance releases of freesale sugar are being made to needy sugar factories to pay the cane price dues.
- (v) Government have decided to allow export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar.

### **Export of Dry Fruits**

2029. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the kinds of dry fruits being exported by our country and to which countries;

(b) the quantum of dry fruits exported during each of the last three years and the foreign exchange earned thereby; and

(c) the measures taken to boost the exports of dry fruits to earn foreign exchange and to get maximum price in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH):

(a) The major dry fruit exported from India include cashew kernels, walnuts besides small quantities of raisins. These are exported to mainly Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Germany, France, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Hongkong, UAE, USA and UK.

(b) The quantity and value of the above dry fruits exported during the last three years has been as follows:

Year	Quantity (M.Tons)	Value (Rs. crores)
1997-98	80610	1454.07
1998-99	82547	1699.80
1999-2000*	NA	2488.68

\*Provisional.

(c) The Government has been encouraging export of horticulture products including dry fruits through various support/assistance schemes which include the following:

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstrations, training and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zoe fruits;
- (ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality;
- (iii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (iv) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.
- (v) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipment at processing/export units.

### Export of Horticultural Produces

2030. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share in the international market is negligible in regard to export of horticultural produces;

(b) if so, the details of horticultural produces exported during the last three years and the percentage share in international market;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to give special emphasis on export of horticultural produces; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) (a) and (b) The horticultural products exported during the last three years are fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and vegetables and floriculture products. The exports of these items during the last three years have been as follows:

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1997-98	1483.92
1998-99	1404.69
1999-2000	1454.96

India's share of exports of horticulture products in the International market is around one percent.

(c) and (d) The Government has been giving special emphasis for the production and export of horticultural products such as fruits, vegetables and flowers. The steps taken in this regard include the following:

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstrations, Training and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;
- (ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipment at export units;

(iii) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits and floriculture products;

(iv) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled / Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable products such as fresh fruits;

(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 for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits, Vegetables and floriculture products;

(vii) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport etc.

[Translation]

### Match Fixing

2031. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officers directly linked with inquiry being conducted into match fixing case have been transferred during the enquiry period itself;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether certain officers of Income Tax Department who had ordered to conduct raids on the premises of some cricketers have been transferred deliberately to keep them away of the inquiry; and

(d) If not, the names of the Officers of the Income Tax Department who have been transferred after giving them promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir..

(d) Does not arise.

**Seizure of Narcotics**

2032. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI :  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Narcotic Drugs seized by the Government in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the value of the seized Narcotics Drugs, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of Narcotics Drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Details of seizures made during the last three years as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies in the country, drug-wise and year-wise are given below. It is not possible to indicate the seizure's etc. made State-wise as the statistics for all the States are not available. Since all narcotic drugs confiscated are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists, no precise valuation can be made. However, an assessed valuation has been given against each.

(Quantity in Kgs. and value in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	Type of Drug	Year 1997		Year 1998		Year 1999	
		Qty.	Assessed Value	Qty.	Assessed Value	Qty.	Assessed Value
1.	Opium	3316	331.6	2031	223.4	1635	196.2
2.	Morphine	128	140.8	19	22.8	36	46.8
3.	Heroin	1332	2664.0	655	1637.5	861	2583.0
4.	Ganja	80886	808.9	68221	750.4	40113	481.4
5.	Hashish	3281	492.2	10106	1617.0	3391	576.5
6.	Cocaine	24	480.0	0.730	16.1	1.086	26.1
7.	Methaqualone	1740	208.8	2257	316.0	474	75.8

(c) Significant steps taken, by the Government to prevent and check smuggling of narcotic drugs include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, gearing up of intelligence machinery, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border, holding of periodic cross border meetings in which representatives of Indian and Pakistani narcotic agencies are present and stringent action against all persons arrested for drug trafficking under the NDPS Act.

[English]

**Disinvestment in Fertiliser Units**

2033. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to disinvest in Public Sector Fertilizer Units;

(b) whether the Government have received any memoranda requesting not to initiate disinvestment in these Fertiliser units considering its importance as a strategic industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) In accordance with the declared policy on disinvestment, Government have decided to disinvest 51% of its holding out of 97.65% in National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL); 32.74% of its holding out of 58.74% in Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL); and 74% of its holding out of 100% in Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) in favour of strategic buyers along with the transfer of management control. In the cases of NFL & MFL., Advisors have been appointed to assist the Government.

(b) and (c) The Government have received memoranda/representations from the Trade Unions etc. of NFL/FACT/PPL/MFL regarding disinvestment etc. The policy of disinvestment has been formulated after careful consideration of all issues and disinvestment in these cases have been finalised after considering the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

*[Translation]***Foodgrain for Rural Areas**

2034. DR. SANJAY PASWAN :  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the government to utilise the excess foodgrain stock for rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

**Foreign Financial Assistance**

2035. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of agreements signed with the foreign countries for financial assistance during the last three years;

(b) the names of such countries and the amount of assistance to be provided by these countries;

(c) whether it is also fact that no financial assistance has been received so far from the above countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (c) above.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of Country	No. of Agreements (During 1.4.1997-31.3.2000)	Amount of Assistance (Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Denmark	4	154.67
2.	EC	2	929.44

1	2	3	4
3.	Germany	7	1012.53
4.	Japan	23	3772.71
5.	Netherlands	10	459.79
6.	Sweden	2	15.16
7.	Switzerland	1	34.89
8.	U.K.	11	1874.79
9.	U.S.A.	1	183.91
10.	Russian Federation	1	11251.01
11.	France	23	607.49

*[English]***Intellectual Property Rights**

2036. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken appropriate steps to amalgamate and restructure the present administrative set up and authorities dealing with Patents and Trade Marks Intellectual Property Rights related issues in the context of globalisation policies and update the systems compatible with international standards;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to set up and upgrade Educational Institutions to provide professional support; and

(c) the action plan for 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government's initiatives include, among others, steps to modernise and restructure the administration of patents and trade marks, at substantial outlays, so as to update the systems and make them compatible with international standards.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development has been promoting the teaching and research of Intellectual Property matters. During the last two years, financial assistance has been given to various institutes and organizations to encourage study of Intellectual Property Rights under the Scheme for Financial Assistance for Intellectual Property Rights Studies and that Ministry is also trying to redouble the efforts for the further development of Intellectual Property Rights Studies in various Universities and Educational Institutions.

Further, in order to cope with the demand of adequately trained human resources, it has been decided to restructure the office of Patent Information System, Nagpur into a training institute which is expected to cater not only to the needs of the intellectual property offices in India but also meet the needs of the users of the system. These initiatives are in addition to those undertaken by industry associations to develop human resources in this field.

### **Procurement of Foodgrains**

2037. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the concession announced for procurement of foodgrains from Punjab for the Central Pool;

(b) whether such concessions are likely to be extended to other States like Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal in view of plight of farmers;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The following concessions have been extended in Punjab for procurement of paddy during Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001:

- (i) The procurement of paddy has been permitted with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains up to a maximum limit of 8% instead of 3% provided under the uniform (FAQ) specification;
- (ii) Paddy conforming to the above specification will be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP);
- (iii) Out turn ratio for custom milling of such relaxed paddy will be 64% for raw and 65% for parboiled rice;
- (iv) It will be State Government's responsibility to get the paddy milled and deliver rice strictly conforming to the uniform specifications well within the current Kharif Marketing Season; and
- (v) It has also been agreed that the farmers of Punjab, whose paddy had been purchased at a price below MSP, the State Government would make good the difference. The total expenditure

arising out of this differential shall be restricted to a maximum of Rs. 100 crores. The Ministry of Finance shall compensate to the Government of Punjab of this expenditure to an extent of 50%.

(b) to (d) Relaxations in paddy specifications were extended to Punjab in order to enable the agencies to procure paddy, which was affected due to unseasonal rains and blight disease, at MSP, so as to reduce the hardship of farmers. In case of Andhra Pradesh, unlike Punjab, paddy is not procured by FCI, and rice through levy route only is procured. In West Bengal, the State Government procures rice under decentralized procurement and no such unseasonal rains or severe disease affecting the paddy crop has been reported.

### **Competitive Bids for Air India**

2038. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited competitive bids from the foreign collaborated joint airlines to run Air India as the strategic partner;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons on the above said decision by the Government;

(d) whether the Government have received bids from various joint-venture companies like the Reliance-British Airways, Tata-Singapore Airlines, Pilot's Guild to be a strategic partner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) The Government has, in accordance with Government's stated policy on disinvestment and after considering the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, decided in principle in May, 2000 to disinvest 60% of the equity in Air India by way of sale of 40% equity in favour of a strategic partner, up to 10% to the employees and balance in favour of financial institutions and/or in the market. In pursuance to the decision, Government issued advertisement in leading newspapers on 2.10.2000 inviting Expression of Interest (EOI). JM Morgan Stanley, Advisor of the Government for the transaction, has



received EOI from certain prospective partners. However, at this stage when the transaction is in the initial stages, it would be premature to officially disclose the names of the interested investors and furthermore such a disclosure may adversely affect the process of the transaction.

### Performance of Wagon Manufacturing Units

2039. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :  
SHRI A. NARENDRA :  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

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

(a) the names and number of wagons manufacturing units in the country and their performance during 1997, 1998 and 1999;

(b) whether some of these units are running in losses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) There are 13 major Wagon Manufacturing Companies in the Country namely :

1. Bharat Wagon Engineering Co. Ltd., Patna

*Actual Production of wagons against Railway Board's order during last 3 years (excludes production against direct order received by firms from other than Railway parties)*

(Figures in four wheelers units)

Sl. No.	Name of the wagon manufacturing Companies	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Bharat Wagon Engineering Co. Ltd., Patna	2537.5	2125	1080
2.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Calcutta	2897.5	2587.5	2092.5
3.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Calcutta	3645	4030	3160
4.	Jessop & Co. Ltd., Calcutta	157.54	407.5	187.5
5.	Southern Structural Ltd., Chennai	380	475	370
6.	Bridge & Roof Co.Ltd., Calcutta	Nil	Nil	52.5
7.	Cimmco Birla Ltd., Bharatpur, Rajasthan	2535	1522.5	960
8.	Texmaco Ltd., Calcutta	4130	3695	1585
9.	Modern Industries, Sahibabad, U.P.	1325	1032.5	1457.5
10.	Hindustan Development Corporation, Calcutta	4315	3190	1012.5
11.	BESCO Ltd., Calcutta	540	1255	1247.5
12.	Tigagarh Steel Ltd., Calcutta	412.5	1032.5	737.5

2. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Calcutta
3. Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Calcutta
4. Jessop & Co. Ltd., Calcutta
5. Southern Structural Ltd., Chennai
6. Bridge & Roof Co.Ltd., Calcutta
7. Cimmco Birla Ltd., Bharatpur, Rajasthan
8. Texmaco Ltd., Calcutta
9. Modern Industries, Sahibabad, U.P.
10. Hindustan Development Corporation, Calcutta
11. BESCO Ltd., Calcutta
12. Tigagarh Steel Ltd., Calcutta
13. Hindustan General Industries Ltd., Delhi (under shifting)

In addition some companies have been given developmental orders by the Railways.

Information regarding performance including losses, is not centrally maintained in respect of all the companies. Wagon industry was delicensed in 1991. All the wagon manufacturers are not members of a single body, association etc. Data relating to physical production, which is available is given below:

The financial performances of the major Public Sector wagon manufacturing companies during the period 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000 is as follows:

S.No.	Wagon Manufacturing Companies	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Production*	Profit (Loos) Rs./Cr.	Production*	Profit (Loos) Rs./Cr.	Production*	Profit (Loos) Rs./Cr.
1.	Bharat Wagon Engineering Co. Ltd., Patna	2537.5	0.46	2125	0.22	1080	(10.78)
2.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Calcutta	2697.5	2.14	2587.5	0.41	2092.5	(14.13)
3.	Burn Standard Co., Calcutta	3645	(88.78)	4030	(26.95)	31.60	(35.41)
4.	Jessop & Co. Ltd. Calcutta	157.5	(39.54)	407.5	0.70	187.5	(43.93)
5.	Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd., Calcutta	Nil	2.85	Nil	3.80	52.5	6.15

\*All figures in four wheeler units.

(c) and (d) Old plant & machinery, obsolete technology, excess manpower, high interest burden, shortage of working capital, inadequate orders and low unremunerative prices have been the main reasons for losses in the major wagon manufacturing Central Public Sector Undertakings. Government has provided funds as well as other reliefs and concessions to Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Calcutta, Burn Standard Co. Ltd., Calcutta & Jessop & Co. Ltd., Calcutta as envisaged in their BIFR sanctioned revival packages. Government has also assisted these companies in getting orders.

### Procurement of Rice

2040. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to issue directions to Food Corporation of India to procure more rice from the State and shift the Par Boiled Rice to Kerala and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has directed Food Corporation of India to make immediate arrangements to evacuate maximum quantities of rice especially par boiled rice to other centres to vacate space for Andhra Pradesh rice.

### Asian Development Bank Loan to Kerala Projects

2041. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of the projects under implementation in Kerala State with the Funds from Asian Development Bank; and

(b) if so, the present status of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) At present no Asian Development Bank assisted project is being implemented in Kerala State.

### Performance of EPZs

2042. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Export Processing Zones (EPZ) in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the products and value of exports made through these EPZ during the last three years;

(c) the total export and imports made from each EPZ and percentage share of each EPZ in the total export and import of each States during the above period; and

(d) the difference of imports and exports between the said EPZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Three Export Processing Zones set up at Kandla and Surat (Gujarat) and Santacruz, Bombay (Maharashtra) have been converted into Special

Economic Zones on 1.11.2000 as per a new scheme announced by the Government in the Export and Import policy effective from 1.4.2000.

(b) to (d) A Statement is enclosed.

#### Statement

(b) Product-wise exports from EPZs at Santacruz, Kandla and Surat during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. Crores)

Product Group	Santacruz*			Kandla			Surat (Provisional)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-1999	1999-2000**
Electronics Hardware and software	1061.58	2101.07	1720.10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gem and Jewellery	1456.10	2080.77	2426.47	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals	-	-	-	263.17	219.72	339.06	-	-	-
Textiles and Garments	-	-	-	97.51	84.88	81.85	-	-	-
Engineering Goods	-	-	-	66.29	30.19	35.77	-	-	-
Plastic and Rubber Products	-	-	-	16.40	34.33	66.33	-	-	0.45
Others	-	-	-	20.68	22.69	20.65	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2517.68</b>	<b>3281.84</b>	<b>4146.57</b>	<b>464.05</b>	<b>391.81</b>	<b>543.66</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.45</b>

\*Santacruz Electronics EPZ is meant for electronics and gem & Jewellery items only.

(c) and (d) Export and Import and difference during last three years in respect of Santacruz, and Surat EPZs are as under:

(Rs. Crores)

Name of the EPZ	Year	Export	Import	Difference
Santacruz	1997-98	2517.68	1263.00	1254.68
	1998-99	3281.84	1262.61	2019.23
	1999-2000	4146.57	1925.21	2221.36
Kandla	1997-98	464.05	142.30	321.75
	1998-99	391.81	119.68	272.13
	1999-2000	543.66	133.45	410.21
Surat	1997-98	-	-	-
	1998-99	-	-	-
	1999-2000**	0.45	0.24	0.21

Data on State-wise exports is not maintained.

\*\* Provisional.

#### Telecasting Fee of Films

2043. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has increased the fees for telecasting rights of Hindi films from Rs. 8 to 12 lakhs where that fees for regional movies remain stationary at one Lakh rupees;

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

(c) the steps taken to increase the fees for telecasting rights of regional movies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Prasar Bharati has intimated that recently Prasar Bharati Board has decided to increase the fee of award winning regional feature films to be telecast on national

network of Doordarshan. The fee structure would be as follows:

- (i) Award Winning Films - Rs. 10 lakhs
- (ii) Rajat Kamal Awarded Films - Rs. 12 lakhs
- (iii) Swarna Kamal Awarded Films - Rs. 15 lakhs

#### **Sale of Dollars**

2044. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:  
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE:  
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any fresh regulations recently that would force the exporters to sale a part of their dollar holdings in the open market in order to arrest the declining value of rupee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the impact of this on the foreign exchange of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India introduced some measures on August 14, 2000 and on October 10, 2000 which are as follows :

- (i) The balance in Exchange Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) Accounts were required to be scaled down to 50 per cent of the amount held on August 11, 2000 by August 23, 2000.
- (ii) Future accretions to EEFC accounts were restricted to 50 per cent of the eligible limits and were required to be maintained in liquid form as current/savings accounts.
- (iii) Credit facilities available against EEFC accounts were held in abeyance till further notice.
- (iv) The EEFC scheme was reviewed in the light of previous experience and feed back received from premier export organisations and the modifications were announced as a part of October 10, 2000 statement of mid term review of monetary and credit policy for the year 2000-01. Accordingly, in order to facilitate quick export related payments and reduced transactions cost, the EEFC entitlements were restored to their earlier levels. It was also decided that the EEFC accounts would hence forth be held in the form of current accounts and no credit facilities will be provided by banks against the EEFC balances.

The above measure, which augmented supply of foreign exchange in the market, supplements other measures taken by the RBI to contain exchange rate volatility.

#### **Manufacture of Mini Gas Cylinders**

2045. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there have been many deaths during last three years due to bursting of Mini gas cylinders;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken against the manufacturers who are responsible for manufacturing of such mini gas cylinder without obtaining necessary licence;

(c) the names and location of companies who have been granted licences for manufacture of mini gas cylinders;

(d) whether large number of unauthorised factories in Meerut (U.P) engaged in manufacturing of mini gas cylinders; and

(e) if so, the action being taken against such factories to prevent them from continuing manufacturing of mini gas cylinders against law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) The Government is not aware of any deaths, during last three years, due to bursting of gas cylinders. Manufacture of gas cylinders is a de-licensed activity subject to vocational policy. Entrepreneurs only need to file an Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum (IEM) with the Government. During the period August, 1991 to October, 2000, 110 IEMs have been filed for manufacture of gas cylinders. The state-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

The Government is not aware of any unauthorised factories in Meerut (U.P.) engaged in manufacture of mini gas cylinders.

#### **Statement**

*State-wise details of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandums (EEMs) filed during 1.8.1991 to 31.10.2000 for manufacture of gas cylinders (including mini Gas cylinders)*

Name of State	No. of IEMs
Andhra Pradesh	10
Assam	1

Name of State	No. of IEMs
Bihar	1
Gujarat	10
Haryana	9
Himachal Pradesh	1
Karnataka	1
Madhya Pradesh	7
Maharashtra	17
Meghalaya	1
Orissa	2
Punjab	7
Rajasthan	5
Tamil Nadu	3
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	29
West Bengal	4
Delhi	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

#### Funds to U.P.

2046. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the schemes for which this amount has been utilised;

(c) whether the State Government has submitted the utilisation certificate in this regard;

(d) if not, the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has decided to maintain strict vigilance on the States to ensure proper utilisation of Central Funds in the development schemes;

(f) if so, whether the Government have received reports from various States about the misuse of funds or under-utilisation of Central funds;

(g) if so, the States which have not fully utilised the Central funds and have misused them; and

(h) the action Government propose to take to check this under-utilisation and misuse of Central funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Central assistance is released to all the States including Uttar Pradesh for the States' Annual Plans in the shape of Block Grants and Block loans which is not tied to any specific scheme or project. The funds allocated to Government of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Block Grants	Block Loans
1997-98	1037.15	2035.08
1998-99	1140.55	2050.57
1999-2000	1356.49	2451.78

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) to (h) For the releases made under the States' Plans, the State Governments are accountable to their State Legislatures for proper utilisation of funds through the State Audit Reports prepared by the CAG of India under Article 151(2) of the Constitution. However, if there is shortfall in plan expenditure as against approved/ revised plan outlay, a proportionate cut is made from the Central assistance released to the States.

#### Insurance Agents

2047. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IRDA is processing applications for setting up Institutes for Training of Insurance Agents;

(b) if so, the number of such applications which have been received;

(c) whether permission has already been given to any such training Institute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) The Insurance Regulatory and development Authority (IRDA) has reported that they have received 135 (one hundred thirty five) applications from all over;

country upto 22.11.2000 and 26 (Twenty six) institutions have been granted approval to impart the training for insurance agents. Region-wise break-up is given below:

Region	Applications received from Institutions	Institutions Granted approval
North	30	6
East	20	5
West	42	8
South	43	7
Total	135	26

[Translation]

### Funds to Investors Associations

2048. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the financial assistance provided by the stock exchanges to the Investor Associations in the country during the year 1998 and till date, Exchange-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : The details of financial assistance provided by stock exchanges to investor Associations, as intimated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is given below

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Year	NSE	BSF
1998	5.00	19.37*
1999	5.00	-
2000	5.00	7.00

\* The amount indicates expenses reimbursed by BSE for investors' awareness and education programmes conducted by various institutions during the year 1998-99.

### PIB Offices

2049. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the country where the offices of Regional Publicity Directorate are located State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open such units during the remaining period of Ninth Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof State-wise, Place-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The State-wise locations of existing Field Publicity Units of the Directorate of Field Publicity are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Ten new Field Publicity Units are envisaged to be set up during the remaining period of Ninth Plan, depending upon the availability of resources. State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

### Statement-I

Date	Units	
1	2	
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Nizamabad
	Warangal	Cuddapah
	Kakinada	Kurnool
	Srikakulam	Nellore
	Guntur	Nalgonda
	Medak	Visakhapatnam
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Daporijo
	Pasighat	Tezu
	Along	Anini
	Khonsa	Seppa
	Ziro	Bomdila
	Nampong	Tawang
	Yingkiong	
Assam	Guwahati	Jorhat
	Nagaon	Barpeta
	Silchar	Dibrugarh
	Tezpur	Haflong
	Diphu	Dhubri
	Nalbari	North Lakhimpur
	Dhemaji	
Bihar	Patna	Monghyr
	Sitamarhi	Kishanganj
	Bhagalpur	Muzaffarpur
	Chapra	Forbesganj
	Motihari	Darbhanga
Jharkhand	Begusarai	Gaya
	Ranchi	Hazaribagh
	Daltonganj	Jamshedpur
	Gumla	Dumka
	Dhanbad	Chaibasa

1	2	1	2		
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	Junagadh	Bhopal	Ujjain	
	Rajkot	Badodra	Sagar	Gwalior	
	Palanpur	Ahwa	Hoshangabad	Chhindara	
	Himatnagar	Bhavnagar	Jhabua	Guna	
Goa	Godhra	Surat	Mandsaur		
	Bhuj		Maharashtra	Pune	Satara
Himachal Pradesh	Panaji		Nasik	Amravati	
	Dharamsala	Hamirpur	Wardha	Ratnagiri	
	Reckong Peo	Mandi	Ahmednagar	Nanded	
	Nahan	Shimla	Chandrapur	Mumbai	
	Chamba		Solapur	Kolhapur	
Haryana	Ambala	Hissar	Aurangabad	Jaigaon	
	Namaul	Rohtak	Nagpur		
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu	Kangan	Meghalaya	Shillong	Jowai
	Udhampur	Srinagar		Tura	Williamnagar
	Rajouri	Anantnag		Nongstoin	
	Kupware	Kathua	Mizoram	Aizawl	Lunglei
	Kargil	Baramulla		Saiha	
	Chdoora	Shopian	Tripura	Udaipur	Agartala
	Doda	Poonch		Kailasahar	
	Leh		Nagaland	Kohima	Mokokchung
Karnataka	Bangalore	Bellary		Min	Tuensang
	Mangalore	Bijapur		Imphal	Ukhrul
	Mysore	Chitradurga	Manipur	Churachandpur	Chandel
	Belgaum	Gulbarga		Tamenglong	Senapati
	Shimoga	Dharwad	Punjab	Amritsar	Ferozpur
	Hassan			Jalandhar	Ludhiana
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Trichur		Pathankot	
	Quilon	Malappuram	Orissa	Bhubaneswar	Bhawanipatnam
	Kottayam	Cannanore		Keojhar	Puri
	Kalpetta (Wynand)	Cochin		Balasore	Cuttack
	Kozhikode	Palghat		Phulbani	Sambalpur
	Alleppey			Dhenkanal	Jaypore
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Jurg		Berhampur	Bariapada
	Kanker	Jagdapur	Rajasthan	Jaipur	Jodhpur
	Bilaspur	Ambikapur		Sikar	Udaipur
Madhya Pradesh	Shahdol	Jabalpur		Barmer	Bikaner
	Sidhi	Balaghat		Jaisalmer	Sriganganagar
	Indore	Rewa		Ajmer	Alwar
	Chhatarpur	Mandla		Dungarpur	Kota
				Sawai Madhopur	Sirohi

1	2		
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Tirunlveli	
	Salem	Ramanathapuram	
	Vellore	Tiruchirappalli	
	Thanjavur	Coimbatore	
	Madurai	Dharmapuri	
	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Banda
		Jhansi	Mainpuri
		Varanasi	Gonda
		Kanpur	Rae Bareilly
		Allahabad	Azamgarh
Uttaranchal	Gorakhpur	Lakhimpur Kheri	
	Sultanpur	Aligarh	
	Moradabad	Muzaffarnagar	
	Agra	Meerut	
	Bareilly		
	Dehradun	Pauri	
	Uttarkashi	Gopeshwar	
	Pithoragarh	Nainital	
	Ranikhet		
	West Bengal	Siliguri	Malda
Cooch-Behar		Jalpaiguri	
Raiganj		Kalimpong	
Gangtok		Jorethang	
Calcutta-I		Calcutta (F)	
Bankura		Midnapore	
Burdwan		Ranaghat	
Chindsurah		Barrackpore	
Berhampore			
<i>Union Territory</i>			
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	Car Nicobar	
Chandigarh	Chandigarh		
Delhi	Delhi-I	Delhi-II	
Lakshadweep	Kavarati		
Pondicherry	Pondicherry		

**Statement-II**

S.No.	State	Venue of new units
1	2	3
1.	Nagaland	Wokhas
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Roing
3.	Assam	Kokrajhar

1	2	3
4.	Uttaranchal	Haridwar
5.	Orissa	Bolangir
6.	Tamilnadu	Nilgiri
7.	Maharashtra	Dhule
8.	Haryana	Kurukshetra
9.	Madhya Pradesh	Ghargone
10.	Chhattisgarh	Raigarh

**Delay in Execution of Work by HEC**

2050. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) to (f) There have been delays in executing orders. The percentage in value terms of orders delayed was 92% in 1997-98, 60% in 1998-99 and 24% in 1999-2000. The main reasons for delay are non-lifting of finished products by customers, delay in establishment of technology, working capital problem, etc. In some cases the officials have also been found responsible.

HEC has created a mechanism of Integrated Planning, monitoring and control (IPMC) by virtue of which, a detailed analysis of delays is carried out. During the last three years (1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000), officials have been held responsible for delays and action taken against them in 105 cases.



**Statement**

(a) The value of goods sold by Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited in the past three years is given below:

(Rupees in crore)

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
247.53	260.93	256.50

(b) Sector wise value of goods sold are given below:

(Rupees in crore)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Steel	74.63	43.24	43.83
Mining	85.46	79.80	79.10
Defence	14.18	20.39	23.11
Railways	5.46	12.48	20.07
Other Misc.	52.78	87.76	80.61
Turnkey Project	15.02	17.26	9.78
Total	247.53	260.93	256.50

*[English]***Export of Fruits and Vegetables**

2051. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of India among the fruits and vegetables producing/exporting countries of the world;

(b) the percentage of the fruits and vegetable produced being exported to other countries from India; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the percentage of such export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) India ranks second in the production of fruits and vegetables in the world. However, India's share in the exports of fruits and vegetables is about one percent of the world trade.

(c) The steps taken/being taken to increase production and export of horticulture products such as fruits and vegetables include the following:

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical know how of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and

publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development to Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;

- (ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at export units;
- (iii) Grant of air freight subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fresh fruits;
- (iv) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation of increasing the shelf-life of perishable products;
- (v) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (vi) Strengthening infrastructure facility including the 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;
- (vii) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including training of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.

*[Translation]***Setting Up of TV Towers**

2052. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of TV towers targeted to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of TV towers out of them set up so far, State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated for the said purpose;

(d) whether the said amount was sufficient for achieving the said target;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) 80 High Power Transmitters and 422 Low Power/Very Low Power Transmitters were envisaged to be set up by Doordarshan during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) 299 Doordarshan transmitters of varying powers have been commissioned so far, during the Ninth Five Year Plan period. State-wise figures are given in the Statement.

(c) The capital outlay for Doordarshan in the Ninth Five Year Plan includes an amount of Rs. 808.00 crores (capital) for transmitter schemes.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Doordarshan is making all efforts to complete the ongoing transmitter projects at the earliest by way of periodic monitoring and review of progress of on-going schemes.

#### Statement

*Doordarshan Transmitters commissioned during Ninth Plan Period (01/04/1997 to 27/11/2000)*

Sl. No.	State	Transmitters commissioned				Total
		HPT	LPT	VLPT	Transposer	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	17	1	-	20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	21	1	23
3.	Assam	2	3	-	-	5
4.	Bihar	1	3	-	-	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	3	-	5
6.	Gujarat	1	18	1	-	20
7.	Haryana	-	6	-	-	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	3	10	-	14
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	6	12	-	22
10.	Jharkhand	1	3	1	-	5
11.	Karnataka	3	6	2	-	11
12.	Kerala	2	2	-	-	4
13.	Maharashtra	1	17	12	-	30
14.	Manipur	-	-	3	-	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Meghalaya	1	-	-	1	2
16.	Mizoram	-	1	-	1	2
17.	Madhya Pradesh	2	9	1	-	12
18.	Nagaland	-	1	2	-	3
19.	Orissa	2	12	14	-	28
20.	Pondichery	-	1	-	-	1
21.	Punjab	1	1	-	-	2
22.	Rajasthan	3	10	5	-	12
23.	Sikkim	-	-	2	-	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	7	2	-	10
25.	Tripura	1	3	-	-	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4	13	3	-	20
27.	Uttaranchal	1	3	12	-	16
28.	West Bengal	2	4	1	-	7
Total		37	151	108	3	299

[English]

#### Export of Pepper

2053. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review on the production and export of pepper in the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(b) if so, the separate break-up thereof and the year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Review of export performance of agricultural products including pepper is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made as and when considered necessary taking into consideration availability of surpluses for export and domestic price situation. The year-wise break up of figures on production and exports of pepper are given below:

Year	Production (Tons)	Exports (Quantity in Tons)	Exports (Value in Rs. crores)
1998-1999	65990	34864	638
1999-2000	69000*	42100	865
2000-2001	79000*	9750**	196.45**

Source: Spices Board/Ministry of Agriculture.

\* Estimate based on a quick survey made by Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

\*\* Exports during April-September, 2000.

*[Translation]***NRI Proposal for Investment**

2054. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for investment by Non-Resident Indians received during the last three years, the funds involved in these proposals alongwith the names of States for which these were meant for;

(b) the number of proposals accepted, the funds involved therein and the names of States for which these were meant for;

(c) the actual inflow of investments in the country;

(d) whether many NRIs have not invested even after acceptance of the proposals due to cumbersome formalities and corruption; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government to remove these bottlenecks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) A total number of 402 NRI proposals envisaging Foreign Direct Investment of Rs. 2049.86 crores have been approved by the Government during the last three years, i.e. January 1998 to September 2000. The state-wise break-up of the NRI proposals approved during 1998, 1999 and 2000 (upto Sept.) are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The actual inflow of NRI investment from 1991 to September, 2000 is Rs. 8540.25 crores. This also includes the amount of inflows on account of NRI schemes sponsored by RBI.

(d) and (e) The time taken for inflows is usually longer because of several factors such as acquisition of land, obtaining various statutory clearances, arranging funds, etc., which are time-consuming. Apart from these, international factors such as global market conditions and trade fundamentals also determine major investment decisions. With a view to making the Indian economy competitive and creating an investor-friendly environment, a dynamic policy for encouraging foreign Direct Investment is already in place. However the review of Foreign Direct Investment policy is an on going and consultative process involving several Departments and Ministries of the Government.

**Statement****State-wise break up of NRI proposal approved in 1998**

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI (Rs. Crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech	Fin		
Andhra Pradesh	21	0	21	290.31	38.69
Bihar	01	0	01	0.20	0.03
Gujarat	08	0	08	70.84	9.44
Haryana	05	0	05	6.86	0.91
Himachal Pradesh	01	0	01	0.33	0.04
Karnataka	14	1	13	114.38	15.24
Kerala	01	0	01	0.67	0.09
Madhya Pradesh	01	0	01	2.86	0.38
Maharashtra	20	0	20	135.61	18.07
Orissa	01	0	01	6.44	0.86
Punjab	02	0	02	5.07	0.68
Tamil Nadu	09	0	09	60.18	8.02
Uttar Pradesh	06	0	06	13.58	1.81
West Bengal	03	0	03	17.35	2.31
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01	0	01	0.86	0.11
Delhi	05	0	05	13.32	1.78
Daman & Diu	01	0	01	0.25	0.03
State Not Indicated	05	0	05	11.23	1.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>750.34</b>	

**State-wise break up of NRI proposal approved in 1999**

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI (Rs. Crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech	Fin		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	16	0	16	23.35	5.13
Gujarat	06	0	06	3.90	0.86
Haryana	06	0	06	103.45	22.75
Himachal Pradesh	01	0	01	0.45	0.10
Karnataka	15	1	15	21.91	4.82
Kerala	04	0	04	6.07	1.33
Madhya Pradesh	01	0	01	0.14	0.03
Maharashtra	29	0	29	108.87	23.94
Orissa	01	0	01	0.50	0.11
Punjab	02	0	02	2.10	0.46
Rajasthan	06	0	06	60.80	13.37
Tamil Nadu	19	1	18	14.91	3.28
Uttar Pradesh	09	0	09	7.32	1.61

1	2	3	4	5	6
West Bengal	02	0	02	1.00	0.22
Chandigarh	01	0	01	0.98	0.22
Delhi	17	0	17	56.19	12.36
Pondicherry	01	0	01	10.00	2.20
State Not Indicated	08	0	08	32.87	7.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>454.81</b>	

*State-wise break up of NRI proposal approved from January, 2000 to September, 2000*

State	No. of Approvals			Amt. of FDI (Rs. Crore)	% to Total
	Total	Tech	Fin		
Andhra Pradesh	31	0	31	126.90	15.02
Gujarat	05	0	05	2.04	0.24
Haryana	01	0	01	11.11	1.32
Karnataka	22	0	22	31.56	3.74
Kerala	02	0	02	2.74	0.32
Maharashtra	34	0	34	314.08	37.18
Punjab	01	0	01	1.62	0.19
Rajasthan	01	0	01	0.19	0.02
Tamil Nadu	18	0	18	30.70	3.63
Uttar Pradesh	04	0	04	26.30	3.11
West Bengal	03	0	03	48.65	5.76
Chandigarh	01	0	01	1.00	0.12
Delhi	25	0	25	183.36	21.71
Pondicherry	02	0	02	0.43	0.05
State Not Indicated	03	0	03	64.05	7.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>844.73</b>	

### Telecast of Sydney Olympics

2055. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan had provided live-telecast of Sydney Olympics;

(b) if so, the countries where live telecast was provided;

(c) whether the Doordarshan had earned any income from advertisements through this live telecast;

(d) if so, the total amount thereof; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred on all the activities from obtaining the rights of telecast to providing live telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir. Prasar Bharati have intimated that Doordarshan had telecast live and recorded events like opening Ceremony, Closing Ceremony and other games/event, where Indian participants figure, on DD-1 and DD-2 at specified times during the Olympic fortnight apart from telecasting live 24 Hours on DD-Sports for the benefit of sports lovers.

(b) Prasar Bharati secured exclusive satellite and terrestrial rights of the Games for telecast in India.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Rs. 1.08 crores.

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

[English]

### Private Sector Banks

2056. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :  
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of big private banks operating in the country as on date, State wise;

(b) the bank-wise, capital of these banks;

(c) the number of proposals for opening of new private sector banks pending, clearance with the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) the action being taken by the RBI thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Reserve Banks of India (RBI) has reported that 11 applications for starting new private sector banks are pending with it. RBI is in the process of revising the norms for private banks. The pending applications will be processed in accordance with the new norms.

**Statement**

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of State	Name of the Bank	Paid up Capital
Andhra Pradesh	Global Trust Bank Ltd.	121.36
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	48.01
Goa	Centurian Bank Ltd.	152.47
Gujarat	ICICI Bank Ltd.	196.82
	UTI Bank Ltd.	131.90
Kerala	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	10.52
	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	14.66
	Federal Bank Ltd.	21.71
	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	23.48
	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	10.20
Karnataka	South Indian Bank Ltd.	35.33
	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	13.50
	Vyaya Bank Ltd.	19.76
Madhya Pradesh	IDBI Bank Ltd.	140.00
Maharashtra	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	6.93
	Sangli Bank Ltd.	10.33
	United Western Bank Ltd.	29.89
	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad Ltd.	0.81
	SBI Commercial & Int. Bank Ltd.	100.00
	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	16.61
	Indusind Bank Ltd.	159.01
	HDFC Bank Ltd.	243.28
Punjab	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	105.00
Rajasthan	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	62.76
Tamilnadu	Bank of Madura Ltd.	11.77
	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	15.75
	Karur Vyaya Bank Ltd.	6.00
	City Union Bank Ltd.	24.00
	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	11.51
	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	0.28
Uttar Pradesh	Benares State Bank Ltd.	62.11
	Nainital Bank Ltd.	2.50

**Cooperative Banks**2057. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA  
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise, number of Cooperative Banks working at present;

(b) the number of them making losses alongwith the locations thereof;

(c) the accumulated loss of each of the cooperative bank;

(d) whether the NABARD propose to establish a fund for promoting a more vibrant Rural Cooperative Credit System; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of cooperative banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of State-wise number of State Co-operative Banks (SCBs), District Co-operative Banks (DCCBs), State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture & Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs), as reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) are given in Statement-I.

(b) the number of Co-operative Banks running into losses as on 31st March, 1999 are given in Statement-II.

(c) The details of accumulated losses of Co-operative Banks as on 31st March, 1999 are given in Statement-III.

(d) and (e) Government had set up a Task Force to study the co-operative credit system and suggest measures for its strengthening. The Task Force has since submitted its Report. In one of the recommendations made in the Report, the Task Force has suggested setting up of a Co-operative Rehabilitation and Development Fund in NABARD by contribution from Government and another Mutual Assistance Fund at State Level by contribution from co-operative institutions in the concerned State. The Report is under consideration of the Government.

**Statement-I**

State-wise details of number of State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs), State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) and Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs)

S.No.	State/Union Territory	SCBs (29)	DCCBs		SCARDBs (19)	PCARDBs	
		Branches	No.	Branches	Branches	No.	Branches
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	A & N Island	30			-	-	-
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	22	571	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	31			-	-	-
4.	Assam	68	1	19	19	21	-
5.	Bihar	14	34	481	169	-	-
6.	Chandigarh	10	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Delhi	26	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Goa	65	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Gujarat	-	18	1077	181	-	-
10.	Haryana	13	17	317	-	84	
11.	Himachal Pradesh	122	2	124	28	1	9
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	13	3	111	38	-	-
13.	Karnataka	28	19	608	25	177	-
14.	Kerala	20	14	447	14*	43	57
15.	Madhya Pradesh	22	45	1049	9	45	445
16.	Maharashtra	44	30	3635	329@	-	-
17.	Manipur	11	-	-	1	-	-
18.	Meghalaya	37	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Mizoram	9	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	22	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Orissa	5	17	302	3	57	-
22.	Pondicherry	19	-	-	2	-	-
23.	Punjab	18	19	685	-	79	-
24.	Rajasthan	9	26	381	-	33	119
25.	Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Tamil Nadu	40	23	697	20	181	-
27.	Tripura	36	-	-	5	-	-
28.	Uttar Pradesh	29	60	1480	313	24	56
29.	West Bengal	41	17	233	2	-	-
All-India		807	367	12217	1158	745	686

\*District Offices.

@ including 30 Sub-Offices.

**Statement-II**

*The number of Co-operative Banks running into losses as on 31st March, 1999*

State	No. of Loss Making Banks as on 31st March, 1999			
	SCB	DCCB	SCARDB	PCARDB
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	-	9	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	-	-
Assam	-	1	1\$	-
Bihar	1	25	1	-
Gujarat	-	3	-	-
Haryana	-	-	-	73
Himachal Pradesh			1	

1	2	3	4	5
Jammu & Kashmir	-	3	1	-
Karnataka	-	2	1	144
Kerala	-	-	-	32\$
Madhya Pradesh	-	23	-	38
Maharashtra	1	8	1	-
Manipur	1	-	-	-
Mizoram	1	-	1\$	-
Nagaland	1	-	-	-
Orissa	-	7	1	55
Pondicherry	-	-	1	-
Punjab	-	-	-	9
Rajasthan	-	1	-	15

1	2	3	4	5
Sikkim	1	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	7	-	99
Tripura	-	-	1	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	25	-	-
West Bengal	-	1	-	18
All-India	7	118	10	483

\$ Data pertains to 1997-98.

### Statement-III

*The details of accumulated losses of Cooperative Banks as on 31st March, 1999*

(Rs. Lakhs)

State	SCB	DCCB	SCARDB	PCARDB
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	-	30407	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	1467	-	-	-
Assam	2790	1131	2106	-
Bihar	3558	29957	5296	-
Gujarat	-	22787	-	-
Haryana	-	227	-	3192
Himachal Pradesh	-	48	308	-
Jammu & Kashmir	319	6209	185	-
Karnataka	-	7866	4582	23346
Kerala	-	-	-	2485
Madhya Pradesh	-	24166	1066	14569
Maharashtra	37892	35626	39239	-
Manipur	2410	-	107	-
Meghalaya	997	-	-	-
Mizoram	2024	-	-	-
Nagaland	931	-	-	-
Orissa	-	7612	3502	6863
Pondicherry	-	-	46	-
Punjab	-	3566	-	149
Rajasthan	-	10271	-	4231
Sikkim	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	-	6936	-	11102
Tripura	685	-	362	-
Uttar Pradesh	-	60861	-	-
West Bengal	-	1502	-	2547
All-India	53073	249169	56799	68484

### Anti-Dumping duty on Safety Matches

2058. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to impose anti-dumping duty under World Trade Organisation agreements regarding cheap import of safety matches into the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) No, Sir. The domestic industry has not filed any petition in the prescribed performa to the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties, till date, to enable the Designated Authority to initiate investigations for imposing Anti-Dumping Duty on imports of Safety Matches.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Uniformity in Interest Rate by Financial Institutions

2059. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-banking finance companies of the country are arbitrarily determining their rates of interest and whimsically collecting the amount of interest from their loanees;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any criteria for various finance companies to bring uniformity in their interest rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they have not prescribed any rate of interest to Non-Banking Finance Companies to be charged on their advances. The rate of interest charged by the NBFCs may differ from company to company depending on their cost of funds and their risk perception of their borrowers. RBI has issued directions to the NBFCs that they cannot offer more than 16% per annum interest on deposits.

### Growth In Foreign Trade

2060. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with whom the foreign trade has registered an increase during the last financial year;

(b) the percentage increase in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to enhance the foreign trade and to increase our trade with other countries during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) As per the DGCI&S provisional data for the year 1999-2000 the major trading countries with whom our export registered an increase over 1998-99, are Belgium (7.23%), France(10.83%), Ireland (19.44%), Italy (10.32%), Luxembourg (56.06%), Netherlands (16.1%), Portugal (21.0%), Spain (12.02%) U.K. (21.09%), Switzerland (17.93%), Rest of Europe (20.73%), Nepal (25.14%), Sri Lanka (15.94%), Australia(4.19%), China(28.25%), Hong Kong(35.68%), Indonesia (76.19%), Japan (3.09%), Korea (39.27%), Malaysia (35.22%), Singapore (33.57%), Thailand (42.28%), UAE (15.03%), Israel (42.41%), Nigeria (22.11%), Canada (25.77%), USA (18.53%), Brazil (3.07%), CIS countries (31.97%).

Similarly import growth during 1999-2000 been has noticed in Belgium (20.79%), Denmark (23.13%), France (2.43%), Greece (160.55%), Ireland (46.95), Luxembourg (113.29%), Portugal (6.32%), U.K. (4.06%), Swden (50.92%), Rest of Europe (1.99%), Bangladesh (28.91%), Sri Lanka (18.01%), China (17.81%), Hong Kog (81.57%), Indonesia (19.51%), Malaysia (27.71%), Singapore (8.86%), Thailand (17.52%), Saudi Arabia (24.10%), UAE (24.26%), Israel (59.94%), Egypt (38.52%), Nigeria (148.87%), South Africa (37.90%), Brazil (66.08%), CIS Countries (13.72%).

Detailed list of countries and India's trade with them etc., is available in the DGCI&S publication titled "Foreign Trade Statistics of India, March, 2000". A copy of this publication is available in Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been

taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of Trust sectors and focus regions.

Exports have registered a growth of 22.04% in April-September, 2000.

[English]

### Schemes of APEDA

2061. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes/activities of the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority implemented so far;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give training to rural entrepreneurs/farmers to enable them to export processed foods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The schemes/activities implemented by APEDA so far include the scheme for feasibility studies, surveys, consultancy and database upgradation, scheme for export promotion and market development, scheme for packaging development scheme for infrastructure development, scheme to promote quality and quality control, scheme for upgradation of meat plants, scheme for organisation building and human resource development, scheme for generating relevant research and development by APEDA through research institutions for common benefit of trade and industry, scheme for airfreight subsidy on selected fresh vegetables and fruits and floriculture products as well as an integrated training programme for the producers in the horticulture sector for pre and post harvest management.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

### Vacant posts of Board of Directors

2062. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts of the Board of Directors of most of the nationalised banks are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies in each of the nationalised bank;



(c) the reasons for delay in filling up the vacant posts of Directors; and

(d) the time by when the vacant posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) At present, there are 133 vacancies of Directors in the nationalised banks. Bank-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Action has been initiated to fill up the vacancies of Directors on the boards of the nationalised banks.

#### **Statement**

##### *Number of vacancies on the Boards of Nationalized Banks*

Sl. No.	Name of bank	CMD	ED	Workmen Director	Non-Workmen Director	Non Official Director
1.	Allahabad Bank	-	1	-	-	7
2.	Andhra Bank	-	-	1	-	7
3.	Bank of Baroda	-	-	1	-	3
4.	Bank of India	-	-	1	-	3
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	-	1	-	1	7
6.	Canara Bank	-	-	1	-	7
7.	Central Bank of India	-	1	-	1	7
8.	Corporation Bank	-	-	-	-	3
9.	Dena Bank	-	1	1	-	3
10.	Indian Bank	-	1	1	1	7
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	-	-	-	1	7
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	-	-	1	-	3
13.	Punjab National Bank	-	1	-	1	7
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	1	-	-	-	7
15.	Syndicate Bank	-	-	-	-	3
16.	Union Bank of India	-	-	1	-	7
17.	United Bank of India	-	-	-	1	7
18.	UCO Bank	-	1	1	1	7
19.	Vijaya Bank	-	-	-	-	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>109</b>

#### **Investments in India**

2063. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investment in India is likely to increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where the investment is likely to increase;

(c) whether any Indo-US joint investment plan has been finalized for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Government is committed to promoting FDI as a means to support domestic investment. In this direction, several initiatives have been taken to attract more FDI in different sectors.

(c) and (d) After announcement of New Industrial Policy since September, 1991 the foreign collaboration approvals and investment from USA has risen substantially. From January, 1991 to September, 2000, Government has approved 18,463 foreign collaboration (technical & financial) proposals with a corresponding foreign direct investment of Rs. 2,380.20 (US \$ 66.27) billion. Out of this the total number of approvals with USA have been of the order of 3772 (20.40% of the total approvals) with an equity participation of Rs. 500.79 (US\$ 14.44) billion (21.0% of the total approvals). Us companies continue to top the list of countries in terms of cumulative FDI approved from January, 1991 to September, 2000.

#### **SC/ST Vacancies in Banks**

2064. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for SCs and STs in nationalised banks and rural banks lying vacant as on date, bank-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for filling up of these posts in each bank?

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

### Non-Banking Financial Companies

2065. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many non-Banking financial companies continue to dupe small investors of their hard-earned savings;

(b) if so, whether any corrective measures have been initiated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Complaints have been received from depositors against some NBFCs who have failed to repay their deposits.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on receipt of complaints regarding default in repayment of deposits or on noticing other serious irregularities through inspections or otherwise, takes necessary action against the erring NBFCs like issue of Prohibitory Orders, restraining company from accepting deposits, alienating its assets, filing of winding up petitions and launching of criminal complaints. RBI has also appointed Special Officers to monitor the repayment of deposits in certain problematic companies.

Chapter IIIB of RBI Act was amended in January, 1997 providing new safeguards for depositors' protection and vesting enhanced powers with RBI for effective regulation and supervision of BBFCs. Government is also proposing to introduce a new Bill in the Current Session of Parliament which is expected to provide better protection to the depositors of financial companies.

### Study by SCOPE

2066. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the study entitled "comparative performance of the Public and Private Sector" was brought out by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in association with the Centre for Industrial and Economic Research (CIER) in September, 2000;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the study; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) The Study has made following five recommendations:

(i) The public sector has to have a new vision for itself. The vision shall be of self reliant sector with world class globally competitive dynamic constituents.

(ii) To perform the public sector shall need total professional freedom of action within the framework of broad social and economic policies with total professionalism unimpeded by administrative road blocks.

(iii) The public sector has to follow best practices with global benchmarks consistent with Code of Ethics and standard values.

(iv) The public sector will need to unleash continuous improvement through value addition all along the value chain.

(v) The public sector should be committed to all stake holders—shareholders, customers, workers and the society—and not be obsessed only by shareholder value, today's mantra of private enterprise and financial analysts.

(c) The Government has noted the recommendations.

[Translation]

### Govindrao Committee

2067. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an experts committee (Goivind Rao Committee) for widening the Service Tax net;

(b) if so, the details of the tenure, terms of reference, its composition, powers etc; and

(c) the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes Sir, the Government have constituted an Expert Group on Service Tax, with a view to examine various aspects connected with a the field of taxing the services,

including extension of tax base in the area of services, and to make recommendations in this regard.

(b) This Expert Group has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. M. Govind Rao, Director, Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore and it consists of five other members and a member secretary.

The terms of reference of the Expert Group, are as follows:

- (i) To examine the existing structure of service tax and to make recommendations on extending the tax base in the area of services, and the timing thereof.
- (ii) To examine the existing procedure for collection of service tax, and to make recommendations as may be considered necessary for making it more effective, to augment voluntary compliance, and to reduce compliance cost.
- (iii) To make recommendations on any other matter related to the above points or incidental thereto.

The tenure of the expert group will continue till the date of its submission of final report and it has got the powers to make recommendations to the Government as per the terms of reference.

(c) The Expert Group has submitted its interim report to the Government recently on 20th November, 2000 and it has been asked to submit the final report by the 31st December, 2000.

### **German Aid to India**

2068. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany has decided to restore the aid to India which was stopped due to nuclear tests in the year 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of aid proposed to be given to India by Germany?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany has indicated willingness to resume the Development Co-operation with India which was stopped after the Nuclear Tests in the year 1998.

(b) and (c) As the talks for development Co-operation are yet to take place, the amount of proposed German Assistance to India is not yet known.

### **Charged Cricket Players on DD**

2069. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the cricket players charged in the match fixing case have figured in the advertisement shown on the Doordarshan;

(b) whether the Government on its own level will immediately stop telecast of these advertisements on Doordarshan;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan was carrying advertisements which had the cricket players who were subsequently charged in the match fixing case. After the scandal broke out, advertisers on their own have stopped their advertisements on Doordarshan.

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has full functional powers to decide programme matters including advertisements shown on Doordarshan and the Government does not get involved in these decisions.

*[English]*

### **Fall in prices of Tea and Coffee**

2070. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of tea and coffee have fallen drastically;

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

(c) whether tea and coffee growers are facing great difficulties as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to save the tea and coffee growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The average all India auction prices of tea during 2000 for the period January

to October declined to a level of Rs. 62.44 per kg. as against Rs. 72.44 per kg. over the corresponding period of 1999.

Regarding Coffee, the International prices have fallen due to over production and resultant surplus supply. Since nearly 80% of the coffee produced in India is exported, fluctuations in International price have resulted in low realisations of prices. However, the domestic prices of both varieties of the coffee are at present higher than the international prices.

(c) and (d) In order to arrest the decline in prices of tea Government/Tea Board has taken various steps which include implementation of a scheme through the Tea Board with effect from 1.5.2000 wherein subsidy is provided to the small growers of tea (holding upto 10.12 hectares of tea plantation) for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55 per kg. subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 per kg., launch of a Quality Upgradation Programme in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers, increase in basic customs duty on tea from 15% to 35%, ban on sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs).

As regards Coffee, the Government of India through the Coffee Board, besides operating several plan schemes and development activities aimed at intensive cultivation, replanting, quality improvement and water augmentation, has also been providing necessary support in the form of agricultural research, extension, arrangement of credit and finance and other necessary backup support like supply of seed for planting purposes, etc. Further, thrust is being given for increasing productivity of coffee particularly in the small growers sector and improving quality of the product. The Board is also encouraging the large growers to produce speciality coffee, which fetch attractive premiums in developed countries like USA and European Union.

Although, consequent upon liberalization of coffee trade in 1996, the Coffee Board is no longer directly involved in the marketing activities and the prices are determined by the market forces of demand and supply, Government of India through Coffee Board closely monitors the market price situation and if situation warrants, will take suitable ameliorative measures so as to safeguard the interests of the coffee growers.

#### **DD Sports Channel as Pay Channel**

2071. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Sports Channel has been made a pay channel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that entire coverage needs to be improved and professionalised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHIRMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For reasons of revenue it has been made a pay channel.

(c) and (d) It is the constant endeavour of Prasar Bharati to improve the quality of Doordarshan coverage by using latest technology and innovative techniques of programme production to attract viewers.

#### **MODVAT Scheme**

2072. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MODVAT scheme is being misutilised in the country consequent to which excise duty worth crores of rupees is being evaded;

(b) if so, the number of cases came to the notice of Government during the last one year particularly from Faridabad; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the misutilisation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Number of cases of misutilisation of MODVAT scheme have come to notice of the Government. In Faridabad, 71 cases involving misutilisation of MODVAT credit by various assesses have come to the notice of the Government during the last one year ending October, 2000.

(c) Various measures are being taken to check abuse of MODVAT (now known as CENVAT) credit facility and these include (a) verification of receipt of inputs by surprise visits (b) checking authenticity of duty paying documents forming basis of credit (c) critical examination of books of account relating to CENVAT credit during audit, specially where large amounts of credit are involved. Penal action is initiated as per stringent provisions of law against the assesses found abusing the scheme. Apart from recovery of amount, interest and prosecution are also considered against those misusing MODVAT credit with intent to evade central excise duty.

### Income Tax Notices to Schools

2073. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proceedings under section 201 penalty proceedings U/S 271C of the Income Tax Act initiated against some heads of educational institutions in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of educational institutions supplying information relating to Tax Deducted at Source on salaries and perquisites given to the teachers and other staff; and

(d) the number of persons against whom legal proceeding have been initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proceedings u/s 201 of the Income Tax Act has been initiated in the case of Kulachi Hans Raj School.

(c) The number of educational institutions supplying information relating to Tax Deducted at Source in Delhi is 274.

(d) No legal proceeding has been initiated in any case. However letters regarding verification of TDS return filed by the Educational Institutions have been issued in appropriate cases.

[Translation]

### Sikkim Bank Limited

2074. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Sikkim Bank Limited' has been declared bankrupt;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the RBI to refund the deposits of the people;

(c) whether the Government propose to merge this bank with some other Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to revive this bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (d) Owing to its continuing deteriorating financial position, Sikkim Bank Ltd. was initially placed under moratorium

with effect from 8th March, 1999, and subsequently amalgamated with Union Bank of India with effect from 22nd December, 1999.

As per the provision of the scheme of amalgamation, the liability of Union Bank of India towards the depositors of the erstwhile Sikkim Bank Ltd. is strictly restricted to the difference between readily realisable assets and outside liabilities. Union Bank of India has reported that it has already credited eligible depositor's accounts with the pro-rate share alongwith claim amount settled by DICGC.

### New Opium Policy

2075. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate the new opium policy;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether there is a proposal to hike the price of opium; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Opium Policy for the Crop Year commencing from 01.10.2000 and ending on 30.09.2001 has already been notified on 02.11.2000.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

### Free Distribution of Foodgrain

2076. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:  
SHRI SHUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made any announcement to provide free foodgrains to the poorest people of the society;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the schemes;

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing this scheme so far;

(d) the criteria adopted to identify the poor who deserve free foodgrains;

(e) whether the flood and drought hit and backward areas are proposed to be targeted under the said scheme;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Do not arise.

### **Ban on Indian Fruits and Vegetables**

2077. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has imposed ban on import of Indian fruits and vegetables in their country;

(b) if so, the date on which this ban was imposed by China alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have asked China to lift the ban; and

(d) if so, the response of China in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) China banned import of Indian fruits and vegetables in 1992 due to the alleged occurrence of Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratities capitata*) in fruits, egg plants, pepper and tomatoes. During the process of bilateral negotiations with China related to the latter's accession to the World Trade Organization, this issues was taken up with China and in the bilateral agreement signed with China on 22nd February, 2000 in this regard, China agreed to review the current plant quarantine restrictions on the import of mangoes and other fresh fruits and vegetables from India into China. It was also agreed to conclude a bilateral Protocol as early as possible on phyto-sanitary measures and certification procedures to be applied by the tow countries. A formal application, indicating the kind of plant products we would like to export to China, along with technical material in accordance with International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) on the "Parasite Risk Analysis" (FRA) norms, has already been sent by the Ministry of Agriculture to the Chinese authorities.

### **Distribution of Disinvestment Proceeds**

2078. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any formula to distribute the proceeds which come from disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings in the country to the various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this formula has been circulated to the State Governments for their comments;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereon; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to consult the States on the problem of labour rehabilitation which will arise from disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir. The receipts from disinvestment are deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India like other receipts of the Government. Outgo from the Consolidated Fund of India includes Central support to the States.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) One of the main elements of the disinvestment policy of the Government as reiterated by Finance Minister in the Budget speech for the year 2000-2001 is to protect the interests of workers. Government will strive to do so through Shareholders' Agreements, ESOPs, and, where necessary, Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) packages.

### **Sucrose Content in Sugarcane**

2079. SHRI HARI BHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage recovery of sugar from sugarcane in Gujarat as compared to Uttar Pradesh during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the sucrose content in the sugarcane of Gujarat and that of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the action taken to have an indepth analysis of the constraints of lower sugar recovery; and

(d) the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee constituted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) :

(a) The average percentage recovery of sugar from sugarcane in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh (UP) during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was as under:

	1998-99	1999-2000
Gujarat	10.39%	10.25%
U.P.	9.03%	9.34%

(b) Normally, the sugar factories do not determine the sucrose content in cane. However, the sugar factories determine the pol percent inferentially which is 2% higher than the recovery percent cane.

(c) and (d) The Government of Gujarat has informed that a general analysis and study indicates that soil structure, climatic changes, excessive use of water, salinity in the soil, insufficient pest management and wrong mix of fertilizers and lack of required varietal developments are the major reasons for low sucrose content in sugarcane in Gujarat.

The Government of U.P. has informed that low sugar recovery in the sugar factories of U.P. is due to old and obsolete machinery, long distance transportation of sugarcane, non-availability of early maturing varieties of sugarcane in many sugar factory areas, etc.

The Central Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Agriculture & Co-operation) in respect of sub-tropical region, i.e., U.P. & Bihar, with the following terms of reference:

- (i) To suggest measures for increasing average sugar recovery through varietal diversification & effective extension.
- (ii) To suggest methods for effective operationalisation of Sugar Development Fund.
- (iii) To assess the need to strengthen cooperative structure and credit availability to farmers.

The recommendations of the Committee and the follow up action taken thereon are given in the enclosed Statement.

The Government of Gujarat has also appointed a High Level Committee to frame sugar policy for development of sugar industry on sustainable basis which will also look after issues relating to raising of sucrose content.

#### **Statement**

Recommendations	Action taken
1	2
1. Productivity and recovery of sugar in Uttar Pradesh has been fairly low compared to the states not only in tropical regions but also in other states in the northern region.	It is an observation only.
2. While the research institute under ICAR system have evolved a number of varieties with better yield potential, higher sucrose content to permit improved recovery, their spread has been slow in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Partly this may be due to the decisions of the state government that in respect of varieties to be recommended for cultivation in the different regions of the state these will be based on the recommendations of the State Council of Sugarcane Research. Normally these are based upon the advice of the Sugarcane Research Station at Shahjahanpur.	For approving the varieties of sugarcane to be grown in the State of U.P., a Committee has been constituted comprising a representative of farmers and research scientist. After discussions by the scientists of the U.P. Sugarcane Research Council, Shahjahanpur, Seorahi, Pant Nagra, etc., the decision for releasing sugarcane varieties is taken.
3. It could be better that even in respect of varietal evaluation in the case of sugarcane, the same procedure as adopted under trials of improved varieties under various All-India Crop Improvement Projects are adopted. That is performance of all promising varieties sponsored are tried out and that in this process the Coordinator of	The suggestion of the Agriculture Commissioner will be discussed in the forthcoming Group Meeting of AICRP on Sugarcane and the decision will be implemented.

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the All-India Coordinated Project is consulted. It would be worthwhile to evaluate all varieties irrespective of the location of the institute which is sponsoring the variety.

4. In the evaluation of the results of the trials it would be useful to associate the sugar factories also, so that they would be able to judge the varieties which could be profitably cultivated in their catchment areas from where the sugarcane is drawn for crushing. Recent decisions of the Government of Uttar Pradesh is commended and this should be invariably followed.
5. Systematic evaluation of all the varieties being evolved by different research institutes in India could assist in the farmers and sugar factories having a better field of selection of varieties which they could cultivate for enhancing productivity and production with higher sucrose content.
6. There is need for a time-bound programme for varietal diversification. Improved varieties with better tolerance to red rot, higher sucrose content and varying maturities should be attempted in a time-bound manner, with a view to achieving at least 25% of the cane area being brought under recommended early varieties within a span of four years.
7. There is need for systematic multiplication of sugarcane planting material. The nucleus seed of planting material could be drawn from the institution where the variety is evolved, but the further multiplication as breeder seed could be undertaken by the research institution under the Sponsored Breeder concept. Such institutions could be research stations of the State Agriculture Universities, or the research farms maintained by even the sugar factories provided the scientists working at the farms are recognised as sponsored breeders by the coordinators or the ICAR.
8. Further multiplication of the breeder seed should be undertaken as foundation seed in close association with sugar mills and the cane societies on the land of progressive farmers under contract-growing arrangements adopting a cluster of villages approach. The foundation seed material should be further multiplied in all the important disease free areas by the growers. This should be undertaken under the aegis of the sugar mills and the concerned cane societies.
9. The sugar mill or the mill along with cane society could establish required hot air treatment plants treat the planting material so that the planting material is free from red rot disease which is an important factor leading to lower yields of cane.
10. Quick multiplication of promising varieties could be accelerated through Tissue Culture methods. The existing schemes of the

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The selected sugar factories spread over in all the five agro climatic zones of the country are evaluating the performance of sugarcane varieties entered into the advanced varietal trials of AICRP on sugarcane.

The sugar factories have been advised to undertake trials of the promising varieties of sugarcane which are in pipeline and are being considered for demonstration at farmers fields by the different sugarcane research stations in the country.

Research efforts are underway at SBI, Coimbatore and in the All-India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane to develop varieties with different maturity periods, high sucrose content and tolerance to major diseases/insects.

The sugar factories particularly in the State of U.P. have been advised to take up seed multiplication programmes by adopting 3 tier seed multiplication programme developed by the Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research (IISR), Lucknow, namely, breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed.

In the State of U.P., breeder seeds are planted in the fields of those farmers only who are members of Sugarcane Seed Corporation.

The Sugar Development fund (SDF) assistance is being provided to sugar factories for setting up heat treatment plants. The sugar factories have been requested to send the information about the establishment of heat treatment plants.

The SDF assistance is being provided for quick multiplication of promising varieties



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Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provide financial assistance for the establishment of Tissue Culture laboratories. The task would be facilitated by standardising the protocol for micro propagation of sugarcane, which essentially could focus on multiplication of the nucleus material drawn from the research institutions to provide the planting material requirements for further multiplication by the factories in association with the sugarcane farmers and the concerned cane cooperative societies.

11. Cane Cooperative Societies have been established taking the responsibility for supply of sugarcane to the factories from what could be called the catchment area of the factory. It is understood that only the societies which could supply cane to the factory. It is also understood that even in the case of Cooperative sugar factories the supply of sugarcane is organised by the concerned cane society and the factory management has little say in drawing the sugarcane for crushing. Only in respect of new cooperative factories there is no stipulation that cane society alone has the responsibility for supply of cane. It was also expected that the cane society would provide a variety of services to the sugarcane growers apart from assisting the delivery of the cane to the factory and getting the payments for sugarcane supplied to the factory for farmers. The societies were expected to assist the farmers in obtaining critical inputs such as the planting material, adequate credit, ensure availability of fertilisers, etc. it would appear that many of the societies are in a position to undertake these tasks for often the health of the factory and the cane society go hand in hand.
12. The cane societies could play an important role and necessarily they must be controlled by the sugarcane growing farmers members and as fully accountable to the farmers alone. it would appear that this is not always the case. The state government should ensure that all sugarcane farmers become members of the society, if not already enrolled.
13. The cane societies in association with the sugar mills must plan for staggered planting of cane by their members which could ensure harvesting of cane at the right stage of maturity for supply to the mills, thereby increasing the recovery of sugar. The societies together with mills must also ensure that the credit requirements of sugarcane cultivation would be provided by the financial institutions with recovery of the loans tied up with supplies of cane to the factories. The societies could also over time consider undertaking harvesting of cane of the members and delivery to the factories on a centralised basis as is the practice of cooperative sugar factories.
14. An important aspect is the management of ratoon crops and it is necessary to extent the technologies being generated amongst the farmers so that the yield gaps between the planted and ratoon crops could be minimised to the extent possible.

through Tissue Culture method. They have also been requested to send information about the establishment of tissue culture laboratories, if any.

This is an observation of the Committee and no action is required.

In the State of U.P., only the members of the cane cooperative societies are supplying sugarcane to the sugar mills.

In the State of U.P., the planting of sugarcane is done during autumn and spring seasons. In the Western U.P., the cane planting takes place little late while in the Central U.P., it takes place on time. The U.P., Government provides information about cane sowing etc. from time to time.

The Practice recommended for management of ratoon crop recommended by Ministry of Agriculture have been sent to all the sugar factories for information and adoption by the farmers on their areas.

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15. The Sugar Development Funds have been used to promote research on sugarcane and to assist the factories in cane development work. Specific programmes for planting material, treatment for the planting material to produce disease free material could be projectised for funding from the SDF. In this the programme should be developed by the mills and the concerned societies jointly.
16. There have also been suggestions for permitting establishment of vacuum pan factories of even low capacity, i.e., the existing conserving sugar factory also go in for the putting for vacuum pans. Feasibility of permitting this should be examined for taking up this by the Department of Sugar & Edible Oils.
17. At present payment to farmers are made on the basis of weight of cane and not on the sugar content. This discourages farmers from growing varieties of high sugar content. Rapid techniques for assessing sugar content which has been developed with the help of HPCL need to be standardised and perfected.

The Sugar Development Fund is being used to promote research on sugarcane and assist the sugar factories in cane development work including development and treatment of planting material to produce disease free material.

The khandasani units have been permitted to change their process of manufacture from open pan to vacuum pan process.

The payment of cane price to the farmers is being made on weight basis. The importance of the payment on quality basis has been recommended time and again. As a large number of farmers are supplying sugarcane to the factories, the assessment of sugar content of the cane supplied by each and every farmer is not possible with the present available technology. The trials are being undertaken by the Sugar Technology Mission in collaboration with National Physical Laboratory in a sugar factory for determining sugar content through NIR technique. As and when the technology is available for commercial use, the payment of cane on quality basis would be possible.

### **Sickness in Indian Industry**

2080. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :  
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

Will the Minister COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have shortlisted the problems being faced by Indian Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also taken any steps to identify the causes behind the growing incidence of sickness in Indian Industry including public sectors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether managerial deficiency, accounts for 43 percent of the total cases of industrial sickness;

(f) if so, the measures contemplated/being contemplated by the Government to remove the bottlenecks in the field of industrial growth;

(g) whether the Government have outlined different areas which required attention for industrial and economic growth; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Problems being faced by Indian industry include infrastructural constraints, high cost of finance and investment, high cost of power, freights, port charges and congestion of ports, antidumping action against Indian export, non-tariff barriers imposed by developed countries etc.

(c) and (d) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to RBI report, a number of causes, both internal and external, offer operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness. The main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing etc.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia*, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to

banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985, etc.

(g) and (h) The Government provides a policy regime which facilitates and fosters growth and development of industry. These include:

- Growth Centre Scheme of Infrastructure Development.
- Transport Subsidy Scheme.
- New Industrial Policy Package for the North Eastern Region.

#### Upgradation of ICRI, Donigal

2081. SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to upgrade the Indian Cardamom Research Institute, (ICRI) Regional Station located at Donigal, Sakaleshpura, by providing more facilities like scientific manpower mandate to work on import spice crops of Hassan and its neighbouring districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also received any proposals in this regard from the State Government; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A Memorandum from Hasan District Planters' Association was forwarded by the State Government of Karnataka wherein among other things it was proposed to upgrade the present research station. The proposal is being examined.

[Translation]

#### Export of Rice and Tea

2082. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of tea and rice exported during the last three years alongwith the foreign exchange earned thereby;

(b) whether the Indian exporters have received the full payment for their items;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some consignments have not been lifted by the importers and returned back the same to Indian exporters;

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

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to solve the matter and also to increase the export of rice and tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The total quantity and value of rice (basmati and non-basmati) and tea exported during the last three years are as under :

(Rice:Qty: in MT, Value: Rs. Crores)

(Tea: Qty. in Mn. Kgs., Value in Rs. Crores)

Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Prov.)		2000-2001 (Apr.-July 2000 Prov.)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Basmati Rice	593323	1685.62	597793	1876.91	606468	1735.94	357642	869.16
Non-basmati rice	1795743	1685.38	4365888	4403.85	1216681	1369.43	174424	226.95
Tea	211.26	2003.15	205.86	2191.84	192.31	1922.31	55.60	468.38

(Source: DGCI & S/Tea Board, Calcutta)

(b) and (c) Data on receipts of payments by exporters is not maintained.

(d) No such case has been reported.

(e) and (f) Do not arise. However some of the steps taken to increase the export of rice and tea include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, Inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

[English]

### Sick Units of Gujarat

2083. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick industrial units from the state of Gujarat registered with the Board for industrial and Financial reconstruction (B:FR);

(b) the sick units considered for sale;

(c) the sick units at different stages of consideration with BIFR; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by BIFR?

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

### Export of Onion

2084. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on export of onion;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to lift the ban on onion exports to help the farmers of Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Telecast of Sydney Olympic Games

2085. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:  
SHRI JAMJIVAN SINGH:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan had made a bid for Rs. 15 crore for securing the exclusive right to telecast Sydney Olympic games;

(b) whether Doordarshan earned merely Rs. 15 crores from this deal;

(c) if so, the reasons of suffering of such a huge loss;

(d) whether any inquiry has been conducted to go into the causes of such a huge loss; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SHSMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s. Pritish Nandy Communications were awarded the contract for marketing of Sydney Olympics on a Minimum Guarantee of Rs. 15.01 Crores. However, since they withdrew from their commitment, their Bank Guarantee of Rs. 7.505 Crores was encashed Midway through the event, Prasar Bharati had to make its own efforts to market the event. Accordingly, advertisers were contacted but not many were willing to advertise on the Olympics in view of the fact that nearly one week of the event was already over. Due to these factors, Doordarshan earned revenue of only Rs. 1.08 crores. Overall, Doordarshan suffered loss of revenue.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### Post Based Rosters

2086. SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOPY has introduced 'Post Based Rosters' in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' for implementing reserving system w.e.f. July 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether while introducing "Post Based Rosters" in place of "Vacancy based Rosters" the process of identifying excesses/shortages if any in Class I, II, III and IV category of services under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and all the Autonomous/Statutory Organizations, Attached/Subordinate Offices and Public Sector Undertakings was undertaken as prescribed under para (5) of the DOPT O.M. No. 36012/2/96-Estt.(Res) dated July 2, 1997;

(d) if so, indicate the excesses/shortages found in all the above category of services as on July 2, 1997; and

(e) the reasons for 'Post Based Rosters' being introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' without completing the process of identifying assesses/shortages if any, as prescribed under the above referred O.M.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **SBI and HDFC Information Bureau**

2087. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SBI and HDFC have been permitted to set up first information Bureau of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India have given permission to State Bank of India, through a notification dated 10th November, 2000, under Section 53 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for equity participation for setting up a Bureau named Credit Information Services of India Ltd., in collaboration with Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC), Dun & Bradstreet Information Services (India) Ltd., and Trans Union International Inc. The core functions of the Bureau will be:

(i) to maintain a data bank on borrowers from lending institutions;

(ii) to collect and collate, credit an financial information on borrowers and prospective borrowers of lending institutions;

(iii) to store the information so collected; and

(iv) to furnish credit information on request.

(c) Efforts are being made to operationalise the Bureau by end of December, 2000.

#### **Assets of UTI**

2088. DR. C. KRISHNAN:  
SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "RIL accounts for 7.38% UTI total assets" appearing in *Economic Times* dated November 7, 2000;

(b) if so, the names of the top ten companies in which UTI has maximum holdings;

(c) the debt-asset ratio of each of these companies;

(d) the provisional net profit (after tax) of each of these companies for the period ending March 30, 2000;

(e) whether there is any increase in the net profit of each of these companies as compared to the previous year;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the UTI has made any assessment in the assets of each of these companies and their capability to get the debts liquidated in due course; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (f) Details are provided in the enclosed Statement.

(g) Out of top 10 holdings of UTI, it has equity exposure in all 10 companies and debt exposure in 6 companies. The debt papers of these companies have a credit rating of "AAA" or "AA" , which indicates highest/ high safety. UTI does not envisage any difficulty in timely repayment of principal and interest.

(h) Does not arise.

**Statement**

S.N.	Name of the Company	Debt-asset ratio <sup>1</sup>	Net profit after Tax FY 2000 (Rs. cr)	Percent change over previous year
1.	Reliance Industries Ltd.	0.34	2403.25	41.06
2.	Infosys Technologies Ltd.	NA	285.95	115.13
3.	Reliance Petroleum Ltd.	0.56	NA	NA
4.	ITC Ltd.	0.26	792.44	27.11
5.	ICICI Ltd.	0.84	1205.75	20.47
6.	IDBI Ltd.	0.79	1027.00	-18.43
7.	Hindustan Lever Ltd. <sup>3</sup>	0.13	1069.93	27.76
8.	Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd	0.06	85.96	138.97
9.	Satyam Computers Ltd.	0.67	42.09	118.19
10.	Hindalco Industries Ltd.	0.28	612.37	8.04

<sup>1</sup>Debt/asset ratio-deb/no fixed asset.

<sup>2</sup>New project started commercial production in FY 2000-01. Therefore PAT figures are not available.

<sup>3</sup>Year ended on 31st December 1998 and 1999.

**Buffer Food Stock**

2089. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which Buffer stock of foodgrain have been estimated;

(b) whether the present stock is computed on realistic assessment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Buffer stocks of foodgrains to be maintained in the central pool have been fixed taking into consideration the requirement of foodgrains during a particular quarter. Procurement season, lean periods, off take in preceding years and other factors are taken into consideration while fixing these norms. As per the Buffer Stocking Policy, certain minimum stocks of foodgrains are to be maintained by FCI/State Agencies in the central pool on the first day of each quarter.

The stock of wheat and rice as on 1.10.2000 was 40.06 million tones against the prescribed buffer norms of 18.10 million tones on that date. The stock of wheat and rice as on 1.11.2000 was 44.49 million tones.

Procurement of foodgrains for the Central pool has increased considerably during the past few years due to attractive Minimum Support Prices (MSP) fixed by the Government. Off take under PDS has come down due to raising of Central Issue Price (CIP) as a result of increase in MSP. CIP of Above Poverty Line (APL) families have been fixed at 100% of the economic cost. These factors have resulted in surplus stocks over the minimum buffer stock norms in the Central Pool.

**Rajlakshmi Unit Scheme-92**

2090. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:  
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajlakshmi Unit Scheme-92 of Unit Trust of India was treated as closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of investors of the above scheme in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government have decided to return the amount to its investors in the above scheme alongwith interest;

(e) if so, the number of investors who have so far been paid in Karnataka;

(f) whether the Government have taken any steps to pay the amount to all the investors of the above scheme; and

(g) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Rajlakshmi Unit Scheme, 1992 (RUS-92) stood terminated as of close of business hours of the Unit Trust of India (UTI) on 30th September, 2000.

(b) The scheme was launched with the objective of investing in debt and equity when the return on debt investment was anticipated at 18% to 20% per annum and return on equity was expected at 15% to 20% per annum. UTI was of the view that a return of 16.16% to 16.75% on the scheme would be feasible. However, sharp decline in domestic interest rates following globalisation of the economy and opening up of the financial sector coupled with the volatility in the equity capital market and decline in the return offered by AAA papers on account of deregulation on the interest rate

regime, has made it impossible to sustain the potential return envisaged in 1992.

(c) The total number of investors under RUS-92 was 12.18 lakhs. According to UTI, State-wise data is not maintained.

(d) A letter was issued to all the investors of UTI on 20.08.2000 communicating the decision to terminate the scheme and informing them of other formalities for obtaining the repurchase proceeds cheques/option for conversion. UTI has been paying the investors in the Scheme at the same rate of 16.16% - 16.75% per annum while paying redemption proceeds to those who have exercised their option for receiving the redemption proceeds.

(e) State-wise data is not maintained by UTI.

(f) and (g) All the investors who have exercised their option on the form sent to them in the prescribed form and manner are being paid repurchase proceeds, the redemption amount being converted into the units of the Scheme as sought by the investors. So far, 7,47,315 investors have exercised their option for redemption/conversion. Out of this, 3,80,588 investors have opted for redemption and 3,66,727 investors have opted for conversion to other schemes of UTI.

UTI has already despatched 3,46,757 redemption cheques to various investors all over the country amounting to Rs. 507 crore. Depending upon the receipt of repurchase requests/conversion requests from the investors, the redemption cheques are being despatched within 10 days of receipt of the same.

### **MoU with Singapore**

2091. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed a Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) with Singapore for collaboration of free trade; and

(b) if so, the details of the points discussed and decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) During the visit of the President of India to Singapore from 9-13 November, 2000, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government of India and the Government of Singapore for setting up a Task Force in the field of Economic Cooperation. Article 2(b) of the MoU stated

that the Task Force shall study the possibility of establishing a Free Trade Area (FTA) between India and Singapore.

### **Dumping of Kenyan Tea**

2092. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tea is facing serious crisis in the market in fetching the basic required price due to the dumping of Kenyan tea in the market;

(b) whether the Indian tea plantation programme has been expanded of take care of its domestic requirements and to make available surplus export with a long term plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) No, Sir. Import of tea from Kenya is insignificant and cannot have any effect on the domestic tea prices. The quantity of tea imported from Kenya during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 0.10mn. kg and 0.44 mn. kg and 1.69mn. kg. respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. While preparing the 9th plan proposals, the domestic demand for tea as also the export demand for the plan period was assessed and accordingly the production target of 1000 mn kgs. for the terminal year of 9th Plan period has been fixed. Further, with a view to meet the domestic demand and also make available surplus for exports, several steps have been taken by the Government/Tea Board for increasing production of tea. The steps include financial assistance by Tea Board to the tea industry through its various developmental schemes for encouraging extension planting, replanting, rejuvenation, pruning, infilling, creation of irrigation facilities and drainage etc.

[Translation]

### **Amount sanctioned to Bihar and Jharkhand**

2093. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned to Bihar and Jharkhand each during the year 2000-2001;

(b) whether there is any difference between the amount sanctioned and the amount released;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof state-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Normal Central Assistance allocated to Bihar during 2000-2001 was Rs. 1457.55 crores and the same was being released to the state in equal monthly instalments. Consequent on re-organisation of the State into Bihar and Jharkhand with effect from 15.11.2000, the same was bifurcated between the States as follows:

Bihar	Rs. 1113.31 crores
Jharkhand	Rs. 344.24 crores

The balance instalments of Central assistance as allocated to the successor States are being released accordingly.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### **Non-plan Expenditure of Government**

2094. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for curtailing non-plan expenditure by the Government;

(b) the Ministries which have followed the said orders of the Government; and

(c) the amount likely to be saved by each Ministry/ Department by the said decision of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) It is Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions for austerity in Government expenditure have been issued from time to time. The austerity measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/ hospitality expenses etc.

(b) and (c) All the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are required to follow these economy instructions and effect savings. As the information is not maintained centrally, it is not possible to quantify saving on account of issuance of economy instructions

#### **Reimbursement of Income Tax**

2095. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that every year crores of rupees from the consolidated fund of India are being paid by the Income Tax Department to the fake tax-payers as reimbursement of taxes paid in excess;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the persons to whom the income tax refunds are paid in excess during the last three years, region-wise; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty officer and the persons who have received income-tax refund in excess?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e) Some cases of fraudulent refund order brought to the notice of the Government were investigated for appropriate action. As per details available in 30 cases action has been taken against the guilty officials whereas the matter is under investigation in three cases. Similar action would be initiated if and when such cases are reported/brought to the notice of the Government. Details of cases are given in the Statement.

#### **Statement**

1. Shri M.M. Dubey, Stenographer  
Shri Dubey was placed under suspension on the Sr. A.R. I.T.A. Indore, w.e.f. 6/8/98. Case has been registered by the CBI vide RC No. 11(A)/98 in which their report is awaited.
2. Shri S.R. Naidu, ITO  
Penalty of reduction in pay by 5 stages for five years imposed w.e.f. 30.3.99.
3. Shri M.S. Idnani, ITO  
Disciplinary proceedings are in progress.
4. Shri G.G.A. Naidu, ITO Gr. 'A' (Retd)  
In this case file is under submission to UPSC.
5. Shri G. Venketeswaly, ITO  
CBI investigated the case. Lower court sentenced



- imprisonment. The sentence suspended by High Court till disposal of appeal.
6. Bogus refund cased in Karnataka Investigation revealed that no IT officer is involved.
7. Shri A. Swamy Naidu, ACIT (Retd.) CBI has started the process of prosecution.  
 Shri Paramsivam, TA }  
 Shri Shivraj, ITO } CBI processing case for  
 Shri Jacob, ITO } launching prosecution.
8. Shri N. Rajgopalan, ITO  
 Departmental penalty proceeding initiated against the officer.
9. Shri G. Selva Kumar, ITO  
 Sanction for prosecution has been accorded to CBI.
10. Smt. S.G. Bellani, ITO & (U.S.) & Shri S.L. Khanna, UDC  
 Smt. S.G. Bellani, ITO and Shri S.L. Khanna, UDC were arrested, and both are suspended w.e.f. 30.4.92. A chargesheet was filed by the Police in Court on 24.2.92 u/s 120B/420/409/467 & 471 IPC and at present the case is pendig in Court.
11. Fraudulent encashment of refund of Rs. 12924 issued by ITO Ward 20(3), Calcutta  
 Departmental action against the concerned UDC is being taken.
12. Refund fraud in ITO, Ward 6(6), Calcutta  
 FIR has been filed against the Advocate and other persons. Involvement of the departmental officials is under investigation.
13. A refund fraud of claiming bogus refunds by filing returns in the name of bogus assesses and enclosing fictitious TDS certificate was detected. Departmental proceedings against four officers of the department were initiated. In one case proceedings come to an end to the death of the officers. In one case major penalty of 25% cut in pension for three years was imposed. In one case penalty of 'censure' was imposed. In the other case UPSC has advised a penalty of reduction of pay.
14. Shri P. K. Chudhary, ITO  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
15. Shri K. N. Hazarika, ITO  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
16. Shri M. N. Dey, ITO  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
17. Shri K. K. Das, ITO  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
18. Shri S. R. Das, ITO  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
19. Shri S. K. Majumdar, ITO  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 10.3.99.
20. Shri S. K. Majumdar, ITO  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 31.3.99.
21. Shri A. K. Purkavshta, ITI  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
22. Shri T. C. Das, ITI  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
23. Shri Imadul Haque, ITI  
 Minor penalty of 'censure' was imposed on 21.12.98.
24. Shri Sapakut-Uli-Alam, UDC  
 Major penalty in the nature of reduction to a lower stage in the time scale of pay has been imposed on 21.12.98.
25. Shri S. K. Majumdar, ITO  
 Major penalty has been initiated.
26. Shri A. K. Purkaystha, ITI  
 Major penalty has been initiated.
27. Shri A. K. Dey, ITO  
 Major penalty has been initiated.
28. Shri J. Charkravarty, TA  
 Major penalty has been initiated.
29. Shri B. R. Purkaystha, ITO  
 Major penalty has been initiated.
30. Shri N. Dhungdhim, DCIT  
 Major penalty has been initiated.
31. S/Shri T.M. Phillipose, P. K., ITOs & Ors  
 Their report has been examined and the matter has been referred to CVC on 1.6.2000 for their 1st stage advice.

32. **Employees of IT Department, Banks & Private Practitioners**

In this case, there is an allegation that one IT practitioner M/s Pandaya & Co., in collusion with IT officials and one employee of SBI has made bogus claims of refund. The matter is under investigation and as per CCIT's report, the responsibility is being fixed in the matter.

33. A case involving six ITOs of NWR region is under investigation by the CBI.

[English]

**Seizure of Heroin**

2096. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of seizures of heroin and other psychotropic drugs during the current year, so far;

(b) the details of smugglers gangs, if any busted and nabbed in this regard, indicating their modus operandi;

(c) the comparative figures and other details for the last three years;

(d) whether any links between drug smugglers and terrorists have been established;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) steps taken by the Government to prevent the flow of funds and resources from drug trade to terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : (a) During the year 2000 (upto October) 760 kgs. of Heroin, 1702 kgs. of Opium, 43100 Kgs. of Ganja, 3058 kgs. of Hashish, 16 kgs. of Morphine and 823 kgs. of Methaqualone were seized.

(b) The following gangs were busted during the year 2000.

(1) Delhi Zonal Unit neutralized an International gang

consisting of 7 persons (2 Afghans, 1 Nigerian, 1 British and 3 Indian) along with the biggest seizure of 77 kgs. of Heroin.

(2) Varansi Zonal Unit busted an International trafficking gang operating through Courier Service.

(3) Mumbai Zonal Unit neutralized a gang led by Ghanhiram Kanhyalal Solankis Uncle.

(4) Delhi Zonal Unit busted a gang operating in NCT Delhi led by Dinesh Kumar & Babloo.

The modus operandi adopted by gangs of the drug smugglers/peddlers is to smuggle the heroin packed in wooden boxes with false bottoms, in gunny bags and polythene pouches, concealed in the cavities made in the wooden cases of dry fruits, in the sliding door panel or specially created chambers at the floor of a vehicle, wrapped around the body beneath the shirt or clothing of a person, concealed in the false bottom lining of two rucksacks and on camel back etc.

(c) the details of drugs seized, number of cases registered and number of persons arrested in connection with drug related cases in the country during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The Government has no definite information or intelligence to establish links between drugs smugglers and terrorists. However, instances of drug traffickers carrying arms and ammunition have been reported to the Government by the various drug law enforcement agencies.

(f) Instructions have been issued to all the drug law enforcement agencies to take appropriate steps to counter laundering activities by conducting financial investigation in all the seizure cases of narcotic drugs and for freezing forfeiture of property which are found to be acquired illegally. Other significant steps taken by the Government to prevent smuggling of narcotic drugs include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, gearing up of intelligence machinery, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border, holding of periodic cross border meetings in which representatives of Indian and Pakistani narcotic agencies are present and stringent action against all persons arrested for drug trafficking under the NDPS Act.

**Statement***Details of Narcotic Drugs seized in the country during last three years*

1997	Opium	Heroin	Ganja	Hashish	Morphine	Methaqualone
Quantity (in kgs)	3316	1332	80886	3281	120	1740
Cases (in numbers)	1333	2990	7062	2223	75	207
Arrested (in numbers)	1539	3262	7409	2060	79	202
1998	Opium	Heroin	Ganja	Hashish	Morphine	Methaqualone
Quantity (in kgs)	2031	655	68221	10106	19	2257
Cases (in numbers)	954	3095	6018	2193	56	114
Arrested (in numbers)	1108	3381	6302	2189	68	135
1999	Opium	Heroin	Ganja	Hashish	Morphine	Methaqualone
Quantity (in kgs)	1635	861	40113	3391	36	474
Cases (in numbers)	927	2937	6518	2500	125	8
Arrested (in numbers)	1024	3143	6585	2582	121	17

[Translation]

[English]

**Revolvers/Pistols seized by Customs**

2097. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 32 bore revolvers/pistols were seized by Customs House, Delhi between 1996 and 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the persons to whom these revolvers and pistols were sold and the time when it was done;

(d) whether their price evaluation process is a complicated one and the maximum time is taken in this process; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) 'Nil' in view of (a) above.

(d) No Sir. Necessary guidelines have been issued by the Ministry in this regard.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

**More powers to SEBI**

2098. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI had approached the Government for grant of more powers to exercise a strict vigil on plantation companies against whom lot of complaints from investors are pending; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has not asked for any additional powers specifically with respect to plantation companies. However, it is the endeavour of the Government to strengthen SEBI with a view to enable it to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently.

(b) Does not arise.

**Export Processing Zones**

2099. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have authorised the State Governments to set up Export Processing Zones at their own in the joint/Private sector;

(b) if so, whether any Export Processing Zones have been set up in the joint/private sector by the Union Government/State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. It was decided in 1992 not to set up any new Export Processing Zone (EPZ) by the Government of India. However, with a view to argument infrastructure for export production, the Government has decided to permit setting up of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in the private / joint sector or by State Governments.

(b) and (c) The details and location of Export Processing Zones approved for establishment in private/joint sector or by the State Governments are as under:

Name of the Promoter	Location	Private/Joint Sector
1	2	3
M/s Kayform Ltd., Mumbai	Kandiveli (East) Mumbai (Maharashtra)	Private Sector
M/s Colonc International, Chennai	Singidivakam Village, Kancheepuram Taluk, Tamil Nadu	Private Sector
Government of Uttar Pradesh	Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh	State Government

### Review of SEBI

2100. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objective for which SEBI has been formed/has been achieved;

(b) whether the Government have undertaken a review the functioning of SEBI;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the system to solve the grievances of small investors is sufficient in SEBI;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to make improvements to restructure the SEBI?

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

(b) It is the endeavour of the Government to strengthen SEBI with a view to enable it to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently. Towards this end, the functioning of SEBI is constantly reviewed.

(c) The relevant legislation has been suitably amended and necessary steps taken in consultation and coordination with SEBI from time to time to enhance the safety, integrity and transparency of the securities market.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) SEBI has set up an Investor Grievances Redressal and Guidance Division which assists investors who make complaints to SEBI against companies. Further, a standardized complaint format is available at all SEBI offices as also on the SEBI website. Each complaint is acknowledged, taken up with the company immediately and followed up.

(f) Does not arise.

### World Bank Loan for Maharashtra

2101. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sought Rs. 40,000 crore from the World Bank for various infrastructures and water supply projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken up the matter with the World Bank;

(d) if so, the response of the World Bank; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to obtain such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The State Government of Maharashtra has proposed projects amounting to Rs. 10937 crores (approximately), from the World Bank for infrastructure and water supply projects. These costs estimates are only indicative. The details of scope, size and cost of projects are known only after the project is appraised, negotiated and approval of the Bank Board is received.

(b) to (d) The information is indicated in the Statement attached.

(e) The Government of India periodically reviews and follows up all proposals posed to the World Bank for assistance.

**Statement**

*The status of various projects in the infrastructure and water supply sectors*

S. No.	Name of the Project	Status/Responses
1.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project (Phase II)	The project has been posed to the World Bank and is yet to be appraised. There is presently no commitment from the World Bank to fund the project.
2.	Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage II	The Project proposal was posed to the Bank. Subsequently the Maharashtra Government have sent a revised proposal to the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. Approval of Planning Commission and Ministry of Environment and Forests on the proposal is awaited.
3.	Middle Vaitarna Project—Urban Water Supply	The project was posed to the World Bank. However, the Bank expressed its reluctance to finance the project in September, 2000. Thereafter, Department of Economic Affairs wrote to the Government of Maharashtra to reframe the project with a greater emphasis on institutional reform and sustainable financing through robust cash flows.
4.	Rural Water Supply Project (20 districts)	The Proposal has been received in the D/o Drinking Water Supply. The State Government has been requested to furnish additional information and also to depute a representative to have detailed discussions on the proposal.
5.	Black Topping of Roads	In consultation with Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment it was decided that the proposal needs to be revised indicating clearly the role of the Gram Sabhas/Gram Panchayats and participation of the village communities. Accordingly, the State Government was requested to revise the proposal and obtain the approval of planning Commission.
6.	State Roads Project II	The Project was posed to the World Bank. However, the Bank has informed the Government that it would no be possible to fund the project in view of other commitments.
7.	Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project (Phase II)	A multi-state project was posed to the World Bank. In September 2000 the Bank informed the Government of India that a detailed analytical study is required to be undertaken before the Bank takes a decision to fund the project.

**Impact of Imported Sugar**

(d) if so, the details thereof.

2102. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry particularly in Andhra Pradesh is passing through a very difficult phase on account of the depressed prices of both sugar and molasses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh State Sugar industry also suffers being in the coastal State with a major port with adverse impact of imports much more than the inland States;

(e) whether some States have requested the Union Government to instruct Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices to consult the sugar producing States in the process of finalizing the levy price of sugar; and

(f) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) and (b) The domestic sugar Industry in general is facing problem of accumulation of stock and its consequent effect on liquidity position due to high level of production/stocks. Further, the sugar industry has not

been able to export substantial quantity of sugar due to low level of prices in the international market in spite of certain measures taken by the Central Government to boost exports.

(c) and (d) As per DGCIS- Calcutta, there has not been any import of sugar during the financial year 2000-2001 (upto July, 2000) through any port of Andhra Pradesh and as such, the sugar industry in the State is not adversely affected on this count.

(e) and (f) No State Government has requested the Union Government to instruct Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) to consult the sugar producing States in the process of finalizing the levy price of sugar. However, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh have informed that they have requested BICP to consult Directorate of Sugar and Government of Andhra Pradesh in addition to the industry before finalizing the levy sugar prices. The latest cost study of sugar industry for the sugar seasons 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 was entrusted to the Cost Accounts Branch (CAB) of Ministry of Finance on BICP's inability to undertake the cost study. CAB in addition to obtaining relevant information from the sugar factories also hold meetings with the representatives of the apex bodies of the sugar industry before finalizing their recommendations.

### **Suggestions of FICCI to Revive Industrial Growth**

2103. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested a six point action plan to revive the industrial growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which final decision in regard to these points is likely to be taken; and

(d) the extent to which the industrial growth is likely to improve after implementing these points?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has submitted a report to the Government on "Expansion and Deepening of Markets-Agenda for Reviving the Industrial Growth". This report *inter alia* contains "Suggested Action Line" for reviving Industrial Growth. The details of suggestions made by FICCI are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Government interacts with Trade & Industry on a regular basis. It receives from time to time various suggestions from different Chambers/Associations of Commerce and Industry and takes suitable action at appropriate time.

(d) No such assessment has been made.

### **Statement**

#### **SUGGESTED ACTION LINE FICCI**

#### *Concentrate on achievable*

- Having taken stock of the situation, we now endeavour to outline what needs to be done at this juncture. This exercise should keep in view the political dynamics which limits what can be done, and indicates what cannot. It is important to concentrate on what is "do-able" in the present circumstances.
- The policy prescription for toning up the economy and reviving the industrial sector has to be a judicious combination of :
  - Keynesian demand-side stimulation
  - Supply-side intervention
  - Smoothening of infrastructural and institutional rigidities.
- FICCI advocates a two-pronged immediate effort where public investment drives the Keynesian multiplier, and policy changes and execution of that policy at the ground level help cut back costs, create supply flows and in turn, generate more demand for goods and services.

#### *Step up public investment*

- Needless to mention, public investment in physical and social infrastructure has to be stepped up immediately so that it can stimulate the core sectors and the entire economy through multiplier effect. FICCI believes that urgent attention needs to be given to the infrastructure sector. Investments in some large infrastructure projects could provide pump-prime and bring out the core sector from its present level of lethargy. Specifically, attention has to be paid on expenditure switching in favour of capital creation and project investment.

#### *Focus on infrastructure*

- FICCI urges that contracts for the 3000 kms of the Golden Quadrilateral national road building project should be given out immediately. Contracts for the

balance 2000 kms should be finalised by February next year. Finalisation of these two projects can bring about a seminal change in the economy.

- The Government needs to kick-start all pending power projects by providing them an incentive package, which includes structured payment guarantees and speedy clearance procedures. Immediate steps should be taken to privatise power distribution in the country. As an experiment, each SEB may at least start the process by offering distribution rights to private sector in one or two circles. The government also needs to formulate alternatives to the Escrow mechanisms to kick-start IPP projects because the States do not have sufficient escrowable capacity to guarantee payment to IPPs for the power they generate.
- Corporatisation of the major ports should be completed as early as possible so that these can be de-congested and better facilities be available.

#### *Augment rural demand*

- We have to focus on the farm sector with expeditious structural reforms and augmented capital formation in agriculture. Over the year, rural demand has constituted a major part of overall demand for various consumer goods. NCAER estimates indicate that rural India accounts for over 55% of total consumption of FMCGs. Further, according to industry analysts, 40-50% of sales of companies like Hindustan Lever, Colgate Palmolive, Marico and Dabur come from rural market. However, sharp fluctuations in agricultural production has introduced an element of volatility in such demand. The recent deceleration in the growth of agricultural sector has hit the companies producing FMCG and consumer durables hard. In order to arrest and reverse the shrinkage in rural demand, FICCI calls for expanding public investment in areas like irrigation, soil conservation, rural road construction, watershed development, extension services, etc.
- Also, the present huge stocks of foodgrains could be utilised to fight rural poverty, mitigate impoverishment and generate additional employment through programmes like "Food for Work" and so on.
- A substantial portion of the loans sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) remains unutilised (Table 11 in ANNEXURE-I) : The disbursal of RIDF funds is low due to the difficulties associated with identification of appropriate projects by some of the State Governments, lack of budgetary support where only part-funding from RIDF was

envisaged, delays in finalisation of formalities including tendering procedures. FICCI strongly suggests urgent steps be taken to increase the disbursement and utilisation of funds earmarked under RIDF.

- Both the above measures will quicken the pace of infrastructure build-up in rural areas which will, in turn, raise rural income, expand the market and spur the overall growth process.

#### *Reorient the growth strategy*

- The overall growth of the Indian economy has been restrained owing to lack of expansion and deepening of markets. Hence, growth strategy should be reoriented to expand and deepen markets through, *inter alia* :
  - Intensive growth of agro-processing and agro-based industries with processing taking place close to the place of origin so that rural labourers are gainfully employed.
  - Greater emphasis on and encouragement for labour-intensive manufacturing.

#### *External sector policy imperatives*

##### *(i) Re-examine options for tariff escalation*

- In view of the ongoing price volatility in international commodity markets and continued glut of several commodities, it is necessary to re-examine the options for tariff escalation within permissible bound levels in segments that are witnessing sluggish demand and faced with the invasion of cheaper imports. An institutional mechanism has to be in place immediately to study, analyse and recommend appropriate tariff structure so that the proper balance could be maintained between the interests of domestic producers and consumers.

##### *(ii) Adopt a dynamic tariff monitoring policy*

- What is called for is a dynamic tariff monitoring mechanism with the mandate of frequent review of import duties. FICCI would like to reiterate the necessity for availing of all feasible mechanisms and options to protect the domestic industry so that imports could not cause any injury to the domestic producers including agriculture and small scale industries.

##### *(iii) Erect appropriate non-tariff barriers*

- Institution of effective non-tariff barriers would greatly help curtail dumping of cheaper imports. Application

of WTO-consistent trade correction steps like anti-dumping duties, countervailing duties and safeguard measures have to be initiated whenever necessary. Stern actions need to be adopted on a priority basis to check and curb the imports of used/defective products and second (for example, in the case of steel).

(iv) *Control unrestricted imports*

- We have to intensify bilateral negotiations and invoke WTO mechanism to address the issue relating to burgeoning imports from neighbouring countries like Nepal.

(v) *Fine-tune export subsidy schemes*

- Another issue that merits urgent attention is State support to exports. We are of the view that export incentives under the Income Tax Act should continue till 2003. Further, there is pressing need for re-examining the scope of actionable subsidies under the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, keeping in mind the inherent high local costs and infrastructural disadvantages. Business and Government will have to sit together and discuss how the export incentive schemes could be fine tuned and their nomenclature be tailored so as to make them WTO-compatible.

*Rationalise taxes and introduce VAT*

- In the name of achieving uniformity, sales tax rates have gone up almost on every manufactured item. On an average, sales tax has gone up by about 7% and in some states the increases have been even higher. Instead of bringing sales tax to the uniform floor levels, the tax rates have been raised to the ceiling.
- The sharp rise in sales tax and the incidence of excise duty has led to the emergence of spurious brands and the unorganised industry. Since spurious products manufactured in small unorganised units may easily avoid paying taxes, these have grown in numbers. It is, therefore, important that taxes are rationalised and tax administration made more effective so that the unorganised sector and spurious manufacturers are brought under the tax net. This will act as a check on grey markets and also increase Government's revenue collection significantly.

In view of such undisciplined behaviours on the part of states regarding sales tax, introduction of VAT is rather imperative. In fact, many of or innocuous export

incentive schemes are held WTO-inconsistent due to the fact that India's multiple tax-rate structure makes it impossible to establish a direct nexus between the tax actually paid and the benefit/refund received. The only way out is to introduce a VAT system.

- As things currently stands, within the Indian tax system, there is no method whereby local levies or State-level taxes could be reimbursed to the manufacturers. This is a serious omission as such imposts - being indirect taxes - are conceptually reimbursable under the WTO framework. An integration of the tax system must take this into account and introduction of VAT will enable setting off such State/local-level taxes. This will definitely make our exportable more price-competitive and accelerate growth in exports. Till the time VAT is introduced, as an interim measure, a meeting of the State Finance Minister should be urgently convened to discuss and solve the current problems on sales tax.

*Get disinvestment process going*

- So far the achievement on the disinvestment front has not been very encouraging and fallen far short of the target. The disinvestment process will have to be intensified and accelerated with immediate effect, and should be driven by efficiency criteria rather than fiscal deficit compulsions. This calls for a determined effort on the part of the Government as well as sincere political will.

*Smoothen institutional rigidities*

- We have to make an all-out frontal attack on corruption. There is also a case for tackling the still surviving inspector raj and multiplicity of clearances required at various stages.
- Domestic labour laws will have to be made more flexible and the administrative mechanism to implement them needs to be synchronised in the near term, if the country has to reap full benefits of liberalisation and globalisation. The priority task is to adopt policies directed towards elimination of labour market rigidities to facilitate downsizing and restructuring.

*Encourage domestic R&D*

- A number of research reports has shown that in the 1990s the reliance of Indian corporate sector on foreign technology purchase has increased. Increased dependence on technology imports is



taking precedence over in-house R & D. The neglect of in-house R&D is a matter of serious concern for sustaining industrial growth and competitiveness. The trend needs to be reversed by providing a policy package to encourage R&D at the enterprise level. For instance, the landed cost of technology imports could be hiked through levies imposed on technological payments. And these levies could be returned to the domestic enterprises conducting R&D. Further incentives in the form of subsidies for approved R&D projects and fiscal concessions for products based on indigenously developed technology could be provided.

[Translation]

### Geeta Krishnan Committee

2104. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geeta Krishnan Committee has recommended the complete closure of the Film Division, Regional Publicity Directorate, Song and Drama Division, and Photo Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) A copy of relevant portion of the 2nd Report of Expenditure Reforms Commission, headed by Shri K. P. Geethakrishnan, relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been received. It has recommended rationalization of functions, activities and structure of the Media Units Like Films Division, Directorate of Fields Publicity, Song and Drama Division, and Photo Division.

(c) The report is being examined.

### Grants to PSUs from NRF

2105. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of 191 crore Rupees was granted to the 12 profit earning Central Public Sector Undertakings from the National Renewal Fund (NRF);

(b) if so, the names of such Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) whether six Central Public Sector Undertakings have spent the amount of 29.06 crore Rupees of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in operational requirements violating the concerned guidelines;

(d) if so, the names of those Public Sector Undertakings; and

(e) the action taken against the management of those PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) It has been stated in the report of the Controller and Auditor General of India (Union Government (Civil)-Performance Appraisals, No 3 of 1998 for the year ended March 1997 that controlling Ministries released Rs. 190.73 crore to 12 profit making Central Public Sector Undertakings (names at Statement-I) for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as NRF assistance.

(c) to (e) It has also been mentioned in the report that six Central Public Sector Undertakings (names at Statement-II) diverted Rs. 29.06 crore out of the funds released to them for VRS and utilised the same for meeting their operational needs. Administrative Ministries of these six PSUs have been advised to recover the diverted amount.

### Statement I

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	Name of Company/ Corporation	Name of Administrative Ministry/ Department
1.	Hindustan Machine Tools	Heavy Industry
2.	Andrew Yule & Co.	Heavy Industry
3.	Bharat Heavy Plates & Vessels Ltd.	Heavy Industry
4.	Bridge and Roof Co. Ltd	Heavy Industry
5.	Tungabhadra Steel products Ltd.	Heavy Industry
6.	Indian Tourism Development Corporation	Civil Aviation
7.	Mazagon Docks Ltd.	Defence
8.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	Defence
9.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	Mines
10.	Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd.	Mines
11.	Hindustan Zink Ltd.	Mines
12.	Electronic Corp. of India	Atomic Energy

**Statement - II**

Statement indicating the names of the PSUs involved in diversion of funds for meeting operational needs

S. No.	Name of the PSU	Name of the Administrative Ministry
1.	IDPL	Chemicals and Petro-chemicals
2.	SSPL	Chemicals and Petro-chemicals
3.	BIL	Chemicals and Petro-chemicals
4.	JCI	Textiles
5.	NTC	Textiles
6.	NJMC	Textiles

[English]

**Training and Research Facilities to SCs/STs**

2106. SHRI RAJAI AH MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry offers training, research facilities and courses of higher studies to the students/staff members in the areas of International trade, packaging, diamond processing and other courses through different institutes falling under its administrative control;

(b) if so, the total number of students/staff members trained/offered courses/higher studies in the above referred institutions during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) the total number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among those students/staff members both at the Graduation and Post-graduation levels and percentage thereof as compared to the total number; and

(d) the special provisions if any, made by his Ministry for providing Employment opportunities to the SC/ST students/Staff members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) While Department of Commerce does not directly engage itself in training and research activities, various institutions such as Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) and Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) etc., offer such facilities through various programmes.

(b) and (c) The details are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) No special provisions have been made by this Department in this regard for providing employment opportunities to the SC/ST students/staff members.

**Statement**

*Details regarding the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade*

Total number of participants and Executives trained by IIFT during the last five years through long duration programme

Programme	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Master Programme in International Business	97	82	78	91	92	440
Post Graduate diploma in International Trade	40	43	29	-	-	112
Executive Master in International Trade	36	40	38	45	33	192

Total number of executives trained by IIFT During the last five years through management development programme

Programme	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Sponsored Programmes	796	762	558	540	147	2803
Non-sponsored Programmes	489	408	548	353	247	2045

The position relating to number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates who were admitted to IIFT's Post Graduate Programmes were as follows:

**Master Programme in International Business**

Year	Total	SC/ST	
		No.	%age
1996	97	11	11.34%
1997	82	13	15.85
1998	78	11	14.10
1999	91	14	15.38
2000	92	11	11.95

**Executive Master in International Trade (EMIT)**

Session	No. of Participants	SC/ST
1996	36	-
1997	40	1
1998	38	-
1999	45	-
2000	33	-

*Post Graduate Diploma Programme*

Year	Total	SC/ST	
		No.	%age
1996	40	01	2.5
1997	43	02	4.65
1998	29	01	3.44
1999	Discontinued		
2000	Discontinued		

Admission to IIFT's MPIB is made on the basis of an All India Competitive Examination comprising a Written Test, Group Discussion and Vivs-Voce. the admission to IIFT's PGDP, which has now been scrapped, was also done on the basis of an All India Competitive examination. Admission to EMIT programme is made on the basis of interviews.

For all these three post-graduate programmes of IIFT reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates are made upto the following extent:

- (i) Scheduled Castes : 15%
- (ii) Scheduled Tribes : 7.5%

The shortfall was due to the fact that either sufficient number of SC/ST candidates did not apply of readmission or they could not qualify in the written examination even after lowering the cut off point upto 10%.

For Management Development Programmes, including sponsored programmes there is no reservation. All those who apply or are sponsored are admitted to these programmes.

*Details Regarding Indian Institute of Packaging*

## 1. 2 Years Post Graduate Diploma in Packaging.

Year	No. of seats Offered	No. of student SC/ST	Percentage
1995-97	30	-	0
1996-98	30	-	0
1997-99	35	-	0
1998-2000	35	-	0
1999-2001	35	-	0
2000-2002	35	-	6

## 2. Intensive Training Course (Three Months Course)

Year	No. of seats Offered	No. of student SC/ST	Percentage
1994	87	-	0
1995	81	-	0
1996	81	8	6.48
1997	110	3	3.30
1998	86	6	5.16
1999	80	6	4.80

## 3. Distance Education- Correspondence Course

1996-97	80	-
1997-98	61	-
1998-99	71	-
1999-2000	70	-
2000-2001	63	-

## 4. EDP Programmes (1-2 days)

Year	No. of Programmes	Delegates/ Participants	%age
1995-96	81	2701	The Delegates to these short term programmes of 1-2 days duration are normally sponsored by the industries.
1996-97	101	2323	
1997-98	110	2151	
1998-99	65	2366	
1999-2000	60	2148	

*Details in respect of footwear Design and Development Institute*

Footwear Design & Development Institute conducts higher studies in the area of footwear technology and also undertakes research facilities for the footwear industry through its laboratory. The institute conducts the courses namely Management in Footwear technology (MFT), Higher Diploma in Footwear Technology (HDFT) and Diploma in Footwear Designing (DFD). The year-wise number of students trained in the above courses during the last five years are given below:

Year	Number of Students Trained
1995-96	35
1996-97	52
1997-98	51
1998-99	40
1999-2000	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>

Traditionally people from the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes constituted the footwear manufacturing community. The people from other communities did not go into this profession. Keeping this in view reservation was not taken into account while selecting candidates.

[Translation]

**Telecast of Metro Channel**

2107. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jabalpur Doordarshan Kendra has not started telecasting the Doordarshan-2 programmes so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to start Metro Channel at Jabalpur Doordarshan Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Installation works pertaining to DD2 HPT, Jabalpur project are at an advanced stage of completion, and the transmitter is expected to be ready for commissioning in a couple of months.

[English]

**Doordarshan Correspondents**

2108. SHRI A. BRAHMNAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to expand the rural network of Doordarshan correspondents;

(b) the number of towns in which the Doordarshan correspondents are working at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether the part-time correspondents will also be engaged;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Statement****The State-wise and location-wise postings of Doordarshan Correspondents**

S. No.	State	No. of town(s)	Name(s) of the town(s)
1.	Delhi	01	New Delhi
2.	Karnataka	01	Bangalore
3.	Orissa	01	Bhubaneswar
4.	West Bengal	01	Calcutta
5.	Tamil Nadu	01	Chennai
6.	Andhra Pradesh	01	Hyderabad
7.	Rajasthan	01	Jaipur
8.	Punjab	01	Jalandhar
9.	Uttar Pradesh	01	Lucknow
10.	Bihar	02	1. Patna 2. Ranchi

**Cable and Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995**

2109. SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to telecast of "Kaun Banega Crorepati", Jackpot Jeeto, Zee Malamal Utsav;

(b) if so, whether these programmes are violative of the provisions of Cable and Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 like Prize Competition Act, 1955, Delhi Gambling Act; and

(c) if so, the action taken or propose to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of Writ Petitions were filed in the High Courts of Calcutta and Delhi seeking prohibition of transmission of TV programmes "Kaun Banega Crorepati" and "Jackpot Jeeto". This Ministry has taken a stand that the programme "Kaun Banega Crorepati" is closer to a quiz programme and *prima facie*, does not seem to attract any specific objection under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules made thereunder. One of the Petitions challenging the said programmes has been dismissed by the Delhi High Court.

(c) Does not arise.

### Consumer Grievance Redressal Commission

2110. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:  
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from Maharashtra for approval for establishment of a bench of State Consumer Grievance Redressal Commission at Nagpur and Aurangabad to avoid hardships to the consumers from that area;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are considering amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to implement various proposals made including setting up of benches of the State Commissions for quick disposal of cases.

(e) As amendment of the Act involves several procedures and stages, it is not possible to predict a time frame for the same.

[Translation]

### Transport Allowance

2111. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the transport allowances being given to the Central Government employees particularly to class III and Class IV employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these employees are likely to get the said transport allowances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Fifth CPC on Transport Allowance have already been accepted and implemented. The Staff Side had subsequently raised a demand that the rates of this allowance should be increased for some categories of employees. Appropriate decisions on the demand will be taken in the Standing Committee of the JCM National Council after considering all aspects. It is not possible to indicate the time frame within which the Committee will take a decision.

[English]

### Smuggling in North-Eastern States

2112. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in the smuggling activities in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim during the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No. Sir.

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

(c) All the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to thwart any attempts of smuggling all over the country, including the North-Eastern States and Sikkim.

### Purchase Preference

2113. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to extend the 10% price linked Purchase Preference by another one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any objection in extending the period;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the final decision taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) At present government has no proposal to extent 10% price linked Purchase Preference for another one year. However, keeping in view, the requests form various Ministries, PSEs and the various relevant factors, the Purchase Preference Policy for the products and services of central public sector enterprises has been extended by the Government for another two years i.e. up to 31.3.2002 with the existing parameters except that the minimum value of purchase as specified in the scheme may be Rs. 1 crore instead of Rs. 5 crore as mentioned in DPE's OM dated 31.10.1997. The provisions relating to purchase preference should be specified in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in each case and the PSEs which avail benefit of the policy will be subject to adequate penalties for cost over-runs etc. Necessary guidelines have been issued vide this Department's OM dated 14.9.2000.

#### **Cut in Budgetary Allotment**

2114. SHRI C. N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed 10 per cent cut in budgetary allotment for non-plan, non-salary expenditure of all Union Ministries/Departments and Autonomous Institutions including Cooperative Societies controlled by the Government;

(b) if so, whether such a cut was imposed in 1992 also;

(c) if so, the comparison of impact of both the above cuts;

(d) whether Fifth Pay Commission has suggested 30% reduction of number of Government employees;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard, and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) As a result of cut imposed in 1992, there was a reduction of Rs. 1688 crores as compared to the Revised

Estimates 1991-92. The impact of 10% cut imposed in September, 2000 would be reflected in Revised Estimates 2000-01.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The suggestion was not accepted by the Government in views of resistance from Staff Side.

#### **DTH Telecast**

2115. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN:  
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:  
DR. V. SAROJA:  
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:  
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:  
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:  
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:  
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL :  
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the proposal for Direct to Home (DTH) telecast;

(b) if so, date by which it is likely to be introduced;

(c) the salient features of this telecast;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the vulgarity in the programme as a result thereof;

(e) the protective measures envisaged for cable operators; and

(f) how far the viewers as well as the Government will be benefited by D.T.H.?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After Government guidelines for seeking DTH licence are issued, the desirous companies will be able to submit application for seeking DTH licence. Company would need about one year to begin DTH services after it obtains licence.

(c) The salient features are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) Various safeguards have been proposed to address the concerns relating to vulgarity. These include mandating establishment of earth station within the country, requirement of licensee to maintain a record of the material uplinked for a reasonable period and adherence to the programme and advertisement codes laid down by this Ministry.

(e) Cable Operators are already well established in India. Therefore, protective measures for cable operators are neither necessary nor envisaged.

(f) The DTH system would facilitate access to larger number of television channels, with good signal quality to the homes of Indian consumers. It will provide subscribers a wide choice of selection in TV programmes as well as access to IT services through the DTH platform. Ku-band transmission will also improve quality of TV broadcasting in the country.

#### **Statement**

*Salient features for establishment, maintenance and operation of direct-to-home (DTH) broadcasting service*

- (i) The applicant company shall be an Indian company, registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956.
- (ii) The total Foreign Investment\*, including FDI/NRI/OCB/FII in the DTH Broadcasting sector, shall not be more than 49%, in which the share of FDI will not exceed 20%.

Provided that the quantum represented by that proportion of the paid up equity share capital to the total issued equity capital of the Indian promoter Company held or controlled by foreign investors through FDI/NRI/OCB investment shall form part of the above said FDI limit of 20%.

No Broadcasting Company and/or Cable Network Company shall be eligible to own more than 20% of the total equity of an applicant Company at any time during the License period.

Provided further that the Licensee, at all times, shall keep the Licensor informed of any change in the holding pattern of the Equity.

- (iii) The applicant company must have Indian management control with majority representatives on the Board, as well as the CEO of the Company being a resident Indian citizen.
- (iv) There will be no restriction on the number of licensees and the license will be issued by the Government for a period of 10 year, on no-exclusive basis.

(v) The applicant company shall be required to pay an entry fee of Rs. 10 crores, in the beginning. In addition, 10% per year of the revenue collected by the platform owner from channels shall be payable to Government as annual fee. The licensee would also be required to execute a Bank guarantee of Rs. 40 crores valid for the duration of the licence. Licensee will additionally be required to pay the license fee and royalty for spectrum used, as presided by the Wireless Planning Coordination authority (WPC), under the department of Telecommunications.

(vi) The Licensing Authority shall have the power, after recording the reasons in writing, to revoke/suspend the license in public interest. However, before taking such action the licensing authority will give the licensee an opportunity of being heard. The decision of the licensing authority shall be final.

(vii) For violation of license condition, in addition to any other action which may include revocation of license, a penalty upto Rs. 50 crores can be imposed by the Licensor on the Licensee. However, before taking such action the licensing authority will give the licensee an opportunity of being heard. The decision of the licensing authority shall be final.

(viii) The licensee shall establish the uplink Earth Station in India within 12 months from the date of issue of license. All content provided by the DTH platform to the subscribers, irrespective of its source, to pass through the common encryption and conditional access system, located within the Earth Station, situated on Indian soil.

(ix) The licensee shall ensure adherence to the Programme Code (PC) and Advertisement Code (AC), laid down by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, from time to time. Record of the programmes and advertisements carried on the platform to be kept by the Licensee for a period of 90 days after broadcast and to be made available to the authorised representative of the Licensor, as and when required.

(x) The licensee shall provide access to various content providers/channels on a non-discriminatory basis. The licensee shall not carry any channels prohibited by the Ministry of I & B.

(xi) Licensee shall provide access to the Licensing Authority or its duly authorised representative, to all its facilities including equipment, records, systems, etc.

\*Approvals for foreign equity shall be routed through the FIPB route.

- (xi) Though licensee can use the bandwidth capacity for DTH service on both Indian as well as foreign satellites, proposals envisaging use of Indian satellites will be extended preferential treatment.
- (xiii) The licensee shall ensure subscriber's interests through Single Conditional Access Technology, Single Subscriber Management System (SMS), an Open Architecture (Non-proprietary) Set Top Box, a Cast Iron Encryption System and an efficient, responsive and accurate billing and collection system. The Licensor shall not use any equipment, which is identified as unlawful.
- (xiv) The Licensor reserves the right to prohibit the transmission or reception of programmes in the interest of national security or in the event of emergency/war or similar type of situation. Notwithstanding any agreement between the licensee and the content providers, the licensee shall stop forthwith, transmission of TV channels or any content, as and when directed to do so by the Licensor or any other designated lawful authority.
- (xv) The DTH facility shall not be used for other modes of communication, including voice, fax, data, communication Internet, etc. Unless specific license for these value-added services has been obtained from the competent authority.
- (xvi) The licensee shall obtain clearances/approvals, as may be prescribed or required, from the wireless Planning Coordination Wing or from the Department of Space.
- (xvii) The DTH Licensee will be bound to carry channels of Prasar Bharati on the most favourable financial terms offered to any other channel.
- (xviii) The Licensor reserves the right to modify or incorporate new conditions at any time in the terms and conditions of this license, as and when necessary in public interest or interest of national security.
- (xix) The licensees will adhere to provisions of any legislation which may be brought in future with regard to broadcasting.

#### **Trade with Bangladesh**

2116. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent heavy flood has hit the trade between India and Bangladesh badly;

(b) if so, the details thereof and loss suffered by India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) the movement of export-import goods through Petrapole-Benapole Land Customs Stations was suspended for about 21 days in September-October, 2000 due to floods. The concerned authorities in State Government of West Bengal were requested to take appropriate steps to repair the infrastructure at the Petrapole border point. Similar request was also made to the Bangladesh authorities for restoration of communication on their side. The movement of goods through this check-post has since been restored.

#### **Upgradation of AIR Station of Solapur, Maharashtra**

2117. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had proposed to upgrade Solapur radio station in Maharashtra 10 kw station;

(b) if so, the precise stage at which matter stands at present;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) At present, there is no approved scheme for upgradation of power of radio station at Solapur as the power of the transmitter is considered adequate for serving the local population.

#### **Issue of Smart Cards**

2118. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI and ICICI have started the issue of smart cards to its customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) whether RBI has issued any guidelines in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which smart cards are likely to replace the existing currency notes and coins ?

received by IDBI Bank Ltd. 902 customers have been issued smart cards. ICCI has also issued Smart Card on Pilot basis to employees of infosys Technologies Ltd., Electronic City, Bangalore.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular addressed to scheduled commercial banks on 12th November, 1999 regarding issue of smart card/debit card by banks. A copy of the circular is given in enclosed Statement.

(e) Use of smart cards is expected to play a major role in e-Payment mechanism and with the use of smart cards small value purchases will be simplified and the need to maintain large quantity of change will be eliminated.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) According to Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) it has not issued smart cards to its clients but IDBI Bank Ltd. as subsidiary of IDBI has started issuing smart cards to the customers. Out of 944 applications for smart cards

### **Statement**

Telegram : "Bankchalan" Mumbai

Telephone : 2189131-39

Telex No. 0-11-56135

Fax No. 0091-22-2188770

Post Box No. : 6068

### RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Central office

Please quote in replay.

Department of Banking Operations & Development

CENTRE -1, World Trade Centre

Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai-400 005.

Ref. : DBOD. No. FSC.BC. 123/24.01.019/99-2000

November 12, 1999

All Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs)

Dear Sir,

*Guidelines for the issue of Smart/Debit Cards by banks*

1. Some of the banks have introduced Smart Cards/Debit cards and some more are desirous of introducing such cards. Since Smart Cards/Debit Cards are new payment instruments, it has been considered necessary to issue broad guidelines to banks including safeguards to be observed in this regard. The guidelines are given in the Annexure-I for compliance by banks.
2. Banks may introduce Smart/Debit Cards with the approval of their Boards, keeping in view the Guideline enclosed. While banks need not obtain the prior approval of the RBI, the details of smart/debit cards introduced may be advised to us together with a copy each of the agenda note put up to their Boards and the resolution passed thereon. It is advised that banks should not issue smart/debit cards in tie-up with any other non-bank entities.
3. The banks should review operations of Smart/Debit Cards and put up review notes to their Boards at half-yearly intervals, say, as at the end of March and September, every year.
4. A report on the operations of the Smart/Debit Cards issued by banks may be forwarded to the Adviser-in-Charge, Reserve Bank of India, Monetary Policy Department, Mumbai 400 001 on a fortnightly basis, i.e. so on the reporting Friday, incorporating information as indicated in Annexure-II.
5. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(P.V. Subba Rao)

Chief General Manager

Enclosure: As above

**Annexure I*****The guidelines for the issue of the Smart Cards/  
Debit Cards by banks*****1. Coverage:**

The guidelines apply to the smart cards/cards encompassing all or any of the following operations :

- Electronic payment involving the use of card, in particular at point of sale and such other places where a terminal/device for the use/access of the card is placed.
- The withdrawing of bank notes, the depositing of the bank notes and cheques and connected operations in electronic devices such as cash dispensing machines and ATMs.
- Any card or a function of a card which contains real value in the form of electronic money which someone has paid for in advance, one of which can be reloaded with further funds or one which can connect to the cardholder's bank account (online) for payment through such account and which can be used for a range of purposes.

**2. Cash Withdrawals**

No cash transaction, that is, cash withdrawals or deposits should be offered at the Point of Sale, with the smart/debit cards under any facility, without prior authorisation of RBI under section 23 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

**3. Eligibility of Customers**

The banks should issue the smart/debit card to its customers having good financial standing and who have maintained the accounts satisfactorily for at least six months. However, the banks can issue on line debit cards to select customers with good financial standing even if they have maintained the accounts with the banks for less than six months. Banks can extend the Smart Card/Debit Cards facility to those having saving bank account/current account/ fixed deposit accounts with built-in liquidity features maintained by individuals, corporate bodies and firms. Smart Card/Debit Card facility should not be extended to cash credit/loan account holders. The banks can, however, issue on the debits cards against personal loan accounts, where operations through cheques are permitted.

**4- Treatment of Liability:**

The outstanding balances/unspent balances stored

on the smart/debit cards shall be subject to the computation for the purpose of maintenance of reserve requirements. This position will be computed on the basis of the balances appearing in the books of the bank as on the date of reporting.

**5. Payment of Interest:**

In case of smart cards having stored value (as in case of the off-line mode of operation of the smart card), no interest may be paid on the balances transferred to the smart cards. In case of debit cards or on line smart cards, the payment of interest should be in accordance with the interest rate directives issued to banks from time to time under Sections 21 and 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

**6. Security and other aspects:**

- (a) The bank shall ensure full security of the smart card. The security of the smart card shall be the responsibility of the bank and the losses incurred by any party on account of breach of security, failure of the security mechanism shall be borne by the bank.
- (b) No banks shall despatch a card to a customer unsolicited, except in the case where the card is a replacement for a card already held by the customer.
- (c) Banks shall keep for a sufficient period of time, internal records to enable operations to be traced and errors to be rectified (taking into account the law of limitation for the time barred cases).
- (d) The cardholder shall be provided with a written record of the transaction after he has completed it, either immediately in the form of receipt or within a reasonable period of time in another form such as the customary bank statement.
- (e) The cardholders shall bear the loss sustained up to the time of notification to the bank of any loss, theft or Copying of the card but only up to a certain limit (of fixed amount or a percentage of the transaction agreed upon in advance between the cardholder and the bank), except where the card holder acted fraudulently, knowingly or with extreme negligence.
- (f) Each bank shall provide means whereby his customers may at any time of the day or night notify the loss, theft or copying of their payment devices.
- (g) On receipt of notification of the loss, theft or copying of the card, the bank shall take all action open to it to stop any further use of the card.

7. *Terms and Conditions for issue:*

The relationship between the bank and the card holder shall be contractual. In case of contractual relationship between the card holder and the bank:

- (a) Each bank shall make available to the card holders in writing, a set of contractual terms and conditions governing the issue and use of such a card. These terms shall maintain a fair balance between the interests of the parties concerned.
- (b) The terms shall be expressed clearly.
- (c) The terms shall specify the basis of any charges, but not necessarily the amount of charges at any point of time.
- (d) The terms shall specify the period within which the card holder's account would normally be debited.
- (e) The terms may be altered by the bank, but sufficient notice of the change shall be given to the cardholder to enable him to withdraw if he so chooses. A period shall be specified after which time the card holder would be deemed to have accepted the terms if he had not withdrawn during the specified period.
- (f)(i) The terms shall put the cardholder under an obligation to take all appropriate steps to keep safe the card and the means (such as PIN or code) which enable it to be used.
- (ii) The terms shall put the cardholder under an obligation not to record the PIN or code, in any form that would be intelligible or otherwise accessible to any third party if access is gained to such a record, either honestly or dishonestly.
- (iii) The terms shall put the cardholder under an obligation to notify the bank immediately after becoming aware:
  - of the loss or theft or copying of the card or the means which enable it to be used;
  - of the recording on the card holder's account of any unauthorised transaction;
  - of any error or other irregularity in the maintaining of that account by the bank.
- (iv) The terms shall specify a contact point to which such notification can be made. such notification can be made at any time of the day or night.
- (v) The terms shall put the cardholder under an obligation not to countermand an order which he has given by means of his card.
- (g) The terms shall specify that the bank shall exercise care when issuing PINs codes and shall be under an obligation not to disclose the card holder's PIN or code, except to the card holders.
- (h) The terms shall specify that the bank shall be responsible for direct losses incurred by a cardholder due to a system malfunction directly within the bank's control. However, the bank shall not be held liable for any loss caused by a technical breakdown of the payment system if the breakdown of the system was recognisable for the cardholder by message on the display of the device or otherwise known. The responsibility of the bank for the non-execution or defective execution of the transaction is limited to the principal sum and the loss of interest subject to the provisions of the law governing the terms.

**Annexure II***Reporting format for the issue and operations of the Smart Cards/Debit Cards*

1. Name of the bank:
2. Period of reporting:
3. Type of the card with the hardware components - (I.C. Chip) e.g. Magnetic stripe, CPU, memory:
4. Type of the software used:
5. Names of products offered through the smart card:
6. Limits on the storage of the amount:
7. Re-laudability features:
8. Security standards followed:
9. Service provider; (self or otherwise)
10. Total no. of outlets where the smart cards can be used:
  - Of which -
    - a. POS Terminals:
    - b. Merchant Establishments:
    - c. ATMs:
    - d. Others—please specify.

11. Total no. of cards issued;  
Of which-
- against savings bank a/c:
  - against current a/c:
  - against float a/c:
12. Total amount of balance stored on the smart cards as on the date of reporting:
13. Total amount of unspent balance on the smart cards as on the date of reporting:
14. Total no. of transactions during the period:
15. Amount involved in the total no. of transactions:
16. Transaction settlement mechanism (full procedure):
- whether on-line or
  - off-line
17. Instances of fraud, if any, during the period:
- No. of frauds:
  - Amount involved:
  - Amount of loss to the bank:
  - Amount of loss to the cardholder:

[Translation]

**Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.**

2119. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of manufacturing factories in the country under the Cycle Corporation of India Limited;

(b) the total number of cycles produced therein in the year 1999, factory-wise;

(c) whether some factories have already been closed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) There are two manufacturing units of CCIL, one at Asansol manufacturing complete cycles and the other at Kalyani manufacturing cycle components.

(b) 407 cycles were produced during 1999-2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

**Reduction in Bank Deposits**

2120. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the deposits with banks due to reduction in interest rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to attract the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. In fact, the aggregate deposits of scheduled commercial banks during the financial year 2000-01 up to October 20, 2000 has increased by Rs. 78,108 crore (9.6 per cent) as compared to an increase of Rs. 57,999 crore (8.1 per cent) during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) Banks have been given freedom to fix interest rates on domestic term deposits for various maturities. They have also been given freedom to offer at their discretion differential rates of interest on term deposits of Rs. 15 lakh and above for the same maturity on the basis of size of the deposits.

[English]

**Income Tax Investigations against Cricketers**

2121. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:  
SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD:  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :  
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :  
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax authorities are inquiring into the movable/immovable assets acquired by the cricket players and officials of B.C.C.I. over the years, particularly in the light of findings of CBI in the matter of match fixing;

(b) if so, whether the investigations have been completed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Search actions were conducted by the Income Tax Authorities on 20-7-2000 and on subsequent dates in the cases of cricket players, administrators and bookies including some officials of Board of Control for Cricket in India.

The investigations conducted by the Income-tax Department are to unearth concealment of income, represented by undisclosed assets and bring the same to taxation. The reports on the findings of investigation are at the completion stage and the assessment proceedings covering a period of ten years, ending with the month in which the search was completed are to be initiated according to the provisions of law.

[Translation]

### Employees Unions of Banks

2122. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recognised and unrecognised unions functioning in the public sector banks the strength of the employees of unrecognised union; and

(b) the facilities available to them alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) At present there are five major workmen unions and four officer's organizations/associations representing 95.33% of the workmen employees and 96.27% of the officers respectively at the industry level. Details of the unions/association whose affiliates have majority membership strength in the Public Sector Banks and enjoy recognition in their respective banks are as under :

Name of the Union	No. of Public Sector Banks where they are in majority
<i>Workmen Unions</i>	
All India Bank Employees Association	23
National Confederation of Bank Employees	04
<i>Officers's Associations</i>	
All India Bank Officers' Confederation	22
All India Bank Officers' Association	03
Indian National Bank Officers' Congress	01
National Organization of Bank Officers	01

The present data reporting system does not contain information with regard to names of bank level unrecognised unions and hence, the number/strength of such unions is not available.

(b) Individual banks extend recognition to the unions/associations enjoying majority membership as a representative union/association for the purpose of bank level negotiations/discussions on conditions of service and for setting grievances of their members.

Public Sector Banks have extended check off facility to all the registered trade unions which enables them to assess their representative character.

The tripartite Code of Discipline and criteria for recognition of unions has been circulated by Indian Banks' Association in 1970 for consideration by banks. Under this Code, the recognized unions may be accorded the following rights :

1. To raise issues and enter into collective agreements with the employer.
2. To collect membership fees/subscriptions, etc. within the premises of the undertaking.
3. To put up its notice board on the premises of the employer's establishment in which its members are employed relating to meetings, statements of accounts and other announcements.
4. To hold discussions with the members within the office premises for resolving grievances, prevention of disputes, etc.
5. To meet and discuss with employer the grievances of its members.
6. To nominate its representative on the grievances committee, production committees, welfare committees, canteen committees, etc.

In addition, workmen unions/officers' associations which enjoy negotiating status at the industry level and who are parties to the bipartite settlements/agreements are extended the facility of special leave as indicated hereinbelow to enable their office bearers to attend to organizational work.

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Office bearers of all India Level Unions                                | 21 days<br>(per calendar year) |
| 2. Central Committee Members of All India Level Unions                     | 17 days<br>(per calendar year) |
| 3. Office bearers of the State level unions affiliated to all India Unions | 7 days<br>(Per calendar year)  |

An employee falling under more than one category will be eligible for the highest of the three.

[English]

### Export of Gems and Jewellery

2123. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

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

(a) the countries which are importing gems and jewellery from India at present;

(b) whether steps are being taken to increase the export of gems and jewellery;

(c) if so, the negotiations made in that regard;

(d) the performance made in the export of gems, jewellery and diamond during the last three year;

(e) whether any target has been fixed for the export of these items in Ninth and Tenth Five Year plans; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The major countries importing gems and jewellery from India include: (i) United States of America (USA); (ii) Hongkong; (iii) Belgium; (iv) Japan; (v) Israel; (vi) Thailand; (vii) Switzerland; (viii) United Arab Emirate (UAE); (ix) Kuwait; (x) Germany; and (xi) Singapore.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken on a continuous basis to increase the export of gems & jewellery by taking up several exporter friendly export promotion schemes. Export Import Policy initiatives are announced annually on the basis of requirements of trade and the prevailing global economic conditions. Some of the important policy initiatives announced in the Exim Policy w.e.f. 1st April, 2000 include:

1. Permission to firms and companies dealing in the purchase/sale of rough or cut & polished diamonds with a track record of at least three years in import or export of diamonds and having an average annual turnover of Rs. 5 crore or above during the preceding three licensing years to carry out their business through designated Diamond Dollar Accounts;
2. Permission to foreign buyers to directly supply gold/silver/platinum and also plain semi-finished

gold/silver/platinum jewellery to the status holders in India for manufacture and export of gold/silver/platinum jewellery;

3. Doing away with the necessity of co-relation of every export consignment of diamonds with the corresponding import consignment in EPZ units;
4. Permission for personal carriage of gems and jewellery import parcels;
5. Wastage of 2.5% has been allowed in case imported gold/silver/platinum mountings are used in studded jewellery;
6. Permission for duty paid import of plain/studded jewellery items under Replenishment Licence to the extent of 2.5% of the FOB value of exports of the preceding year;
7. Rationalisation of definition of gold/silver/platinum jewellery/articles and prescription of value addition and wastage norms for articles like medallions etc., and
8. Permission to import and supply platinum of 0.900 fineness.

Besides the above Exim Policy initiatives, Government have reduced the Customs duty on platinum and cut and polished diamonds to 15%.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), a representative autonomous body of trade, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry had sent a business delegation to Canada with a view to explore the possibilities of direct sourcing of rough diamonds. A business delegation of GJEPC is also going to visit Russia to firm up arrangements for direct supply of rough diamonds from them. Another regular activity/feature of GJEPC towards promoting exports of gems & jewellery is the holding of exhibitions within India and participating in several overseas exhibitions.

(d) Export performance of gems & jewellery and diamonds sector during the last three years has been as under:

Years	(Value in US \$)	
	Value of gems & jewellery exports (including diamonds)	Value of diamond exports
1997-98	5345.34	4309.21
1998-99	5904.05	4748.56
1999-2000	8145.00	6648.00

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta for 1997-98 & 1998-99 and GJEPC, Mumbai for 1999-2000.

(e) and (f) Only annual export targets are fixed for various sectors including the gems & jewellery sector. The following export target have been fixed for the gems & jewellery sector for the year 2000-2001:

(Value in US \$)

Items	Value of Export Target
Cut & Polished Diamonds	7000
Rough Diamonds	142
Gold Jewellery	1150
Coloured Gemstones and Others	265
<b>Total</b>	<b>8557</b>

#### Export of Rice

2124. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to whom rice is being exported from India;

(b) the quantum and value of various varieties of rice exported by different countries during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any projection has been made for the export of rice during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the schemes formulated by the Government to achieve the set target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of rice basmati (and non-basmati) exported by India during the last three years are as under :

Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000 (Prov.)		2000-2001 (Apr-July 2000 Prov.)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
	Basmati Rice	593323	1685.62	597793	1876.91	606468	1735.94	35742
Non-basmati rice	1795743	1685.38	4365888	4403.85	1216681	1369.43	174424	226.95

(Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, Copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Data on quantity and value of export of various varieties of rice exported by other countries is not maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### Credit to Agriculture Sector in Andhra Pradesh

2125. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the credit deposit ratios of Regional Rural Banks of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by these banks to provide adequate credit for implementation of various

development schemes particularly in agriculture sector in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Credit Deposit Ratio of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 71.26, 86.47 and 64.71 respectively.

(b) The RRBs in Andhra Pradesh have been providing production credit for agriculture and investment credit for agriculture and allied activities. The quantum of loans issued by the RRBs in Andhra Pradesh for agriculture increased from Rs. 700.00 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 792.64 crore in 1998-99 and to Rs. 913.02 crore in 1999-2000. These RRBs have been actively participating in various Government sponsored programmes such as Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yozana (SGSY), financing of Self Help Group (SHG), development of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) and other Backward Class (OBC) population under specific action plans. These RRBs have also issued 1.5 lakhs Kisan Credit Cards aggregating Rs 118.00 crore of production credit.

### Norms for Vehicles

2126. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering easing of depreciation norms for trucks/commercial vehicles and other items in order to boost the automobile and allied industries;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals under consideration;

(c) the details of decision taken in this regard alongwith other fiscal incentives under consideration/proposed for revival of automobile Industry; and

(d) the details of representation received in this regard and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The Government considers various aspects of Tax Provisions as part of annual Budget Exercise. The Government's response, if any, in this regard will be contained in the annual Budget Proposals for the year 2001-2002.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### Export Promotion Councils

2127. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various Export Promotion Councils in the country indicating their respective Regional Offices and their role in the promotion of exports;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to stop favouritism, partiality and irresponsibility which are prevailing in various Export Promotion Councils in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the exporters of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) There are 20 recognised Export Promotion Council (EPCs) in the country. The list of these EPCs alongwith their Regional Offices is given in the enclosed Statement. Each EPC is responsible for the promotion of a particular group of products, projects

and services with the objective to promote and develop the exports of the country. Their main role is to project India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality goods and services. In particular, the EPCs are charged with the responsibility of encouraging and monitoring the observance of international standards and specifications by exporters, and keeping themselves abreast of the trends and opportunities in the international markets with a view to assisting their members in taking optimum advantage of such opportunities in order to expand and diversify exports.

(b) to (d) In view of the significant changes that have taken place in the international trade environment in recent years, especially after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the WTO, it was felt necessary to restructure the Export Promotion Councils with a view to making them more responsive to the needs of their members as well as to introduce greater professionalism for improving the quality of the services being provided to their members. The Government have accordingly prescribed a set of model bye laws for adoption by the EPCs. Adoption of the model bye laws by the EPCs will lead to rationalisation of their administrative and election procedures thereby ensuring that real exporters have a more effective say in the management of the EPCs thus contributing to greater efficiency and transparency in their functioning.

With a view to giving greater attention to some important segments within an existing industry group and also to provide coverage to commodities or sectors presently not covered by any of the EPCs a new vehicle viz. Export Promotion Forum (EPF) has been created. Permission for creation of an EPF may be considered on fulfilling the prescribed conditions. However, such permission shall be subject to:

(a) The members agreeing to build up a corpus of Rs. 1.00 crore when the entity is registered which should increase to Rs. 3.00 crores within 4 years. The principal amount of the corpus shall be maintained intact and the EPF shall manage its expenses from the interest earnings, membership fees etc.

(b) The members of the EPF shall continue to be members of concerned EPC and shall continue to pay the membership fee to the concerned EPC till such time as the EPF is not converted into an EPC. (This will not be applicable to industry segments not covered under any EPC).

(c) The staffing, structure should be purely professional and as far as possible, the staff should be engaged on contract terms. The EPF



shall meet its administrative expenses from its own resources. No funding shall be provided to them by the Government for this purpose.

the EPF will be eligible to be converted in a full-fledged EPC on completion of four years of its registration as EPF. However, in the case of an EPC for industry segments not covered under any existing EPC, there will be no minimum waiting period.

Subject to satisfactory performance on the basis of guidelines to be laid down by the Department of Commerce,

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the EPCs with Head Office	Regional Offices
1	2	3
1.	Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion, Council, New Delhi	Bangalore
2.	Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.	Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi Foreign Office—Chicago (USA), Duesseldorf (Germany), Singapore
3.	Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.	It has no regional office.
4.	Council for Leather Exports, Chennai.	New Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Calcutta and Chennai
5.	Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceutical & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Bangalore, Calcutta
6.	The Plastics & Lenoleums Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Calcutta, Chennai, New Delhi
7.	Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.	Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi.
8.	Overseas Construction Council of India, New Delhi	It has no regional office.
9.	Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumabi.	Delhi, Jaipur, Surat, Chennai & Calcutta
10.	Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	Jalandhar
11.	Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin.	It has no regional office. However its Quality Upgradation Lab. & Technical Division is located at Quilon.
12.	Export Promotion Council for Handicraft, New Delhi	It has no regional office. However, one man information centre are operating at Bangalor, Chenai & Calcutta.
13.	The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	It has no regional office.
14.	Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Erode (Tamil Nadu)
15.	Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	Ludhiana, Mumbai, Tirupur
16.	The Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai.	New Delhi, Mumbai
17.	Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	Bhadohi
18.	The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai.	Surat, Chennai, Delhi, Calcutta
19.	The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai	New Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Cochin, Tuticorin, Bangalore, Pithampur, Nhava Seva (JNPT)
20.	Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	New Delhi, Jaipur, Ludhiana, Surat, Mumbai Chennai, Tirupur, Bangalore, Cochin, Calcutta.

**Local Area Banks**

2128. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from different States to open Local Area Banks;

(b) whether the public response to such type of banks is not sufficient; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the RBI to review the guidelines in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India have received a total of 222 applications for setting up of Local Area Banks in different States in private sector up to the Quarter ended June, 2000

(b) The Scheme for setting up of Local Area Banks in private sector has received adequate response from the public.

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

[Translation]

**Demand and Supply of Kerosene**

2129. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of blue coloured Kerosene oil being supplied under the rationing system in various States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the present position of Demand and Supply of Kerosene Oil under the rationing system in the country;

(c) whether there is a hike in the prices of Kerosene oil during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the system of Kerosene distribution in the rural and hilly areas, and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of Kerosene in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Kerosene is an allocated product and annual/monthly allocation is made by the Central Government to the States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System. The allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e. past year allocation plus additional allocation out of increase given at the national level based on the principle of giving higher increase to the States with lower *per capita* availability so as to reduce inter State disparity.

(c) and (d) The prices of kerosene oil meant for public distribution system during the last 3 years are indicated below:

As on	Rs./Ltr.
01.03.1994	2.00
23.03.2000	4.50
30.09.2000	7.00
22.11.2000	6.11

(e) and (f) Distribution of kerosene within the States/UTs is controlled by respective State Governments/UT Administrations. Requests are received from various State Governments for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. Kerosene is a deficit product in the country and on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy the distribution has to be judicious. The Statement showing the annual allocation to the States/UTs for the last three years is enclosed.

**Statement**

State-wise SKO allocation for the period from 1996-97 to 1999-2000

States/UTs	1996-97 (MTs)	1997-98 (MTs)	1998-99 (MTs)	1999-2000 (MTs)
Andaman & Nicobar	4676	4743	7155	6736
Andhra Pradesh	628138*	650785	675056	679848
Arunachal Pradesh	9675	9948	10240	10295
Assam	256772	263760	271235	272623
Bihar	647512	679329	863745	870036

1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	21348	21562	21778	15408
Dadar N. Haveli	3170	3202	3237	3238
Delhi	243334	245768	248325	204672
Diu/Daman	3003	3033	3064	2438
Goa	27677	27954	28257	28075
Gujarat	814341	822339	831600	832432
Haryana	159099	164653	170563	171731
Himachal Pradesh	57345	58984	60737	61067
Jammu & Kashmir	86392	88828	91433	91921
Karnataka	498797	513054	528301	531167
Kerala	279701	289540	300006	302078
Lakshadweep	894	906	919	921
Madhya Pradesh	508539	532741	661812	666632
Maharashtra	1542924	1558397	1576298	1577953
Manipur	21498	22064	22670	22781
Meghalaya	19682	20245	20847	20960
Mizoram	7649	7868	8102	8146
Nagaland	13414	13797	14207	14284
Orissa	227701	239501	316597	318903
Pondicherry	15162	15329	15342	15363
Punjab	332224	337118	342376	343127
Rajasthan	345753	361736	440060	443265
Sikkim	7711	7794	7885	7895
Tamil Nadu	682026	698837	716830	720076
Tripura	30577	31451	32386	32562
Uttar Pradesh	1128847	1178862	1391123	1401255
West Bengal	763609	785065	808013	812309
<b>Total</b>	<b>9389194</b>	<b>9659193</b>	<b>10490199</b>	<b>10490199</b>

[English]

### Foreign Insurance Companies

2130 SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decide to allow automatic clearance to Foreign Insurance Companies investing in the county as a partner in joint ventures; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Since foreign equity investment in an insurance

company is subject to a cap of 26% under Insurance Act, 1938, the Government has allowed automatic approval for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance sector, subject to clearance by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

[Translation]

### Recruitment of Class IV Employees in Banks

2131. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for recruitment of the class IV employees in the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda;

(b) whether a ban has been imposed on the recruitment of said employees at present; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The criteria adopted for recruitment of Class IV employees in State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda are as follows:

*Educational Qualifications*

*State Bank of India:*

Messenger – 8th pass but non-Matric

Guards – 5th Pass but non- Matric

Safai Karamcharies - No minimum Qualification but should be non-Matric.

*Bank of Baroda:*

Should be VII Standard passed but should not have passed IX Standard.

*Age Limit (Both for State Bank and Bank of Baroda)*

18 years to 26 years. Relaxation to SC/ST/OBC/ Ex-Servicemen as per Government Guidelines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Sick Industries in Orissa**

2132. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the industries which are making losses in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of those industries and since when these are making losses alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to revive any of these industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). According to the RBI, the number of non-SSI sick/weak

industrial units in the State of Orissa as at the end of March 1999 was 68.

(c) to (e) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia*, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985 etc.

**Price rise in essential Commodities**

2133. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prices of Essential Commodities are continuously increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the wholesale and retail prices of various essential commodities during the last one year; and

(c) the remedial steps the Government propose to take to check the price rise in essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The prices of most of the essential commodities have indicated a normal trend during the last one year. A Statement showing the wholesale and retail prices of selected essential commodities at Delhi as on 24.11.2000 and 24.11.1999 is enclosed.

(c) The Government will continue to monitor the prices and availability of selected essential commodities on regular basis. Apart from certain long term measures to be taken for augmenting their production in the country, imports of items having gap in their demand and supply like pulses, edible oils etc. have been liberalized in order to bridge the gap. The export of onion will be regulated through quantitative restrictions and the Minimum Export Price in order to keep the domestic prices under control. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, palmolein, sugar and kerosene are also being supplied through the outlets of public distribution system at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders, black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act by the State/UT Governments.

**Statement**

*Wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities at Delhi during the current year and in the corresponding period a year ago*

Commodity	Wholesale Price (Rs. /Otl) as on		Retail Price (Rs./Kg.) as on	
	22.11.2000	24.11.1999	24.11.2000	24.11.1999
Rice	880	1050	12.00	13.00
Wheat	625	710	7.00	8.00
Gram	2100	1650	23.00	20.00
Tur	2200	2680	28.00	34.00
Sugar	1550	1590	17.00	17.00
Groundnut Oil*	5567	6073	76.00	73.00
Mustard Oil*	3533	4000	42.00	49.00
Vanaspati	3133	3400	33.00	38.00
Tea	10000	10000	115.00	115.00
Potato	410	375	8.00	8.00
Onion	560	670	10.00	11.00
Salt (Packed)	-	-	6.00	6.00

\*Refined Oil.

**Import of Milk Products**

2134. SHRI R.S. PATIL:  
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:  
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether milk and other milk products are being imported in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the countries from which these products are being imported;

(d) whether there is any compulsion for India to import these milk products even though our country has achieved white revolution; and

(e) if so, the details of these compelling situations under which milk products are being imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (e) India has been following a consistent policy for gradual removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Tariff line-wise import policy was

first announced on 31.3.1996. As on that date, import of 6161 tariff lines (at 10 digit level) out of the total number of 10202 was free. Import restrictions on 488 tariff lines were removed during the period 1.4.96 to 31.3.97. Further 391 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed during the period 1.4.97 to 13.4.98 and 894 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) were freed on 1.4.99. Import restrictions on 714 tariff lines were removed on 31.3.2000. The items on which import restrictions have been removed include milk and milk products. Import of skimmed milk powder is free since 1995.

Import restrictions have been removed in line with the economic liberalization policy being followed since 1991 and also in accordance with country's commitment to multilateral trading regime.

In view of the fall in international process of milk powder and the prevailing 0% rate of customs duty, milk and cream worth Rs. 96.89 Crores was imported during the year 1999-2000, mainly from Europe and Australia. Subsequent to this, Government has successfully renegotiated the existing 0% bound rate of duty on milk powder including skimmed milk powder (as classified under Exim Code No. 0402 10 and 0402.21 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002) to 60% with a provision for allowing 10,000 MT of these products at a concessional duty rate of 15% under Article XXVIII of GATT. The imports of milk and cream during the period April-July 2000 has already come down to Rs. 4.47 Crores. This increase in duty should provide necessary protection to the domestic milk producers.

[Translation]

**Target of Export/Import**

2135. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:  
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

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

(a) the details of country's total Export/Import made annually during the last three years;

(b) whether any target was fixed in this regard;

(c) if so, the year-wise target set for Export/Import during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(d) the extent to which the target has been achieved during the first three years, year-wise and resultant trade deficit thereof;

(e) the steps taken/being taken to ensure achievement of Ninth Five Year Plan target so far as growth of exports and imports are concerned;

(f) whether any fresh list of items which could be exported in addition to existing one has been prepared; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The details of India's total export and import during the last three years as provided by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta are as follows:

(In US \$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports
1997-98	35006	41484
1998-99	33219	42389
1999-2000*	37538	46154

\*Provisional.

(b) to (d) The export targets are fixed annually. The year-wise targets set for exports during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan and trade deficit are as follows:

(In US \$ Million)

Year	Export targets	Targets growth Rate (%)	Export Performance	Export growth (%)	Trade deficit
1997-98	39052	18.0	35006	4.6	6478
1998-99	38282	12.7	33219	-5.1	9170
1999-2000	37400	11.3	37538	11.6*	8616

\*Provisional.

Export target for 2000-2001 is 18% and the Export growth rate in April-September, 2000-2001 has been 22.04%.

No targets are fixed for imports. The Ninth Plan Document envisages total exports at Rs. 8,00,900 crores at 1996-97 prices in the Ninth Plan period.

(e) to (g) A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures from time to time. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Identification of new sectors, new items and new markets for exports is a continuous process

[English]

### Import of Rubber

2136. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rubber imported during the current year, all date;

(b) whether the Government are considering to set up a Price Stabilisation Fund to influence the fluctuation of market price of natural rubber;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the other steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The quantity of Natural Rubber imported during the current year upto July, 2000 is estimated as 4054 MT.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) To ensure a remunerative price to rubber producers, Government of India through STC has made market intervention to procure Natural Rubber on Government account. STC has already procured 49864 MT of Natural Rubber till date and the procurement is continuing. To enhance the consumption of indigenous rubber Government has also imposed a ban on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme w.e.f. 20.2.1999.

### Tax Collection

2137. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue receipts, tax revenue (net) recovery of loans has not crossed even fifty percent of the budget estimates for 2000-2001 as on 30 September, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the budget estimates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Revenue receipts comprise of tax revenues and

non-tax revenues. The details of receipts during the current financial year, upto September 30, 2000, are as follows:

	Rs. in crore	Percentage of BE
Tax Revenue (Net.)	54,082	37%
Non-tax Revenue	28,816	50%

During this period, the receipts on account of recovery of loans is Rs. 4,392 crores. The tax revenues compares favourably with the collection during the same period in 1999, which was 32%.

(c) The collection of revenue receipt is an ongoing process, and due efforts are on for meeting the budget target.

### HDFC Branches

2138. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Housing Development Finance Corporation in various States;

(b) whether HDFC has set up any new branch in Karnataka during 2000-2001; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposal to set up new branches of HDFC during 2000-2001, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the information furnished by Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), there are 77 branches/offices functioning in various States.

(b) and (c) HDFC has set up two new branches/office in Karnataka during 2000-01, one branch each at Bangalore & Mysore respectively.

The State-wise details of offices proposed to be opened during 2000-01 is as under:

	Name of the State	No. of offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01
2.	Gujarat	01
3.	Kerala	04
4.	Madhya Pradesh	02
5.	Maharashtra	10
6.	Punjab	02
7.	Tamil Nadu	03
8.	Uttar Pradesh	02
9.	West Bengal	02

[Translation]

### Priority Sector Lending

2139. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans disbursed to the priority sectors during the financial years, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the percentage of loan disbursed particularly to the Agriculture sector as well as small cottage industries;

(c) whether the loans have not been disbursed to the priority sectors by the Nationalized Banks during the last three years as per the guidelines issued in this regard; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it was lower than that the prescribed amount as per the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The outstanding advances of public sector banks to priority sector and its sub-sectors of agriculture, SSI and weaker sections as on the last reporting Friday of March 1998, 1999 and 2000 are given below. The position of lending to the priority sector and its sub-sectors in terms of their percentage to the Net Bank Credit (NBC) vis-a-vis the targets are also indicated in the Table.

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

	March 1998	March 1999	March 2000
I. Net Bank Credit (NBC)	218219	246203	292943
II. Total Priority Sector (PS) Advances	91319	107200	127807
Percentage of PS Adv. to NBC (Target-40%)	41.85	43.54	43.63
III. Total agricultural advances	34304	40078	46190
Percentage of Agri Adv. to NBC (Target-18%)	15.72	16.28	15.77
IV. Advances to Small Scale Industries (SSI)	38109	42674	45788
Percentage of SSI Adv. to NBC (Target—no target)	17.46	17.33	15.63
V. Adv to weaker sections	181.34	18799	21145
Percentage of Adv. to Weaker Sections to NBC (Target-10%)	8.31	7.64	7.22

(c) and (d) Public sector banks have achieved the target of 40 per cent of NBC for lending to priority sector during the last three years. However, their lending to Agriculture and Weaker Sections is below the stipulated target as indicated in the above Table.

[English]

### Investment by NRI

2140. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to encourage NRI investments in India;

(b) if so, whether the NRI investment has increased during the period 1991-1996 but from 1996 onwards, there has been a considerable reduction;

(c) if so, the main reasons for decline in the NRI investment; and

(d) the assistance/incentives the Government are considering to provide to the NRI investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) The Government is committed to encourage Foreign Direct Investment including NRI investment and Policies and procedures governing Foreign Direct Investment are streamlined simplified on a continuous basis to create a more favourable investment-friendly environment for NRIs.

The pattern of NRI investment is guided by a host of variables including the investors' perception of market condition, alternative avenues of investment, preferred instrument of investments, international interest rates, etc. While there had been a decline in the inflows of NRI investment especially during 1998 there has been a turnaround in the subsequent period. The decline in investments in the direct investment schemes has been more than compensated by the overwhelming response by the NRIs to the Resurgent India Bonds in 1998 with the mobilization of around US \$ 4.2 Billion and to the recently floated India Millennium Deposits where the response exceeded US \$ 5 Billion.

(d) The general policy and facilities for Foreign Direct Investment as available to foreign investors/company are fully applicable to NRIs as well. In addition Government have extended some concessions specially for NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies having more than 60% stake by the NRIs. These include (i) NCI/OCB investment in the real estate and housing sectors upto

100% (ii) NRI/OCB investment in domestic airlines sector upto 100% and (iii) NRI/OCB investment upto 40% in the banking sector.

### Commissioning of TV Transmitters

2141. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.V. Transmitters ready for commissioning in the country, location-wise and state-wise;

(b) whether in spite of testing of some of the above transmitters, telecast has not been beamed from these transmission centres;

(c) if so, the details of such centres, State-wise and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which these transmitters are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) There are twenty one Doordarshan Low Power Transmitters Technically ready for commissioning. All these transmitters have been tested. State-wise locations are given in the enclosed Statement. The commissioning has been delayed due to non-availability of staff at these centres.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that efforts are being made to post necessary staff and commission these transmitters as early as possible.

### Statement

*Doordarshan Transmitters technically ready for commissioning (As on 28/11/2000)*

Sl. No.	State	Location
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Pedapalli Machlipattanam Zahirabad Pulamner Sirsilla Sirpur
2.	Jharkhand	Chatra
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	Wusan (Mobile LPT) Baramulla (Mobile LPT)
4.	Kerala	Kottarakkara
5.	Chhattisgarh	Champa



Sl. No.	State	Location
6.	Mizoram	Lawangtalai
7.	Orissa	Chikiti
8.	Rajasthan	Bhinmal Vijaynagar
9.	Tamil Nadu	Ambasamudram Ambur
10.	Tripura	Amarpur Jolaibari
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Kosi Bidhuna

[Translation]

### Smuggling of Synthetic Thread and Electronic Goods

2142. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a spurt in the Smuggling of Synthetic Thread and Electronic Goods during the last year;

(b) if so, the number of such cases of smuggling brought to light in this period; and

(c) the value of goods seized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to state whether there has been spurt in the smuggling of synthetic thread and electronic goods during last 1 year. However, the reports available do indicate marginal increase in the seizures of synthetic thread and electronic goods during past few years. Number of cases of smuggling detected and value of goods seized

during the years 1999 and 2000 (upto October, 2000) are as under:

	1999		2000	
	No. of Cases	Value of goods seized (in crores)	No. of Cases	Value of goods seized (in crores)
(a) Synthetic Thread	76	1.06	170	1.75
(b) Electronic goods	1826	82.90	1677	47.82

[English]

### India Millennium Deposit Scheme

2143. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :  
SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :  
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange received by the State Bank of India under the "India Millennium Deposit Scheme", "Resurgent India Bonds" and other such instruments;

(b) the period over which these deposits are to mature and the rate of interest to be paid on such deposits;

(c) the extent to which these deposits are likely to be helpful in strengthening rupee against dollar;

(d) whether it is a high cost foreign exchange debt; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to review such attempts to raise foreign exchange through badly disguised high cost debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Amount of foreign exchange received by SBI under the various special deposit programmes for NRIs, period and the rate of interest are as under:

Bond/Deposits	Amount (million)	Period of maturity	Date of Interest
1	2	3	4
NRI Bonds (1988)	USD 91 mio.	7 years	11.50% (USD)
NRI Bonds (1990)	USD 261 mio.	7 years	11.00% (USD)
India Development Bonds (1991)	USD 1610 Mio.	5 years	9.50% (USD) 13.50% (GBP)
Resurgent India Bonds (1998)	USD 4231 mio.	5 years	7.75% (USD) 8.00% (GBP) 6.25% (DEM)
India Millennium Deposits (2000)	USD 5514 mio.	5 years	8.50% (USD) 7.85% (GBP) 6.85% (EUR)

(c) to (e) The rates of interest offered on the bonds have been reasonable considering the interest rates prevailing in international markets at the time of launch. Foreign currency proceeds of the bonds have contributed to the enhancement of foreign exchange reserves and thus helped reduce volatility in foreign exchange rates.

### **Special Economic Processing Zones**

2144. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Processing Zones (SEZ) set up in the country;

(b) whether one such SEZ was proposed to be set up at Paradeep Port of Orissa;

(c) if so, whether that SEZ have started functioning;

(d) the procedure adopted in establishment of a SEZ;

(e) whether notification in this regard has been issued to State Governments; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) In the Export and Import Policy (1997-2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31st March, 2000, the Government has announced a policy for setting up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the country. Four existing Export Processing Zones (EPZs) at Kandla (Gujarat), Santacruz, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala) and at Surat (Gujarat) have been converted into SEZs on 1.11.2000. In principle approval for 7 more SEZ's has been given and these are likely to come up in due course.

(b) to (f) In principle approval has been given for setting up an SEZ at Paradeep, Orissa on the basis of a request received from the Government of Orissa. Formal proposal from the State Government is awaited.

The State Government is required to identify the prospective site, formulate the development strategy including participation of private sector in the development process; give its commitments on State levies etc. and then submit a complete project proposal to the Department of Commerce. The proposal is considered and cleared through an Inter-Ministerial Committee.

### **Illegal transfer of Money**

2145. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received information that illegal transfers of money are made to India through some black-market banking networks in Germany;

(b) if so, the actual modus-operandi of such operators; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

### **Internet Banking**

2146. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has begun preparations for Internet Banking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a task force has been constituted for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the time by which the task force is likely to start its work and submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has constituted a "Working Group on Internet Banking in India" which consists of members drawn from the fields of banking, technology and law. It will look into different aspects of Internet banking from regulatory and supervisory perspective and recommend appropriate standards for adoption in India. They have called comments/suggestions from all the commercial banks and based thereon the recommendations of the Working Group will be finalised. No timeframe has been prescribed. It is expected that the Group will take about six months to finalise its recommendations.

*[English]***Import of Cattle Feed**

2147. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is importing cattle feed from the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the details of the import in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the said cattle feed caused the "madcow" disease in UK and is now spreading in other developing countries; and

(d) if so, the preventive steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India has been importing compounded animal feed from the United Kingdom and the details of import in the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as follows:

Year	Qty (MTs)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1997-98	88.43	1.72
1998-99	130.43	4.36
1999-2000	105.03	2.22

(Source: DGCI & S, Calcutta)

(c) and (d) There is no specific information in this matter. In India, we do not have a system of feeding cattle with meat/bone meal or animal offals. Madcow disease has never been reported in India. Cattle feed standards of Bureau of Indian Standards, which serve as guidelines for feeding, specifically prohibit incorporation of harmful chemicals or dead animal by-products in the cattle feed. Moreover, as a preventive measure, Government has already banned use of any product of animal origin in the cattle feed.

*[Translation]***Government's equity in MTNL**

2148. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are going to reduce its equity from 56 to 41 percent in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.;

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

(c) the likely effect thereof on the functioning and financial position of MTNL; and

(d) the manner in which disinvestment is likely to be carried out in MTNL alongwith the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The consideration for proposals of disinvestment in Central Public Sector Undertakings is a continuous process. No decision has been taken for disinvestment in MTNL to reduce the Government equity from 56% to 41%.

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

*[English]***Entertainment Industry under IDBI Act**

2149. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided that entertainment industry including films have been recognized under the IDBI Act as an approved activity under the industrial concern;

(b) if so, to what extent the decision is likely to help the film industry;

(c) whether under this decision the film industry is likely to get all the facilities of access to bank loans, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In May 1998, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting had announced that status on industry would be given to the Film sector mainly with the intention of making the sector eligible for institutional financing in

the areas of film production and distribution. A formal decision in the form of specifying Entertainment including the film sector as an Industrial concern under the IDBI Act, has been taken and a notification issued for the same by the Ministry of Finance. This would enable the Film sector to seek finance from financial institutions subject to conditions specified by such institutions being fulfilled by the applicant

### Technology Transfer to Africa

2150. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international Centre for Advancement of Manufacturing Technology has taken up programmes for promotion of technology transfer from India to Africa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide export opportunities for Indian entrepreneurs under the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The international Centre for Advancement of Manufacturing Technology has taken up a programme for promotion of technology from India to Africa in the field of manufacturing of materials for low-cost housing.

The Centre cooperated with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to organize "Asia Africa Technology Partnership Forum" in March 2000 and "Enterprise India" in Durban, South Africa in June 2000 to provide export and technology transfer opportunities for Indian entrepreneurs.

[Translation]

### Position of Balance of Payment

2151. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the position of balance of payment has become grave due to recent decline in the value of rupee as compared to dollar; and

(b) if so, the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The depreciation of rupee against the US dollar will

help increase exports and strengthen our efforts at cost effective import substitution. The balance of trade and, thereby, the balance of payments position s expected to improve. India's balance of payment, at present, is reasonably comfortable.

[English]

### Exhibition of Documentaries

2152. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated July 15, 1999 directed the Government to ensure exhibition of documentaries of the Films Division by all the cinema halls in the country and over DD-I and DD-II;

(b) whether the Supreme Court also directed the payment of 1 percent of net collection as rental from cinema houses to the Films Division;

(c) if so, whether the Government have implemented the decision of the Supreme Court and are all the cinema houses in the country exhibiting documentaries of the Films Division now and are paying 1 percent rental charges to the Films Division;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 15th July, 1999 upheld the appeal of the Films Division regarding (i) compulsory exhibition of the approved film by all the cinema theatres all over the country; and (ii) for payment of 1% of net collection of cinema theatres as rental to the films Division for the supply of these films.

(c) to (e) As Cinema is a State Subject, the responsibility of enforcement of laws pertaining to compulsory exhibition of approved films vests with the State Governments. Films Division enters into an agreement/arrangement with cinema exhibition houses in the country for regular supply of approved films. Details of cinema houses exhibiting approved films as on 30.9.2000 are:

Total number of theatres under jurisdiction of various branches of Films Division	12,325
Total number of theatres collecting approved films and paying rental charges of 1%	10,268
Total number of theatres collecting approved films but not paying rental charges	1,472

Number of theatres which have neither collected approved films for exhibition nor paid rental charges 585

Concerted efforts are being made by the Films Division to implement the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in entirety. Assistance and cooperation of the State Governments is also being sought in this regard.

The Films Division received Rs. 6,56,50,743.00 towards rental from various cinema theatres during the current financial year i.e. from April, 2000 to October, 2000.

### **Smuggling and Narcotics Activities**

2153. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling and narcotic activities have increased during the last few years in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of seizures made and contraband confiscated by D.R.I. during the last two years; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to tackle smuggling activities in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above. No seizure has been effected by DRI in Orissa since 1997-98 till date.

(c) All field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to thwart any attempts of smuggling all over the country, including Orissa.

[Translation]

### **Foreign Tours by Senior Officers**

2154. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:  
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director, Joint Secretary and Secretary level officers go on foreign tours for official purposes;

(b) if so, the criteria laid down for such tours along with the method of selection of officers;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the foreign tours of these officers during the last two years;

(d) whether the Government have any mechanism to ascertain whether or not such tours were justified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b), (d) and (e) The need for the delegation is carefully scruthnized by the Screening Committee and the officers are allowed to proceed only where sufficient justification exists.

(c) The information is not centrally maintained and will have to be collected from all the Ministries/ Departments. It will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

[English]

### **Prosecution against Companies**

2155. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated prosecution against 24 vanishing companies from the list of 14222 companies declared 'increasable' by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI);

(b) if so, the time by which the action will be initiated against other companies;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to ensure that cases against erring companies are decided expeditiously and the aggrieved depositors/shareholders are helped; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

### **World Bank's loan to India**

2156. SHRI ASHOK MOHOL :  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has approved loan worth Rupees fifty crore dollar to India during May, 2000;

(b) if so, the projects for which this loan has been approved;

(c) the conditions stipulated by the World Bank for this loan;

(d) the loan actually received by the Government, till date, out of the said sanctioned loan;

(e) the time by which the outstanding amount is likely to be received ; and

(f) the exact World Bank loan outstanding against India including this loan and the total interest payable thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Agreements for seven projects were signed with World Bank during May 2000 for total loan amount of USD 908.316 million.

(b) These projects included UP Fiscal Reforms, UP Power Restructuring, Technical Assistance for Economic Reforms, Immunization Strengthening, UP Health System, AP District Poverty Initiatives and Rajasthan District Poverty Initiatives Project.

(c) Normal terms and conditions applicable to such loans of World Bank apply to these projects.

(d) An amount of USD 257.736 million has been received till 30.9.2000.

(e) The outstanding amount is receivable before the termination dates of projects, which fall in 4 to 5 years.

(f) The amount of World Bank loan outstanding against India as on 30.9.2000 was USD 26.271 billion with interest payment of USD 330.14 million to IBRD.

#### **Pre-payment of foreign borrowings**

2157. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any effort to increase the total pre-payment of foreign borrowings;

(b) the RBI's views on pre-payment of foreign borrowings;

(c) whether any specific target has been set for the year 2000-2001 to pre-pay high interest foreign exchange loans;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to meet the target;

(e) the overall advantages to the country in general pre-payment of foreign borrowings;

(f) whether private companies are also being encouraged to pre-pay any foreign borrowings; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) As of now, Reserve Bank of India processes prepayment proposals at the request of borrowers as per existing External Commercial Borrowing policies. External Commercial Borrowing Policy endeavours to keep borrowing maturities long, costs low, and encourage infrastructure and export sector financing.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Any prepayment adds to the demand for foreign exchange. Therefore, prepayments would contribute to the demand for foreign exchange and to that extent may have an impact in the foreign exchange market.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Export Commitments**

2158. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure being adopted by the Government to ensure the exports performance of those companies who applied for foreign collaboration meets the commitments;

(b) the names of the companies who failed to meet their commitments on exports during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken against those companies by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The procedure prescribed for this purpose, requires the exporters to file Legal Undertakings binding themselves to fulfil the prescribed export commitments.

(b) Nil.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

### **Board for preview Advertisements**

2159. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up a board on the lines of Film Censor Board, to preview the advertisements for electronic media in order to end obscene advertisement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any forum to take care of this as of now;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the programmes of foreign satellite channels, when transmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the prescribed programme and advertisement codes. In case to violation by any channel of these codes, the Ministry will notify such channel for prohibiting its retransmission by the cable operators. Enforcement of the provisions of the Act rests with the authorized officers i.e. DMs, SDMs, Commissioner of Police and other officers as may be notified by the Central/State Governments. TV channels uplinking their programmes from India are bound through appropriate licensing conditions, to abide by the programme and advertisement codes as applicable to Doordarshan.

(e) Does not arise.

### **Settlement Commission for Excise and Customs**

2160. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Settlement Commission propose to speedily resolve disputes and unsolved Central Custom and Excise cases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Customs & Central Excise Settlement Commission provides a forum for the assesses to apply for settlement of cases under Chapter V of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and Chapter XIVA of the Customs Act, 1962, on the basis of a true and complete declaration of the duty liability by them and its consideration by the Settlement Commission. Though no time limit has been prescribed in the statute for such settlement, the average time for settlement of a case could range from 6 months to 1 year.

### **Appointment of SC/ST Persons in Settlement Commission**

2161. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons belonging to SC/ST categories have not been given adequate representation, while appointing them to the posts of President/Chairman, Vice-President/Vice-Chairmen and Members of the Settlement Commission (Income-tax and Wealth Tax);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total number of persons posted as President/Chairman, Vice-Presidents/Vice-Chairmen and Members of the Settlement Commission (Income-Tax and Wealth tax) as on January 1, 1996 and the number of persons belonging to the SCs/Sts appointed to the said posts and their percentage to the total number of posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, the Settlement Commission (IT/WT) is a quasi-judicial body set up under the Income Tax Act/Wealth Tax Act. Its objective is to provide a body comprising of persons of integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and experience in problems relating to Direct Taxes business accounts for settling cases. There is no reservation for SC/ST in these posts.

(c) As on 01.01.1996, there were 8 Members, 3 Vice-Chairmen and 1 Chairman in various benches of Settlement Commission. None of these officers belonged to SC/ST community.

**Production/Prices/Export of Tea**

2162. DR. C. KRISHNAN :  
SHRI VAIKO :

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

(a) the average price of various categories of tea (orthodox, CTC, green) in different markets in our country during the last three years, category and market-wise;

(b) the production of tea in different regions during this period region, year and category-wise;

(c) the quantum of tea out of that exported indicating the details of value and variety, year and region-wise;

(d) the quantum of tea out of the total production which has been internally consumed during this period year-wise, region-wise and category-wise;

(e) the quantum of tea imported into India since SARRC agreement, year-wise and country-wise;

(f) the reasons for the sharp fall in tea prices in the market; and

(g) the initiatives taken by the Government to help the tea growers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Year-wise average price of various categories of tea at the major auction centres during the last three year were as follows:

(Price in Rs./Kgs.)

Auction Centres	C.T.C.			Orthodox			Green Tea			All Tea		
	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997
Calcutta	82.50	81.98	71.16	113.88	97.75	96.85	-	-	-	88.60	87.83	79.88
Guwahati	80.55	78.84	67.58	71.10	69.43	78.33	-	-	-	80.53	78.76	67.67
Siliguri	72.56	74.66	65.46	74.31	72.53	73.77	-	-	-	72.56	74.66	65.47
Amritsar	-	-	-	-	-	-	46.66	51.96	41.89	46.66	51.96	41.89
Cochin	60.58	71.62	58.55	65.99	78.01	68.75	-	-	-	62.04	73.31	61.57
Coonoor	53.20	65.08	57.09	55.85	64.78	57.62	-	-	-	53.34	65.05	57.13
Coimbatore	55.04	66.72	56.40	64.53	74.36	70.39	-	-	-	57.26	68.75	60.31

(b) Year-wise production of various categories of tea in the north and southern regions during the last three years were as follows :

(Figures in mn. Kgs.)

Category	North India			South India			All India		
	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CT.C.	556.91	592.42	549.50	169.55	165.74	150.59	726.46	758.16	700.09
Orthodox	41.06	69.84	47.22	29.90	33.79	54.24	70.96	103.63	101.46
Others	6.38	6.67	7.98	1.85	1.85	0.50	8.19	8.62	8.48
Total	604.35	669.03	604.70	201.30	201.38	205.33	805.61	870.41	810.03

(c) Teas are exported mainly in blended form. The origin of tea is lost in the process of blending. Hence export of tea by origin of production cannot be ascertained. However, export of tea to major countries during the last three years were as follows:

(Qty. in mn. kgs.)  
(Value in Rs. crores)

Country	1999-2000	Value	1998-99	Value	1997-98	Value
Russia Federation	85.03	695.55	82.30	841.33	92.20	851.90
U.K.	19.90	176.92	21.51	227.96	26.97	235.39



Country	1999-2000	Value	1998-99	Value	1997-98	Value
UAE	14.81	172.18	19.78	207.15	23.65	216.66
Iraq	6.32	60.58	10.25	97.35	2.41	18.18
Poland	10.11	67.84	9.73	61.83	10.10	92.16
Kazakistan	6.03	55.67	7.62	80.41	4.47	44.45
U.S.A.	6.58	82.01	6.60	69.93	5.45	56.07
Germany	5.34	106.21	5.52	116.47	5.55	89.18
Saudi Arabia	6.32	69.84	3.39	48.58	3.46	38.63
Others	28.47	309.56	38.49	440.37	37.00	311.29
Total	188.91	1796.36	205.19	2191.38	211.26	1953.91

(d) Region-wise and category-wise consumption figures of tea are not maintained. Estimated consumption of tea during 1997, 1998 and 1999 was 597 m. kgs, 615 mn. kgs and 633 mn. kgs respectively.

(e) Import of tea from SAARC was made free with effect from 1.8.1998. Imports of tea from major countries during the last three years were as follows:

(Qty in mn. Kgs.)

Country of Origin	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Indonesia	3.17	4.36	0.71
Turkey	Nil	2.51	0.01
Bangladesh	0.49	0.54	0.28
Sri Lanka	2.91	0.39	0.25
Nepal	0.16	0.03	0.19
Others	3.21	1.13	1.36
Total	9.78	8.93	2.61

(f) and (g) The reasons for fall in prices of tea are attributed mainly to lower offtake by CIS countries, excess supply of CTC teas as compared to orthodox tea, deterioration of quality of tea, sluggish demand in the domestic market etc. In order to help the tea growers, Govt./Tea Board has taken various steps which include implementation of Price Subsidy Scheme with effect from 1.5.2000 wherein subsidy is provided to the small growers of tea for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and rs. 55 per kg subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 per kg., launch of a Quality Upgradation Programme in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers, increase in basic customs duty on tea from 15% to 35%, ban on sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) etc.

### World Bank Report on Pension

2163. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the recent World Bank Report on India's pension sector and arrears, its financial implications and address the concerns arising out of this growing unfounded liability;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction to the magnitude of the long-term fiscal burden; and

(c) the steps contemplated to launch pension sector reforms as suggested in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Government has not received World Bank's Report on India's pension sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Government Holdings in VSNL

2164. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to give up its majority holdings in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The consideration for proposals of disinvestment in Central Public Sector Undertakings is a continuous process. No decision has been taken for reducing the Government's holding in VSNL to minority level.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Quality of Doordarshan Programmes

2165. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of Doordarshan News and the infrastructural facility of Doordarshan is not upto the mark; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to bring qualitative improvement in these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

#### Demand of Cable Operators

2166. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:  
SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA:  
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:  
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cable operators went on strike in the month of September, 2000;

(b) whether Cable T.V. Operators United Front have submitted a memorandum against the Cable T.V. Networks (Regulation) Act, 2000;

(c) so, the details of demands of the cable operators;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the check of control exercised by the Government on foreign satellite channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Cable Operators of Delhi and surrounding areas went on strike in the month of September, 2000.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. They had, *inter alia*, expressed apprehension of liability of adherence to the Programme and Advertising Codes by them for all the channels transmitted by them.

(d) It was clarified to them that their primary responsibility for the compliance with the Broadcast Code is with regard to their own channels. They were also informed that the satellite channels will be primarily responsible for adherence to the Programme and Advertising Code with regard to their channel, and, in case of violation of such Codes by the Satellite Channels, the Ministry will notify such channels so that their retransmission can be stopped by the cable operator.

(e) The programmes of foreign satellite channels when retransmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the programme and advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994. In case of continuous violation of the codes by them, the Ministry will notify such channels for prohibiting their retransmission by cable operators in the country.

#### Loans for Higher Studies

2167. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalised banks grant loans to Students for pursuing higher education in the country; and

(b) if so, the norms laid down to become a beneficiary under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Public Sector Banks have formulated their own schemes for grant of educational loans to needy students for pursuing higher studies in India under its policy guidelines issued from time to time.

All students who are not gainfully employed and have been selected for admission to any of general, professional courses are eligible under the scheme. The loans sanctioned under these schemes are subject to terms and conditions prescribed under the scheme by the banks.

[English]

#### Survey by NCAER on Investment

2168. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the survey made by the National Council for

Applied Economic Research (NCAER) which has portrayed a gloomy picture on business confidence in this country and attributed it to a poor perception of the investment climate in India;

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

(c) the corrective steps likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the 34th Round of Business Expectations Survey conducted by NCAER on the basis of a sample of 587 responses received in September-October, 2000, the Business Confidence Index (BCI) declined to 103.6 from 118.2 in the 33rd Round. This reflected diminished expectations on overall economic environment, financial position of firms, investment climate and capacity utilisation. However, the Northern Region, which accounted for 28.3 per cent of the sample, registered an increase in BCI from 95.4 in the 33rd Round to 98.5 in the 34th Round. This reflected positive expectations on capacity utilisation and financial position which compensated for the decline in expectations on overall economic conditions. The decline in expectations on investment climate was negligible in the case of Northern Region.

The survey also reveals that majority of the investing firms in the manufacturing sector expect their investment to add to the existing capacity and 50 percent are planning to invest to improve competitiveness. One third of the investing firms plan to invest in their own line of business and one-fifty propose to enter into the information Technology (IT) sector.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the situation and keeps a close watch on both internal and external factors. The Finance Minister recently took a meeting with selected Associations of Industry and Commerce to discuss the current state of Indian economy, with special reference to performance of industry and infrastructure sectors. The Finance Minister requested the participants to suggest specific measures, which need to be taken in the short and medium term to improve industrial production and overall economic growth. The Associations have submitted their suggestions, which are kept in view by the Government while undertaking appropriate policy measures aimed at improving investment climate and business confidence.

### **Desert Triangle Scheme**

2169. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Ministry of Tourism forwarded duly recommended proposal "Desert Triangle" scheme of Kutch district of Gujarat for a loan assistance from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan;

(b) whether the proposal could not be included in the list submitted to the Government of Japan for OECF loan package of 1997-98;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the same was included thereafter; and

(e) if so, the loan sanctioned and progress made so far on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Project proposal "Desert Triangle" scheme for Kutch district of Gujarat for OECF loan assistance was not received. However, two other proposals were received by DEA, for OECF assistance-(i) Tourism project in Kutch, Gujarat—by the time this project proposal was received, Government of India had already posed a list of project proposals to Government of Japan for assistance under the 1997-98 loan package. As such, Ministry of Tourism was advised to sent the proposals, along with necessary documentation for the 1998-99 loan package of OECF (ii) Development of tourism Infrastructure in Desert triangle of Rajasthan—The proposal was included in our list posed to Government of Japan for their consideration for 1995-96 loan package. However, Government of Japan expressed its inability to take up this project for funding. The proposal was again discussed at the inter-ministerial meeting held in DEA on 14-16, October, 1996 which was called to discuss projects for 1997-98 OECF loan package. However, due to lack of sponsorship from Ministry of Tourism and Government of Rajasthan, it could not be posed again for Japanese assistance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

### **Revival of Sugar Mills**

2170. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number and details of the sugar mills in respect of whom the matter for revival and reconstruction

has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) since the Bureau was constituted, State-wise; and

(b) the number and details of mills since closed down and those taken up for revival and restoration, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) According to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), 43 cases of sick sugar mills are registered with the Board under the provision of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 as on 30th September, 2000. The break up of these 43 cases alongwith their status is as under:

Status	No. of Cases
Cases Dismissed as non-Maintainable	13
Recommended for winding up to High Court under Section 20 (1)	6
Declared no longer sick	7
Rehabilitation Scheme Sanctioned	5
Pending with BIFR at different stages of Enquiry	12
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>43</b>

State-wise details of companies with status whether under enquiry, scheme sanctioned, company declared no longer sick, recommended for winding up or reference dismissed as non-maintainable are given in enclosed Statement.

### **Statement**

#### *List of Sugar Cases State-wise*

S.No.	States
1	2
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	
1	Chalapalli Sugar
2	Kirlampudi Sugar Ltd.
3	Sree Kailas Sugar & Chemicals Ltd.
<b>Bihar</b>	
1	Champaran Sugar
2	Canpore Sugar Works
3	HMP Sugars Ltd.
<b>Kerala</b>	
1	The Travancore Sugar Chemicals

1	2
<b>Karnataka</b>	
1.	Davnagare Sugar Co.
2.	Tungabhadra Sugar Works
3.	Salarjung Sugar
4.	Gangavati Sugar
5.	The India Sugars and Refineries Ltd.
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	
1.	Jiwaji Rao Sugar
2.	B.S.I. Ltd.
3.	Girdhari Lal Sugar and Allied Industries
4.	Girdhari Lal Sugar and Allied Industries
<b>Maharashtra</b>	
1.	Godavari Sugar Mills
2.	Brika Sugar Ltd.
3.	Belapur Sugar & Allied
<b>Orissa</b>	
1.	Western Orissa Sugar Ltd.
<b>Punjab</b>	
1.	Bhaganapur Sugar Mills
<b>Rajasthan</b>	
1.	Mewar Sugar
<b>Tamilnadu</b>	
1.	Cauvery Sugars & Chemicals
2.	Cauvery Sugars and Chemicals Ltd.
3.	Tamil Nadu Sugar Corporation Ltd.
4.	Perdamballur Sugar Corporation Ltd.
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	
1.	Nawabganj Sugar Mills
2.	Shree Sitaram Sugar Co.
3.	Deoria Sugar Mills Ltd.
4.	Ratna Sugar Mills Ltd.
5.	Lakshmi Sugar Mills
6.	Campore Sugar Works Ltd.
7.	Shervani Sugar Syndicate Ltd.
8.	Swadeshi Mining & Mfg. Co. Ltd.
9.	Nandganj Sibori Sugar Co. Ltd.
10.	Chhata Sugar Co. Ltd.
11.	Chhatahpur Sugar Co. Ltd.
12.	Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corporation Ltd.
13.	Nandganj Sibori Sugar Corporation Ltd.
14.	Saraya Sugar Mills Ltd.
15.	Chhata Sugar Co. Ltd.
16.	Khallabad Sugar Mill Pvt. Limited
<b>West Bengal</b>	
1.	Rannuger Cane Khitan Agro Complex

**Status of Sugar Cases Handled by BIFR-State-wise**

S.No.	Name of company
1	2

**Revised Scheme Sanctioned Under section 18(4)**

1. Mewar Sugar
2. Lakshmi Sugar Mills
3. Sherwani Sugar Syndicat Ltd.
4. Shree Kailas Sugar & Chemicals Ltd.
5. Chhata Sugar Co. Ltd.

**Dismissed as non maintainable**

1. Cauvery Sugars & Chemicals
2. Campore Sugar Works
3. Nawabganj Sugar Works
4. Tungabhadra Sugar Mills
5. Shree Sitaram Sugar Co.
6. Debria Sugar Mills Ltd.
7. Griha Sugar Mills Ltd.
8. Belapur Sugar & Allied
9. Ratna Sugar Mills Ltd.
10. Nandganj Sibari Sugar Co. Ltd.
11. Chhata Sugar Co. Ltd.
12. Girdharilal Sugar and Allied Industries
13. Girdharilal Sugar and Allied Industries

**Draft Scheme Circulated**

1. The Travancore Sugars & Chemicals Ltd.
2. HMP Sugar Ltd.

**Winding up Recommended Under Section 20(1)**

1. Chamapran Sugar
2. Jiwaji Rao Sugar
3. Salarjung Sugar
4. Gangavati Sugar
5. Swadeshi Mining & Mfg. Co. Ltd
6. Ghathpur Sugar Co. Ltd.

**Winding up Notice Issued**

1. Nandgunj Sihori Sugar Company Ltd.
2. Saraya Sugar Mills Ltd.

**Under Inquiry**

1. Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corpn. Ltd.
2. B.S.I. Ltd.
3. Khalilabad Sugar Mills Pvt Limited
4. Tamil Nadu Sugar Corporation Ltd.
5. Perahblur Sugar Mills Ltd.
6. Western Orissa Sugar Ltd.

1	2
<b>Failed &amp; Reopened</b>	
1. Campore Sugar Works Ltd.	
<b>Remanded by AAIFR</b>	
1. The India Sugars and Refineries Ltd.	
<b>Declared No Longer sick</b>	
1.	Challapalli Sugar
2.	Davnagare Sugar Co.
3.	Godwari Sugar Ltd.
4.	Kirlampodt Sugar Mills
5.	Bhaghanpura Sugar Mills
6.	Rannuger Cane Khitan Agro Complex
7.	Chunery Sugar and Chemicals Ltd.

**Unrecovered Taxes**

2171. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of unrecovered taxes has increased alarmingly during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the exact amount of unrecovered tax, sector-wise during last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) and (b) The unrecovered amount of income tax, Corporation tax, Customs duty and central excise duty during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

1997-98	47,888
1998-99	52,617
1999-2000	62,226

Sector-wise details of unrecovered tax are not maintained.

(c) Recovery of tax is a continuous process, involving the use of statutory provisions which include charging of interest, levy of penalty and attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are also made by higher authorities on a regular basis and necessary instructions are issues from time to time for effecting recovery of the outstanding taxes.

**VRS in Burn Standard Co. Ltd.**

2172. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the refractories of Burn Standard Company Ltd. like Durgapur, Raniganj and Gafarbari are given notice to opt Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the employees of the company are not getting revised wages;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any discrimination in giving benefit to the employees of the company which are in BIFR and which are not in BIFR; and

(f) if so, the reasons for discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) A notice was issued on 18th September, 2000 inviting the willing employees of Durgapur, Gufarbari and Raniganj Works to opt for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme of the Company. This scheme is offered with the following benefits :

- (i) Compensation consisting of a salary of 35 days for every completed year of service and 25 days for each balance year of service left until superannuation.
- (ii) Payment of unutilised casual leave prorata as well as earned leave till date of separation.
- (iii) Notice pay.
- (iv) Settlement allowance.
- (v) The Scheme was operative for 30 days with effect from 1st Oct., 2000.

(c) and (d) Since the Units were continuously incurring losses and had huge accumulated losses, it was not possible to revise the wages of its employees. Besides, BIFR's sanctioned revival scheme of the Company does not support revival of these units.

(e) and (f) As per DPE guidelines of 5.9.2000, higher compensation can be given to the employees of financially sound CPSUs having resources to fund

voluntary retirements than to the employees of marginally profit making or loss-making CPSUs. In sick and unviable units, a Voluntary Separation Scheme is applicable under which compensation equivalent to 45 days for each year of service rendered is payable in addition to other benefits.

**Registered Oriya Newspapers**

2173. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Oriya Newspapers and periodicals registered with Registrar of Newspapers as on 31 October, 2000;

(b) the number out of them granted Government advertisements;

(c) the total amount released to Oriya Newspapers and periodicals during each of the last three; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to develop the Oriya Newspapers and periodicals?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The number of Oriya Newspapers and periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India as on 31.10.2000 is 716.

(b) Advertisements are issued only to those newspapers empanelled with DAVP. During the period 01.04.2000 to 31.10.2000, 33 Oriya newspapers/periodicals empanelled with DAVP have been issued Government advertisements.

(c) During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 the total amount committed to Oriya newspapers/periodicals was Rs. 76,56,770/-, Rs. 96,26,830/- and Rs. 1,18,03,940/- respectively.

(d) DAVP released advertisements to newspapers and periodicals, keeping in view the Government's publicity requirements, the availability of funds and in accordance with Advertising Policy Guidelines.

**Co-operative Banks in Kerala**

2174. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Kerala Government to exclude the deposits of District/Urban Co-operative Banks and other Co-operative Banks with the State Co-operative Bank

from calculation of Internal Lending Resources (ILR) for the purpose of Minimum Involvement; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

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

### Surplus Stock of Cement

2175. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is surplus stock of cement in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to find the market for this surplus stock of cement in foreign countries; and

(c) the total sanctioned capacities of cement productions in the country?

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

(b) Exporters of cement are given incentives like duty drawback on excise duty paid, duty entitlement for export of cement and clinker @8% under Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme, and duty free import of coal, furnace oil, packing material etc. needed for the production of cement.

(c) The total sanctioned capacities of cement production in the country is 113.55 Million Tonnes.

### Jewellery Exhibitions

2176. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :  
DR. C. KRISHNAN :  
SHRI VAIKO :

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

(a) whether the Government/MMTC/Handloom and Handicrafts Export Council had conducted Jewellery Exhibitions at Dubai during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of each exhibitions indicating the quality/quantity of jewellery sold there and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether private exporters/manufacturers of jewellery had also conducted any exhibition there during the same period;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount earned, jewellery sold and complaints if any, received;

(e) whether the Government have now banned private jewellery exhibition at Dubai;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have initiated any action against anyone with regard to jewellery exhibition abroad;

(h) if so, the details thereof in each case; and

(i) the steps being taken by the Government to popularise Indian Jewellery abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mumbai, Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation of India Ltd., (HHEC), New Delhi & MMTC have organised jewellery exhibitions at Dubai during the last three years as per the details given below:

(Value : Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	GJEPC		HHEC		MMTC	
	Value*	Description of Jewellery	Value*	Description of Jewellery	Value*	Description of Jewellery
1997-98	No Participation	Plain & studded Jewellery	355.4	Plain & studded Jewellery	No Participation	
1998-99	42.3	Plain & studded Jewellery	No Participation	158.50		Plain & studded Jewellery
1999-2000	35.0	Plain & studded Jewellery	No Participation	146.74		Plain & studded Jewellery

\*Details of the quantity of Jewellery sold is not being maintained.

Source : Figures are provided by GJEPC, HHEC and MMTC respectively.

(c) and (d) Under para 8.20 of Exim Policy, GJEPC has been authorised by the Government of India, Department of Commerce to grant permission to individual exporters for holding/participating in overseas exhibitions. The following amounts have been earned through sale at the jewellery exhibitions at Dubai by individual exporters during the last three years:

(Value Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Value*	Number of individual permission given by GJEPC
1997-98	185	16
1998-99	533	39
1999-2000	280	33

\*Quantity wise details are not maintained.

Source : GJEPC, Mumbai.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No. Sir

(h) Does not arise

(i) The Government have been taking policy initiatives on a continuous basis as per the requirement of the trade to popularise Indian jewellery abroad. Some of the important steps announced by the Government w.e.f. 1st April, 2000 to popularise the Indian jewellery abroad are .

1. Permission to foreign buyers to supply directly gold/silver/platinum and also plain semifinished gold/silver/platinum jewellery to the status holders in India for manufacture and export of gold/silver/platinum jewellery;
2. Permission for personal carriage of gems and jewellery import export parcels;
3. Wastage of 2.5% has been allowed in case imported gold/silver/platinum mountings are used in studded jewellery;
4. Permission for duty paid import of plain/studded jewellery items under Replenishment Licence to the extent of 2.5% of the FOB value of exports of the preceding year; and
5. Permission to import and supply platinum of 0.900 fineness.

Besides the above Exim Policy initiatives, Government have reduced the Customs duty on platinum and cut and polished diamonds to 15%.

With a view to popularise Indian jewellery abroad, GJEPC has been participating in overseas exhibitions and also holding international exhibitions within India. Besides, M/s. HHEC and M/s. MMTC have also been mounting several jewellery exhibitions abroad with a view to popularise Indian jewellery. GJEPC also has been giving permission to individual exporters for holding or participating in overseas exhibitions. Bureau of Indian Standards have accredited and authorised some select agencies in some important cities to do the Assaying and Hall Marking of jewellery which should go a long way in popularising the Indian made jewellery abroad by giving it a high quality image.

### **World Bank Loan for Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project**

2177. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government is implementing Andhra Pradesh forestry Project (APFP) funded through the World Bank since 1994;

(b) if so, whether the project ended in September, 2000;

(c) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the World Bank to fund the second phase of the project;

(d) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to use its good offices for obtaining a firm commitment for continuing project beyond September, 2000; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(e) The project proposal for phase II of the project has been posed to the World Bank on 19.08.99. Government of India has asked the Bank to consider retroactive financing of the project activities beyond 30.09.00; the terminal date for phase I of the project.

### **Nomination Facilities in Corporations**

2178. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision of special nomination of non serving persons in the Corporations under his Ministry;



(b) if 90, the number of Corporations in which such facilities are available; and

(c) the details of the procedure and guidelines being followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises on the subject being the nodal department for Central Public Sector Undertakings, *inter-alia*, provide for :

- Induction of non-official Directors on the Board of P. S. Us;
- Non-officials are to be drawn from the public men, technocrats, management experts and consultants, and professional managers in industry and trade with a high degree of proven ability; and
- A panel of suitable persons who could be considered for appointment as Non-Official Part-Time Directors on the Boards of PSEs will be maintained centrally by Department of Public Enterprises. This panel will be prepared in consultation with PESB and the Secretary of the concerned Administrative Ministry.

There are seven PSUs under the administrative control of this Department. However, one of the PSUs namely TTCL, Calcutta is under liquidation and the case is pending in Calcutta High Court.

#### **Asian Development Bank aided Projects**

2179. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has rapped India for delay in implementation of various projects;

(b) if so, whether Asian Development Bank has asked India to submit its audited report;

(c) whether India had received 57 Asian Development Bank loans worth 7.68 billion dollars;

(d) if so, the interest likely to be paid on these loans;

(e) whether loan has been utilised; and

(f) the time schedule for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) and (e) Implementation of project is regularly monitored by the Bank and reviewed jointly in a tripartite meeting between Ministry of Finance, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and implementing agencies so as to assess areas for improvement for timely implementation of projects.

During the last review it has been found that out of 26 on-going projects, 25 are satisfactory or partly satisfactory and one is not satisfactory in terms of implementation. Submission of audit report of the project to ADB by the executing agencies is one of the requirements under the Loan. As on 31.7.2000, India has received 51 loans through ADB public sector window amounting to US \$ 7.897 billion out of which US\$ 5.91 billion has been utilised.

(d) Interest on ADB loans is based on a variable interest rate as fixed by ADB on six monthly basis. A provision of Rs. 622.80 crores (US \$141.900 million) has been made in the Budget for the payment towards Interest on ADB assisted projects for financial year 2000-01.

(f) The project completion period varies from project to project. Generally, this period is between five to seven years.

#### **Measures to stop cheap imports**

2180. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to take a series of measures to stop cheap imports from neighbouring countries and to take strict action against the importers to protect the domestic industries;

(b) if so, the details of action plan prepared in this regard;

(c) whether W.T.O. rules would permit quantitative restrictions on imports;

(d) if so, the time by which the Government would start actions to control such cheap imports; and

(e) the reasons for not taking any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (e) As per Article XI of GATT, maintenance of Quantitative Restrictions on imports is not permitted. However, to provide protection to the domestic producers

the Government can, if the situation so warrants, utilize the mechanism of raising the applied tariffs within the bound rates, if such a gap exists and take measures such as Anti-Dumping Action, imposition of Counter-vailing duties and Safeguard actions which are permissible under the WTO Agreements.

The imports are being closely monitored and the Government are determined to ensure through the appropriate use of the above mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic producers. Some of the recent measures towards that end are as follows .

- (i) Import duties on a number of items have been increase. for example, the duty on arecanut has been raised from 35% to 100%, on poultry products from 35% to 100%, on wheat from 0% to 50%, on skimmed milk powder from 0% to 60%, on apple from 35% to 50% and on rice from 0% to 80%.
- (ii) Suo-muto anti-dumping investigations have been initiated in respect of import of battery cells, battery operated toys and sports shoes from China.
- (iii) Import of all packaged commodities have been made subject to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, applicable on domestic producers.
- (iv) Import of 131 products have been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement all manufactures/ exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS). The list of 131 products included various food preservatives and additives, milk powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, household and similar electrical appliances, gas cylinders and multipurpose dry batteries.

[Translation]

#### **Criteria for Allocation of Newsprint**

2181. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether circulation of the newspapers is the criteria for allocation of newsprint to the newspapers;

(b) if so, the names of the newspapers/groups which wen allocated the maximum quantity of the newsprint in the year 1999;

(c) whether any organisation has been set up to authenticate the circulation of newspapers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) As per the Newsprint Policy, which came into effect from 1.5.1995, the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) no longer allocates newsprint to newspapers. It only issues Entitlement Certificates for indigenous newsprint and Eligibility Certificate for import of newsprint.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) was set up in the year 1956 under the provisions of Press and Registration of Books Act. 1867. The verification/authentication of circulation figures of the newspapers is one of the derivative functions entrusted to RNI, arising out of the Section 19 F of the said Act.

[English]

#### **Violation of Income Tax Act, 1962 by AFWWA**

2182. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:  
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Force Wives Welfare Association violated provisions of Income Tax Act, 1962 by not filing tax returns on its earning from Santushti Complex between 1985 to 1998;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been done by the Income Tax Department in this regard;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) The Air Force Wives Welfare Association has been held to be exempt u/s 10(23AA) of the Income tax Act, 1961 w.e.f. Assessment Year 1985-86. The Association has filed returns of income up to Assessment Year 1996-97 and audited accounts for the Assessment

Years 1997-98 & 1998-99. It has shown income from the Santushi Complex in the returns of income for the Assessment Year 1993-94 to Assessment Year 1996-97 and in the audited accounts in the Assessment Years 1997-98 & 1998-99.

### **Export of Foodgrains**

2183. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase foodgrains export;

(b) if so, the strategies adopted by the Government to compete with the international market; and

(c) the various steps taken to boost foodgrains export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category, i.e. Rs. 4150 per MT.

So far as export by Private Parties is concerned:

- (i) Export of wheat is freely allowed subject to quantitative ceilings as may be notified by the Department of Commerce (DGFT) from time to time and registration-cum Allocation Certificate issued by APEDA. For the year 2000-2001, a ceiling of 20 lakh MTs has been fixed.
- (ii) Export of rice (Basmati and Non-Basmati) is free. Export is allowed subject to registration of contracts with APEDA.

(b) and (c) Some of the Strategies and steps taken to enhance exports of foodgrains include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

### **Foreign Assistance for Development Projects**

2184. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approached various international agencies for financial assistance for the development projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the ongoing projects in the country with financial support from these International Financial Institutions;

(d) whether the Government have received any requests from Tamil Nadu State Government for more financial support to its development works; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The projects for which financial assistance has been sought from International Financial Institutions are as mentioned in Statement-I.

(c) The details of ongoing externally aided projects assisted by International Financial Institutions are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) The details of pipeline projects for Tamil Nadu are as under:

1. Tamil Nadu Rural Water Supply and Sanitation of Rs. 683.80 crores.
2. Cauvery Delta Modernisation Project of Rs. 460.00 crores.
3. Tamil Nadu Health Systems Development of Rs. 650 crores.
4. Tamil Nadu State Road Project.

### **Statement-I**

*Projects for which financial assistance has been sought from International Financial Institutions*

#### **ADB**

1. Gujarat Power Sector Development.
2. Railways Sector Improvement.
3. Calcutta Environmental Improvement.

#### **World Bank**

1. Kerala Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation
2. Karnataka Rural Water Supply II
3. MP Rural Water Supply
4. AP Rural Water Supply
5. Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage-II

6. Hogenakkal Wate Supply and Sanitation
  7. Maharashtra Forestry Project II
  8. West Bengal Forestry Project II
  9. Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project II
  10. Arunachal Pradesh Forestry
  11. Andhra Pradesh Foestry Project II
  12. Assam Forestry
  13. AP Minor Irrigation
  14. Gujarat WRCP
  15. Madhya Pradesh WRCP
  16. Salinity Prevention Project for Saurashtra Coastal Areas
  17. Rajasthan WRCP
  18. UP Water Sector Restructuring
  19. Karnataka Tank Improvement
  20. AP Power APL-II
  21. Haryana Power APL-II
  22. Power Grid-II
  23. Rajasthan Power APL-I
  24. Second National Leprosy Elimination
  25. Fajasthan DPEP-II
  26. Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme
  27. State Highway Project for Kerala, Orissa, Karnataka, UP and Tamil Nadu
  28. Karnataka Watershed Development
  29. Orissa Rural Development
  30. National Cooperative Development Corporation
  31. National Micro-Finance
  32. Uttar Pradesh Wetlands Development
  33. Andhra Pradesh Urban Poverty Reduction
  34. Community Infrastructure Pilot
  35. Calcutta Water Supply and Sewerage/Drainage
  36. Karnataka Water Supply Management and Municipal strengthening
  37. Illrd Chennai Supply
  38. Delhi Water Supply and Sanitation
  39. Gujarat Municipal Strengthening and Infrastructure
- OPEC**
1. Badaun District Hospital
  2. Capacity Building of CIPET centres for Development in Trust Areas
  3. Development of Dairy Industry in the State of Assam.

**Statement - II**

*Details of ongoing externally aided projects assisted by International Financial Institutions*

(Figures in Donor Currency in Million)

**LOANS**

Sl. No.	Loan/Grant Description - date of signing/ approval	Amount of Loan/Grant	UTILISATION Cuml, Drawal (as on 30.9.2000)
1	2	3	4
<b>ADB</b>			
1.	Railway Project - 16/12/1987	181.4	175.572
2.	Second North Madras Thermal Power - 06/12/1990	170	149.753
3-4.	Second Road - 28/05/1991	250	249.999
5.	National Highway - 22/03/1995	245	138.675
6.	Karnataka Urban Infra-structure Dev. - 10/5/1996	85	33.086
7.	Gujarat Pub. Sector Resou. Mgnt - 20/12/1996	250	150
8.	Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Dev. - 01/12/1999	250	0
9.	M.P. Public Resoruces Mangt. - 14/12/1999	250	100
10.	NTPC Unchahar Thermal Power Extn.- 01/12/1988	135	121.948
11.	IDBI Inndustrial Energy Efficiency - 30/03/1995	150	143.158
12.	PGCL Power Trans. Sector - 18/07/1996	275	170.29
13.	IREDA Renewable Energy Dev. 23/04/1997	100	28.704
14.	IFCI Private Sector Infra-structure- 14/08/1997	100	47.284
15.	ICICI Private Sector Infrastructure - 14/08/1997	150	100.049
16.	Mumbai Port - 30/09/1997	97.8	30.269
17.	Chennai Port - 30/09/1997	8.5	1.546
18.	NHB Housing Financè - 06/11/1997	100	100
19.	HUDCO Housing Finance - 06/11/1997	100	100
20.	HDFC Housing Develop-ment Finance Co. 6/11/1997	100	100

1	2	3	4
21.	LPG Pipeline - 11/12/1998	121	69.25
	<b>IBRD</b>		
1.	Nathpa Jhakri Power - 18/05/1989	485	404.503
2.	Northern Region Transmission - 03/10/1990	450	344.565
3.	Second National Highway - 18/06/1992	153	86.419
4.	Financial sector - 24/03/1995	300	250
5.	Ind Madras Water Supply - 20/11/1995	86.5	54.818
6.	Bombay Sewage Disposals - 28/12/1995	167	64.986
7.	Orissa Power Sec. Restructuring - 10/07/1996	350	92.681
8.	UP rural Water Supply & Environment Sanitation - 22/07/1996	52.4	14.804
9A.	Road infrastructure Development TA - 15/1/97	51.5	34.26
9.	AP Hazard Mitigation of Emergency 3/6/1997	60	0
10.	4166-IN A.P. Irrigation Project - 03/06/1997	175	0
11.	AP State Highway-30/07/1997	350	85.356
12.	Haryana Power Restructuring- 16/01/1998	60	33.649
13.	National Agriculture Technology - 22/06/1998	96.8	0
14.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support - 30/7/1998	79.9	0
15.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring -04.02.1999	301.3	76.482
16.	Andhra Pradesh Power Sector - 05/03/1999	210	64.218
17.	Second Tamil Nadu Urban Development-14.7.99	105	17.788
18.	Integrated Watershed Development - 14/7/1999	85	0.85
19.	UP Fiscal Reform and Public Sector - 16/5/2000	126.27	126.27
20.	U.P. Power Sector Restructuring - 19/05/2000	150	8.5
21.	PGCL Powergrid System Development - 23/03/1993	275	237.545

1	2	3	4
22.	CONSOR Container Corporation of India - 29/08/1994	82.421	23.974
23.	IDBI Industrial Pollution Prevention - 21/11/1994	93	16.823
24.	ICIC Industrial Pollution Prevention dt 21/11/1994	50	3.531
25.	IDBI Financial Sector Development dt 24/03/1995	92.5	58.581
26.	3992-0-In IL & FS Private Infrastructure-10/07/1996	200	25.134
27.	Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project dt 19/03/1998	515	222.03
	<b>IDA</b>		
1.	Forest Research Education Extension	47	34.55
2.	Shrimp & Fish Culture - 29/01/1992	36.487	22/046
3.	Maharashtra Forestry - 29/01/1992	107.82	94.244
4.	Second National Highway - 18/06/1992	163.631	160.34
5.	Bihar Plateau Development - 07/12/1992	117	81.441
6.	Rajasthan Agriculture Development - 17/12/1992	106	89.136
7.	Renewable Resources Development - 05/3/1993	115	46.745
8.	I.C.D.S. -II 23/03/1993	194	93.162
9.	Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation - 4/6/93	92	90.034
10.	UP Sodic Land Reclamation - 24/06/1993	54.7	52.349
11.	UP Primary Education - 07/07/1993	165	154.559
12.	Rubber Project - 12/08/1993	55.422	41.472
13.	Family Welfare (Urban Slum) 04/02/1994	79	36.292
14.	National Leprosy Elimination - 04/02/1994	75.933	66.188
15.	AP Forestry - 09/03//1994	77.4	70.316
16.	Water Resources Consolidation - 06/04/1994	258	156.082
17.	Cataract Blindness Control - 19/05/1994	117.8	47.252
18.	Family Welfare - 24/06/1994	88.6	45.77
19.	Industrial Pollution Prevention - 21/11/1994	25	3.233

1	2	3	4
20.	Distt. Primary Education - 22/12/1994	260.3	151.644
21.	AP Referral Health System - 22/12/1994	133	81.696
22.	Agriculture & Human Resources - 11/04/1995	59.5	36.816
23.	Madhya Pradesh Forestry - 11/04/1995	58	53.402
24.	Assam Rural Infrastructure- 06/06/1995	126	29.237
25.	T.N. Water Resources Consol. 22/09/1995	282.9	104.63
26.	Hydrology in India - 22/09/1995	142	49.214
27.	Orissa Wate Resources Consolidation - 5/1/96	290.9	139.079
28.	Ind State Health Systems Dev - 18/04/1996	350	124.79
29.	Coal Sector Env. & Social MIT -IN- 05/06/1996	63	22.213
30.	Private Infrastructure (ILOFS) - 10/07/1996	5	0.664
31.	Ind Distt. Primary Education - 15/07/1996	425.2	193.738
32.	Eco-Development - 30/09/1996	28	6.896
33.	Environmental Mangmt. Capacity Building - 14/3/97	50	6.688
34.	T.B. Control - 14/03/1997	142.4	18.414
35.	AP irrigation-III - 03/06/1997	150	87.665
36.	AP Hazarad Mitigation & Emergency Cyclon-9/7/97	100	51.277
37.	Malaria Control - 30/07/1997	164.8	25.521
38.	Reproductive and Child Health - 30.07.1997	248.3	67.618
39.	Uttar Pradesh Forestry - 30/12/1997	52.94	17.11
40.	DPEP-III - 23/02/1998	152	23.269
41.	U.P. Basic Education-II - 03/03/1998	9.4	45.813
42.	Coal Sector Rehabilitation - 19/03/1998	2	1.068
43.	National Agriculture Technology - 22/06/1998	100	9.967
44.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support - 30/07/1998	50	14.307

1	2	3	4
45.	Kerala Forestry - 13/08/1998	39	10.863
46.	Orissa Health Systems Dev. -13/08/1998	76.4	4.306
47.	Rural Women's Development - 14/09/1998	19.5	1.726
48.	Maharashtra Health System Dev. - 14/01/1999	134	3.522
49.	A.P. Economic Restructuring - 04/02/1999	241.9	56.635
50.	U.P. sodic Land-II - 04/02/1999	194.1	13.774
51.	Women & Chil Development 06/07/1999	300	10.127
52.	Rajasthan District Primary Education-6/7/1999	81.9	3.536
53.	Integrated Watershed Dev. 'Hills' - 14/07/1999	50.184	12.922
54.	National HIV/AIDS Control - 14/09/1999	194.754	17.657
55.	U.P. III D.P.E.P. - 23/02/2000	177.66	7.759
56.	Rajasthan Dist. Poverty Initiative - 11/05/2000	98.35	3.5
57.	A.P. District Poverty Initiative - 12/05/2000	111	3.6
58.	U.P. Fiscal Reform and Public Sec. 16/05/2000	122.966	122.96
59.	Economic Reform TA-19/05/2000	43.882	0
60.	UP Health Systems Development - 19/05/2000	107.223	2.5
61.	Economic Reform TA-19/05/2000	43.882	0
<b>IFAD</b>			
1.	Maharashtra Rural Credit- 01/06/1993	29.442	13.768
2.	A.P. Participatory Tribal Dev. - 13/05/1994	26.71	11.64
3.	Mewat Area Development - 29/05/1995	15.08	4.452
4.	Rural Womesn's Dev. & Empowerment-27/3/97	18.437	0
5.	North Eastern Region Community Resources - 20.05.97	27.123	1.2
<b>OPEC</b>			
1.	Rewa Hospital-08/02/1989	10	6.732

1	2	3	4
2.	Basti Distt Hospital - 04/05/1990	6.5	6.41
3.	Raichur District Hospital - 06/06/91	9	6.15
4.	Kerala Rainfed farming Dev. - 27.06/1991	10	2.971
5.	Shimla Sewerage - 21/08/1997	10	2.965
<b>GRANTS</b>			
<b>IBRD</b>			
1.	Information Development Programme - 18/8/99	0.35	0.275
2.	Telecommunications Sec. Reforms Assistance - 11/08/2000	62	0
<b>IBRD Japanese Grant</b>			
1.	Bombay Resettlement & Rehabilitation-1/9/96	67.04	44.722
2.	Environment Management - 04/09/1996	109.2	31.567
3.	Bombay Resettlement & Rehabilitation-4/9/96	16.76	0
<b>IBRD Japanese Grant</b>			
1.	Infrastructure Financing - 22/04/1997	1.5	1.205
2.	Third National Highway - 09/05/1997	2	0.821
3.	Power Sector Reform Programme - 22/01/1998	0.5	0.104
4.	West Bengal Municipal Dev. - 17/09/1998	0.927	0
5.	West Bengal Municipal Dev. - 17/09/1998	0.469	0
6.	DSM Planning in State Power Sec- 18/9/1998	0.4	0.1
7.	DSM Planning in State Power Sec. - 18/9/1998	0.4	0
<b>IBRD Norwegian Grant</b>			
1.	Integrated Agricultural Demand Side Mgmt -23/6/99	4.3	0
<b>IBRD Swiss Grant</b>			
1.	Electronic Industry Dev. Linded IBRD - 7/3/91	16.825	0.693
<b>IDA Netherlands Grant</b>			
1.	Netherlands Grant - 21.8.97	25.8	10.375
2.	Renewable Resources Development - 14/5/96	0.8	0.805

1	2	3	4
<b>IDA Swiss Grant</b>			
1.	Renewable Resources - 30/09/1993	6	4.024
<b>IDF grants</b>			
1.	Eco. Development Global Envl. Fac. 30/9/1996	20	7.269
2.	Development of Commodity Futures Market -19/05/1998	0.49	0.365
3.	Disinvestment TA 7.5.97	0.495	0.47
4.	Strengthening of Debt Management Capacity	0.475	0.42
<b>IFAD</b>			
1.	A.P. Tribal Development - 15/05/1991	7	6.122

### Disinvestment Commission

2185. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:  
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reorganised the Disinvestment Commission recently;

(b) if so, the Composition of the commission;

(c) whether the Government have framed fresh guidelines for the Disinvestment Commission; and

(d) if so, the major changes made in the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. A decision on this is yet to be taken.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### Commissioned Programmes of Doordarshan

2186. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals/requests received for the commissioned programmes of the Doordarshan in the last three years and till date;

(b) the proposals/requests accepted and rejected, year-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the some of the proposals received for the commissioned programmes are submitted by the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Such information is not maintained centrally by Prasar Bharati.

[English]

### IDBI Assistance to States

2187. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the purposes for which different States are getting assistance from the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI);

(b) the total amount of IDBI assistance obtained by each State during the last three years;

(c) whether any amount of IDBI assistance given to Orissa during these years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) provides finance for the establishment to new industrial projects as well as for expansion, diversification and modernisation of existing industrial enterprises. IDBI can finance all type of industrial concerns covered under the IDBI Act, 1964 irrespective of the size or form or location of the project.

(b) State-wise assistance sanctioned and disbursed by IDBI during the last three years are given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The details of overall assistance sanctioned and disbursed to industrial concerns in Orissa during last three years and cumulative since inception upto September 30, 2000 are given below:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Sanctions	Disbursements
1997-98	313.01	140.01
1998-99	142.40	236.41
1999-2000	46.33	*202.87
April-September 2000	356.80	107.20
Cumulative upto September 2000	3477.37	2745.64

\* Disbursements more than sanctions as these include disbursements pertaining to sanctions during the earlier years.

### Statement

State-wise assistance sanctioned and disbursed by IDBI in last 3 year – (1997-98 to 1999-2000)

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Sanc.	Disb.	Sanc.	Disb.	Sanc.	Disb.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2802.82	1785.64	1865.12	1234.76	4394.82	1692.61
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.07	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	14.56	14.71	48.12	26.30	43.43	29.92
4.	Bihar	382.87	335.17	678.30	137.65	241.50	317.37
5.	Delhi	404.88	480.71	2251.53	452.88	1927.18	13.30.84



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Goa	86.10	41.93	187.09	113.78	71.47	103.41
7.	Gujarat	3635.42	3186.00	2091.37	2340.55	4538.93	2457.47
8.	Haryana	485.57	435.21	520.24	303.42	572.84	385.24
9.	Himachal Pradesh	268.97	196.68	66.70	95.13	373.01	362.33
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.78	1.14	0.00	1.00	41.48	42.30
11.	Karnataka	1485.69	1177.11	2319.70	1292.46	1262.31	955.61
12.	Kerala	164.01	102.60	367.36	174.93	222.00	117.96
13.	Madhya Pradesh	2469.68	677.66	700.83	718.36	1122.72	658.93
14.	Maharashtra	4446.58	2793.85	5539.41	2706.37	4878.45	3583.48
15.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Orissa	313.01	140.01	142.40	236.41	46.33	202.87
20.	Punjab	354.21	338.19	546.81	525.76	1526.15	559.88
21.	Rajasthan	995.66	644.63	1020.50	864.58	778.22	680.13
22.	Sikkim	12.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	2839.56	1001.63	2532.01	1407.36	3267.34	1213.50
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	819.34	794.10	2048.73	881.05	810.94	814.61
26.	West Bengal	948.96	808.78	509.37	669.58	925.21	627.74
27.	Union Territories						
	(i) Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(ii) Chandigarh	2.90	8.17	22.70	17.60	42.36	27.86
	(iii) Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27.70	94.03	105.00	102.75	66.43	32.41
	(iv) Daman & Diu	42.75	35.73	58.78	51.31	56.00	18.05
	(v) Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(vi) Pondicherry	12.93	12.27	28.70	21.14	5.00	16.96
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23130.00</b>	<b>15111.00</b>	<b>23649.67</b>	<b>14375.13</b>	<b>27314.12</b>	<b>16211.48</b>

### Trade in Agricultural Commodities

2188. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation to remove control and restrictions on all kind of trade in agricultural commodities within the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to allow Food Corporation of India to intervene in the market to facilitate procurement of foodgrains from farmers; and

(e) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Central Government's National Policy is to treat the entire country as a single food zone for free movement of foodgrains. Some States viz. West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Jammu & Kashmir are still keeping the movement restriction on foodgrains on account of local conditions. Government has also recently advised all the States/UTs, to do away with all types of restrictions on trade and industry dealing with wheat and wheat products and also for removing restrictions, if any, on movement of foodgrains.

(d) Open sale of wheat and rice is undertaken by the Government through Food Corporation of India as and when the stock position is comfortable, and is discontinued when there are shortage of stocks in the Central Pool. Open sale of wheat and rice has been started from 11.7.2000 and 4.9.2000 respectively.

(e) The open Market prices of wheat have been fixed zone-wise as follows:

Zone	Rs./Qt.
North	650/-
South	743/-
West	724/-
East	736/-

The Food Corporation of India has resorted to tender sale of rice w.e.f. 4.9.2000 in the non-procuring States or where the procurement of paddy is negligible. In such States the FCI has offered rice to the State Governments at the rate of Rs. 950/- per quintal.

### Setting up of Cement Plants

2189. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new cement plants in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the States where these new cement plants are proposed to be set up alongwith the details of their location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

### Vacant Posts of SCs/STs in Exim Banks

2190. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Exim Bank functioning at present;

(b) the number of employees belonging to SC/ST working in the bank, category-wise;

(c) the details of the backlog of these categories so far not filled up by the bank; and

(d) the steps taken by the bank to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) According to Exim Bank, it does not have any branches. Bank has seven representative offices in India and 5 Overseas offices, apart from Head Office in Mumbai.

(b) Bank has 20 employees in Scheduled Caste category and 12 employees in Scheduled Tribe category.

(c) Exim Bank has a backlog of four posts in Scheduled Caste Category and no backlog in Scheduled Tribe Category as on date.

(d) Exim Bank has reported that the backlog in Scheduled Caste Category is due to employees in this category leaving bank for better prospects. Efforts are being made to clear the backlog.

### Area under Tobacco Cultivation

2191. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under tobacco cultivation in the State of Orissa;

(b) whether the Government of Orissa has sought any permission from the Union Government to grow tobacco; and

(c) if so, the total area proposed to be brought under tobacco cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The total area under tobacco cultivation in the State of Orissa in 1999-2000 season was 345 hectares.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government of Orissa has requested for registration of tobacco growers for 2000-2001 season.

(c) Area registered to be brought under authorised tobacco cultivation for 2000-2001 is 121 hectares.

### SEBI Guidelines to listed Companies

2192. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed the listed companies to co-opt some independent directors on their boards;

(b) if so, the details and objectives of the direction;

(c) the number of companies that have implemented the direction;

(d) whether some companies have raised objections against the said order; and

(e) if so, the number of such companies and the nature of the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had directed the exchanges to incorporate a new clause on corporate governance in the listing agreement. This clause requires listed companies to maintain a certain percentage of independent directors on Board of Directors to, *inter alia*, ensure greater independence of the Board in decision making and ensure better protection of investors.

(b) SEBI has set up a Committee on corporate governance under the Chairmanship of Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla with the objective of strengthening and raising standards of corporate governance of listed companies. The recommendations of the Committee were grouped into two categories, namely, mandatory and non-mandatory recommendations. The mandatory recommendations are being implemented through amendments to the listing agreements of stock exchanges. These include, *inter alia*, the composition of the board of directors with an optimum mix of executive and non-executive independent directors. Board procedures, compliance report on corporate governance etc. It is expected that introduction of these measures will ensure greater independence of the Board in decision making, help to raise standards of functioning of corporate and enhance investor protection.

(c) Listed companies are required to implement the directions in a phased manner. All companies seeking listing for the first time are required to implement them at the time of listing whereas those in Group A of BSE or in S & P CNX Nifty by 31st March, 2001.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### World Bank Loan

2193. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sectors for which the Government had requested loans from the World Bank during the recent visit of the Chairman, World Bank of India;

(b) the sectors alongwith the amount of loan agreed to be sanctioned by the Chairman;

(c) the beneficiary States of this loan; and

(d) by when the World Bank is likely to extend the above loan to India and the rate of interest likely to be charged on this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Government did no request for loan for any specific sector during the recent visit of President, World Bank of India.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

### Visit of Business delegation from Japan

2194. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level business delegation from Japan visited India as a follow up of recent Japanese PM's visit to India;

(b) if so, the main discussions held with the Japanese delegation;

(c) whether information technology was one of the main agenda discussed; and

(d) if so, the extent to which India and Japan have agree to improve the mutual trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister to India in August 2000 discussions were held to expand further the bilateral relations between India and Japan in a comprehensive manner. The Japanese Prime Minister had also visited Bangalore with a view to establishing closer cooperation in the field of information technology. During their visit the Electronic and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) and Japan System House Association (JASA) has signed Memorandum of Understanding to further boost business relations between the two countries in the area of electronics, information technology and related service.

### Panchayat in PDS

2195. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions in order to streamline the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details of modalities worked out for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the social audit concept in Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Based on the belief that truly democratic

institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has advised the State Governments to more substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

(b) and (c) The Government has issued detailed guidelines for involvement of PRIs including *inter alia* the following measures :

- (i) List of BPL beneficiaries to be displayed at Fair Price Shops and offices of Gram Panchayats.
- (ii) Entrusting the Gram Panchayat for inspection of the FPS records and to keep a close watch on the day to day functioning of FPS.
- (iii) Gram Panchayats to be responsible for checking of ration cards for its genuineness and correct entries of units therein.

### Repair to Kutch TV Tower

2196. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-functioning of Kutch TV tower, the Indian viewers are forced to view Pakistan television programmes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps have been taken by the Government to make the tower functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Directions to States for FDI

2197. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the State Governments to ensure faster implementation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects in order to ensure higher actual inflows of FDI into the country;

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

(c) the status of these projects, State-wise?



**Statement***Summary information State-wise*

Sr. No.	Non reporting States	Total No. of FDI Cases
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
3.	Assam	4
4.	Chandigarh	26
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	23
6.	Daman & Diu	22
7.	Delhi	1088
8.	Goa	87
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
10.	Lakshadweep	1
11.	Manipur	1
12.	Meghalaya	4
13.	Nagaland	1
14.	Pondicherry	52
15.	Tripura	1
16.	Others	2786
Total (non-reporting States)		4108

**Sale of IDPL**

2198. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:  
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided in principle to sell the IDPL to a private party;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the concrete measures taken before taking this decision for the revival of this unit; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the interests of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

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

**Metropolitan Area Network System**

2199. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has decided to introduced Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) system in the selected cities to assist policy holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cities selected by LIC in this regard;

(c) the criteria adopted to select such cities; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve LIC's functioning all over the Country?

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

(b) LIC has informed that they have already introduced Metro Area Networking in 8 Cities viz. Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Bangalore and Ahmedabad. In the current financial year LIC propose to cover 33 more cities viz. Nasik, Nagpur, Thane, Ernakulam, Kanpur, Agra, Nellore, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Patna, Indore, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Goa, Madurai, Bareilly, Lucknow, Vijayawada, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Cuttack, Jabalpur, Surat, Vadodara, Coimbatore, Trivandrum, Allahabad, Mysore, Visakhapatnam, Jaipur, Jamshedpur, Guwahati and Bhopal.

(c) Cities with 5 or more Branches have been selected for being networked.

(d) To further improve its functioning, LIC has taken steps to increase application of Information Technology, modification of existing systems and procedures and enhancing the human resource capabilities to meet the changed requirements.

[Translation]

**Surplus Stock with Sugar Mills**

2200. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar lying in godowns of various sugar mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that sugar mills are facing problems due to non-lifting of the stock;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are also aware of the fact that farmers are unable to pay their bank loans due to non-payment of their arrears by the sugar mills; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove the problems of sugar mills in the country particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Due to high level of production of sugar during the last two consecutive seasons 1998-99 and 1999-2000 there has been accumulation of stocks with the sugar industry. A Statement showing state-wise stocks of sugar held by the sugar mills as on 15.10.2000 is enclosed.

(d) and (e) The Central Government have not received any report about the defaults of bank loans by the farmers due to the non payment of their arrears by the sugar mills. In order to improve the financial position of the sugar mills, the Government have taken the following measures:

- (i) Levy obligation of the sugar factories has been reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 01.01.2000.
- (ii) To restrict the inflow of imported sugar in the country, the custom duty on imported sugar has been increased to 60% alongwith the existing countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne.
- (iii) The policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market is being pursued through judicious releases of free sale sugar quotas.
- (iv) Advance releases of free sale sugar are being made to the needy sugar factories to enable them to pay cane price dues.
- (v) An export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar has been allowed.

The cane price arrears of the sugar mills for the season 1999-2000 of the State of U.P. has come down to Rs. 7595.00 lakhs as on 28.11.2000 which is 1.86 per cent of the total amount payable to the farmers.

### Statement

State/Zone wise stocks of sugar as on  
15 October, 2000

(Provisional)  
(Figures in Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Zone/State	Stock
1.	Punjab	187256
2.	Haryana	216386
3.	Rajasthan	17697
4.	West UP	607836
5.	Central UP	977024
6.	East UP	574478
7.	Madhya Pradesh	43330
8.	South Gujarat	438059
9.	Saurashtra	45335
10.	South Maharashtra	1076988
11.	North Maharashtra	979343
12.	Central Maharashtra	1369079
13.	North Bihar	173486
14.	South Bihar	0
15.	Assam	3291
16.	Andhra Pradesh	569502
17.	Karnataka	935499
18.	Tamil Nadu	1105921
19.	Kerala	8458
20.	Orissa	25812
21.	West Bengal	3552
22.	Nagaland	0
23.	Pondicherry	22802
24.	Goa	5751
All India Total		9386882

### Smuggling of Fake Currency Notes

2201. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 986 dated July 28, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information sought has since been collected;

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

(c) the time by when the information is likely to be collected by the Government?

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

[English]

### Income Tax Notices to Schools

2202. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax department has sent notices to several schools, asking that the cost of free education be added to teachers salaries and taxes be paid on this;

(b) if so, whether the same treatment is meted out to all high officials in public and private sectors who are enjoying all sorts of perquisites;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The value of perquisites including the value of any benefit or amenity granted or provided free of cost or at concessional rate by any employer to an employee, is taxed as per section 17 of the Income Tax act, 1961 read with Rule 3 of Income Tax Rules, 1962. This is uniformly applicable to all the employees in Public and Private Sector who enjoy perquisites.

(d) In view of (b) & (c) above, the question does not arise.

### FDI Proposals

2203. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investment has declined during the first half of the current financial year as compared to the corresponding period last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of proposals received from abroad for Foreign Direct Investment during the above period, Sector-wise;

(d) the number of proposals approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board during the said period in the country particularly the proposals approved for Rajasthan State;

(e) the number of proposals rejected by FIPB; and

(f) the reasons for rejections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) No Sir. A total number of 922 proposals envisaging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of Rs. 23,679.35 crore during the period 1.4.2000 to 30.9.2000 against 881 proposals envisaging FDI of Rs. 10,926.59 crore during the corresponding period of last financial year were received and approved by the Foreign investment Promotion Board (FIPB). Sector-wise Statements of FDI approved during the period from 1.4.2000 to 30.9.2000 and corresponding period of last financial year are given in enclosed Statement - I and II respectively. A total inflow of Rs. 10,535.81 crore has been received during the period from 1.4.2000 to 30.9.2000 against total inflow of Rs. 5212.07 crore received during the corresponding period in the previous year. During this period, 8 proposals envisaging FDI of Rs. 95.88 crore against 11 proposals envisaging FDI of Rs. 147.03 crore during the corresponding period of last year have been approved for the State of Rajasthan.

(e) and (f) The consideration of FDI proposals is a continuous process and in case any such proposal is rejected on the policy grounds, the applicant is given an opportunity to revise the proposal. The revised proposal is considered by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIP B) and recommended if it fulfils the Policy parameters.



**Statement I**

*Sector-wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration approved during the Post-Policy period from (01/04/1999 to 30/09/1999)*

(Amt. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	No. of Approval			Amount of FDI Approved	% to Total Amount Approved
		Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1.	Transportation Industry	115	39	76	3008.17	27.53
2.	Fuels	78	28	50	2128.64	19.48
3.	Electricals Equipment	241	32	209	1617.87	14.81
4.	Metallurgical Industries	30	17	13	774.30	7.09
5.	Hotel & Tourism	35	10	25	716.69	6.56
6.	Chemicals other than Fertilizers	68	23	45	552.90	5.06
7.	Service Sector	65	6	59	324.82	2.97
8.	Telecommunications	52	1	51	247.53	2.27
9.	Textiles (includ Dyed. printed)	41	5	36	227.81	2.08
10.	Consultancy Services	53	6	47	208.90	1.91
11.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	67	25	42	190.32	1.74
12.	Miscellaneous Industries	84	15	69	189.85	1.74
13.	Glass	6	2	4	158.00	1.45
14.	Industrial Machinery	50	19	31	95.18	0.87
15.	Paper and Pulp including Paper product	6	1	5	93.82	0.86
16.	Machine Tools	17	7	10	89.2	0.82
17.	Food Processing Industries	25	1	24	64.81	0.59
18.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	5	0	5	48.30	0.44
19.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	23	12	11	44.11	0.40
20.	Trading	30	1	29	36.21	0.33
21.	Boilers and Steam generating plants	4	2	2	28.00	0.26
22.	Ceramics	11	4	7	26.07	0.24
23.	Leather, Leather goods and packers	4	0	4	18.20	0.17
24.	Commercial, office & household equipment	3	2	1	13.50	0.12
25.	Photographic raw film and paper	3	0	3	6.86	0.06
26.	Dye-Stuffs	1	0	1	4.50	0.04
27.	Rubber goods	16	8	6	4.37	0.04
28.	Medical and surgical appliances	5	0	5	3.72	0.03
29.	Glue and Gelatin	2	0	2	1.20	0.01
30.	Cement and Gypsum products	3	2	1	1.00	0.01
31.	Soaps, cosmetics and toilet preparations	2	1	1	0.50	0.00
32.	Scientific instruments	1	0	1	0.30	0.00
33.	Agricultural machinery	3	2	1	0.18	0.00
34.	Industrial Instruments	5	2	3	0.14	0.00
35.	Earth-moving machinery	2	0	0	0.00	0.00
36.	Mathematical, surveying and drawing	1	1	0	0.00	0.00
37.	Fertilizers	3	3	0	0.00	0.00
38.	Fermentation Industries	2	2	0	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>10926.59</b>	

**Statement-II**

*Sector-wise break-up of Foreign Direct Investment and Technical Collaboration approved during the Post-Policy period from (01/04/2000 to 30/09/2000)*

(Amt. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	No. of Approval			Amount of FDI Approved	% to Total Amount Approved
		Total	Tech.	Fin.		
1.	Telecommunications	57	2	55	8251.78	34.85
2.	Electricals Equipment	322	30	292	6677.60	28.20
3.	Fuels	66	19	47	3677.24	15.53
4.	Metallurgical Industries	27	11	16	1753.48	7.41
5.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	40	12	28	648.86	2.74
6.	Transportation Industry	89	24	65	599.29	2.53
7.	Service Sector	69	3	66	362.69	1.53
8.	Cement and Gypsum Products	3	0	3	290.75	1.23
9.	Hotel & Tourism	25	6	19	278.73	1.18
10.	Chemicals (other than fertilizers)	56	24	32	210.93	0.89
11.	Miscellaneous Industries	87	16	71	189.65	0.80
12.	Trading	37	0	37	171.60	0.72
13.	Textiles (includ dyed, printed)	33	5	28	126.94	0.54
14.	Food Processing Industries	25	6	19	99.72	0.42
15.	Consultancy Services	35	3	32	84.60	0.36
16.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	6	2	4	80.06	0.34
17.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	61	25	36	78.47	0.33
18.	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	3	0	3	43.27	0.18
19.	Leather, Leather goods and Pickers	4	0	4	24.03	0.10
20.	Agricultural Machinery	4	0	4	18.00	0.08
21.	Timber Products	3	0	3	15.90	0.07
22.	Commercial, Office & household Equipment	4	0	4	8.76	0.04
23.	Scientific Instruments	2	0	2	4.00	0.02
24.	Fermentation Industries	4	1	3	3.47	0.01
25.	Machine Tools	7	1	6	2.13	0.01
26.	Industrial Instruments	5	2	3	2.01	0.01
27.	Ceramic	9	2	7	1.84	0.01
28.	Glass	5	1	4	0.82	0.00
29.	Rubber goods	5	2	3	0.64	0.00
30.	Glue and Gelatin	2	1	1	0.23	0.00
31.	Earth-moving Machinery	5	4	1	0.10	0.00
32.	Photographic raw Film and Paper	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
33.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	1	0	1	0.00	0.00
34.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	3	2	1	0.00	0.00
35.	Industrial Machinery	38	17	21	-28.24	-0.12
Total		1143	221	922	23679.35	

### Production of CNG Vehicles

2204. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage and promote production of CNG driven vehicles and for conversion of existing vehicles into CNG driven vehicles, as a policy, instead of the proposed ban on plying of old vehicle;

(b) if so, the policy, of any, adopted in this regard; and

(c) the steps so far taken in popularisation of CNG vehicles and the progress made so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) Government is encouraging CNG driven vehicles by levying a concessional rate of Customs Duty on Import of CNG kits. The Supreme Court of India in the matter of M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India and others vide their order dated 28th July, 1998 *inter alia* directed Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi that (i) No 8 year old buses to ply except on CNG or other clean fuels, (ii) Entire city bus fleet (DTC and Private) to be steadily converted to singly fuel mode on CNG. Accordingly Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken steps both for introduction of new buses using CNG as fuel as well as exploring the possibilities of retrofitment of CNG conversion of in-use buses. Society of Indian Automobile Manufactures (SIAM) has reported that two 3-wheeler manufacturers are producing CNG 3-wheeler and two commercial vehicle manufactures have started production of CNG bus chassis and are supplying to Delhi Transport Corporation. Some car manufacturers are also supplying cars running on CNG for private/commercial use. Several companies are developing CNG conversion kits.

### Measures to Improve Financial System

2205. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the measures taken by RBI recently to improve financial system in the country and its actual impact on markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : The Reserve Bank has undertaken various measures to improve functioning of various segments of the financial system in the process of financial sector reforms. NBFCs form an important segment of the financial system.

The RBI Act was amended in January 1997 by effecting comprehensive changes in Chapters III-B, III-C and V of the Act vesting more powers with the Reserve Bank for compulsory registration of all existing and newly incorporated NBFCs for commencement and carrying on financial business, of giving Directions to the NBFCs and their Auditors, filing winding up petitions against erring NBFCs and imposing penalty directly on them in case of non-compliance with statutory and other provisions etc. As a built-in safeguard, the NBFCs are required to maintain liquid assets as a percentage of their deposits liabilities, and create a reserve fund and transfer at least 20 per cent of their net profits to such reserve fund to strengthen their owned funds base.

The Bank has put in place a strong supervisory framework for overseeing the implementation of the provisions of the RBI Act and Regulatory Framework. This includes subjecting the NBFCs to the scrutiny of their applications to determine their eligibility as per the criteria enunciated in the RBI Act for issue of a Certificate of Registration, on-site inspections for ascertaining the level and quality of adherence by the entities inspected to the regulatory norms prescribed by RBI in relation to deposit taking activities, quality of assets, capital adequacy etc., off-site surveillance and market intelligence system. The Statutory Auditors of NBFCs have also been assigned a particular role to report directly to the Bank the irregularities, if any, noticed by them in the working of an NBFC.

RBI has developed a comprehensive four pronged mechanism to effectively supervise the NBFCs. This involves (a) on-site inspection of NBFCs; (b) off-site monitoring of NBFCs through periodic control returns using state-of art information technology; (c) an effective market intelligence network and (d) a system of submission of exception reports by auditors of NBFCs.

In January 1997 the unincorporated entities engaged in financial business have been banned from taking deposits from public except from the specified relatives, banks/financial institutions, corporate bodies viz., companies, corporations established under any law or cooperative societies.

The major impact of stipulating strict entry point norms, was that the Bank was able to check the haphazard growth in the number of companies. Out of about 38,000 applications received for certificate of registration, the bank has issued registration to only about 700 companies with authorisation to accept public deposits and to about 9900 companies without authorisation to accept public deposits. The Bank has attempted to contain systemic risk to improve the performance of the financial system.

**VRS in MAMC**

2206. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the value of assets of the six Public Undertakings which have been declared closed by the Government;

(b) the manner in which these assets are likely to be disposed off; and

(c) the decision taken by Government in regard to the employees of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation who have not opted Voluntary Retirement Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The book value of net fixed assets as on 31.3.2000 of the six Public Sector Undertakings for which action has been initiated for closure is as follows:

(Rupees in crores)		
Sl. No.	Name of th PSU	Book value of net fixed assets
1.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation (MAMC)	12.98
2.	National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd. (NBCIL)	0.51
3.	Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited (RIC)	0.99
4.	Weighbird India Limited (WIL)	0.05
5.	Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Limited (BPMEL)	0.17
6.	Tannery & Footwear Corporation (TAFCO) (as on 31.03.1999)	3.28

(b) Disposal of assets is undertaken as per relevant procedures/provisions under the law.

(c) On closure, Compensation to the employees will be paid as provisions of ID Act, 1947.

**Financial Crisis In Orissa**

2207. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa is facing financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Government of Orissa for financial assistance to solve its financial crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Some States including Orissa were frequently faced with periodic ways and means problems in their day to day cash management. Requests were received from time to time for additional assistance/advance release of entitlements for the year/postponement of repayment of loans due from the States. The Union Government through a combination of feasible releases helped the State from time to time to overcome the cash imbalance.

**Joint Action Committee of Air India Union**

2208. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Action Committee of Air India Union has opposed the proposed 26% foreign stake;

(b) if so, their views on disinvestment of Air-India; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Joint Action Committee of Air India has given some suggestions in regard to the disinvestment process relating to: transparency; asset valuation; status as Designated International Air Carrier; retaining name, logo & mascot; employees' interest safeguards etc. These suggestions have been noted for consideration keeping in view all aspects and ramifications of the issue in its entirety.

[Translation]

**Cases pending with Anomaly Committee**

2209. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the grade-wise, Minister-wise/ Department-wise cases of anomalies in pay scales pending with the Anomaly Committee constituted in his Ministry after the implementation of Fifth Pay Commission's report;

(b) the reasons for delay in taking a decision in regard thereto; and

(c) the time by which decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) The Departmental Anomaly Committee for the Ministry of Finance was constituted on 16.2.2000. The Committee was required to receive cases of anomalies through the Leader of the Staff Side of the Departmental Council, upto six months from the date of its constitution (i.e. upto 16.8.2000). No case of anomaly was received through the Leader, Staff Side, within this period. Hence, the question of any case pending with the Anomaly Committee, does not arise.

[English]

#### **Vacancy of Posts of Prasar Bharati**

2210. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the top posts of Prasar Bharati are lying vacant for the past few months;

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

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled in?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Board level vacancies in Prasar Bharati have not been filled up mainly for want of finalisation of service conditions of these posts and a decision on the recommendations of the Review Committee on the working of Prasar Bharati. A request has been made to the Chairman of the Selection Committee to recommend names for filling up the posts of Chairman and part-time Members on Prasar Bharati Board. The vacancies of Member (Personnel) and Member (Finance) will be filled up after a decision on the recommendations of the Review Committee about the said posts is taken. Recruitment Rules for the posts of DG (AIR) and DG (Doordarshan), to be filled up by Prasar Bharati, are being finalised.

#### **Headquarters of IRDA at Hyderabad**

2211. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have requested the Union Government to establish the

Headquarters of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) at Hyderabad to further strengthen the efforts in making Hyderabad an important financial hub in the country;

(b) if so, whether the request of Andhra Pradesh has been considered by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Government has received requests from several State Governments including Andhra Pradesh to locate the headquarters of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority in their State. However, it has been decided for the present to continue with the location of the same in New Delhi.

[Translation]

#### **Free Trade Zones**

2212. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:  
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government have given special attention to the setting up of free trade zones in the country;

(b) if so, the areas which have so far been covered under the programme;

(c) the total number of zones set up in Maharashtra;

(d) whether the Government are formulating any scheme for increasing the number of free trade zones in Maharashtra and in other States; and

(e) if so, the location-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) As per the Export and Import Policy 'Free Trade Zones' (FTZs) and 'Export Processing Zones' (EPZs) are synonymous terms. As on 31.3.2000, the Government has set up seven Export Processing Zones in the country at Kandla, (Gujarat), Santacruz, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Cochin (Kerala), Falta, (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

(d) and (e) In the Export and Import Policy (1997-2002) incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.2000, the Government has announced a policy for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the country. There is no proposal to set up any new EPZ/SEZ by the Central Government. However EPZs/SEZs may be set up in the private, joint sector or by the State Governments. Existing EPZs can also be converted into SEZ. Approval has been given for setting up of SEZs as per details given below :

## SEZs

Name of the State Government/ Joint/Private sector	Location of SEZ
Government of Maharashtra	Dronagiri (Maharashtra)
Government of Orissa	Paradeep (Orissa)
Government of West Bengal	Kulpi (West Bengal)
Government of Uttar Pradesh	Bhadohi (U.P.)
Government of Andhra Pradesh	Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)
Government of Tamil Nadu	Nanguneri (Tamil Nadu)
Gujarat Positra Port Infra-structure Ltd.	Positra (Gujarat)

The EPZs at Santa Cruz, Kandla and Cochin have been converted into Special Economic Zones with effect from 1.11.2000. A private sector EPZ AT Surat has also been converted into an SEZ w.e.f. 1.11.2000.

[English]

### Drug Trafficking

2213. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the busiest operating areas for the drug trafficking and the movement of Narcotic substances in the world;

(b) if so, which parts of the country has been identified as the high drug trafficking zones;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check these vulnerable points and to curb drug trafficking; and

(d) the seizures made during the last three years, in these drug trafficking zones, year-wise, zone-wise and quantity and market value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, due to India's proximity to the major opium producing regions - the South-West Asian region near the Western borders and the South-East Asian region near the Eastern borders - makes India prone to illicit trafficking.

(b) The Indo-Pakistan border is the most sensitive area for drug trafficking. However, other areas like the Indo-Myanmar border, the Indo-Nepal border and Indo-Sri Lanka border are also identified as sensitive regions.

(c) Significant steps taken by the Government to prevent and check smuggling of narcotic drugs include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, gearing up of intelligence machinery, vesting powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border, holding of periodic cross border meetings in which representatives of Indian and Pakistani narcotic agencies are present, entering into a comprehensive bilateral agreement with Government of Myanmar for preventing illicit drug trafficking and stringent action against all persons arrested for drug trafficking under the NDPS Act.

(d) Details of seizures made during the last three years as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies in the country, drug-wise and year-wise are given below. It is not possible to indicate the seizures etc. made zone-wise as the statistics are maintained for the country as a whole. Since all narcotic drugs confiscated are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists, no precise valuation can be made. However, an assessed valuation has been given against each.

(Quantity in Kgs, and Value in Rs. lakhs)

Sl. No.	Type of Drug	Year 1997		Year 1998		Year 1999	
		Qty.	Assessed Value	Qty.	Assessed Value	Qty.	Assessed Value
1.	Opium	3316	331.6	2031	223.4	1635	196.2
2.	Morphine	128	140.8	19	22.8	36	46.8
3.	Heroin	1332	2664.0	655	1637.5	861	2583.0
4.	Ganja	80886	808.6	68221	750.4	40113	481.4
5.	Hashish	3281	492.2	10106	1617.0	3391	576.5
6.	Cocaine	24	480.0	0.730	16.1	1.086	26.1
7.	Methaqualone	1740	208.8	2257	316.0	474	75.8

### Loan to Sikkim

2214. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the loan sought by the State Government of Sikkim for various projects during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount of loan granted to the State during the above period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No Specific request seeking loan for various projects during each of the last three years has been received from the Government of Sikkim by Ministry of Finance. However, Ministry of Finance provided central assistance to Government of Sikkim in a consolidated manner in the form of block loans and block grants for financing their annual plans as approved by the Planning Commission. The amount of loan provided to the Government of Sikkim during each of the last three years is as follows:

Year	Rs. in crores
1997-98	20.96
1998-99	24.94
1999-2000	30.33

### Protection of Interest of Depositors Act

2215. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India issued directions to the State Governments and Union Territories to enact legislation on the line of Tamil Nadu Protection of interest of Depositors' Act;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued to the States and the Union Territories by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) to what extent these States have agreed to enact legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported they have, in January, 1998, advised the State Governments/Union Territories to enact a legislation to protect the interest of depositors from unscrupulous unincorporated bodies on the lines of Tamil Nadu Protection of Interests of depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, 1977.

(c) RBI have reported that so far three States, namely, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Assam apart from Tamil Nadu have enacted the Depositors' Protection Acts. The States of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi have initiated action for enactment of such an Act and the same are under various stages of finalisation.

### National Housing Bank

2216. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank for grant of loan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount of ADB loan likely to be sanctioned;

(c) whether similar agreement or any such other agreement has been made by NHB with any financial institution in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the amount of loan received and disbursed by NHB till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) . (a) and (b) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved financial assistance to the extent of US \$ 40 million (Equivalent to Rs. 180 crores) to National Housing Bank under the Housing Finance II Project. The loan is yet to be signed and declared effective. The features of the ADB loan are as under:

- (i) *Interest Rate*: The provisions for market based loans and ordinary capital rate loan charges are 1% front-end fee, progressive commitment fee of 0.75% & fixed spread of 0.6% over the 6 month LIBOR.
- (ii) *Tenure*: The loan is to be amortised over a period of 25 year including a grace period of five years
- (iii) *Guarantee*: The ADB loan is to be fully guaranteed by the Government of India for the repayment of both principal and interest. The guarantee fee chargeable is yet to be confirmed.

(c) and (d) The NHB has entered into an agreement with ADB during 1997-98 for borrowing a sum of US \$ 100 million (equivalent Rs. 467 crores) under Housing Finance Project which was fully guaranteed by the Government of India and the entire loan proceeds were drawn and utilised by NHB during 1998-99

### Refinancing to Co-operative Banks

2217. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government Guarantees are necessary for investment credit and refinance to cooperative banks processed by NABARD;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by NABARD to improve financial health and standards of weak Cooperative Credit Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Under Section 28 of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Act, 1981 Government Guarantee is mandatory for refinance from NABARD under investment credit to banks in Co-operative sector. Accordingly, NABARD insists on State Government guarantee where the same is a requirement under the relevant provisions of the NABARD Act. State Government Guarantee is also stipulated by NABARD for providing refinance on behalf of DCCBs not complying with the provision of Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (requirement of minimum share capital of Rs. 1 lakh). This is being done as cooperation is a state subject and State Governments have the administrative/managerial control over cooperatives.

(c) NABARD has reported that it has taken various initiatives to improve the financial position and standard of weak cooperative credit institutions. Some of the important initiatives include introduction of a system of preparation of Development Action Plan by Cooperative Banks, granting financial assistance from Cooperative Development Fund for provision of infrastructure facilities like safe, counters, etc. and establishment of business development department, providing financial support to State Government for contribution to the share capital of cooperative credit institutions, providing concessional refinance to cooperative banks for seasonal agricultural operations, compilation of data of cooperative banks and issue of publications, providing financial assistance for appointment of financial analyst for quality approval of loan proposals, etc.

### Indo-China Trade Relations

2218. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese Government has shown keen interest in reviving business relations with India;

(b) if so, whether any initiative is being considered by the Government to improve the trade relations with China;

(c) if so, whether any agreements have been signed with China;

(d) if so, the extent to which the trade relations with China is likely to improve; and

(e) the exact volume of increase in trade with China after the visit of Indian businessman to china last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (e) Both Chinese and Indian Governments have shown interest in improving the trade relations between the two countries. Commerce and Industry Minister had visited China in Feb., 2000, to attend the Sixth Session of Indo-China Joint Economic Group on Economic Relations and Trade, Science and Technology (JEG). During the meetings with his counterpart, developments in the field of economic relations and trade were also reviewed and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed for increased cooperation in the field of metallurgy. Both sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of power, energy, transportation, telecommunication, information technology, electronic commerce, agriculture, drugs and pharmaceuticals. Figures of India's trade with China are given below:

(US\$ Million)		
Year	Export	Import
1998-99	427.15	1096.71
1999-2000*	547.82	1292.81
Apr.-Aug., 1999*	180.51	463.45
Apr. Aug., 2000*	287.32	574.66

\*Provisional.

### Investment in Government Securities

2219. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector banks are investing in Government securities;

(b) if so, the money invested by public sector banks, bank-wise as on date and the extent to which the same exceeds the prescribed limit; and

(c) the reasons for investing money in Government securities in excess of the prescribed limit?



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

(b) The details of investments of the 27 public sector banks, bank-wise, on SLR securities as on 20th October, 2000 (inclusive of Government Securities), indicating the

excess/shortfall in relation to the amount of SLR required to be maintained, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) These investments help the banks in deployment of their deposit resources gainfully and are made on commercial considerations. The securities provide safety, liquidity and interest income.

**Statement**

*Maintenance of daily average Statutory Liquidity ratio for the fortnight ended October 20, 2000*

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Amount of SLR required to be maintained	Amount of SLR actually maintained	Excess/shortfall Average	Percentage of excess SLR of NDTL
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Public Sector Banks :</i>					
1.	State Bank of India	52093.35	79050.95	26957.60	12.94
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	2650.61	4401.23	1750.62	16.51
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	3499.37	5985.09	2485.72	17.76
4.	State Bank of Indore	1515.75	2599.95	1084.20	17.88
5.	State Bank of Mysore	1970.08	2883.60	913.52	11.59
6.	State Bank of Patiala	2595.00	3858.64	1263.64	12.17
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1633.00	2341.86	708.86	10.85
8.	State Bank of Travancore	2896.00	5001.43	2105.43	18.18
9.	Allahabad Bank	4566.29	8548.81	2082.52	11.40
10.	Andhra Bank	3877.66	7741.19	3863.53	24.91
11.	Bank of Baroda	11715.90	13445.49	1729.59	3.69
12.	Bank of India	10234.59	10884.68	650.09	1.59
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	3582.64	8058.31	2475.67	17.28
14.	Canara Bank	10098.30	14636.09	4537.79	11.23
15.	Central Bank of India	9655.77	13350.43	3694.68	9.57
16.	Corporation Bank	3684.72	4371.24	685.52	4.66
17.	Dena Bank	3920.01	4540.48	620.47	3.96
18.	Indian Bank	4692.00	5204.07	512.07	2.73
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	6304.82	8114.77	1809.95	7.18
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	6028.26	8114.87	1986.61	8.24
21.	Punjab National Bank	13342.96	20867.72	1524.76	14.10
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2721.17	3279.24	558.07	5.13
23.	Syndicate Bank	5565.71	6828.85	1263.14	5.87
24.	Union Bank of India	8294.12	9639.53	1345.41	4.06
25.	United Bank of India	4454.57	7221.27	2766.70	15.53
26.	UCO Bank	4689.18	5105.04	415.86	2.22
27.	Vijaya Bank	2043.55	3167.61	324.06	2.85
<b>Total of Public Sector Banks</b>		<b>189125.38</b>	<b>265242.44</b>	<b>76117.06</b>	<b>10.06</b>

### Trade Agreement with Hongkong

2220. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hong-Kong has expressed its willingness to extent mutual cooperation and support to the State of Andhra Pradesh in various fields including information technology;

(b) if so, whether any trade delegation from Hong-Kong visited Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether any agreement has been signed with Hong-Kong for improving the trade with India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) (a) During the visit of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu on 26-27 October 2000, Hong Kong authorities expressed interest in co-operation with India in the field of Information Technology, including Students Exchange Programme, utilising offshore capabilities of Indian IT Parks, etc.

On 24 February 2000, India and Hong Kong have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in Information Technology and Services.

(b) to (d) No trade delegation from Hong Kong has visited Andhra Pradesh since the visit of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu.

[Translation]

### Central Disinvestment Commission

2221. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reports presented by Disinvestment Commission so far;

(b) the action taken so far on each report; and

(c) the time likely to be taken in implementation of the remaining recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b)

The Disinvestment Commission has submitted 12 reports in which it has made certain general recommendations applicable to all CPSUs and specific recommendations in regard to disinvestment in 58 CPSUs. The recommendations made by the Commission in these CPSUs and the present status are as follows:

	No. of CPSUs for which the Disinvestment Commission made recommendations	No. of CPSUs for Government has taken decision
1. Strategic sale	29	18
2. Trade sale	8	7
3. Offer of shares	5	3
4. Closure	4	3
5. No disinvest-ment/deferment	12	14
	58	45

Out of the remaining 13 CPSUs, Government has decided for transfer of equity to another CPSU in 1 case, revival/financial restructuring in 1 case, offering voluntary retirement scheme in 2 cases. No decision has been taken in 9 cases.

(c) Disinvestment in CPSUs is a continuous process and is done through an intensive process of consultations, keeping in view various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the Company, terms and conditions of sale, interest shown by the investors and advice rendered by the advisors. Hence, time likely to be taken in implementing all the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission cannot be precisely estimated.

[English]

### Nationalised Banks

2222. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain parameters have been drawn up by the Government to categorise nationalised/public sector banks as "strong" and "weak" banks;

(b) if so, the name and number of public Sector Banks which have been placed in the "strong" and "weak" categories, separately; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to revive weak banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Working Group on restructuring of Weak Public Sector Banks, set up by the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) in consultation with the Government of India, prescribed seven parameters for assessing a bank's strength/weakness. Based on the seven parameter criteria, the Working Group categorized public sector banks in three categories :

- Category-1: Banks where none of the seven parameters are met;
- Category-2: Banks where all the parameters are met; and
- Category-3: Banks where some of the seven parameters are not met.

The three public sector banks, namely, Indian Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India were kept in Category-1, two banks, namely, Oriental Bank of Commerce and State Bank of Patiala were kept in Category-2 and the remaining 22 public sector banks were kept in Category-3 as on 31.3.1999.

(c) In accordance with Government's directions, the three identified weak public sector banks have submitted Restructuring Plans for 2000-01 to 2002-03 which include Organisational Restructuring, Operational Restructuring, technology Upgradation, Human Resources Management including Voluntary Retirement Scheme and Financial Restructuring.

### **Coffee plantation**

2223. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extent coffee production and plantation to areas which have not grown coffee yet;

(b) whether large potential exists in some State, which are suitable for coffee plantation;

(c) whether the Coffee Board has not made a serious effort to find coffee varieties suitable for lands in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether existing coffee planters are preventing the Coffee Board from increasing coffee production in new areas; and

(e) the steps proposed to enhance coffee production in new areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coffee Board, through survey conducted by it, has identified areas suitable for coffee cultivation in the North-Eastern States and States of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

(c) the Coffee Board, through research studies conducted in the Regional Coffee Research Station at Ragavendra Nagar, Vishakapatnam District and in the Coffee Demonstration Farm at Minimulluru also in Vishakapatnam District of Andhra Pradesh, has already identified coffee varieties which are best suited for cultivation in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) To enhance coffee production in new areas, specially in the NE States, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the Board has been implementing a Special Area Programme for the development of coffee, during the 9th Five Year Plan. The Scheme envisages production increase through expansion of coffee areas and consolidation of existing coffee holdings through vacancy filling to maintain optimum plant population per acre and other intensive cultivation measures. The Scheme also aims at creating infrastructure for coffee processing in the tribal sector to ensure production of good quality coffee. The Board provides a subsidy of Rs. 15,000/- per ha. for expansion and consolidation of coffee both in NE Region and Non-Traditional States of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

### **Price rise of Onions**

2224. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any effective steps to control the price rise of Onions in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its effect on the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has maintained a close watch on the prices and availability of onion in the country and imposed quantitative restrictions on its export. The permission for export were granted after assessing the production prospects of each crop and also taking into account the interests of both farmers and the consumers. During the last one year, the prices of onion, by and large, have remained at reasonable levels in the country

[Translation]

### **Assets of Chief Ministers**

2225. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total assets of Chief Ministers of various States in the country during the last three years and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : Income-tax Department does not maintain data regarding total assets of the Chief Ministers of the various States in the country. Collection of such data is a laborious task and is also time consuming. With the raising of exemption limit for wealth tax return to Rs. 15 lakhs and several classes of assets not being taxable like one residential house, bank deposits etc., the wealth tax return will not be a true picture of total assets of an individual.

12.01 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Salaries, Allowances and other conditions of Service of Chairman, Whole-time Members and Part-time Members Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 863(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2000 under section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India), Act, 1990.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2477/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
  - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working for the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 1999-2000.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited, Noida, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General, thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2478/2000]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Co-

operative consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2479/2000]

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2480/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Food Corporations (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 765(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2000, under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2481/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Food Corporation of India (Staff) (2nd Amendment) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. E.P. 36(1)/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2000 under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporation Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2482/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : On behalf of Dr. Vallabhabhai Kathiria, I beg to lay on the Table:

A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the companies Act, 1956:

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working Bharat Heavy

Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2487/2000]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2483/2000]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the Hindustan Paper Corporation, Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation, Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2484/2000]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2485/2000]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2486/2000]

- (e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2488/2000]

- (b) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2489/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

- (1) S.O. 746(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 2000 making certain amendments in the Order published in Notification No. S.O.266(E) dated the 23rd March, 2000.
- (2) S.O. 1001 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2000 notifying the Sikka

Papers Limited, Muzaffarnagar, as a mill producing newsprint.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2490/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 995 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2000 approving General Insurance Corporation of India as the "Indian Reinsurer" to carry on reinsurance business in India, issued under section 101 A(8) (ii) of the Insurance Act, 1938.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2491/2000]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 996(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2000 rescinding the Notification No. S.O. 770 (E) dated the 29th December, 1972 issued under section 35 of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 192.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2492/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999:

- (i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Salary and Allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and other members) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 841 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2000.
- (ii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Conditions of service of Officers and other employees) regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./8/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2493/2000]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938:

- (i) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) Regulations, 2000

published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./8/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2000.

- (ii) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Preparation of Financial Statements and Auditor's Report of Insurance Companies) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg./8/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2494/2000]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 9 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:

- (i) The Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Second Amendment) Scheme, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 934 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2000.
- (ii) The Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Second Amendment) Scheme, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 935 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2495/2000]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

- (i) G.S.R. 872(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the scheme of assessment of excise duty on the basis of retail price of products and also to provide for abatement from the retail sale price, *inter alia*, towards excise duty and other taxes.
- (ii) G.S.R. 873(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to allow excise duty at the concessional rate of rupee 3100 per metric tonne on trimmed or untrimmed sheets or circles of copper, intended for use in the manufacture of handicrafts or utensils and tariff rate of excise duty on other goods.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2496/2000]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:

- (i) G.S.R. 790(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 653 (E) dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (ii) G.S.R. 691(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 555 (E) dated the 22nd June, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2497/2000]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under General Insurance (Business) Nationalisation Act, 1972:

- (i) S.O. 780 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 587(E) dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (ii) S.O. 781 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 588(E) dated the 22nd June, 2000.
- (iii) S.O. 782 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 2000 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 589(E) dated the 22nd June, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2498/2000]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993:

- (i) The Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (Procedure for appointment as Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 645 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2000.
- (ii) The Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (Procedure for appointment as Presiding Officer of the Tribunal) Amendment Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 646 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2499/2000]

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sections 3 and 8 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993:

- (i) G.S.R. 524(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2000 establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Mumbai to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.
- (ii) G.S.R. 647(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2000 establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Hyderabad to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.
- (iii) G.S.R. 257(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2000 establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Calcutta to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.
- (iv) G.S.R. 258(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2000 establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Chandigarh to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.
- (v) G.S.R. 259(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2000 establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Ernakulam to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.
- (vi) G.S.R. 260(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2000 establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Guwahati to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.
- (vii) G.S.R. 397(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 1999 establishing the Debts Recovery Tribunal at Ernakulam to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.
- (viii) G.S.R. 498(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2000 establishing the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal at New Delhi to exercise jurisdiction within the area specified in the notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2500/2000]

- (11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:
- (i) The Goods Imported (Conditions of transshipment) Amendment Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 781 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2501/2000]
- (ii) G.S.R. 867 (E) Published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 50/2000-Cus., dated the 27th April, 2000.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2502/2000]
- (12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:
- (i) G.S.R. 802 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to appoint Chairperson, India Trade Promotion Organisation, as designated authority until further orders.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2502/2000]
- (ii) G.S.R. 869(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on polyester films of specified grades, originating in or exported from Korea RP and Indonesia at the rates recommended by the designated authority.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2502/2000]
- (13) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2000 together with Auditor's Report thereon:
- (i) Indore Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ujjain.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2503/2000]
- (ii) Mewar Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Udaipur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2504/2000]
- (iii) Bhilware Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhilwara.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2505/2000]
- (iv) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2506/2000]
- (v) Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Monghyr.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2507/2000]
- (vi) Dewas Shahpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dewas.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2508/2000]
- (vii) Shekhawati Gramin Bank, Sikar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2509/2000]
- (viii) Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Bharuch.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2510/2000]
- (ix) Howrah Gramin Bank, Howrah.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2511/2000]
- (x) Hindon Gramin Bank, Ghaziabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2512/2000]
- (xi) Rewa Sidhi Gramin Bank, Rewa.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2513/2000]
- (xii) Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank, Godhra.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2514/2000]
- (Xiii) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2515/2000]
- (xiv) Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hazaribagh.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2516/2000]
- (xv) Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank, Bolangir.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2517/2000]
- (xvi) Chikmagalur Koidagu Grameena Bank, Chikmagalur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2518/2000]
- (xvii) Tulsi Gramin Bank, Banda.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2519/2000]



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| (xviii) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2520/2000]                | (xxxii) Solapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Solapur.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2534/2000]            |
| (xix) Arawali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Swai Madhopur.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2521/2000]   | (xxxiii) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2535/2000]             |
| (xx) Hissar Sirsa Kshetiya Gramin Bank, Hissar.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2522/2000]       | (xxxiv) Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Begusarai.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2536/2000]        |
| (xxi) Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sultanpur.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2523/2000]     | (xxxv) Chhindwara Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chhindwara.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2537/2000] |
| (xxii) Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2524/2000]                  | (xxxvi) Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank, Golaghat.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2538/2000]                    |
| (xxiii) Yavatmal Gramin Bank, Yavatmal.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2525/2000]               | (xxxvii) Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Samastipur.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2539/2000]     |
| (xxiv) Uttarbanga Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Cooch Behar.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2526/2000] | (xxxviii) Vidisha Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Vidisha.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2540/2000]   |
| (xxv) Sough Malabar Gramin Bank, Mallapuram.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2527/2000]          | (xxxix) Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gopalganj.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2541/2000]        |
| (xxvi) Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Palamau.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2528/2000]        | (xl) Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Churu.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2542/2000]                |
| (xxvii) Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2529/2000]  | (xli) Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gorakhpur.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2543/2000]          |
| (xxviii) Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kanpur.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2530/2000]        | (xlii) Balasore Gramy Bank, Balasore.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2544/2000]                      |
| (xxix) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Surguja.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2531/2000]        | (xliii) Barabanki Gramin Bank Barabanki.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2545/2000]                   |
| (xxx) Bhagirath Gramin Bank, Sitapur.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2532/2000]                 | (xliv) Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank, Dumka.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2546/2000]                |
| (xxxi) Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin Bank, Ambala.<br>[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2533/2000]        |   |

- (xlv) Chaitanya Grameena Bank, Guntur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2547/2000]
- (xlvi) Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhagalpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2548/2000]
- (xlvii) Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gramin Bank, Chandrapur.  
[Placed in Library. See LT 2549/2000]
- (xlviii) Vindhyaasini Gramin Bank, Mirzapur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2550/2000]
- (xlix) Farrukhabad Gramin Bank, Farrukhabad.  
[Placed in Library. See LT 2551/2000]
- (l) Shivpur Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shivpuri.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2552/2000]
- (li) Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Allahabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2553/2000]
- (lii) Bundi Chittorgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bundi.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2554/2000]
- (liii) Basti Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Basti.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2555/2000]
- (liv) Bareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bareilly.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2556/2000]
- (lv) Baitarani Gramya Bank, Banipada.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2557/2000]
- (lvi) Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jagdalpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2558/2000]
- (lvii) Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Tikamgarh.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2559/2000]
- (lviii) Bijapur Grameena Bank, Bijapur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2560/2000]
- (lix) Cauvery Grameena Bank, Mysore.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2561/2000]
- (lx) Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Morena.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2562/2000]
- (lxi) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gonda.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2563/2000]
- (lxii) Damoh Panna Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Damoh.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2564/2000]
- (lxiii) Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Faizabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2565/2000]
- (lxiv) Gwalior Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Datia.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2566/2000]
- (lxv) Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gurdaspur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2567/2000]
- (lxvi) Godavari Grameena Bank, Rajahmundry.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2568/2000]
- (lxvii) Gurgaon Gramin Bank, Gurgaon.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2569/2000]
- (lxviii) Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kota  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2570/2000]
- (lxix) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2571/2000]
- (lxx) Kisan Gramin Bank, Budaun  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2572/2000]
- (lxxi) Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hosangabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2573/2000]
- (lxxii) Kalahandi Anchalik Gramya Bank, Bhawanipatna.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2574/2000]

- (lxxiii) Koraput Panchabati Gramaya Bank, Jaypore.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2575/2000]
- (lxxiv) Marathwada Gramin Bank, Nanded.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2576/2000]
- (lxxv) Mallabhum Grameena Bank, Bankura.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2577/2000]
- (lxxvi) Malaprabha Grameena Bank, Dharwar  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2578/2000]
- (lxxvii) Nagarjuna Gramin Bank, Khammam.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2579/2000]
- (lxxviii) Netravati Grameena Bank, Mangalore.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2580/2000]
- (lxxix) North Malbar Gramin Bank, Kannur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2581/2000]
- (lxxx) Nalanda Gramin Bank, Biharshariff.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2582/2000]
- (lxxxi) Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pithoragarh.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2583/2000]
- (lxxxii) Pratapgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Pratapgarh.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2584/2000]
- (lxxxiii) Puri Gramya Bank, Puri  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2585/2000]
- (lxxxiv) Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raigarh  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2586/2000]
- (lxxxv) Rushikulya Gramya Bank, Berhampur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2587/2000]
- (lxxxvi) Sravasthi Gramin Bank, Bahraich.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2588/2000]
- (lxxxvii) Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank, Himatnagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2589/2000]
- (lxxxviii) Sagar Gramin Bank, Calcutta  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2590/2000]
- (lxxxix) Sharda Gramin Bank, Satna.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2591/2000]
- (xc) Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Azamgarh.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2592/2000]
- (xci) Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Anantapur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2593/2000]
- (xcii) Sree Rama Grameena Bank, Nizamabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2594/2000]
- (xciii) Shahjahanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shahjahanpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2595/2000]
- (xciv) Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chapra.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2596/2000]
- (xcv) Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Shahdol.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2597/2000]
- (xcvi) Surendranagar Bhavnagar Gramin Bank, Surendranagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2598/2000]
- (xcvii) Subansiri Gaonlia Bank, North Lakhimpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2599/2000]
- (xcviii) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2600/2000]
- (xcix) Vaishalin Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2601/2000]
- (c) Visveshvaraya Grameena Bank, Mandya.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2602/2000]

- (ci) Mizoram Rural Bank, Aizwal.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2603/2000]
- (cii) Saryu Gramin Bank, Lakhimpur Kheri.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2604/2000]
- (ciii) Sri Visakha Grameena Bank, Srikakulam.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2605/2000]
- (civ) Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chaibasa.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2606/2000]
- (cv) Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank, Nalbari.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2607/2000]
- (cvi) Shri Venkateswara Grameena Bank, Chittoor.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2608/2000]
- (cvii) Sangbameshwara Grameena Bank, Mehboobnagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2609/2000]
- (cviii) Kolar Gramin Bank, Kolar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2610/2000]
- (cix) Faridkot Bathinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bathinda.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2611/2000]
- (cx) Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Purnea.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2612/2000]
- (cxi) Ptliputra Gramin Bank, Patna.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2613/2000]
- (cxii) Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank, Dehradun.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2614/2000]
- (cxiii) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Murshidabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2615/2000]
- (cxiv) Marwar Gramin Bank, Pali.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2616/2000]
- (cxv) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2617/2000]
- (cxvi) Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandla.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2618/2000]
- (cxvii) Kapurthala Firozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kapurthala.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2619/2000]
- (cxviii) Akola Gramin Bank, Akola.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2620/2000]
- (cxix) Manjira Gramin Bank, Sangareddy.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2621/2000]
- (cxx) Jhabua Dhar Kshetiya Gramin Bank, Jhabua.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2622/2000]
- (cxxi) Prathama Bank, Moradabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2623/2000]
- (cxxii) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Drug.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2624/2000]
- (cxxiii) Alaknanda Gramin Bank, Pauri (Garhwal)  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2625/2000]
- (cxxiv) Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank, Valsad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2626/2000]
- (cxxv) Muzaffarnagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2627/2000]
- (cxxvi) Kakathiya Grameena Bank, Hanamkonda.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2628/2000]
- (cxxvii) Nainital Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Nainital.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2629/2000]
- (cxxviii) Kashi Gramin Bank, Varanasi.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2630/2000]

- (cxxxix) Cachar Gramin Bank, Silchar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2631/2000]
- (cxxx) Ratlam Mandasaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ratlam.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2632/2000]
- (cxxxii) Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshiarpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2633/2000]
- (cxxxiii) Varada Grameena Bank, Kumta.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2634/2000]
- (cxxxiiii) Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2635/2000]
- (cxxxv) Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank, Arah.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2636/2000]
- (cxxxvi) Vidur Gramin Bank, Bijnore.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2637/2000]
- (cxxxvii) Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bilaspur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2638/2000]
- (cxxxviii) Tungabhadra Gramin Bank, Ballary.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2639/2000]
- (cxxxix) Banskantha Mahsana Gramin Bank, Patan.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2640/2000]
- (cxl) Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhiwani.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2641/2000]
- (cxli) Raebareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raebareilly.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2642/2000]
- (cxlii) Krishna Grameena Bank, Gulberga.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2643/2000]
- (cxliii) Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Fatehpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2644/2000]
- (cxliiii) Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2645/2000]
- (cxliiii) Gomti Gramin Bank, Jaunpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2646/2000]
- (cxliiii) Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Etawah.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2647/2000]
- (cxliiii) Nadia Gramin Bank, Krishnagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2648/2000]
- (cxliiii) Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank, Jamnagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2649/2000]
- (cxliiii) Alwar Bharatpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Alwar  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2650/2000]
- (cxliiii) Junagarh Amreli Gramin Bank, Junagarh.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2651/2000]
- (cl) Sri Ganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sriganganagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2652/2000]
- (cli) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2653/2000]
- (clii) Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Karbi Anglong.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2654/2000]
- (cliii) Buldana Gramin Bank, Buldana.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2655/2000]
- (cliv) Bhandara Gramin Bank, Bhandara.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2656/2000]
- (clv) Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank, Aurangabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2657/2000]
- (clvi) Kanakadurga Gramin Bank, Guddivada.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2658/2000]

- (clvii) Champaran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Motihari.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2659/2000]
- (clviii) Avadh Gramin Bank, Lucknow.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2660/2000]
- (clix) Manipur Rural Bank, Imphal.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2661/2000]
- (clx) Magadh Gramin Bank, Gaya.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2662/2000]
- (clxi) Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Madhubani.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2663/2000]
- (clxii) Sahyadri Gramin Bank, Shimoga.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2664/2000]
- (clxiii) Rajgarh Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sehore.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2665/2000]
- (clxiv) Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaiantia, Shillong.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2666/2000]
- (clxv) Cuttack Gramya Bank, Cuttack.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2667/2000]
- (clxvi) Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mithila.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2668/2000]
- (clxvii) Parvatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2669/2000]
- (clxviii) Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank, Karimanagar.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2670/2000]
- (clxix) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2671/2000]
- (clxx) Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighat.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2672/2000]
- (clxxi) Golconda Grameena Bank, Hyderabad.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2673/2000]
- (clxxii) Kutch Gramin Bank, Bhuj.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2674/2000]
- (clxxiii) Rayalseema Grameena Bank, Cuddapah.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2675/2000]
- (clxxiv) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2676/2000]
- (clxxv) Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2677/2000]
- (clxxvi) Bardhaman Gramin Bank, Burdwan.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2678/2000]
- (clxxvii) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2679/2000]
- (clxxviii) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank, Birbhum.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2680/2000]
- (clxxix) Thar Anchalik Gramin Bank, Jodhpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2681/2000]
- (clxxx) Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Narsinghpur.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2682/2000]
- (14) A copy of the Thirteenth Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year ended the 31st March, 2000 under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2683/2000]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

- (16) Statistical Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2684/2000]

12.03 hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Eleventh Report

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken on One Hundred Tenth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Appropriation Accounts of Union Government for 1993-94.

12.03½ hrs.

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

#### Second Report

[English]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit (Thirteenth Lok Sabha).

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Pramod Mahajan ji are present here. We are demanding increasing the allocation under MPLADS from Rs. two crore to Rs. four crore but it is not being accepted... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak after Papers are laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.04 hrs.

### BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, with your permission, I would like to inform the House that following official business will be taken up in the House during the week beginning Monday, December 4, 2000.

1. Any item left over from today's list of business.

2. Discussion on statutory resolution seeking approval of notification to amend the second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act so as to increase export duty leviable on hides, skins and leathers tanned and untanned all sorts, but not including manufactures of leathers following under heading No. 14 of the second schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, from 25% to 60%.

3. Discussion on the statutory resolutions seeking disapproval of the following ordinances and discussion and passing of the Bills to replace these ordinances:

- (a) The Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000; and

- (b) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment), Ordinance, 2000.

4. Discussion and passing of the following Bills in the form originally passed by Rajya Sabha:

- (a) The Judicial Administration Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2000; and

- (b) The Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000.

5. Discussion and passing of the following Bills after their passing by the Rajya Sabha:

- (a) The Chit Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

- (b) The Salaries, Allowances, Leave and Pensions of Officers and Servants of the Delhi High Court Bill, 1994.

- (c) The Salaries, Allowances, Leave and Pensions of the Officers and Servants of the Supreme Court Bill, 1994.

## 6. Discussion and passing of the following Bills:

- (a) The protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Bill, 1999.
- (b) The Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000.
- (c) The Insurance Laws (Transfer of Business and Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2000.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The following matters may kindly be included in the next week's list of Business:

1. Globalisation and its impact on small scale industries of this country.
2. Change in the recruitment system of Civil Service Examination.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvathupuzha): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Rubber cultivators in India are in total distress due to steep fall in price. The Government should grant an aid of Rs. 300 crore to save farmers. Synthetic rubber and polyurethane import should be stopped completely.
2. Many Indians are dying due to consumption of spurious liquor. Stern action should be taken including new legislation to control such liquor use.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. There is a need to set up accident-cum-emergency ward with full-fledged blood bank facilities manned by specialist doctors to save road traffic victims along all the national highways, particularly in my constituency at Attur and Namakkal which witnessed major accidents recently.
2. There is a need to take urgent measures to control pollution in Cauvery river in the stretch of Salem, Erode, Karur and Trichy districts in Tamil Nadu due to discharge of untreated effluents water from dyeing factories, Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited, Tanneries, and other industrial units located nearby the above mentioned districts.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : I request the following items may be included in the next week's Business:

1. Women's Reservation Bill.
2. Withdraw the price hike on petroleum products, rice and wheat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir the Manjhad - Malegaon, Nardana new railway line should be sanctioned.

Bhyamb keswara, Dawaleshwar, Saprasranggad, Saputara, Hadgad, Karanji in Nasik district should be recognised as tourist places or pilgrim centre.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Sawai Madhopur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit to the Government that the ground level in Rajasthan is going down every year as a result of scanty rainfall. It may lead to serious calamity. Rajasthan has a number of rivers and canals where 'anicut' and dams are required to be constructed.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): The following items may be included in next week's agenda.

1. Today is the World Aid's Day, and the House must take up a discussion to bring awareness about AIDS and measures for prevention of AIDS, through education and mass campaign to fight and control this syndrome.
2. There is a need to strengthen the campaign for blood donation to tap the millions of volunteers who do not get the right motivation or facility for donating blood and make the country self sufficient in precious blood.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): I request the following items may be included in the next week's business:

1. Formation and implementation of integrated price policy so as to ensure remunerative prices of agricultural produce and their parity with industrial goods.
2. Rehabilitation and recruitment of all the persons displaced due to Damodar Valley Corporation and Subarnarekha multi-purpose irrigation projects in Jharkhand State.



12.10 hrs.

## RE. REPORTED KILLING OF PEOPLE IN ASSAM BY THE MILITANTS

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta): Sir, an incident that occurred last night in Bongaigaon, Assam, was the latest in the series of this type of mass killings that are going on for the last three months. In that single incident, 18 people were killed and 24 persons were grievously injured. This type of massacre involve not just one group of people but the Bengali Hindus, the Muslims and the Biharis. These are the people who are targeted. In the last three months, as many as six mass killings of this type have taken place. Repeatedly, attention of the State Government was drawn to this but there is no visible effect. In the background of such mass killings, the Home Minister must enlighten the House about the gravity of the situation, which has threatened peace and tranquillity of a large section of the society. *(interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER: All of you can join him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, I fully endorse what my colleague has just now said. We had drawn the attention of the House to this fact earlier also and Speaker, Sir, you had also agreed to have a discussion on it. The other day, the hon. Minister also assured us in the House to do something in this regard. I would like to have a positive response from the Government today because such incidents have not stopped. It has become a fashion in Delhi to say that Assam is going in the way of Kashmir. We should work together to solve the problem. A positive action was taken only once when Shri Chander Shekhar was the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, the Home Minister must make a statement on this because such incidents are happening every day.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question has been raised in the House many a time. Everyday newspapers report killings in Assam. It appears that Assam Government is totally incapable of tackling the situation. It is a matter of regret that even after raising of the issue many times in the House, no initiative has been taken by the Central Government to improve the situation in the State. I admit that the issue is the responsibility of the State Government but it is also the responsibility of the Central

Government to advise the State Government, warn it if required and if situation so requires to take drastic steps in the matter. Because giving security to the people is the primary duty of State Government. Assam Government is incapable of discharging its duty and if the Central Government also turns blind eye, then, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you to instruct the Central Government to inform the House about action taken in this regard. It would send a message to the people that the House is concerned about their safety.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bandyopadhyay, you can also associate with him.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, I have something else to submit. My constituency in Calcutta is full of Hindi-speaking people. I would like to submit that Hindi-speaking people, in particular, are being killed at random by the extremists. It is not that we are alleging the involvement of State Government in it. In the incident that occurred yesterday, out of 18 people massacred one was a Bengali. What is happening is, people of Marwari Community, who dominates trade and industry to a certain extent, are being murdered at random. So, at this moment, it is necessary that the Central Government should extend its cooperation to the State Government to resist these extremists so that the Hindi-speaking people of Assam feel protected.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is replying.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Minister is replying.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (Nagaon): What is happening in Assam is a matter of concern but the House should also recognise the necessity of investigation the links of extremists with various political parties. The attention of the House should be drawn towards this subject also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPALANI (Chittorgarh): In Assam the people worst affected are the Marwaris of Rajasthan. Their families are anxious and they are fleeing from the place, leaving behind their properties. They are being abducted...*(Interruptions)* Ransom is being demanded...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir last week also this issue was raised in the House following some incidents in Assam and I had stated that I would draw the attention of hon'ble Home Minister towards it. I had discussed the issue with hon'ble Home Minister. Unfortunately, similar incidents have taken place again and the hon'ble Members have once again raised the issue. Sontosh Mohan Debji, Chandra Shekhar ji and Sudip ji have made submissions about the issue. If you want to discuss the issue in any form, the Government is ready. If you want, I can also request the hon'ble Home Minister to give a statement on the issue before House adjourns for the day on Monday. On the basis of that, you can decide future course of action. Since today is Friday and it will be difficult for the hon'ble Home Minister to provide full information to the House today, therefore, with the permission of House, the hon'ble Home Minister will give full information to the House regarding action taken or proposed on the issue before House adjourns for the day on Monday...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the serious resentment and agitation that is going on in Manipur because of the increased activity of the insurgents and also because of the alleged misuse of the provisions of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. Sir, some young ladies are on young strike which has roused the sentiments of the people. Sir, reportedly a large number of people, particularly women, are now supporting this hunger strike. It is now spreading and it is causing tremendous resentment. I may flare up into a serious law and order situation because some serious complaints are being made about the misuse of the emergency powers, apart from unchecked activities of the insurgents.

Sir, this young lady is a non-political figure who has started this hunger strike and others are also joining her in large numbers. Therefore, this is a matter where the question of insurgency is also involved. I request the Government to look into it and at least, make an appeal through appropriate sources to this young girl and her supports to withdraw the strike because it may escalate into a serious law and order problem that is my request.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I will convey this to the Home Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Sir, today is the World AIDS Day and I feel that the whole House should be concerned about it. Today, if we go through the official data of the entire country, then we will find that the HIV is creating a very grave situation in India. According to the official data, today more than 37 lakhs adults are infected with AIDS and I think the actual data could be much more. The data says that the maximum people infected by AIDS are between the age group of 18 to 40. The Prime Minister also expressed his concern about it in his address from the historic Lal Qila in the year 2000. He had said that 'fast spreading HIV' and AIDS disease has become a serious challenge for our country. I appeal to all the sections of our society to participate wholeheartedly in increasing the awareness about this epidemic. They should also bring necessary changes in their behaviour so that this disease can be controlled.

Sir, I would only like to say that Ministry of I & B can educate more and more people about AIDS through Doordarshan but it is our misfortune that we are not conveying much through various channels and Doordarshan about this discussion. Secondly, we can communicate messages through advertising on all the postal material such as post card, envelopes etc. Thirdly we can encourage more and more NGO's and fight against AIDS.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, you can also associate with Shri Vijay Goel because your notice is also on the same subject.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra): That is right, Sir. But I just want to mention a few lines.

MR. SPEAKER : What for do you want to say a few lines?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Today is the World AIDS Day and I think the whole House would associate itself with this issue because it is an issue which concerns the whole world. AIDS in India is spreading like an epidemic. Mostly it is the youth in the age group between 18 and 40 years which is being affected by this disease. We must create more awareness, we should take the House into confidence and spread the message in the country today. The whole House stands consolidated on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: The whole House is supporting your views.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): We want a debate on this. We should have at least an Half-an-Hour Discussion. The whole House should adopt a Resolution and spread it out in the country.

SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR (Thiruvananthapuram): I would like to raise a matter of importance regarding the construction of an International Airport in Trivandrum. As part of the developmental activities at Trivandrum Airport it was decided to construct a new International Terminal there. As sch, the foundation stone for the new terminal was laid by the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation in May, 2000. But, so far the construction has not been started.

12.23 hrs.

[ MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair* ]

Secondly, the landing facility for Jumbo Jet flights at Trivandrum Airport is also required to be provided. But, no action has been taken by the Civil Aviation Ministry so far in this regard. On the occasion of the foundation stone laying ceremony the hon. Minister announced that the landing facility will be introduced very soon. But no action has been taken so far. Therefore, I would request the Civil Aviation Ministry to give directions to start construction of the new terminal and start the Jumbo Jet flight services.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): We are also associating with Shri V.S. Sivakumar in this issue.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): We all want to support the issue regarding the second terminal and the Jumbo Jet landing facility.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. You are allowed to associate yourselves with the issue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chrayinkil): I am associating myself with the views expressed by Shri V.S. Sivakumar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed you to associate yourself with the issue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Petroleum of Government of India towards the paucity of cooking gas in my area, Bhojpur, district Shahabad. Last time also, I had raised this question in the House but this Government did not pay any attention. This Government says that make it free and give it to all. But the problem is that, there is only one distributor there and which already has 31000 consumers. The consumers have to wait for months for refilling but even then sometimes they do not get cooking gas. Therefore it promotes black marketing. It has also come to the notice that, this distributor says that he has influenced the departmental people in his favour. No matter how much

you complaint, no other agency is going to start there. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. Through you I would like to know that by when the Government will start other agency there. That region consists of 26-27 lakh people but they don't have fuel to cook. No jungal is there, therefore, they don't have firewood and thus, a grave problem of fuel for cooking exists there. The kerosene oil is being sold in black market there. I want that Minister of Petroleum should immediately open a couple of agencies there so that people can get relief and black marketing of kerosene should be stopped... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am raising a very important matter regarding fishermen community in the coastal areas of India.

As I understand, the Kerala Government had sent a proposal to the Eleventh Finance Commission for a project for the development of the fishermen community. In the first place, there must be a provision for nearly thousands of buildings for the occupation of fishermen. Secondly, there is an acute problem of drinking water that has to be solved. Thirdly, there is lack of communication. There are no roads. All these issues will have to be taken care of as a result of the implementation of this project. This project is pending with the Finance Commission for a long time. No action has been taken in this regard. But it is reported that they are considering it. In Spite of our repeated representations, nothing has been done in this direction to better the conditions for the fishermen who are doing a service to the nation. They are making not only foreign exchange but also the best food available in the country. It is definitely supplied by the fishermen residing in the coastal areas of India.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take up the matter immediately with the Eleventh Finance Commission and necessary recommendations should be made to better their conditions which are presently bad even after more than 50 years to Independence.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Sir, during the last session, very intensive discussion was held in the House about match fixing issue and at that time hon. Minister had assured that wherever the report will be finalised by the CBI he will table it in the Parliament. But before tabling it hon. Minister made the report public and even two weeks before making it public the contents of this report was leaked to press. Even today, when we go through a newspaper we find that although almost five meetings of board have taken place after CBI inquiry but no decision has been taken. CBI says that it cannot

prosecute any player. It has been undergoing like a trial in media from the very beginning and the names of people were also surfacing in media but nobody was in a position to prosecute them, and more or less the same situation prevails even now. Now, the report given by the CBI says that they are unable to prosecute players. Hon'ble Minister of Finance was also sitting here when I had said, that Enforcement Directorate should get the papers regarding income of these players to find out whether the allegation made on them, for having the assets more than their income is true or not. But the way this matter has been treated lightly till date is a matter of serious concern.

The forty percent people of our country are below 40 in age and this is the only sport which is watched by everybody. Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government that they should take immediate decision on this issue so that people could know more about it.

**SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central):** Strict action should be taken against the people involved in match fixing.

[English]

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** You are allowed to associate with what Shri Kirti Jha Azad has said.

[Translation]

**SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the problem of my constituency Andaman and Nicobar Islands which is similar to that of Lakshdweep. The farmers' main source of income in both the islands is, the production of coconut and betel-nut. The Government fixes the support price for the purchase of coconut in Andaman and Nicobar. Almost four thousand hectare of land in Andaman and Nicobar is used for the cultivation of betel-nut. Its production is 6100 metric tonnes. The retail prices of betel nut last year was Rs. 70 to 100 per kg. The price of betel nut has come down to Rs. 30 to 40 per kg. this year. I think that Lakshdweep is also facing the same situation. In such a situation the overall condition of farmers has become very grave. My request is that the Government should also fix the support price for the purchase of betel-nut in Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshdweep as was done in the case of coconut...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

**DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram):** Sir, they are not allowing me to speak. I am raising one important and serious issue...*(Interruptions)* Thousand of acres of land are flooded with water. I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad):** Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have given a notice regarding the scam of billions of rupees in awarding scholarships to students of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes and my name is on fourth number...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I am going according to the list.

[Translation]

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will not make you angry. Shri Ramji Lal Suman is saying again and again that his name is on fourth number. You please check that list. If his name is on fourth number then please give him opportunity to speak.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will give opportunity but his name is not there in the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Mulayam Singh Ji, there is difference in giving opportunity and inclusion of name after giving proper notice. If you ask for both the things there it will create problem.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** You can check it from the office. If the notice is not there then I will not press for that. If the notice is there and some shortcoming is there then kindly tell about this...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Give me some time. I will call him, after calling the people whose names are included in the list. Why are you pressurising me. You must see it at least.

**SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have submitted the notice personally...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV :** If he has given the notice and there is fault on part of the office then you please get it checked...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** If he had submitted then it should be here.

**SHRI VIJAY GOEL :** You might have given it late.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV :** That was submitted in time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have got two matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. If everyone questions why his name has not been called out and I keep on explaining then Zero hour will just go in vain. I am calling out names as per the list. When your turn comes I will call your name.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Whether his name is there or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The name is there, but it is at the last.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Govindan, I am on my legs. Can you not see this?

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the recent floods, in the Sendhamangalam Assembly constituency of my constituency, a bridge, which is connecting the Kolli Hills with the rest of the districts, has been completely washed away...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Allegations have been made in his notice, which is not permissible. Despite this, we accommodate it. How will I manage if the Members do not cooperate.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You may give an opportunity, if you wish. It is not a simple issue, it relates to embezzlement of lakhs of rupees. It involves the matter relating to permission of scholarship and other facilities to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students. Billions of rupees have been embezzled. Therefore, in view of its importance, he should be given an opportunity to speak.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, in the Sendhamangalam Assembly constituency of my constituency, a bridge at Karavalli, which connects the Kolli Hills with the rest of the districts, has been completely washed away. As a result of this, the life of the tribal people of the Kolli Hills has come to a standstill. Hundreds of cattle perished in Sanglithottam, Royakottai and Belukurichi and many

dwelling huts were damaged in these areas as also the surrounding areas....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Prof. Premajam, what happened to you? You cannot do like this.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, I would like to request the House to know two things very politely and humbly. Notices are given to the Secretariat up to Ten of the Clock to raise urgent and important matters in the 'Zero Hour'.

Chronological order is not followed. Some Member gives notice at 9 o'clock and some other Member gives it at 9.15 a.m., and so on. All notices are given and accepted up to 10 o'clock...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : It has to be numbered...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You cannot have a horizontal list....(Interruptions) Please let me explain it to the House. That is why, I am humbly suggesting and it is for the House to decide. Some other Member have given a suggestion to solve this problem. He was suggesting that one to 100 notices of the hon. Members will be allowed to make a 'Zero Hour' submission on Monday; 101 to 200 notices to be allowed on Tuesday, and so on and so forth...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri T. Govindan, what is this?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : What I am trying to tell is that all the notices are included in the list and then a list has to be prepared. This list is on the priority of neither on the number given to the notice nor on the issue. This list is just to assist the Chair to know as to who has given the 'Zero Hour' notices, and the Chair judiciously decided it. It does not go by chronological order. Those who have spoken yesterday may be given a chance to speak on the matter today. I think, to have maximum people to be given a chance to speak in Zero Hour, we will have to cooperate with the Chair. That is my humble request...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Kurup, what is this?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : According to rules, anybody giving notice at 8 o'clock and at 9.59 a.m. are equal...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. A.K. Premajam, you always get up. What is this? Hon. Members, will you take

\* Not recorded.

your seats. Kindly cooperate with the Chair. I am telling you that the moment you give notices, a number is given.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri T. Govindan, what is this?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : What the Chair is saying and what the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is saying are different...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The moment notices are given, a number is given. According to the registration of your number, the list is drawn.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, please ask your Members to not to interrupt time and again like this.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Members of my party do not behave like this. If they are instigated, they will definitely get annoyed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am telling about the Members sitting behind you.

[English]

Shri A.C. Jos, you were the Speaker of Kerala Assembly. Would you put whatever names you get, just like that?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): Today whatever is happening in the State Assembly is different ...(Interruptions) If that is not so, kindly give a clarification...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You put number according to the time you receive the notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not the place to discuss that.

I called Dr. V. Saroja.

...(Interruptions)

DR. V. SAROJA : May I request the Government to allocate Rs. 100 crore to construct a bridge and to carry out other rehabilitation measures? The Kolli hills, where tribal people live, have totally washed away during the recent floods. The life has come to a standstill. Will the Government consider a grant of Rs. 50 lakhs from the Natural Calamity Relief Corpus to undertake immediate rehabilitation measures...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a large number of Bengali speaking people are not able to see the Doodarshan programmes in Bengali language transmitted from Calcutta and Asansol Doodarshan Kendras. A Very Low Power Transmitter Centre has been set up in Bagmundi in the district of Purulia, but this does not fulfill the aspirations of the people. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to convert this Very Low Power Transmitter Centre at Bagmundi to High Power Transmitter Centre so that the people of the district of Purulia can see the Bengali programmes.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the Finance Minister is present here today. The low import duties on many of our agricultural products like rubber, coconut, tea, coffee etc. are affecting our farmers very much and, so they have to be increased. There are no WTO restrictions, especially on agricultural products like coconut, where the Government can raise the import duty upto 300 per cent. Unless the Government raises it upto 300 per cent now, it cannot do it later because they will have to bring it down after 2005. So, I would suggest that the Government should raise the import duty on these items.

Sir, there are loopholes in the WTO Agreement, but the Government of India is not using them. Unless the Government used them, the farmers of India will be put to a very great loss. As far as rubber is concerned, the price of rubber was Rs. 70 earlier and it has come down to Rs. 27 now, because the cost of production has gone up very much. If this is the position, how can the farmers survive in India?

We are having a good reserve of foreign exchange and we could keep it so due to our agricultural products. Unless we produce rubber, coconut, tea, coffee etc., which we are producing in large quantity now, we will have to import them from other countries. But import of

\* Not recorded.

these products is not required now. But since the import duty on these products is very less, import of coconut and tea from Sri Lanka is continuing.

Sir, when we discussed about the falling prices of agricultural products in the House, the Agriculture Minister replied to the debate. He cannot say anything with regard to import duties and he can only say that he would talk to the Finance Minister. When we go to the Commerce Minister, he also says that he can only talk to the Finance Minister. So, I would request that the Finance Minister should say something in this regard now, because unless the import duties on agricultural products are not increased now, all our farmers producing rubber, coconut, tea, coffee, paddy, sugarcane etc., will be put to a very heavy loss. So, I urge upon the Finance Minister to respond to this issue now....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue, but unfortunately there is no response from the Finance Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He wants to respond now. Do you not want him to respond?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, various subjects that are discussed in this House are dealt with by various Ministries. When my colleague, Shri Nitish Kumar was replying to the debate on the falling prices of agricultural products, I was present in the House. He was fully competent, fully authorised to talk about duties also and he, in fact, did so. He informed the House about the duty structure of the various agricultural products.

Now, let me make two or three points clear as far as the Finance Ministry is concerned. In this year's Budget, I deliberately raised the duty to peak rates on all items of consumer goods and on all items of agriculture. They were all taken to peak rates of duty, that is, 35 per cent, plus surcharge, plus 4 per cent SAD, plus countervailing duty wherever it applies. When the Agriculture Minister was answering to the debate, he gave specific figures. I do not have specific figures with me now.

But I will make a general point that we were aware of it. Therefore, in order to discourage imports of these items into this country, we raised it to peak rates. It was not the case before.

The second point which I would like to make is that we are continuously monitoring the situation. Wherever it becomes necessary or appears necessary to do so, we are raising duties to even the WTO bound rates keeping in mind the larger interests of the consumers.

I would like to state with all emphasis at my command in this House that, today, there is absolutely no situation where as a result of duties and flood of imports, any of the agricultural products is being compromised. ...(Interruptions) That is not the case

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri A. P. Abdullakutty.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : There is one more point...(Interruptions) I forgot about it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is standing to respond.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As far as the case of Sri Lanka is concerned, let me also make it clear that we have an agreement with Sri Lanka which has been entered into by the Government of India. As far as that agreement is concerned, it enjoins upon both the countries that they will charge bilaterally only half the fixed rates of import duties. This is a reciprocal arrangement. Sri Lanka gives us that advantage. We give that concession to Sri Lanka. That is the position...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : But for copra, they have raised it up to 300 per cent...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The farmers are suffering ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No clarification during the Zero Hour, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. C. THOMAS : The Minister of Finance had said that the farmers are not affected by the imports. It is a wrong notion. I can quote the figures for coconut. 'Three hundred per cent' is the peak one. But the Minister has just now said that the import duty has been raised up to the peak percentage. It is not like that. He has increased it to 65 per cent. He can increase it to '300'.

My submission is that unless you increase it to 300 per cent now, after some time, the WTO Agreement will not allow you even if you want to do so...(Interruptions)

That is the provision...(Interruptions) As far as rubber is concerned, it is an agricultural produce...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, he is giving an answer.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: All other items are being kept at a lower level...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS 'Rubber' is an agricultural produce...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, what is this? He is going to respond now.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Rubber is treated as a commercial item. That is the problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You mix up everything, that is, rubber and coconut.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is going to respond about coconut and import of palmolein.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, my colleague the hon. Agriculture Minister had informed the House that day that as far as the edible oil sector is concerned, we have revised steeply upwards all duties...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : But not to the peak. He said that it had been raised to the peak...*(Interruptions)* It has not been done...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : In many cases it has been raised to the peak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : For palmolein you can raise it up to 300...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA. It is not necessary...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, it is necessary...*(Interruptions)* Sir, he can raise it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No, it is not necessary. We have said on the 21st of November...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us hear him first. Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Your want the hon. Minister to reply and when he is responding, you are not allowing him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, as far as the duties and imports are concerned, I am prepared for any discussion. I have all the facts and figures with me. I can give it to the House. They are talking without any facts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will have some time for discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, what is this? I am on my legs. This is not the way to raise matters in the House. Please take your seat. Let me say. This is a 'Zero Hour'. When you raised a matter, the hon. Minister was kind enough to respond and you did not allow him to speak fully.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Again you are not even allowing me to speak in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER . Please take your seat. He said that he was prepared for a discussion. Now, this is 'Zero Hour' and in spite of that he has responded. He has also that we can have discussion on this any time. He is prepared to do so. We may find some time for this and take it up in the BAC and then we can have some discussion about the duties, etc.

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Respected Deputy-Speaker Sir, an investigation into the alleged disparities in the pocket money given to the Indian athletes who had been to Sydney Olympics and the amount entered in their passports, might unearth an Olympian Scam running into crores of rupees, pinning down the IOA and AAFI authorities.

A 67-member Indian team had left for Sydney in three batches and according to the passport entries of one of the athletes an amount of US \$ 5000 was authorised on behalf of IOA. But in reality, the athlete was given a paltry sum of Australian \$ 1300 and another US \$ 500 on behalf of City Bank. Thus, the IOA and the AAFI authorities had jointly pick pocketed an individual athlete of Rs. 1,77,074. Misappropriations to this effect might have happened in all other cases and if so, the amount would add up to Rs. 1,18,63,958. This is a very serious misuse which calls for an immediate inquiry

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): Thank you Sir. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment towards the plight of bidi workers of Adilabad District of Andhra Pradesh. Nearly 40,000 bidi-



rollers, registered under PF, are not having the minimum facilities like hospitals, etc. They have to go nearly 280 kms. away from their places to settle their claims. The hon. Minister had also assured to sanction a Provident Fund Office and a 30-bed hospital for the bidi workers at Nirmal of Adilabad, but the work has not commenced so far.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment for the immediate sanction of the welfare hospital as well as the Provident Fund Office for Bidi workers at Nirmal of Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sukdeo Paswan Ji, your matter has been forwarded to MPLAD Committee.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, each M.P. is provided Rs. 2 crore under MPLAD scheme. I would like to tell that some such schemes have been taken up under MPLAD Scheme which could not be taken up under any other scheme since independence. Legislators in Bihar are provided Rs. One-and-a-half crore for this purpose. In Delhi Legislators get Rs. One crore under similar scheme, whereas in some other states also legislators are provided Rs. 1 crore. We have six assembly segments under one parliamentary constituency, so in that way one M.P. should get Rs. Nine crore. It means, at least Rs. 5 crore should definitely be provided to us.... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this amount should be enhanced.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Kindly enhance this amount....(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister is sitting here...(Interruptions) Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is also present...(Interruptions) This MPLAD scheme is very important. We would like the allocation of funds under this scheme be enhanced to Rs. 5 crore...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: You request hon'ble Finance Minister...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Even Railways demand money from us...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: For every issue funds are demanded out of this scheme only...(Interruptions) Therefore, we too support it...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: How we will manage so much funds?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: I request you to enhance the allocation under MPLAD scheme...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Paswanji, one copy of your request has been referred to the committee. The committee will examine it then I will let you know.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the committee have already given its recommendations in this regard...(Interruptions) What purpose will be served by sending it to the Committee? Committee have already given its recommendations. Now you are to take decisions in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Why you people do not raise your voice? If you want the allocation to be enhanced then why do not you rise and demand...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I enquired about the remaining amount out of our Rs. two crore from Sardar Patel Bhawan, I was told that the Finance Ministry has not released the money...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during last Budget Session hon'ble Minister stated in his reply that a meeting should be convened in this regard and he accepted the demand for enhancement of funds under this scheme. My submission is that it is everyone's demand and is useful also. We know the problems of every one, therefore we recommend their case.

Though the funds being provided to the MLA's have been increased, it is not so in the case of the funds being given to M.P's under the MPLADS, which has been kept at its earlier level of Rs. two crores. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to what decision has been taken in that regard and whether any provision has been made under the budget to deal with this issue? We support the increase in allocation of funds under MPLAD Scheme from its present level of two crores...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot compel the Minister to respond on everything.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir our Chief Minister has submitted that the recommendation of the Committee should be implemented ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : They are asking us for money? ...*(Interruptions)* How shall we be able to provide them the money out of the two crores allocated to us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN : Scam to the tune of billions of rupees is taking place in regard to the scholarship being provided to the poor students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward class. The most unfortunate aspect is that there is none to oversee as to how the funds provided by the Government of India, and World bodies to the State Governments for that purpose are being utilised. The State Government is misusing this money. The State Government of U.P. had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Shri V.K. Saxena, Secretary to find out whether the world bank sponsored programme is being implemented in the state or not. The committee had concluded that a scholarship scam involving an amount of Rs. 200 crore has taken place in Uttar Pradesh done.

13.00 hrs.

The educational institutes have turned so professional in their approach that some of them are being run for the sole purpose of pocketing the scholarship money being allocated to be provided to the belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. This is such a serious issue that even the Government of Uttar Pradesh Shri Suraj Bhan had made a mention of it and expressed his concern over this tendency and this was the reason for his removal from his post...*(Interruptions)* Why is Shri Khurana smiling. He is also a party to this sin...*(Interruptions)* He was forced to quit because he was taking interest in the welfare of Dalits. There is a major scam in regard to scholarship in the entire state. There is a scam of approximately Rs. 200 crores out of Rs. 800 crores allocated to Uttar Pradesh for providing scholarship to the students. I would like the Government to make a statement in this regard and the State Government should be directed to take action against the guilty persons. I am not making this allegation. These are the findings of the Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Shri V.K. Saxena I would certainly like that the Government should give attention towards this serious issue.

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Thank you very much. I would like to raise a very important issue during Zero Hour and I would like to submit very humbly that unless you create pandemonium in the House. You don't get the permission to speak in 'Zero Hour'...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Have you got the permission after creating pandemonium in the House?

SHRI RASHID ALVI : No, I have been given the opportunity only after giving the Notice for three consecutive days.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Being a senior Member you should not cast such aspersions.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : The issue of Aligarh University is a very serious one. On 3rd September some policeman riding a Maruti and a Sumo entered the premises of the University in civil clothes and arrested a student. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have raised this issue two days back.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Let me also raise the issue. It is not the right of Samajwadi Party alone to raise every issue. You only create pandemonium in the House and thus making it difficult for us to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to address here, not there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I am not stopping you from speaking. Why are you getting angry.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Why are you interfering. ...*(Interruptions)* The students were arrested and the Vice Chancellor of the University contacted the Union Home Minister Shri L.K. Advani and the Home Minister of Uttar Pradesh as well. They had no knowledge at all regarding the entire episode. Next day in the morning District Magistrate informed the V.C. that students were arrested by the Agra Police. But it could not be ascertained as to why the students were arrested on 6th September, a person named Rajan Sharma who claimed himself to be an officer of Intelligence Bureau forcibly entered the premises of the University. Students caught hold of him but then he did not disclose his identity to them. Then D.M. and S.S.P. were called on the spot and he was handed over to the authorities. It was stated in the press conference that the boy had no links with the I.S.L. but despite that he was put into the lock up

after branding him as I.S.I. agent. He has been charged with possessing half kilogram of RDX. U.P. Government has said that Aligarh University...*(Interruptions)* Khurana Sahib is not ready to listen anything....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to address me, not Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : It is the statement of the U.P. Government that the Aligarh University has become the training centre of I.S.I...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want the Central Government to do?

*[Translation]*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : U.P. Government wanted to close down the Aligarh University. All the students were asked to go back to their homes but the V.C. ordered them to stay. The BJP Government has hatched a conspiracy to ruin the Aligarh University...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want the Central Government to do in this matter?

*[Translation]*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : RDX has been recovered from the university premises and still he is defending the guilty students...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are inviting trouble. I asked you what you want from the Central Government. You did not reply and you are getting their reaction.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RASHID ALVI : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. He should clarify as to what is the present condition of Aligarh University and what is the status of I.B. official named Rajan Sharma ...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious matter. The Government is bent upon ruining this institution of minority community in Northern India. The Government should clarify its position in the matter and should guarantee that such an episode will not be repeated within the premises of Aligarh Muslim University ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhanduka) : Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, the awareness level of women has increased a lot under the 'Mahila Jagran Abhyan' of the Government of India. The women especially of Gujarat want to play a leading role in the field of business and trade. The women are making a lot of efforts to avail of the loans from the banks but I am very sorry to inform you that the women who want to establish their own business or some small industry are unable to do so for want of funds as the role of banks is not very helpful. I submit before the hon. Minister to make arrangement for providing financial assistance to the women belonging to dalit tribal or general category desirous of establishing their own business and industry ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the resolution regarding dissolution of Delhi Municipal Corporation passed by Delhi Assembly on 29th November without assigning any reasons is totally unjust, unconstitutional and contrary to the established norms. This corporation is not a nominated body but as elected institution wherein elections take place on the lines of Lok Sabha or Assembly but it has been dissolved without assigning any reason. Perhaps this is the first such incident in the history of the country when a resolution has been passed for dissolving the municipal corporation while the entire opposition had staged a walkout. I condemn the motive behind bringing such a resolution which was driven by the vested political interests. All the elected representatives had visited us. Being the supreme watch dog of democracy and the constitution, parliament should take initiative in the matter.

Through you, I would like to submit before you that the resolution passed Delhi Assembly should be repealed. The Government which has failed to resolve the problems being faced by the people and is facing corrupt charges levelled by its own legislatures have no right to pass such kind of a resolution...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by the hon. Member is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. The resolution passed by Delhi Assembly cannot be discussed here I submit that it should be expunged from the proceedings ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will expunge whatever is contrary to rules.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Recently, the election of Municipal Corporations and Councils have taken place in Uttar Pradesh. On the one hand we are in favour of delegating more and more power to the grassroot organisation, on the other Delhi Government, moved by political consideration is passing such a resolution to dissolve the elected body.

Hence, through you I demand from the Home Minister to dismiss such corrupt Delhi Government.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, I have given a notice today on a very important issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever is against the rules, the Constitution, the norms or anything, those things would be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, I have already told about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod) : Sir, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the traditional fishermen community for their requirement of kerosene.

There are about 15,000 OBM fitted traditional fishing crafts now in operation in the coastal water of Kerala State. These out board motors are kerosene operated. The requirement of kerosene is 14,000 kilo litre per month. but the actual allocation is only 4,743 kilo litre. There is a wide gap of 9,257 kilo litre of kerosene against the actual requirement of fisheries sector.

The present allocation of kerosene is sufficient only for ten days in a month. For the remaining days the fishermen are forced to either sit idle or buy kerosene from the black market at the rate of Rs. 12-14/litre. This has resulted in a situation where there is a sharp drop in the income levels of traditional fishermen, which ultimately leads to object starvation in the coastal belt of Kerala. The fishermen are also forced to borrow money and fall victims of exploitation by moneylenders ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Govindan, you cannot read in the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : In these circumstances, I would request the hon. Minister of Petroleum to increase kerosene quota for traditional fishermen in fisheries sector using out board engines immediately.

13.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.17 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seventeen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[ SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair* ]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up Item no. 12-Bill to be introduced.

### REGISTRATION AND OTHER RELATED LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Registration Act, 1908, the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 and the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Registration Act, 1908, the Transfer of Property Act, 1882 and the Indian Stamp Act, 1899."

*The Motion was adopted.*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I introduce the Bill. \*\*

14.19 hrs.

### STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE CENTRAL ROAD FUND ORDINANCE AND CENTRAL ROAD FUND BILL - *Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up further discussion. Shri M.A. Kharabela Swain to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam, I am 'Swain' and not 'Swine'. 'Swine' means pig.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I did not say 'swine'; I said 'swain' only.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : In Oriya it is pronounced as 'Swain'.

Madam, I was on my legs yesterday and after speaking for one minute, as it was 4.p.m., I had to sit. As I was telling yesterday while supporting the Central Road Fund Bill, 2000, I categorically mentioned that I

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 1.12.2000.

\*\* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

am supporting it. The most important thing about this Bill is that it arranges for money. As I was telling yesterday, the infrastructure which ushers in development in a country involves basically three things - power generation, construction of roads and the development of telecommunications. We can include airports, seaports and railways to the list of the infrastructure.

The most important thing about this country is that the roads are in an appalling state. The repairs to the roads that are taken up mostly by the State Governments are not taken up by a single agency. So many agencies look after the road works.

Sometimes, it is the Public Works Department; sometimes, it is the Rural Development Department; and sometimes even the Irrigation Department also looks after the roads in a State. But now the Central Government wants to build the national highways for which it does not have the money. That is why, it has imposed a cess on petrol and diesel. Last year, the Central Government has been able to collect about Rs. 6,000 crore.

Madam, while speaking about the Bill, the hon. Minister has already spoken as to how this fund will be utilised, that is, for development and maintenance of national highways, development and maintenance of State roads including inter-State roads and others that have economic importance. Hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, even though he is in the Opposition, while supporting this Bill also repeated this point. Therefore, I am not going to repeat these points. I just support the point that roads should be constructed because roads are the vital lifelines of this country, and for that, we are going to arrange the money.

Madam, the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Plan says:

"The Central outlay for the Ninth Plan was Rs. 8,862.02 crore, out of which, 75 per cent of the money has been utilised."

With regard to the performance of the State sector, it is the worst in the Ninth Plan. The outlay for the State roads was Rs. 30,551 crore, but Rs. 9,513 crore only have been spent in the first two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan. What are the reasons? The reasons are basically the delay and procedural bottlenecks, and the release of funds. In the case of Central sector, these are the reasons which have caused the delay. That is why, the achievements have been below the target in all areas, excepting in the four-lane highways. If we look at the State sector, it is basically the resource crunch which is the main reason for the bad performance of the State sector.

I will come to another point which the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five-year Plan envisages. The main cause of the delay is this. There was a tendency to take up schemes without any project preparation. You will find, Madam, in most of the cases, without acquiring the land, the projects have been cleared. After that State Governments have got the money, they have not been able to acquire the land. Lands have mostly been encroached upon by many people, and the encroachment could not be cleared so easily cleared because most of the people who have encroached the land have approached court and have, sometimes, brought stay orders also. This is one of the reasons for which there is a below par achievement, with regard to national highway construction.

The second point is about project monitoring. We do have a lot of lacunae in this respect. I will give you one example. Two years ago, after persuading the Ministry of Surface Transport, the highway in Orissa was cleared as the national highway No. 60, that is, from Jaleswar to Baleswar, and I was told that Rs. 2.38 crore was sanctioned for the same.

The National Highways Authority has been taking up that work for the last two years. I had been running from pillar to post to get the work done. As I told you, there was very bad monitoring of this activity as a result of which roads were not built at the time when they were actually required.

Let me come to village roads. There are 17,712 kilometres of roads that have been added to the National Highway network in the Ninth Five Year Plan. It is only three per cent of the existing 60 per cent of the roads that have been included during the first two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan. So, there is a total lack of coordination and integration of various programmes of construction of rural roads in the country. Nobody knows as to which road is going to be constructed when. There is hardly any prioritisation of construction of roads. If a Government constructs a road up to one kilometre, another Government comes and abandons that road and goes in for a totally different road. Basically, there is no coordination in construction of roads specifically in the villages.

Let us take the example of National Highways. National Highways in India are basically a conglomeration of village and State roads. On a National Highway in India, you will not only find high-speed vehicles plying, you will also find bullock carts, cycles, and all sorts of vehicles. If we want that vehicles should play at very high speeds on National Highways, the purpose for which they are actually constructed, urban and rural roads are supposed to be separated from the National Highways.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Madam, as I saying, roads are a part of infrastructure. Construction of National Highways has a great influence on the national economy. As you know, economic growth for this country has slowed down. Hon. Prime Minister has never said that *per capita* income should be doubled within the next ten years. If we want that *per capita* income should be doubled within the next years, there should be a sustainable growth of eight per cent to nine per cent every year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swain, you have to conclude quickly. Only one hour was allotted for this entire debate by the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Madam, it was two hours that was allotted for this debate, not one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is one hour. It is here before me.

Out of one hour, 22 minutes have already been consumed. There are nine or ten Members to speak on this. Even if I give ten minutes to each Member, I cannot complete it in time. You can leave the Prime Minister's statements and come to road construction and finish quickly.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I am not speaking anything irrelevant, Madam. I will conclude within five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : My point is we do not have time for all that. Conclude within two minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Please give me five minutes, Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are other Members to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : We are losing time in this argument, Madam.

Madam, the Prime Minister has already said that there will be a growth of only six per cent this year. So, to stir the economy, road construction activity should be taken up. Construction of roads and construction of houses inspires economic growth. The cement and steel industries are in doldrums now.

It has slowed down. But take the example of construction of the roads. Just think, as to how many man-days it will create. It will require cement and steel. It will also vibrate the commercial activities besides these national highways which are going to be constructed. The Golder Quadrilateral is going to be completed within

2003 and the express highway from East to West and from North to South is going to be completed within 2009.

Madam, I will conclude now just giving some suggestions. In Orissa, specifically, you will find every two-three kilometres a hump has been constructed. Now, because of the construction of the national highways, people just come and encroach upon the lands besides the national highways and start doing some commercial activities in an unauthorised manner. Sometimes, children and other people just run right up to the national highway, with the result, accidents take place so often. If some accidents take place, those people will sit on *dhama* and have demonstration, and then a hump will be constructed.

Ultimately, we will find that the vehicle will be running at a speed of only 20 kilometres to 30 kilometres per hour. What is the purpose of having a national highway if the vehicles are able to run only at 20 kilometres per hour? Now, a truck passing on the national highway is just moving 150 kilometres per day. But if we have four lane highways and if we have national awareness, the situation can be improved a lot. It will have to be seen that no Government land is encroached beside any national highway. So, if you can influence the people then a truck can move at a faster speed right up to 600 kilometres to 700 kilometres a day. That will enhance the commercial activities and also reduce the petroleum consumption. That will also enhance the *per capita* income of this country.

Finally, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister about the highway in my constituency. In my constituency, from the National Highway No. 16, there is a road leading towards West Bengal border. That is from Jalesor to Chandnesore. A lot of vehicles and four wheeler vehicles pass through from West Bengal to Orissa there. That is in a bad shape. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to also declare it as a national highway project.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. Your party has been allotted five minutes to speak on this Bill. So, kindly finish it quickly.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Madam, please do not interfere. I have not even spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am talking about your party's time.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Madam, Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I have to speak on two aspects.

In the first part, I will deal with the argument regarding disapproval. Now, an Ordinance had been issued. For what purpose? It is just to give a statutory status to a Parliamentary resolution. The Parliamentary resolution was passed in early 1988. It was 12 years before, and a road fund was installed on the basis of that Parliamentary resolution. Something was going on all along.

But the Executives that were in existence since 1988 did not find any time to bring in the normal Bill and get it passed by the House. It was not done. They have taken recourse to the emergency provisions of the Constitution. But the emergency provisions are not means for this purpose. This is an ordinary thing. It is not an unexpected event. Madam, road development and providing fund for those development activities are normal things. So, why should there be an Ordinance for that purpose?

We know that we have national highways and State roads. All of us know that they need to be improved. Why should an Ordinance be issued for the purpose of bypassing the Legislature? An Ordinance has been issued on a decision that was taken twelve years ago. The Executive did not make a provision for an Act in the matter of a Parliamentary Resolution. It is a black mark in our Parliamentary history that a Resolution passed by this House is given statutory effect to, through an Ordinance. This is unheard of in Parliamentary history.

We met several times. We sang the National Anthem and *Vande Mataram* many times but the Executive did not find a moment to bring a Bill for the improvement of our national highways. The reason was that there was no time. This is nothing new. Why should the Executive take shelter under an emergency provision of the Constitution? Parliament met several times. There was no exigency. I could understand it if it was national calamity. To meet an exigent situation, an Ordinance might be required. Why should an extra-constitutional measure be adopted in giving effect to a Parliamentary Resolution?

It is very unfortunate in our Parliamentary history that we are giving effect to a Parliamentary Resolution passed in 1988 through an Ordinance. There is no justification for this. Even the House has been made a mockery of. It has been made a rubber stamp. Everybody knows that there are national highways and roads. We travel every day and know that their improvement requires money. Why do they not bring a normal Bill? Nobody would object to it. Instead of doing it—that is because of the laxity or negligence on the part of Executive—they are taking the Legislature as a condition precedent...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have spoken on the Resolution. Now, you have to come to the Bill. You will have to hurry up. We have heard your point on the Resolution. Please come to the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN In very strong terms, I strongly plead for the disapproval of this particular procedure. With these words, I put an end to the first part.

Now, the discussion on this Bill is a serious matter. What is the condition of our roads? Everyday, when we open the newspaper, we find tragic cases of automobile accidents. Innocent lives are lost not only on the national highways but also on the State and district roads. Hundreds of lives are lost in automobile accidents due to our negligence everyday. The roads are not properly maintained. They are not properly planned.

We know the case of Delhi, our national capital, where accidents are taking place everyday due to the ill-advised planning of the city. This is the case with major cities in India. Everyday, we are coming across tragic accidents - scooter accidents, cycle accidents, car accidents, truck accidents, lorry accidents and train-lorry collisions. This has become the order of the day. Can we read out newspapers with some peace of mind in the morning? I am addressing this question to the hon. Madam Chairperson because I think she also reads newspapers. When we open the newspaper, we find that hundreds of lives are lost everyday.

We are discussing about finding provisions to maintain these roads. How can it be? For that purpose, some cess is being introduced. This very same Government is advising the State Government to withdraw the sales tax, to reduce the cost of petrol. That is one way that they have found. It is a very easy method to advise the State Government to withdraw the sales tax, whereas they are enhancing the customs duty and excise duty further. They are asking the States to cut down the sales tax. Even the allotment or even the apportionment of tax is very unjust.

I would also request the hon. Minister to make some provision for maintaining village roads. There is nobody to look after them. After the introduction of the *panchayat raj* system, the village roads are left to the custody of the village *panchayats* or *gram panchayats*. We also have *zila panchayats* to look after the district roads and we also have *block panchayats* taking care of the roads under them. Now, the three-tier system is there, but they have no money. They will have to find resources to maintain these roads or to open more roads. I would

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

request the hon. Minister to find some provision for providing money to this three-tier system. The three-tier system is responsible to the people. They will have to make up funds for the upkeep of the village roads. Village roads are very vital in our day to day lives. Accidents may occur even in villages. So, to prevent such accidents, I would request the hon. Minister to find ways and means for providing funds to them, otherwise, decentralisation in our democracy will become meaningless and people will find it difficult to cope up with the situation.

The apportionment, which is now suggested in this statute, is not good. It has to be amended. More funds should be made available to these three *panchayats*, namely, block panchayat, zila panchayat and gram panchayat

Regarding the Golden Quadrilateral Express Highway, I have to mention one discrepancy or one injustice done to the southern States. Here not only Kerala is affected, but also a portion of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka is affected. This was done by the Minister who was in Office at that time. During the previous regime, an AIADMK Minister was in charge of this. He thought it better that it need not go to Kanyakumari. He made an about turn and sent it to Mumbai, without touching Kanyakumari, Trivandrum and Kozhikode. All these places are left out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Also, places 'up the coast' are left out.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : All these places are left out. What is the meaning? When we say it is Golden Quadrilateral, does it mean that South India is not a part of this? Is Kerala not a part of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : Is Chennai not in South India?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is saying that Kerala is not a part of it. That is what he is saying.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Kanyakumari is left out; Trivandrum is left out; Cochin is left out. Mangalore is there; of course, it is a very important port. Goa is also left out. What is the meaning of Golden Quadrilateral without connecting these places? We are saying that we are one and that we are connecting all the important places in India, but you are leaving out or taking somersault and going straight to Mumbai, leaving all these places.

I think, our present Minister is a just person. He has no particular interest or any vested interest. He will see that justice is done. The Minister from Tamil Nadu had some vested interests and so, he had left it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, No.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The Minister from Tamil Nadu had left it out without taking into consideration these aspects. I think, the present Minister will never have such vested interests. He will see that the road, in real sense, is quadrilateral, connecting all these important stations in the South.

I hope that he would give a very serious thought to this and do justice to the people of South India. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : The purpose of this Bill is to replace the Central Road Ordinance, 2000. A unanimous Resolution was passed in both the Houses in the month of May, 1988. The Minister is bringing this Bill after twelve years. I appreciate that the Minister has brought this Bill after the lapse of twelve years. Almost all the Members mentioned that highways are the lifelines of the nation. Everybody is saying that we should increase the growth of GDP. Is it possible to achieve that without having proper infrastructure? That is my question to the Government. Why are we not achieving that? I have been observing for the last five years that there is no increase in GDP growth. Sometimes it is one per cent more and sometimes it is one per cent less. It is fluctuating. Why are we not able to increase to GDP in comparison to other countries? Even the developing countries are providing more funds for infrastructure. On the infrastructure side, in my view, road infrastructure comes first. Airlines, sea ports and communications all are important. This House passed a unanimous Resolution. In every Session we have been demanding to implement this Resolution. But the successive Governments have not taken any action. Only now the Government has taken this step.

The Government is collecting cess from petrol and diesel. Fifty per cent of the cess from diesel is earmarked for the State roads. Rs. 2,500 crore is allotted to the State Governments. I found from the newspapers that the Ministry of Rural Development was in favour of creating a Corporation under the Central Government for construction of rural roads. This idea is completely wrong. Now, we are in the decentralisation process. The States are asking for more powers. The Central Government can frame the guidelines. There are so many programmes, like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme and Minimum Needs Programme, where the Central Government fixed the



guidelines and left the implementation part to the State Governments Sitting in Delhi, we cannot control all these things. The Central Government can frame the guidelines and on the basis of those guidelines, the State Governments should implement the scheme. The Central Government can circulate the scheme to all the Members.

The Eleventh Finance Commission is of the view that there has already been a delay in allocating funds to the States. The Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission has already been submitted. There is a need to disburse the funds speedily. The Government started getting the money from 1.9.1998 onwards. So far, the Government must have collected a considerable amount of money. But there is no scheme to disburse the funds. The Ministry of Rural Development has not given even a single paisa. The hon. Minister took charge of this Ministry very recently. He allotted Rs. 370 crore to the States under his sector. It is only the first instalment. The money is collected and kept in the Consolidated Funds of India.

We are aware of the conditions of the roads in this country. The total length of the roads in this country is National Highway 15 - 7,737 kilometres and the required investment for roads is Rs. 1,35,000 crore. In the whole of the country, the length of the national highways, the State highways, major district roads and rural roads put together is 33,00,000 kilometres. The length of the rural road alone is 26,50,000 kilometres. If we improve all the roads, and the communication, the GDP of the State and that of the country will increase, thereby, poverty will also be reduced in this country.

There has already been a lot of delay. The Government has started collecting the cess on petrol and diesel since 1998 but there is no scheme with the Government. Everybody is talking about rural roads, State roads and National Highways. The 11th Finance Commission has also observed that the Government of India is delaying to release the grant to the concerned agencies. I would request the Government to do it without any further delay.

Sir, I was a Minister of Rural Development in the United Front Government which started the Golden Triangle Express Highway project. I appreciate the hon. Prime Minister's keenness to have this project. This is the first project of the kind which we have started in our country. The Government should take the required measures at the time of implementing this project. A number of roads are passing through major cities and towns. I would, therefore, suggest that we should have by-pass road at almost every point. Our country requires a number of by-pass roads at every points. So, while

implementing this project, the Government of India should see that by-pass roads are provided at every point. This will help in the development of the cities.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) Madam Chairperson, like Shri Varkala Radharkrishnan, I oppose the Central Road Fund Bill 2000. As, all of you are aware, a Central Road Fund Ordinance was issued on 1.11.2000 by hon. President while the Lok Sabha Session was to commence from 20.11.2000...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Madam, with your permission, may I know that when it was known that the House was going to meet on 20th of November what was the extraordinary emergency which compelled the Government to issue an Ordinance on the 1st November?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will ask the Minister to reply to that at the end.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not given you the permission to speak. Please sit down. You cannot disturb the House like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI You were not in the House yeaterday when I had explained this ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) The Government has made mockery of the House ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you speak like this, mockery of the House starts here. The hon. Member is speaking and you cannot disturb him like this. How can you disturb your colleageu who is speaking?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Madam Chairperson, I understand the anguish of hon. Varkala Radhakrishnan. Hence I am repeating only what he said that when every

[Shri Ramjilal Suman]

body was aware that the session was to commence from 20th November then why was Hon. President asked to issue the ordinance on 1st November, 2000. I would like to say it quite implicitly that it is certainly against the prestige and decorum of the parliamentary democracy. I do not think that there was any emergency to get the ordinance issued in such a haste. These kind of incidents are not conducive for the successful functioning of a democracy. Hence I associate myself with the sentiments of hon. Varkala Radhakrishnan.

Madam Chairperson, Khanduri Saheb has expressed that Rs. 1,35,000 crore should be provided over the next ten years for the construction and maintenance of 57,737 kilometers long National highway.

Probably rupees 6000 crores have been mobilised so far as the cess collection on diesel and petrol so far from June 1998 to 1999. Certainly it is a very tough task to accomplish, and there can not be any difference of opinion that the condition of roads in our country is extremely dismal owing to which approximately 60 thousand people get killed in road accidents every year in our country. If the roads in our country are in good condition, this could help India save fuel worth Rs. 5000 crores annually. The condition of the roads is certainly very bad in our country. But today you are making the fuel costlier to mobilise the necessary funds for the construction and maintenance of roads. Neither the industry nor the agriculture sector can grow with the increasing cost of fuel. I am of the opinion that it is not a permanent tax but a cess and there is a need to pay attention towards it.

As per new provision one Re. Per litre cess on petrol and 1 Re. Per litre cess on diesel will be levied and 50 percent of the amount collected as diesel cess will be spent on maintaining the roads in rural areas. I have objections over it. I want to know as to what are the priorities of the Government? I do not suggest not to repair the National Highways but you must also pay attention towards the rural areas also where most of the roads are in such a dilapidated condition that it becomes very tough to use them in the rainy season. You have allocated Rs. 2500 crores as lump sum amount to develop a road network linking the villages with a population of more than one thousand.

The most important question is that the provision of spending the 50 percent amount of diesel cess on developing roads in rural areas is not justified in any way. Right now, the issue of Delhi was raised in this House. The basic reason for that is the large scale immigration in Delhi is taking place. The people who had migrated here started some small business to earn

their livelihood. Khanduri Saheb, the migration of the rural population to the cities will be checked if the basic facilities alongwith the metalled roads are provided here. It can only be possible if you make these facilities available there and make arrangement of laying down metalled roads so that the agriculture produce could be transported from the village to the city markets. There is a need to give more emphasis on all these things.

The ancestral village of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji is situated in the wagha legislature Assembly Constituency of my parliamentary constituency Firozabad. That is the most backward region in Agra district. No link road and no other facility upto a distance of 8-10 kilometers is available in all the villages of this district. It is difficult for the people to even go on foot due to the dismal condition of roads.

14.59 hrs.

[ MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair* ]

I only want to submit that though this legislation is alright in toto but some modifications have to be made regarding the expenditure in priority areas. Whenever we try to contact Ministry of Railways for putting forth our demand for constructing some bridge or something else, whether be it Mamataji or Digvijay Singhji, we get the reply that 50 percent of the funds are provided by the Government and the 5 percent are provided by the PWD department of the State Government for completing these kinds of projects. The State Governments are in such a poor financial condition that they are not in a position even to pay the salaries of their employees. There are a number of railway crossings on all the National Highways like the one at Saiyapul, 20 kilometers from Agra to the Agra-Bombay National Highway upto Gwalior, where a large scale transmigration of people takes place but the overbridge at this place have not been constructed despite the continuous effort to request the State Government in this regard.

15.00 hrs.

Khanduriji, I would like to say one more thing that the road tax is levied from the very beginning by the State Governments to utilise this money for the repair of roads but I feel that the amount collected for the purpose is spent under some other head. State Government do not carry out the responsibility of construction and repair of roads which they should.

Overall, the Bill is good, but priority should be given to villages. You are collecting money by imposing surcharge on petrol and diesel, but if you do not pay attention towards the development of rural roads, then I think, the country cannot make progress by mere development of national highways.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatshinghpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I stand in support of the Central Road Fund Bill, 2000. I am supporting this Bill because it is a desirable Bill. There was a Resolution in 1988. Then came an ordinance and this Bill will replace that ordinance.

I would like to say that if the motive is good, then all the available instruments under the Constitution to translate the motive into action are equally good. Here the motive is good and therefore whether it is done through an ordinance or through legislation in this House, it is equally good and constitutionally valid. So, there is no question of opposing the Bill just because an ordinance has been promulgated before bringing the Bill.

I want to make a few minor suggestions on this Bill. I hope the hon. Minister will take them into account. The Ministry is headed by an hon. Major General. Therefore, my suggestions are minor.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : Since the Minister is also a General, your suggestions may be specific and not general.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : That is right. Since the Minister is a General, my suggestions will be specific.

My first suggestion about clause 3. By a notification it has been included in the Schedule that for the Central Road Fund, the amounts has been fixed at a flat rate. My suggestion here is that it should be made *ad valorem*, so that the Fund will be more elastic and more funds will be available for road development, be it National Highways or rural roads.

My second suggestion pertains to clause 4. In clause 4 it is mentioned that the amount that will be collected will be first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. It is not a good proposition. I have my own apprehension because it may be utilised for something else. It may be utilised to meet the revenue deficit or to reduce the fiscal deficit, even if temporarily. Therefore, my suggestion is that it should be directly credited to the Central Road Fund instead of going to the Consolidated Fund of India first and then coming to the Road Fund. I think the Minister will take note of it.

My third suggestion is that in so far as disbursement of resources collected into this Fund is concerned, care should be taken. During the last 53 years it has been found that like carrying coal to New Castle resources from the Centre has been flowing more towards the developed States than toward backward and needy

States. Therefore, in so far as the devolution of the Central Road Fund is concerned; here is my minor suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I am only making specific points and suggestions. I am not elaborating them at all. Kindly allow me to speak for two-three minutes more.

So, kindly bear with me. The funds should flow to those States where railway facilities are less and more funds should flow to such States. More funds should be allocated to such States where there is least railway facility taking into account the rail route length per thousand square kilometre. Roads may be developed instead of railways.

My fourth suggestion is, the road condition are bad today not because of paucity of funds alone but it is because of the rampant corruption in the Engineering Department and the nexus between engineers, contractors, political masters and bureaucrats. This nexus is the cause of bad road conditions. The Central Government, while monitoring the expenditure, should look into this aspect also. You may know the World Heritage Centre at the Konark Temple which is one of the seven wonders of the world. But it has not been connected by a good road. I have given a written request to the Ministry in this regard. The road connecting the National Highway No. 5 at Fulnakhari passes through Konark to reach Puri to get connected with National Highway No. 203. Now, it should be declared as a National Highway. Such a proposal has also come from the State Government. It is running to about 100 kilometres. This is not only my request but of the State Government also. That road will pass through one of the most rich ancient monument areas of the country. Tourists visiting such areas will be more. I think the Ministry will definitely take note of it and declare that road as a National Highway Road.

With these words, I conclude and I support the Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) Mr Speaker Sir, I rise to support this Bill. A major step has been taken by the Major General after taking over his portfolio.

Now, I come from an area where there is neither rail nor proper road nor airfields. I am talking about States like Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. They are mostly connected by national highways and all these national highways are routed through Assam. Assam is the gateway for all these States

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

and it has to take the burden of almost all the road transport of these areas. The road connecting Silchar-Badarpur-Agartala (NH-53) is running to 390 kilometres - the rail facility has started here now - and Badarpur-Shillong (NH-44) is for 200 kilometres. There is NH-54 from Silchar to Aizwal extending to 180 kilometres and NH-53 from Silchar to Imphal is running up to 335 kilometres. The distance between Silchar to Guwahati via Haflong is about 475 kilometres which the hon. Prime Minister has decided as Mahasarak, namely from Sourashtra to Silchar. This is one of the roads which will be developed. The route Guwahati to Margarita is extending to 37 kilometres.

The National Highway No. 39 from Dimapur to Moreh via Kohima needs to be converted into four lane traffic, since this road leads into Myanmar from India.

The National Highway No. 61 from Kohima to Amguri via Wokha and Mokokchung needs more funds and requires to be made into four lane traffic.

The border roads from Kiphire in Tuensang District which passes through Tuensang, Tobu, Mon, Wakching and Naginimora needs to be converted into four lane traffic as it is the only road near the international border between India and Myanmar. It is a heavy traffic road. I would also serve the defence purposes and economic development of the region which has huge natural resource along the international border. This road should be declared a National Highway which would form a part of the super National Highway to join up with the National Super Highway which is proposed to join up with road starting from Silchar and other highways of the North-Eastern States.

There is the necessity of all these roads. It is not only that. For the last five to six years, in spite of our repeated request to the Central Government from the North-Eastern Congress Forum as also the Non-Congress Forum, very less amount has been given. Nagaland has been demanding a four-way traffic within. Shri Khanduri, only five kms. of railway line has been developed. Dimapur has recently been connected by air. You know about that area. You were in the Army. The *Maha sarak* scheme has been announced by the hon. Prime Minister. It was also announced in the Presidents' Address. We do not know what you stand for. Some of the roads, like the Guwahati-Silchar-Haflong road, have been taken away from the Border Roads Organisations by the National Highways Authority. They took over these roads nine months ago but there is no improvement. A beautiful road has been converted into a very bad road. We wrote to the hon. Prime Minister. Recently, I saw about it in the newspapers also. The hon. Prime Minister is very much unhappy. He wants

that this project should be taken up. If it is to be taken up, it will take time. Meanwhile, these roads should be developed.

Mr. Minister, you will be surprised to know that in the Silchar-Shillong road sector, there was landslide near Sonapur. It was closed for one month. For three or four days, it was continuously closed. Teh Border Roads Organisation has the good name of maintaining roads in a good condition. They could not do anything. I was also a Minister of State for Defence. It happened then also. We took the experts from Roorkee. They suggested certain measures because there is a certain hill which gets seepage of water from underneath. But nothing has been done so far. It is a sensitive issue. You are asking for peace from the people of Nagaland. But the youngsters of Nagaland have raised all these questions. They ask that what is the Government of India doing for them. A demand for a four-lane road from Dimapur to Manipur is not an unusual demand. You are spending crores of rupees for developing an airfield, for laying railway communication network. So, it should be done. This is my humble appeal. I do not want to repeat the points which have been made by the other hon. Members.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to another important point. It is about Rural Road Fund which will be spent. The hon. Prime Minister has announced the *Pradhan Mantri's Gram Sarak Yojana*. That was announced. I think the basic idea of giving money for developing rural roads is to implement this aspect of the Prime Minister's idea. It is very good. We welcome it. But what have you done? In your speech as well as in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, you have mentioned that the State Government has been given funds both for the development of State roads as well as rural roads. Someone here has rightly asked these questions: What is the role of the *village panchayats*? What is the role of the local bodies? What is the role for the Municipal Corporation? What is the role of a Member of Parliament?

Shrimati Margaret Alva told me that in Karnataka rupees one crore has been given for a *taluk* and the identification has been done. The MPs, the MLAs, the Block Panchayats and other were involved in it. But unless the State Government wants it, they will not do it. You must have a clear guideline. Shri Khanduri, a few days ago, when you were sitting in the fourth bench there, you used to cry loudly like us. You should understand that. Nowadays, a Member of Parliament is not judged by just giving a speech in the House. We are asked to give medicines. We are asked to get the roads repaired. We are asked to go to the schools etc.

Under the MPLADS, fund has been given to us for development purpose. I do not know whether money can be raised or not. It is very difficult. But this is one scope available to us. This is being discussed in the MPLADS committee which the hon. Speaker has formed. We are discussing whether a part of that money can be given to us for the development purpose or not. We do not want anything.

Sir, we only want to identify as to which are the roads in our respective area which can be taken up, because the bureaucrats sitting in Dispur cannot find out as to what are the needs of our area. So, the Government should allow us to do this. Then, the Bill at present, makes no reference to the elected local bodies and other representatives of the people regarding the execution of the project. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly bring a Government amendment to this Bill to involve the elected local bodies, MLAs and MPs. It will be a very useful thing to do.

The hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to give us the Silchar Bypass. I met him and told him that almost every month there used to be two or three accidents. The town road is the road for going to Mizoram, Manipur and other areas. A lot of Army vehicles pass through that road and every month there is a trouble between the Army people and the civilians. Accidents never occur intentionally; they happen due to congestion on the road. Many times, I had to go and arbitrate between them. Sometimes, the Army people also get very agitated and very rightly so, because they do not have any other road to travel to Mizoram, Manipur etc. They had been demanding for a bypass, good road. Then, I wrote to the Defence Minister, the Defence Minister wrote to the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister then wrote to the then Surface Transport Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh and this road has been given. This is a very good thing that the Government has done. But recently, in reply to a question in Parliament, it was stated that it would take four years to complete the construction of this road. This is too long a period. The land acquisition process has started and it is almost complete now. So, this road should be completed as quickly as possible.

Finally, I would request the hon. Minister to take care of the roads in the North Eastern Region, because our communication is mainly dependent on roads. If Guwahati-Margaret Road and Silchar-Shillong road are closed, we will be put to a lot of difficulties. Then Silchar-Agartala road should be completed quickly, because every day the cost of the project is going up. We need communication not for pleasure, but for our survival. So, I fully support this Bill. It is a good piece of legislation. I would request the hon. Minister to do this in his initial days, when he is a novice as a Minister. Otherwise, all

sorts of pressures will come up. I hope that the hon. Minister would take a positive decision on all the suggestions made by the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER : I would request the hon. Members to give only some suggestions to the Minister, instead of making speeches, because this Bill is mainly for the purpose of giving statutory status to the Central Road Fund.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): I will take a few minutes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking in support of Central Road Fund Bill, 2000. As mentioned in this Bill funds will be mobilised through cess on petrol and diesel and utilised for the construction and maintenance of national highway, construction of rural roads, and the construction of bridges on national highway over rail routes. I will conclude after giving 2-4 suggestions. As mentioned in para 7 of Part-II, about the development of rural roads, it appears very vague. How the development of rural roads will take place? I would like to know if the Union Government allocates money to the State Government, then what will be the share of Panchayat, local representative of the people, MLA, MP etc., and procedure of selection of those roads? Normally, when funds are allocated by Union Government to State Governments, it is done at Block and District level. The Union Government also allocates funds for Employment Assurance scheme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and Indira Awas Yojna.

Sir, many times it has been discussed in the House, how these funds are spent, utilised or misutilised by the State Government. In his reply the hon. Minister should clarify about the funds allocated for construction of rural roads. If these funds will be allocated to State Governments then what will be the role of a MP? In fact, I would like to suggest, that proper arrangements should be made for proper utilisation of these funds, because bunglings are reported from everywhere. You can add this fund to MPLADS fund, because MPs make recommendations for the construction of roads. Why are you giving money under other heads.

My second suggestion is, as mentioned in para 1—The Central Government shall be responsible for "administration and management of the share of funds allocated for the development and maintenance of the national highways" The Government is willing to take over the responsibility for it but what kind of responsibility do you want to take. Does your agency exist in States? The funds allocated by the Central Government are spent by the States? You do not have agency anywhere. When, Shri Nitish Kumar was the Minister in charge for this

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

Department, he went to Bihar for review. At that time he felt, some kind of bungling is taking place in the road development schemes. He gave statement in press that if the State Government does not work appropriately then the Central Government would get this work done through some other agency. At that time somebody filed petition in Patna High Court, and the High Court found Ministers' statement to be correct. The High Court clarified if the Central Government wants to get this work done through some other agency, it can do so. You have got agency of the State Government. Engineers are of the State Government, and you allocate money to the State Government, please go to the States, and see the condition of roads, then only you will come to know how these funds are being utilised. You will come to know how much is being utilised and how much is being misutilised. I am particularly mentioning NH roads. The Central Government should decide its norms for the agency through which money has to be spent as state level because you cannot monitor the funds. When you go for monitoring. You take up the issue with the officer who is involved in corruption. You make decisions only on the basis of what is written in the papers. Till you appoint an agency to do verification and monitoring from top to bottom, all the funds will continue to be misutilised and monitoring will remain fruitless.

Sir, I would like to suggest one more thing to them. I would like to know the procedure of selection of Link Road. I understand the road which connects one highway to another highway is called Link Road. Lot of corruption is also involved in the manner of selection of Link Roads. Whether they are selected on the recommendation of State Government or MPs, or they arbitrarily selects all the roads what is the procedure? They should decide one procedure for it—it can be done on the recommendation of State Government or MPs. As long as the proper procedure is not laid down, the work cannot be accomplished properly and scope for corruption will remain. You should appoint honest Engineers over there. I feel that the people, who examine maps in your department, are not working properly. When Shri Rajnath Singhji was the Minister, I made recommendations for three roads in writing—from Manjhi to Badole via Maharajganj, from Chhapra to Mahmadpur, via Jalalpur-Baniapur and from Chhapra to Mahmadpur, via Masrak. Your department has issued notification for a road, and in that notification it has been said that parts of two different roads should be linked to make a separate road. Does it happen anywhere. You should either had examined papers submitted by me or should have assigned the job of examining map to an efficient person. You assign the job to the person who does not have any knowledge about maps, and is give airconditioned room. That is why all discrepancies are taking place. I had written letter to Shri Rajnath Singhji and you too. Till

now, file has not been sent to you. You please ask the Department for file and should try to rectify the mistake to link two roads into one road. You should amend it as Chhapra to Mahadpur, via Jalalpur-Baniapur, otherwise we will think that nobody cares in your Department ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, in the end, I would like to give one more suggestion. As many roads have been taken under NH, and money had also been allocated for the repairing of these roads in the past. It was done so in Shri Nitish Kumar's tenure also, but this time your Department has not allocated any money for it. I would like to know whether those roads have been left to the State Government or are under NH?

If you do not allocate money for those roads, then what will happen to them? You have deteriorated their condition further by declaring them national highway. Therefore, it is your responsibility to maintain and make security arrangements for the roads which have been declared as national highways. You should set up your own agency to spend money in this regard so that funds may be properly utilised. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Central Road Fund Bill, 2000 introduced in the House. I also support the Ordinance passed on first November. The Government having a majority in Parliament or Legislature, promulgates Ordinance with the confidence that when it would be introduced in the form of a Bill in the House, it would get the approval of the House. Today the Bill to replace the ordinance is before the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for giving me third or fourth number in my party to speak. I feel that we have not been elected by the people as the Chair arbitrarily decided all this. Sir, you should take care that Members like myself, who do not believe in manipulations etc. should be given the opportunity to speak. You have given this opportunity to me after many days.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is too short and the Minister in-charge or this Bill had been a senior officer of the Army and even a delay of one minute can cause a big mis-happening in the Army. So it would be in the interest of the nation if the decision is made keeping in mind these facts as also the points mentioned by hon. Prabhunath Singhji.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to finish my speech soon. I thank you for giving me the time to speak. Sir, you

should also pay attention towards the national highways, rural roads and state roads mentioned in section 9 of the management of Central Road Fund.

You hail from countryside of hilly region. You are very well aware of the difficulties being faced by the people living there. I urge that Bihar should get its share as per the national proportion and alongwith this, I request you to make arrangements for the development and maintenance of highways approved in Bihar.

Shri Prabhunath Singh has rightly said that the Government should itself take care of this aspect. It has often been seen that a plan gets approval and estimate is also prepared for that, but later on this estimate goes up as excessive time is taken in the completion of the work.

My friend had raised a point in the morning that the M.P. LAD amounts should be increased. You give money to the states, but the MPs can not keep any check on this money. In fact, no advice is taken from us.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, if the House agrees, as there are only one or two hon. Members, immediately after the completion of this Bill, we can take up the Private Members' Business.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : This is an important Bill. It has not gone to the Standing Committee also. The House should devote some more time. It may be taken up on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER : Actually, the time allotted was only one hour. We have taken more time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, this is an important subject. It should be taken up on Monday.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, we can complete this Bill by four o'clock and at four o'clock we can take up the Private Members' Business.

Shri Rajo Singh, you may now conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : I was submitting that you had approved one national highway. This is Shri George's constituency and Shri Nitish's district. The area is such that if you go there, either you would not return safe or

your car would not return safe. If one wished to go to Mokama from Bihar Sharief, then national highway Mokama to Farakka shall have to be taken. It touches my constituency, but this entire constituency is of the hon. Defence Minister and the district is of Nitish ji. Approvals has been given but no work, in this regard, has been initiated till date. The State Government has stated that since it is a national highway, so it would not take up any work here.

Barbeegha National Highway was approved. Kindly make efforts for connecting the Dumka-Barbeegha National Highway going upto Calcutta. The MPs from Bihar had also given a memorandum to the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard. Please connect Jharkhand to the national highway from Bangal *via* Barbeegha to Sikandara, Jamui, Deoghar, Baba Baidyanath and Dumka. With this, Bihar, Jharkhand and Bengal would all be connected with each other and this would become an important road. I shall feel obliged if Khanduri Saheb will do this. He is my old friend. I have been an admirer of Shri Khanduri and I extend my thanks to him. He has got an important Department. I am extending a hand of friendship towards him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend my thanks to you too. I urge you to please also give chance to the MPs sitting at the back benches.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is related to the roads. Length of rural roads is 26 lakh kilometers, of district roads 4 lakh 78 thousand kilometers, of state roads 1 lakh 28 thousand kilometers and of national highways 58 thousand kilometers. So three types of roads have been mentioned in this Bill viz. National Highways, rural roads and state roads. But why has the notified area, municipal area or urban area been left out of this? Three types of roads have been mentioned in this, but who will construct, if even one road is left out? I feel that an amendment has to be made in this Bill. The road which is constructed, is also to be maintained. National highways or state highways pass through villages, or densely populated areas. People raise the level of entrance of their houses, doors or open their shops at a raised platform and as the road happens to be at a lower level, water logging takes place, which causes damage to the road. I have seen that roads all over are in bad shape.

15.36 hrs.

[ MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair* ]

A Road Conference was held in Calcutta. A provision should have been made at this conference that drains (nallahs) or proper water drainage systems should be evolved in those areas where national highways are

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

passing and which are densely populated. The road gets totally damaged if water gets collected on the road. I have come to know that an amount of two and a half thousand crore, raised through cess on Diesel and petrol is being given for the construction of rural roads. Then I also came to know that rupees two and a half thousand crore would be given from the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana. So in all, this would be an amount of rupees five thousand crore that would be spent on the construction of rural roads. I would like to know from the Government the source of mobilising two and a half thousand crore. It is a fraud on the country. Whether the amount of two and a half thousand crore rupees will be from the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana and would be a separate amount than the amount being raised from levying a cess on Diesel and petrol for the Central road fund. If it is not so then I would bring the privilege Motion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Finance Minister had announced that two and a half thousand crore rupees would be given under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana and now he is saying that the amount of two and a half thousand crore would be given out of the money raised through levy of cess on Diesel and petrol. How can the Government raise money from two different sources? The Government is cheating and beguiling us. How can the rural areas develop like this? on the one hand, Government is hastily introducing the Bill to replace the Ordinance. The House is being deceived. The amount of Rs. Two and half thousand crore will not come from any other head, otherwise I will not spare the Government. Why you keep on changing name?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it should be disclosed that how such a dubious statement is being given. I have found that a list of National Highway has been prepared. This list do not include the names of Hajipur-Vaishali-Sahibganj-Dumariaganj where Lord Buddha and Lord Mahavir was borned. The State Government have recommended in 1995 to include this road but the name neither appeared in newspaper nor in notification. How this happened and how this change takes place? What is the process of all this. Why the attitude of neglect is there. What I say to the people that this is the way we are treated?

This is such a historic and important road where the democracy developed its roots some three thousand years ago and which was visited by Lord Buddha. Afterwards there came Fhien and Hieun Tsang. They have written in their diary that the democratic system developed in this part of the world. This is the place where came Lord Buddha and said that, here runs the rule of Law. The Rules are drafted here. And they have left this important road. The State Government

wrote, even I have written that discriminations should not be done. Fortunately, this is a very large department. Many a times Ministers were transferred. Nitish Kumar came, Rajnath Singh ji went there on lien, now Khanduri Saheb has come, he is a very fast friend of mine. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav ji was there. He has also been transferred. Therefore, the matter of maintenance and the notified area, urban body and the road under municipal corporation have not been mentioned here. How this was left. Bills are drafted by knowledgeable and intelligent people. These are main infrastructure roads of the country, the length is 33 lakh kilometer. Out of which 26 lakh kilometer falls in rural area. But the matter of rural road has not been placed before the Cabinet. The proposal has been forwarded by the State Government and all the people are very curious about its result. The districts roads consists of the length of 4 lakh 78 thousand kilometer and the State has 1 lakh 28 thousand kilometer long road. The Golden Quadrilateral has a 58 thousand kilometer long road. How many days were taken by Shershah to construct Grant Trunk Road. How many days you will take to construct the Golden Quadrilateral road. We will also check your work. You have got scientific system and technology and all your strength are involved there. I will also see that in how many days you finish the work.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am concluding. You have to give priority to the road. The condition of State Government is bad and so is the condition of N.H. The road which goes to Dumariaganj from Mujjaferpur is in bad condition. Presently, the condition of N.H. passing through Hajipur, Mujjaferpur, Sitamarhi, Sonbarsa is also very bad. If you travel on that road you will find that they are the worst maintained roads and they are national highways. The condition of these roads should be improved. Our country can develop only when the roads are developed. With this I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I shall be very brief.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Gadhavi please be brief. We have extended the House only upto 4 o'clock.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : I am not going to take much time, Sir, I shall make only suggestions.



Sir, I rise to support the Central Road Fund Bill. I heartily congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill. In my constituency, the National Highways Authority is constructing four-lane roads. from Samkhiyali to Bhachau, the work has been completed and from Bhachau to Gandhidham, the work is in progress.

A new bridge over Little Rann has been completed but only one section on N.H.8 from Gandhidham, that is, from Kandla Port to Lakhpat-Narayan Sarovar. the work requires to be commenced. Coastal Highways require to be developed on the pattern of National Highways.

For protection of our border and for defence purposes, the road from Samkhiyali to Gaduli requires to be started.

My suggestion to the hon. Minister is that at the time of formulating schemes, local representatives from the concerned areas should be consulted and their say should carry more weight.

Further, a scheme for coastal highways and border roads be formulated so that it will be much helpful for our defence purposes.

I request the hon. Minister to say that the work of Expressway between Vadodra and Ahmedabad would be completed as early as possible. Initially it was to cost Rs. 44 crore and after that, due to litigation, the cost has gone up to Rs. 400 crore.

Further, I would like to suggest that if a scheme to provide telephone line services along with the roads is formulated in consultation with the Telecommunications Department, then that will also help.

People's participation in road-building particularly in the rural roads requires to be encouraged. Monitoring of construction of roads should be entrusted to specialists and their consultants should supervise at the time of construction of the roads.

In villages, all-weather roads should be encouraged instead of Katcha roads because Katcha roads are being washed away every year. Whenever you go in for village roads, they should be all-weather roads.

For de-congestions from metro cities, it is very much necessary to go in for hub-and-spoke road arrangements which should be given top priority. I have one more request to make. Planning process should come from the district. When the district-level persons are sending the plans, they should not be altered without consulting them. What is the need of the roads in the district is better known to the district-level persons and, therefore, they and the local representatives should be consulted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER We have already extended the time upto 4 o' clock. The hon. Minister has to complete before that. He will take another 10 minutes. We are encroaching upon the Private Members' Business time. Let the hon. Minister speak now.

*[Translation]*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion on Central Road Fund Bill. I am also grateful to the Members who remained silent during the course of discussion.

Almost eleven Members participated in discussion on this Bill and some major points come out of this discussion. By keeping in view the time limit I will discuss over these major points only and I will try to discuss the rest of the points and suggestions given by Members Separately.

First thing which came up is that why we have issued the Ordinance Yesterday also I have submitted you and now again I am submitting that, in principle the ordinance should not have been issued.

*[English]*

For the benefit of hon. Member Shri Varkata Radhakrishnan, who may not understand Hindi. I am explaining and submitting to you that we did this so that we could release certain amount of funds to the States. If this statutory Bill was not there, if this Ordinance was not there, we will have to wait till the Bill is passed by both the Houses of Parliament. This is the working season. The Chief Ministers are coming here saying that they need money for repair of the roads which have been damages by floods etc. Therefore, by this method we could release money to the States which, so far, we are using only for the National Highways.

Therefore, as an example of our sincerity, we have already released Rs. 325 crore in early November so that this money could be utilised by them. That is the aim. This Bill would get passed here and then it has to go to the Rajya Sabha. Therefore, all this would take time. It is with that intention alone, to utilise the working season, for the engineers to repair the damages as early as possible and to give them whatever money which we have, we brought in this Ordinance.

This is one-third of the amount that has been released to States. The balance two-third will be released as per the procedure. This is our justification.

[Translation]

And that is the reason why we have issued this ordinance. My request is that at least in this matter you please do not doubt in our intention.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second thing is

[English]

What is the concept.

[Translation]

The cess is being charged and the money is being collected.

[English]

Here, I would like to submit that the Government and the hon. Prime Minister have initiated implementing a grand vision of road network in the country. At the moment we have National Highways, State roads, district roads and rural roads.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : What about the Golden Quadrilateral connecting Kanyakumari?

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I am coming to that.

Therefore, there is a grand vision which has been pursued by the Hon. Prime Minister and this Government and in this vision we want to have Highways and Express Highways and to have fast-moving transportation system in the country so that the immense potential that this country has can be utilised. God has given so much of resources to us. We are given talented manpower. We are given rainbow of climate and weather. We want to utilise this for the betterment of this country. One of the infrastructural requirements is roads and, therefore, this Government has visualised a massive plan and for that massive plan, without funds nothing would have happened.

Therefore, this cess has been imposed. The plan, roughly, is for 5,952 kilometers of this Golden Quadrilateral.

[Translation]

The Golden Quadrilateral being constructed.

[English]

It is 5952 kilometer long and I have been asked to complete it by 2003, that is, within three years. This is costing Rs. 27,000 crore. It would be measuring about

6,000 kilometers of roads connecting major cities. Roads are already there. They have to be connected ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagtsinghpur) : Why is it that cess is charged at a flat rate of one per cent and not *ad valorem*?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Let us not go into that.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kanungo, let us hear the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : This is one element of this grand vision. The second element is North-South and East-West corridors. North-South corridor is about 4,000 kilometer long starting from Srinagar and going to Kanyakumari, Shri Radhakrishnan, it is going vertically downwards right up to Kanyakumari. The other one, that is, East-West corridor is starting from Silchar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Not through Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Francis, if you want to seek any clarification, the Minister has to yield. You are a new Member. You should know that. You should learn that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : If they have any doubt, I will clear all their doubts in my office...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : There is no doubt for us. Your project is ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Kurup, if he yields, only then I can allow you. Otherwise, both the persons cannot go on speaking simultaneously.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : We have been told time and again that this Golden Quadrilateral plan ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : They are not listening to me. Let me complete...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete.

\* Not recorded.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : There is East-West corridor and North-South corridor. East-West corridor is coming from Silchar and going to Porbandar. Then, as far as East Coast is concerned, we have got subsidiary things to do. All these things are being taken care of.

My submission is that at the moment, we are planning to construct 6,000 kilometers of this, plus 7,300 kilometers of other corridor. Of 13,000 kilometers, about 6000 kilometres are being made. This is the first stage. This is not the end. We want to do this and actually, we will be connecting various corridors and other things. Ultimately, the aim is to connect major places, major roads and major centres, where heavy transportation is there, with four to six lanes and the national highways. This is the concept which the Prime Minister started and we have started implementing it. Sir, the cess is coming for the village roads and we will be able to achieve this aim and the nation will see....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, the Minister may kindly yield.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you yielding to him?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : No.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, originally, the Golden Quadrangular plan included Kerala.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not yielding to you. Nothing will go on record since he is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, you know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I may be knowing, but unless he yields to you, you cannot say anything. I cannot ask them to take record.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : The second major issue that has been raised is about the concept of utilisation of this money. I would briefly explain it. That concept is, this money is used either for National Highways, which come under the Central Government's control or State Roads. It was also stated that we have left district roads and all that. I would submit that all these roads have been divided into three categories for the purpose of allocation. One is the National Highways. The second one is State Roads. The third one is Rural Roads. In this, we have distributed this amount of money and based on this, the States will be given funds. As far as State Roads are concerned, which are monitored by the Centre, the State money will go to the States. The

procedure is that they will select the roads, come back to us with the requirement of funds, we will clear it and then, they will work only on those roads which have been cleared. Therefore, the question of these funds being misused or taken anywhere else would be considerably reduced. As far as rural roads are concerned, this money is to be given to the rural Development Ministry. They are formulating a methodology to ensure that roads actually come up on the ground.

A point has been raised that MPs and elected Members should have a say in it. We will look into it and do whatever is possible. We will see how this can be done and to what extent, this can be done.

Regarding availability of funds, I would say that this fund is not the only fund which the States have got for maintaining their roads. They have to have their own resources also. There are various types of *yojanas* and the Centre is also giving various types of resources. There are other heads also than the CRF. There are various types of schemes under rural development. That money will go and a part of that will also be utilised. Therefore, the total money will be used for this purpose. As regards National Highways, it was asked by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other Members that we should have an organisation which should be totally supervised by us. This is not so at the moment because we are only for monitoring.

I will give you some figures. The total organisation that we have is one Director-General, (Road Division) 16 Chief Engineers, 60 Superintending Engineers, 87 Executive Engineers and 42 Assistant Executive Engineers AE. This is the total organisation in the whole country. Therefore, our function here is, whether it is national highways or utilisation of funds, to monitor and supervise, and wherever anything is going wrong and comes to our notice, we go into it. That is how it is accountable. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I have only one question, and you only have to explain the position.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, are you yielding?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : No. Sir, I am not yielding.

SHRI E. AHAMED : You were the Chief Whip of a big political party. Why have you excluded Kerala in the 'Golden Quadrangle'? We want to know because we are Members from Kerala.

\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I will send you a written reply on that. What is happening about Kerala coast, I will convey it to you

Sir, eleven Members have spoken on this Bill, and I have noted down their points. I will convey the information to the individual Members because of paucity of time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How much more time will you take because we have extended the time for discussing this Bill up to 4 o' clock ? It seems that it will take some more time and the Mover also has to reply.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : I need just one minute more. I now request the House to pass the Bill unanimously. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah) : Sir, for the creation of the Central Road Fund, a duty has been levied on petrol and diesel at one rupee per litre throughout the country. The accrual was to the tune of Rs. 6,000 crore per annum. Out of this, Rs. 3000 crore are to be made available for the construction of rural roads.

In this connection, I would like to submit that out of this amount of Rs. 3,000 crore, a sum of Rs. 3 crore or Rs. 3.5 crore may be allocated to each Member, just like the money which is allocated under the MPLADS. As you know, rural roads are not getting any attention from the State Governments. There are many villages which have not been connected at all. The villages are to be connected to the market yards, and to the mandal headquarters. There are some inter-mandal roads which are to be taken care of. If it is not possible to implement the suggestion made by me, at least, that part of the money may be directly allocated to the DRDAs so that the local MLAs, and the elected representatives of the panchayats and the municipalities can get the works sanctioned through the Collector concerned. The Minister may kindly reveal as to how much money has been collected under this Fund from April 1999 to March 2000.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already given the reply to these points. Is there anything else that you want to say?

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Out of 50 per cent, thirty per cent was to be allocated for State roads, which comes to 15 per cent of the entire accrual. The

(Assurance)

State Government has its own sources, ways and means, for maintaining the roads. Funds may kindly be allocated from the CRF for the State roads which fall in the respective constituencies of the Members of Parliament. The village or the rural roads have to be made as 'pucca' roads and not as 'kutchcha' roads.

16.00 hrs.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I will explain about rural roads. The norms are being worked out by the Ministry of Rural Development. All the issues raised by the hon. Member would certainly be taken into consideration by them.

SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Quality standards should be stipulated for rural road construction also so that they can also be made into national assets. Latest road construction technologies, using which cost-effective and maintenance-free roads can be made, should also be considered. Fly ash is a by-product of thermal power stations. Wherever viable and feasible, fly ash utilisation has to be made compulsory through a legislation.

With these suggestions and with the permission of all the hon. Members, I withdraw my Statutory Resolution and support the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I have given a notice opposing its withdrawal. A Statutory Resolution cannot be withdrawn like that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is Shri Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy who moved it and not you.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the Statutory Resolution moved by the hon. Member be withdrawn?

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to give statutory status to the existing Central Road Fund governed by the Resolution of Parliament passed in 1988, for development and maintenance of national highways and improvement of safety at railway crossings, and for these purposes to levy and collect by way of cess, a duty of excise and duty of customs on motor spirit commonly known as petrol, high speed diesel oil and for other matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Clause-by-Clause consideration**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 15 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

Clauses 2 to 15 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bil.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Private Members' Business.

**16.04 hrs.**

**MOTION RE : TENTH REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'  
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I propose that :

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 29.11.2000."

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 29.11.2000."

*The motion was adopted.*

**16.05 hrs.**

**RESOLUTION RE: RESERVATION FOR  
SOCIALLY AND EDUCATIONALLY  
BACKWARD CLASSES - Contd.**

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up Private Members' Business - Reservation for socially and educationally Backward Classes. Shri E. Ahamed to continue.

Hon. Members, whatever time of the Private Members' Business has been taken by the Government Business, that much of time will be added to the Private Members' Business.

**16.06 hours**

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while moving my non-official Resolution on August 18, 2000, I had dealt at length the genesis of the Reservation in this country and the evolution of the present Reservation Policy. While, mentioning these facts last time, I had explicitly quoted the interpretation and also the observations with respect to the Article 16(4)A which was incorporated by the 77th Amendment. But stressing the need of the Reservation for the socially and educationally Backward Classes including the Muslims in accordance with proportion of their population notwithstanding anything contained in any judgment of any Court of law to the contrary including ceiling on percentage of reservation. I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the prenatal history of Article 16 (4) which is the basis of the Reservation for different classes of people.

Sir, before I just go into it, I would like to quote Article (16(4)). It says:

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provisions for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I mentioned, the pre-natal history of this article will definitely make the House to come to a conclusion that 'the reservations to different communities are also to be granted.

I still feel that the pre-natal history of the present Article 16(4) is worth mentioning in this House. It was felt before the Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee. Clause (5) of the Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee Report providing for 'equality of opportunity in matters

[Shri E. Ahamed]

of public employment' came up for consideration before the Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of no less a person than Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel between 17 and 19 April, 1947. When it came up for discussion, Clause (5) as recommended by the Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee was the most important clause, and it was given due consideration by the Committee. That Committee consisted of stalwarts like C. Rajagopalachari, K.M. Panikkar, Syama Prasad Mookerji, Frank Anthony, K.M. Munshi and many such legal luminaries.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari suggested making the provision explicitly for the minorities instead of 'classes' as it is provided now. Shri Rajagopalachari told the Committee on a specific clarification about it as to whether it was the classed or minorities who were being given protection. Shri K.M. Panikkar, who was responsible for the initial changed words explained that besides recognising religious minorities there might be many classes amongst the Hindus not adequately represented. According to him, they had also to be given reservation.

In this connection Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee suggested the phrasing 'minorities and other classes' instead of simple 'classes'. That was the suggestion made by Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. Again, Sardar Ujjal Singh, who was a Member of that Committee suggested 'minorities and backward classes' without any reference to adequate representation. Shri Frank Anthony said that it should be 'classes and minorities'. This was the discussion that took place in that meeting. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel observed that 'classes' included 'minorities'. So, under article 16 (4) of the Constitution wherever 'classes' has been mentioned, it includes 'minorities'. This is what I wanted to bring to the notice of this hon. House.

I also want to quote in this august House what is mentioned in *The Framing of India's Constitution* by Dr. B. Shiva Rao. The Advisory Committee was chaired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel when the matter was taken up for discussion. The advisory Committee met for the second day in the Council's Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi at 10 a.m. on April 22, 1947. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was in the Chair. When the discussion was initiated, there were a number of observations made by the hon. Members of the Committee like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shri Rajagopalachari and others. For the information of the House, I may be permitted to quote verbatim from the proceedings of that Council as reported or compiled by Dr. B. Shiva Rao in his book *The Framing of India's Constitution*. It reads thus:

"FRANK ANTHONY : I would like to suggest that the clause should be amended 'nothing herein contained shall prevent the State from making provision for reservation in favour of minorities or classes.

UJJAL SINGH : It should be 'classes' over 'minorities'.

FRANK ANTHONY : What is the objection to 'classes and minorities'? 'Classes' will refer to the Scheduled Castes.

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI : It is sufficiently described here- 'those who are inadequately represented'

FRANK ANTHONY : Why should we fight shy of using a word which has the sanction of law and usage? We can make it more specific.

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI : Just as we do not say, 'citizens and persons', if one word is wider, we omit the smaller word.

FRANK ANTHONY : We can put it as 'classes including minorities.

CHAIRMAN (SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL) 'Minority' is included in 'classes'.

FRANK ANTHONY : This is my amendment. I move in favour of 'classes and minorities'.

UJJAL SINGH : 'Minorities and backward classes'.

CHAIRMAN (SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL) This is simple English. 'Class' includes 'minorities'. This is absolutely unnecessary. It is as clear as daylight."

"The Committee has come to the unanimous conclusion and we also feel classes include minorities. There is no need to suspect. The whole basis of the provision is minorities. You say the State will exclude minorities?"

This is what Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel asked the Committee when Article 16(4) was under discussion of the Advisory Committee. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had taken the stand that the classes would include minorities. He was in a very enraged mood. He said that there was no need to suspect and that the whole basis of the provision is minorities. Again I would like to quote:

FRANK ANTHONY: We are not suspecting the present leaders. We do not know who the future leaders would be.

CHAIRMAN : No leader would be so stupid as to interpret that classes do not include minorities."

I am only bringing to the notice of the House, the observation made by no less a person than Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He said that classes would include minorities. This is, according to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who was the Chairman of the Advisory Committee which has finally presented it to the Drafting Committee. I am only quoting this for the purpose of this House. I would insist on that quote and continue:

"FRANK ANTHONY: We are not suspecting the present leaders. We do not know who the future leaders would be.

CHAIRMAN : No leader would be so stupid as to interpret that classes do not include minorities."

FRANK ANTHONY : We have used the words elsewhere.

CHAIRMAN : Anybody will say that 'classes' is a wider term. It is better to use a wider word.

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI : I would appeal to him that according to the ordinary interpretation if you introduce the word minority, the question whether a class is a minority will become justiciable. Classes will be interpreted in the sense of minority. The use of the general term 'classes' is followed by the phrase 'not adequately represented' and the opinion of the State finally determines it. I think, this is the best way of solving it.

K.M. MUNSHI : In Section 153A, the term 'class of His Majesty's subjects' has been used. 'Classes' have been interpreted as minorities or religious communities also. Nobody has ever interpreted it as not meaning minorities."

This is what Shri K.M. Munshi observed. Therefore, Article 16(4) is only with respect to the rights and privileges, and reservation for minorities, that is, treating Muslims as backward classes. In my Resolution also I said like that. I quote:

"This House urges upon the Government to bring forward a suitable legislation to make provision for reservation in appointments and posts in services and for admission into educational institutions in favour of socially and educationally backward classes including Muslims..."

'Social and educational backwardness, are important criteria to be determined for which on their under-representation or inadequate representation should also be taken into consideration. Therefore, if somebody says that Article 16(4) stands in the way of Constitution for

providing reservation to Muslims, I would say that the pre-natal history of article 16(4), the decisions and the views given expression to by our founding fathers of the Constitution are amply clear on that crucial matter. There is nothing wrong in providing reservation to different communities and there would be no unconstitutionality either.

Therefore, if somebody says that already there are backward classes and now, Muslims are also being included - Mandal Commission has included Muslims in backward class - then I would say that I do admit that in States like Kerala, the entire community like Muslim. Ezhavas has been taken as backward classes.

Because they are socially and educationally backward and they are not adequately represented as a community, they have the right to be given the reservation in the matter of appointment. As a matter of fact Mandal Commission also had mentioned about the percentage of reservation given to other backward classes. According to Chapter IX of Mandal Commission Report :

"From the information supplied by the Central Government Ministries and Departments, it is seen that other backward Classes constitute 12.55 per cent of the total number of Government employees, whereas their aggregate population is 52 per cent. Their representation in Class-I post is only 4.69 per cent. That is less than one-tenth of their proportion to the country's total population."

When their aggregate percentage is 52 per cent, their representation is only 12.55 per cent according to the observation made by the Mandal Commission. The Mandal Commission has also mentioned about certain judgements. Ceiling OBC, Quota to 50%. I would like to quote that also. According to the last Chapter, para 12; 2.2:

"The population of OBC, both Hindus and non-Hindus is around 52 per cent of the total population. Accordingly, 52 per cent of the posts should be reserved for them. But this provision may go against the law laid down in a number of Supreme Court judgements wherein it has been held that the total quantum of reservation under article 15 (4) and 16 (4) of the Constitution should be below fifty per cent. In view of this, the proposed reservation for the OBCs would have to be pegged at a figure which when added to 22.5 per cent of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, remain below fifty per cent. In view of this legal constraint, the Commission is obliged to recommend a reservation of 27 per cent even though their population is almost twice this figure."

[Shri E. Ahamed]

When the population of the OBCs is growing, how can the Supreme Court put a ceiling on it? It was not the population of 1980 or 1990. In 2000 also their population, according to all these legal and other documents, is growing. While their population is increasing, how can the Supreme Court say that it shall not go beyond a limit? The Court cannot put a cap on it. This is not correct. When there are more backward classes, you must reserve more seats. If it is less, then less number of seats should be provided. That is why in my Resolution I have mentioned.

"...Notwithstanding anything contained in any judgement of any court of law of the country including ceiling on percentage of reservation..."

It is imperative in democratic country where people of different religions and different classes, like minorities and backward classes, are living should be given proper representation in administration. Unless the Government makes such an effort, it is a failure on their part to discharge the democratic, constitutional and other moral duties. In this connection, I would like to say that Muslims should also be given reservation. What is the representation of Muslims in this country? I would like to bring to the notice of the House the facts already made known to this country by various sources.

Representation of Muslims in administration, Government services, may I say is abysmally poor. In this connection, I would like to bring to the notice of the House the findings of the National Sample Survey conducted in 1998. Even though the Muslim population is more than 12 per cent of the total population, the representation of Muslims in IAS is only 2.86 per cent. The largest minority and the second largest majority population in this country have the Muslims only 2.86 per cent representation in IAS. In IPS, their representation is 2 per cent...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : For how long you will speak on this resolution?

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : I am the mover of this Resolution. Moreover, I am speaking for the hapless community. For Class-I posts, the representation for Muslims is 3.3 per cent. In the nationalised banks, the Muslim employees are only 2.18 per cent. In total, the Muslim engineers are 2 per cent and doctors are 2.5 per cent. This is some indication to show how Muslims are grossly under-represented in the Government services.

I would like to bring to the notice of the House some performance indicators. According to the social groups, compiled by Prof. Dalip Swamy primary school children population 16.81 per cent as compared to 63.19 per cent of the total population. Involvement of the Muslims in primary classes is 12.39 per cent. Survivors in Class-V is 8.05 per cent. Class -X school going population is 18.25 per cent. The enrolment of Muslim children in Class-X is 16 per cent and the success rate is only 4 per cent. Similarly, at the graduate level the enrolment is 6.21 per cent and the success rate is 3.20 per cent. This is the present state of affairs of the Muslim community in this country. Post-graduate enrolment is 9.11 per cent and the success rate at this level is 6.98 per cent. Placement in jobs of the Muslim population through employment exchanges is 2 per cent; in private sector companies it is 8.16 per cent out of which executive class is 1.5 per cent, clerical class is 8.28 per cent and workers is 7 per cent. This is the present situation of the minority Muslim community. The percentages with regard to the State Government officials are also like that. As per the income level, the poorest is 10.90 per cent and poor is 41.40 per cent whereas in other communities, it is 28.43 per cent. Muslim population above poverty line is 26.6 per cent. The richest section of the Muslim population is 3.87 per cent.

Therefore, this is not community of rich people. It is a community of the poor people. The poorest of the poor is in the Muslim community. They have been denied admission in education institutions. They have been denied representation in the Government services and other services. In this connection I would also like to bring to the notice of the House as to what happened in 1997.

In the year 1997, there were 449 Directors in the public sector undertakings, out of which there were only 21 Muslims. It comes to 4.2 per cent. Out of 13,900 senior officers in public sector, only 321 are Muslims. It constitutes 2.32 per cent among the judicial officers. Their percentage is less than seven. In the Reserve Bank of India, which is the highest body of this country, there is not even a single member in the Board of Directors. Only two Executive Directors are there out of 60. This is the position. In nationalised banks, there are 2.18 per cent Muslims. There is no Muslim among five Board members of LIC. It is biggest financial institution of the country. Hundreds and lakhs of rupees have been given as loan by this institution but this community has been denied even the directorship of this institution. There is not a single Director from this community. Their number is less than 3 per cent in Police and para-military forces. As regards poverty alleviation programmes of banks, they constitute 9.41 per cent of the people who have taken loan. The amount of loan taken by them is only



3.73 per cent. I am bringing all these matters only to make the Government understand that it is only a legitimate demand of the Muslims and other backward classes to have special reservation. If that reservation is not given, they will never be able to get representation in the Government service.

Sir, everybody has supported it. For example, I will tell you the view taken by the former Prime Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, you had taken 26 minutes earlier and now you are speaking for the last 30 minutes. There are many other Members who want to participate and the Minister would also reply.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I will conclude in five minutes

Sir, on the occasion of National Convention on Reservation for the Muslims held in October 1994, Shri V P Singh, who was the champion of Mandal Commission Report said :

"The question now only arises whether the amount of reservation for the Muslims should be separately quantified; and second whether all the Muslims should be entitled to reservation.

As far the first proposal, the answer is that if the actual working of the Mandal Commission Report does not ensure adequate representation, then there is a strong case for providing separate reservation for the Muslims. Objections on the ground that then each social section will have to be provided separate quota does not hold because Muslims are large social section comprising of more than 15 crore people. The most backward classes among the backward classes have been given separate representation in certain States on the ground that they are sizeable group requiring separate safeguard.

As far the second proposal being the rate of drop out of the Muslims in educational institutions, a fresh determination is necessary than what has been done hitherto. I am sure if this is done Muslim brothers would come under the socially and educationally backward classes."

This is the view taken by Shri V.P. Singh while arguing for the reservation of the Muslims in this country.

Again Sir, once late Rajiv Gandhi, who was the Leader of Opposition of this august House made an observation in this regard. I would just like to bring the extract from the speech made by him on 6th September, 1990 in this House. He said:

"I should go not only to such under-privileged groups and many others like them, but the people from all

religions who are under privileged and this is where I have a great difference with what the Government is bringing in. We are looking almost entirely at castes. Not only that, they have not included very large sections of the minority who should be included. If you look at the Muslims, the vast majority of the Muslim community in India is backward educationally, socially, economically, everywhere. It is true for almost every religion as groups who are socially and educationally backward. Why should they not be included? I would request Raja Saheb to expand the definition of castes first by including socially and educationally backward classed or the backward groups, whatever you want to call it, from other castes, from within the Hindu religion and then expanding it so socially and economically backward groups from other religions namely the Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and others."

This is the view given expression to by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Leader of the Opposition. The present Government which honour the wordings of great leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel should also follow it in practice. The Opposition which is even now following the ideals of Shri Rajiv Gandhi should also put it to practice.

I would also like to bring in two very prominent personalities who are social scientists in this country and apprise the House of what they have observed about reservation for Muslims. The first one is Prof. A.M. Khusro who was the Chairman of the Finance Commission till recently and who was also the Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University. While addressing the Second National Convention for Reservation of Muslims he said:

"Muslims cannot clear the backlog and backwardness unless given reservation. Though efficiency is a problem area in reservation, the community particularly needs the crutches to come up in the field of development."

Another social scientist of this country who also spoke in a convention was Prof. Rajni Kothari. He said:

"Muslims being an integral part of India's composite culture must be given equal representation at every level."

Therefore, public opinion is also changing. It is a fact that the Muslims in this country are educationally backward, socially backward and also very much poor in their representation in the Government, public undertakings and other fields. Their representation in services is abysmally poor. It is the duty of the Government to come forward to accept this fundamental truth and to provide reservation for educationally and social backward communities.

[Shri E. Ahamed]

I am sure, my friends in BJP would agree to it because they consider Muslims as blood of their blood and flesh of their flesh. So, when the blood of their blood and flesh of their flesh is suffering in such humiliation, in such backwardness, in such deprivation, I am sure, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi will come forward and accept this proposition. This is a legitimate case. This is a case of constitutional reality in this country to which nobody can close one's eyes.

I take only one minute to give percentage of different population groups in this country. The Scheduled Castes are 15.5 per cent; and the Scheduled Tribes are 7.5 per cent. So, together they make it 22.26 per cent of the total Indian population. Whereas the Muslims are 11.19 per cent, the Christians are 2.16 per cent, the Sikhs are 1.67 per cent, the Buddhists are 0.67 per cent and the Jains are 0.7 per cent. Totally all these groups of non-Hindu religious communities form only 16.69 per cent.

When this 16.16 per cent of people are denied their legitimate right to represent themselves in the Government as public servants, how can there be equality before law and equal treatment for all segments of people? Therefore, it is the principle for democracy of this country, a country which is having unity in diversity, which is multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious. Therefore, I urge upon this Government and also the hon. Minister to accept this resolution and give a good message to the entire people of this country. Words will not do anything. Only deeds will have some effect.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our veteran member hon'ble Shri E. Ahamed has moved a Private Member's Resolution on the sensitive issue of providing reservation to Muslims. This Government is anti-reservation Government. He has quoted examples from various books. I do not understand that on one side they are trying to remove the existing quota of reservation but on the other they are asking for more reservation. We support the resolution moved by the hon'ble member. He has quoted various provisions of the Constitution, historical precedences, documentary proofs, facts and figures, social, economical and educational situation. In fact, he has moved the resolution after thorough study. It seems he does not wish to be supported by others. Had I not interrupted, he would have continued for two-three hours more. However, he has presented it in a justified manner. Muslim community constitutes a large part of our population. Our Constitution provides reservation to socially and economically backward sections of the society. Principal of reservation provides these sections adequate representation in Government services. He has proved that Muslims have

not been given adequate representation in Government services. So, there is no justification in denying them reservation. However, I am sure that Government will reply that Constitution does not provide reservation on the basis of religion, therefore, it is difficult to provide reservation to Muslim community. That is why he has brought this Private Member's Resolution. As per this resolution, Constitution amendment is required in this regard. So, amend the Constitution and provide reservation to socially, economically and educationally backward sections of the society who are suppressed and who have not given adequate representation in Government services. Therefore, we fully support it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the provision this resolution can be passed just now but members on the other side will not let it passed. I think they have planned not to pass it in any condition. However, it will affect them adversely. Therefore, they should bring the amendment in the Constitution in this regard and solve this sensitive issue. Our Constitution does not categorise the socially and economically backward people on the basis of caste system and there is no caste system in Islam also. However, in our country caste system is prevailing in Muslims also and the deprived sections among them should have been put in the list of SCs but that was not done. For example 'nut' is a community which are found in Hindus and in Muslims also but they are suppressed. However, they have not been included in Scheduled Caste's List. Therefore, such backward castes which have been recommended by the Samaj Adhayan Sansasthan and by State Governments also should be included under the list of Scheduled Castes by bringing amendment in the constitution. Dafali, Kalal and Ansari etc. are the various sections of the Muslim Community which are suppressed and which should have been included under Scheduled Caste's List. But the same was not done. In this regard there is a need to amend the Constitution but they are not intending to bring it.

Similarly, State Governments have recommended to include Nais and Mallahs also in the list of Scheduled Castes. What is the problem? Why the Government is not making necessary reforms in this regard when there is a rule that social structure would be reviewed to categorise the people. A large number of people belonging to Saini community who are engaged in fishing and Nania community who are engaged in salt manufacturing are living in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Naina caste which comes under Scheduled Caste community in West Bengal is included under backward classes in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Such issues are pending in their departments and we are raising them for many days. The reply given is that Constitutional amendment is required in this regard, only then the reforms will take

places but it is not likely to be happened. It is possible that an agitation might take place on the issue of reservation which will destabilize the Government. Then the Government will be compelled to do so. Why not it take action well in time as per the provision made under Article 15(4) and 16 (4) on social justice and passed the resolution moved by Shri E. Ahmed. Amend the Constitution accordingly and provide reservation to minority community be it Muslims, Buddhists, Jains, Christians or other socially and educationally backward and suppressed people. Therefore, I request that a provision should be made in the Constitution to provide adequate representation to such sections. Though the present Government is anti-reservation, they have set up a commission to review the Constitution. There is a rumour in the entire country that the present Government intend to remove the existing quota of reservation. The Government can manipulate the issue but we will not let them remove the reservation. Shri Ahmed has given a good speech and mentioned about the verdict of the court. He has supported reservation for his community. We also support his private member resolution and request to pass it. I submit that the Constitution should be amended accordingly.

**SHRI BALKRISHAN CHAUHAN (Ghosi) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Private Member's Resolution presented by Shri E. Ahmed for providing reservation to socially and educationally backward classed is an important one. Even after 53 years of independence the condition of these people has not improved. Under Article 340 of our Constitution, hon'ble President has been given the right for a periodic review of social structure and to identify the backward sections so that to provide opportunities to these classes to raise their social and educational level at par with other classes. Kaka Kalelkar Commission was the first to set up in 1953 in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the basis of the report of that commission, Ministry of Home Affairs directed all the State Governments to identify the backward classes in their respective states and to provide them reservation in services and education. Thereafter, commissions were set up in all the states in this regard. Manohar Prasad Commission in Andhra Pradesh in 1968, Mungeri Lal Commission in Bihar in 1971 and Hawanor Commission was set up in Karnataka in 1972. Likewise, commissions were set up in all the states including Maharashtra and Kerala. All commissions had clearly identified the existence of most suppressed people among the backward classes. Some sections of backward classes have progressed but some are still very suppressed. That is why most backward classes were identified.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Supreme Court has accepted the status of the backward classes and Mandal Commission was set up in 1978. As most backward classes have been neglected, Shri L.K. Naik has raised the issue that the well off people among the backward classes consume the whole funds allocated for the most backward classes. Therefore, such classes are required to be segregated. It was recommended that quota should be given to most backward classes but Chhedilal Sathi Commission in U.P. clearly recommended that such most backward classes should be identified and 15% quota out of 27% reservation should be fixed for them but it was not done. Therefore, only 10% of the backward class people which comprises of 52% of the country's population are benefited by these reservations. Therefore, hon'ble Supreme Court has ordered in a case entitled *Indira Sahani verses Union of India* to identify the creamy layer and the well off people among the backward classes. Shri L.K. Naik had clearly stated to the Mandal Commission that out of 27% reservation for backward classes, 15% should be fixed for most backward classes. Backward classes comprises 52% of country's population out of which 42% comprises of the most backward classes. 82-85% people of the backward classes belong to the most backward one which are really in a need of assistance. The Government should tell us that even after 53 years of independence, 42 crore population of backward classes out of the total population of 10 billion many persons belonging to Koeri, Kodar, Lohar, Chauhan, Rajbhar, Mallah etc. have been appointed as I.A.S., I.P.S and P.C.S. officers and are working with the Central or the State Governments. The plight of the 42% of the population belonging to most backward classes are not getting their share of reservation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Central Government that under article 16(4) of the Constitution where it has been mentioned about the reservation for SCs and STs and to do justice with the backward classes, other backward classes are also included therein. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities got their share only because of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Had he not raised his voice for them, people belonging to upper classes would have grab the share of dalits. That is why Supreme Court in his verdict directed to segregate the most backwards among the O.B.C. Supreme Court has also admitted that the O.B.C. can be further categorized and sub-divided. Although it has been admitted in the case entitled *Balaji verses State of Mysore* that the reservation should not exceed 50% but I would like to request that out of 27% reservation 15% should be given to the most backward classes and similar reservation should be given to them in the Central services.

[Shri Bal Krishan Chauhan]

With these words, I would again like to request the Government to segregate the most backward classes and to implement the provisions made for them under Constitution.

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa) : Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir. When I stand here to speak about the Resolution that has been tabled by Shri Ahamed, I am reminded of a cartographer's ambitions. One cartographer was thinking that he would prepare a big map - as big as the earth itself - so that it would cover all the areas, all the mountains and all the topography. But he has two difficulties. The difficulty was that he had to spread it on the entire earth. Then, the people who are to see have to stand on that particular map itself. It is an impossible proposition of the cartographer.

Now, I feel that Shri Ahamed has brought forward a cartographer's ambition to this House. He has copiously quoted from the Constitution of India, from the connotations and intonations and their different definitions written by erudite persons, as if he was quoting from the scriptures. May I tell that whatever was the discussion, it was summarised in the Constitution itself? Article 16 (4) of the Constitution has very elaborately discussed about the people who are to be kept in the reserved categories. I would submit that while thinking of article 16(4), due care has to be taken of the governing article 366 wherein it has been indicated in a proper manner as to what type of people are to be given the reservation and other backward criteria.

The Indian society has suffered for centuries because of the caste system. A complex situation had come over this country as a result of which the framers of the Constitution and statesmen thought that it would be proper to give some sort of facilities to the socially marginalised people - who have not come up in life, etc. As a result of this, the reservation was made. But it has to be kept in mind whether there should be a fresh look on the reservation criteria. We have to think of the social status and other factors that govern us today.

There has been tremendous social mobility and the impact of democracy is quite evident in the day-to-day life of an ordinary citizen of India.

16.59 hrs.

[ DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair* ]

When it is seen that democracy has given a fillip to the people at large, may I ask those people, who feel that they have been deprived or marginalised, why should

they not take steps to come up to the expectation of the society itself?

I would request them to think of education of the backward classes and the Muslims. I would not go into the details of the Mandal Commission because, personally, I feel that it has been a retrograde step. But so far as education is concerned, it is available to all. The Muslim community, as such, has not taken the opportunity in hand. The 'Madarsa' culture, proliferation beyond redemption, both economically and socially, and lack of education have created a problem for the Muslim community in India.

17.00 hrs.

Even now, there are certain communities among the Muslims, where there is a rudimentary caste system as it is available in some of the Christian societies also. In my constituency of Berhampur in Orissa, there are about a lakh of Christians, of whom about 30,000 to 40,000 come from the Scheduled Caste variety and the rest come from the tribals. Even today, although the Christian religion professes that there is no discrimination so far as caste is concerned, but in my constituency there are two types of churches, one for the Scheduled Caste Christians and the other for the tribal Christians. I would request the hon. Chairman, Sir to go to the 1866 famine, which had swept over Orissa, and about three lakh to four lakh people died in those days. Those of the people who could not get food had to go to the community kitchen which were organised by the British. The people who took food in the community kitchen were called 'Chatrakhaya' - 'Charta' means 'community kitchen' - and they were not taken back into the Hindu society. That was the bane of our Hindu social structure. As a result of which, all those people who came from different castes and took food of the community kitchen became Christians. Even till today, those of the people who became Christians about 130 to 140 years back would not mingle with those of the people who have become Christians from the Scheduled Caste groups. So, these are the complex situations which are prevailing in our society.

Among the Muslims, Sir, I know of a particular family which was staying in a 'Shasan'. 'Shasan' is in Agrahar given to the Brahmins by the King. There are about 150 houses in the village, of whom one had become a Muslim householder but he would not mingle with the people of the Muslim community who were staying in other areas. Take for example, as we know from Kaka Keldar's Report on reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there are till now four categories of Muslims who would like to be called as such because of the pride and the privileges that they had enjoyed

earlier or they would like to enjoy in the society where they are staying. For 500 years, the Muslims had ruled this country. As a ruling class, they had the best of life, and having the best of life it was but natural that they should have provided for themselves in a proper manner. At this hour, to think of giving some reservation to them is, I think, not proper because any preferential treatment at this juncture will give way to lots of difficulties and it may create problems. Any over-zealousness may create a lot of problems for the society, which is going in a different manner now. We have given reservation for the Scheduled Castes, for the scheduled Tribes and for the backwards and other reservation will lead to collapse.

Shri E. Ahamed had harped his point only on giving representation to the Muslims. He did not say much about other socially or educationally backward people. OBCs have been provided with these things now.

Sir, do I conclude now? Sir, do you want that I should conclude now?--- (*Interruptions*) I see, you are nodding in that fashion. So, in deference to your wishes, I would immediately conclude because, I think, the Chair does not have the patience to hear me. In a way I should say that instead of asking for ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not so. Please speak on the next point.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, kindly allow him to speak. He is making good points and I have to oppose him at the end...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Thank you. I hope, I am neither your adversary nor your friend.

So, what I would like to say here is that when you are thinking of any reservation now, at the present juncture, it will create an imbalance in the society.

As you have seen, over the last eight to ten years, tension has been brewing in the society because certain amount of reservation has been given over the 50 to 53 years a crusty layer has come up which in a euphemistic way, we call it a 'creamy layer'.

Take the case of the creamy layer people, the first generation people were good; nobody had anything to say against them. The second generation people were tolerated. Now, for the third generation there is intolerance. The creamy layer would not go to the other

people who are deprived. In my State, there is the washermen's community, the *Dhobhis*. They are in the creamy layer and they have taken the posts in all offices in the reservation category.

Take the case of the Scheduled Tribes. There are several people. Shri Gamang who was the Chief Minister of Orissa for some time and a Member of Parliament. He comes from a particular community of tribals. They have taken the best of that opportunity which was offered by this country. As a result of which we have created the creamy layers to the detriment of other castes or other communities who could not come up.

Now, when we are thinking of reservation for any people, we must think of removing the creamy layer in a systematic manner, rather by tapering the creamy layer in another 50 years of time. As I have said earlier, when we give reservation, the second and the third generation could be tolerated, but the fourth and the fifth generation of that creamy layer should not get any sort of reservation so as to taper down in another 50 years of time and to bring about a tolerance among the people. If at all we think of any sort of consideration on reservation it should be one these lines. It can be taken up later, not now, because all the wrongs that we have created earlier have to be tolerated now, but the wrongs cannot be righted by giving lots of reservation to all people.

Jocularly I was telling some people that in case you want any reservation to be given, give only two per cent to the Brahmins and Kshatriyas and the others should be a general category. Well, it could be thought of in that way. That is in a jocular vein only I said. But what I want to say now is that any sort of reservation on religious grounds will open up the Pandora's Box. We are treading on a very thin line of patience and that thin line should not be disturbed in any manner.

As I said earlier, the main criteria or aim should be to dismantle the caste system and the religious thinking or religious considerations. I am an atheist. So, I do not mind saying that if we can do away with religion, in a proper manner, I think India would be a better country, it can be better governed and democracy can prosper in a better manner.

There was talk that Dalit Muslims should be given reservations. This is something new. In the Muslim community, thanks to Prophet Mohammad, a socialistic pattern was decided and a revolutionary approach was given to the working pattern of the Arab clans. I think, as far as my knowledge goes, there were about 340 gods or clans which followed different religious practices. The Prophet combines all of them, brought them under one umbrella and gave a revolutionary approach even

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

to women to have some sort of status in the society. They did not think of any caste system in the Muslim community, as such, but now there is a talk that Dalit Muslims should be given some reservation. I think in Bihar there has been some reservation in that category and in Kerala also there has been some reservation in that category.

What I want to say is Kerala has given one hundred per cent literacy to its people and the people irrespective of the caste, irrespective of religion there people get job opportunities wherever they go.

I would request the hon. Shri E. Ahamed to take the example of Kerala. When you are thinking of IAS or IPS - I was a member of the Indian Police Service for some time - or the Banking Service, what is necessary is that they should have liberal general education, not the *Madarsa* type of education.

That type of education which makes them clerics, which makes them religious leaders, will not be able to make them successful in life where competitive nature of work requires that they should have general education, a broad view of the society and of the world at large. If education is imparted properly to those persons, then it would not be possible for them to compete in an egalitarian society and to come up along with the best in this country.

Sir, opportunities have been given by the State, by the country, by the Constitution, by different laws that have been framed from time to time. But the opportunities have to be taken by the people who are the leaders. I am not casting any aspersion on the Muslim community. But it is rather unfortunate that there is no leader of prominence in India among the Muslim community who can come up and give a sort of leadership to the Muslim community and say that you come up in a different manner, compete with the best in the country and take the best of it, the cream of the life that is available in this society'.

Sir, I would like to conclude my speech by coming to article 16 (4) and the Supreme Court judgement, which Shri E. Ahamed has quoted in a partial manner. I would like to say that the Supreme Court has very clearly stated that proportional representation is not proper for India. I quote:

"Adequate representation cannot be read as proportionate representation. It is not possible to accept the theory of proportionate representation through the proportion of population.."

There are many other things, which I am not quoting.

So, with these few words, I oppose this Resolution and I would request Shri E. Ahamed to withdraw the Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri E. Ahamed has presented a peculiar resolution. We got independence in 1947. After so many years Shri Ahamed has taken up the issues of reservation in the House. I submit that I am not anti-muslim, I do attend their Mushairas, Kwallis and marriages in Jaipur. We respect each other and I will continue to do so. It seems a bit strange to raise the issue of reservation for Muslim community. The qualified persons are coming forward.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a learned person and also aware that we had two Muslim presidents since independence. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was the education Minister of the Country. His portrait is there in the Central Hall of the House and we all pay respect to him. We have always respected Speaker or Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha or their counterpart in Rajya Sabha and will continue to do so. However, if the reservation is demanded on the basis of religion or caste I can also claim that I am the only Bhargava member elected in Lok Sabha. So I should be provided with the reservation facility in getting opportunity to speak in Lok Sabha or to be included in the Cabinet. Therefore, I humbly request Shri E. Ahamed that it is improper to raise this issue in our country called 'Bharatvarsh' which got independence in 1947 otherwise all other castes will also demand for the reservation on the basis of the religion. Division of caste is on the basis of their work. Very often the 'khati' people which do the work of carpenter call themselves Brahmin and use Sharma as their Surname. Our forefather had classified the society into 4 categories—Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra so that they remain united and should not fight with each other.

Rich people celebrate the festival of Diwali very enthusiastically. In the midnight, a bowl of milk is placed in the room and if a cat comes to drink it, it is presumed that Laxmi, the Goddess of wealth has come. Bed sheets and ledgers are changed then. This festival is marked for Vaishyas. The festival of Dusshera was marked for Kshatriyas with the purpose that they keep their arms and armours in good condition and always be ready to use them at a suitable time. Kaleva was for Brahmins. Earlier Kalni used to prevail but now-a-days it has been stopped. Now the size of the Rakhi determines the affection of a sister for his brother. So, the festival of Raksha Bandhan was for Brahmins. With the purpose that all four castes might not fight with each other and

remain united, the festival of Holi was created for Shudras. On the occasion of Holi, they might mingle with other sections and smear them gual. Since then these four categories are prevailing in our society.

Therefore, I would like to submit to Shri E. Ahamed that he has quoted Sardar Patel, Raj Gopalachariji and Shyama Prasadji to justify the reservation for Muslims. What is required is that we should send our wards to schools for proper education which improve their economic condition and make them able to contest elections to represent themselves in Lok Sabha. I would like to mention that our country is a prominent country and we have always given respect to Muslims. Any political party which came into power has always respected this community. We have never disowned them. Therefore, their demand for reservation depict them as a weaker and backward section of society. We treat Hindus and Muslims as brothers. It is a petty affair if they want to elect in Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha on the basis of reservation. Today several disputes have emerged on the issue of reservation. Everybody wants to avail the benefit of reservation. Brahmins are claiming that they are in minority, Hindus are also in minority. Actually reservation is for economically backward, illiterate and weaker sections of the society.

Initially reservation was fixed for 10 years by the framers of our Constitution. Late on, it was extended for further 10 years. This extension is still continues. We stated that reservation should be given to economically weaker section of the society not repeatedly but for one time. Suppose four sons are born to a person belonging to SC/ST community. With the reservation facility provided to them they all got selected as IAS Officer, then what will be the fate of the people belonging to other castes who will remain in search of jobs. I think such a situation will be a very serious one where some people on the basis of reservation keep on progressing and others remain unemployed. Therefore, I request Shri E. Ahamed to withdraw this resolution.

In independent India, people have respected the Muslims and will continue to do so. Any party may come into power, but we continue to treat them as our brothers and continue to do so in future also. Therefore, I request him not to move such a resolution in future also. He has worked hard and has given several logics and quotations in this regard. He has given a lengthy speech for 1½ to 2 hours. He had tried to justify this issue in the last Session also. He has pleaded for his community. I thank him for indepth study in the matter but I request him not to move such a resolution. You can say that I am opposing it but I am not actually opposing it and at the same place I am unable to support also. I request him that such type of resolution should not be moved.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Member Shri E. Ahamed has sought to bring forward a Resolution to make provision for reservation in appointments and posts in services and for admission into educational institutions in favour of socially and educationally Backward Classes including Muslims. He has proposed that such reservation should be in accordance with proportion of their population not withstanding anything contained in any judgement of any court of law to the contrary including ceiling on percentage of reservation.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the provision made in clause 4 of article 16 of the Constitution which enables the State to make provision for the reservation for appointment or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State. The Government of India, as well as several State Governments, have provided for reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) as per provision under this article.

Clause 4 of article 15 of the Constitution enable the State for making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Several States have provided reservation in the educational institutions as per provision under this article.

As the hon. Members are aware, hon. Supreme Court, in *Indira Sawhney vs. Union of India case* (Mandal case), has ruled that the reservations contemplated in Clause (4) of article 16 should not exceed 50 per cent. The Supreme Court also added that:

"While 50 per cent shall be the rule, it is necessary not to put out of consideration certain extraordinary situations inherent in the great diversity of this country and the people. It might happen that in farflung, in remote areas the population inhabiting those areas might, on account of their being out of mainstream of national life and in view of the conditions peculiar to and characteristic of them need to be treated in a different way, some relaxation in this strict rule may become imperative. In doing so, extreme caution is to be exercised and a special case made out."

In the above-mentioned case, the Supreme Court has further observed that:

"Clause (4) speaks of adequate representation and not proportionate representation. 'Adequate

[Shrimati Maneka Gandhi]

representation' cannot be read as 'proportionate representation'."

The second Backward Classes Commission (Mandal Commission) identified Other Backward Classes not only among the Hindus but also among non-Hindus using the following criteria:

- (i) All untouchables converted to any non-Hindu religion; and
- (ii) Such occupational communities which are known by the name of their traditional hereditary occupations and whose Hindu counterparts have been included in the list of Hindu OBCs.

The OBCs common to the Mandal Commission List as well as the lists prepared by the State Governments have been included in the common lists of OBCs for the purpose of reservation in civil posts and services under the Government of India. The Common Lists as also the State Governments' lists also contain communities belonging to the Minorities, including Muslims.

The proposed proportionate representation of OBCs may not be desirable due to the following reasons :

- (a) Caste continues to be the most divisive factor of our society. Irrespective of its importance or relevance in determining social status of a person, defining his social interactions and deciding his political affiliations, it will be prudent not to let it acquire a legal validity.
- (b) In the Constitution of India, one comes across specific mention about protection to be given to the "educationally and socially backward classes", "backward classes" and "weaker sections". However, "caste" is referred to in the Constitution only as a ground on which discrimination of any nature is to be avoided. Caste-based census will categorise population into OBCs, which comprise certain castes ignoring thereby the criteria of social, educational or economic backwardness. This will not be in conformity with the secular spirit of the Constitution.
- (c) At present enumeration in Census is confined to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only. In case individual caste-wise Census is carried out, it will amount to quantifying population on the basis of caste. This will pre-suppose a precise definition of 'caste' which is understood both by the officials doing the census work as well as the responding public. This is very difficult to achieve particularly as caste includes sub-

castes and, at times, sub-sub-castes. The number of castes is so large that this would make census work very complicated.

Article 46 of the Constitution requires the State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and also to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. Several programmes for provision of scholarships, pre-examination coaching and hostels for the students belonging to the weaker sections have been launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for their educational advancement. Further, non-government organisations like Maulana Azad Educational Foundation, Ambedkar Foundation etc. are also being assisted by the Government for taking up schemes for helping the weaker sections. Maulana Azad Educational Foundation, in particular, has sanctioned grants of over Rs. 45.64 crore to 332 NGOs all over the country for various activities aimed at the educational advancement of minorities. In fact, this is a very good Foundation. Not one of these 332 NGOs have been doing less than excellent, one hundred per cent work.

Some of our Wakfs have been encouraged to start ITIs, polytechnics and schools in the last two years. Apex level corporations, including the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation have been set up specifically to assist the minorities and the weaker sections in their economic development. National Commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and Backward Classes have been set up to safeguard their interests.

My Ministry is of the view that the problems faced by the backward classes and minorities can be solved by assisting them for pursuing better education, vocational and technical education, and for taking up economically viable occupations. Development of weaker sections and minorities through reservation in services and educational institutions in proportion to the population as proposed in the Resolution will lead to fragmentation of the society and will be against the philosophy adopted under the Constitution for establishing a secular India with equal rights for all.

Before I submit my plea, I would like to thank hon. Members for taking an active part in the discussion. I would like to thank Dr. Raghunvansh Prasad Singh, the hon. Member, for asking for the backward sections and minorities to be included in the List of OBCs and that for notifying SCs, we have to have a stringent procedure which has to be complied with. Shri Bal Krishna Chauhan



has highlighted the need for the creamy layer. We have already defined the creamy layer amongst the OBCs as per the direction of the Supreme Court. Shri Anadi Sahu has highlighted the need for modernisation and liberalisation of education for Muslims in madarsas, which the Maulana Azad Educational Foundation and other foundations in the Ministry are doing. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has also specific schemes for this process of modernisation. However, more efforts on the community would help accelerate this process. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava has pointed out that the fruits of reservation should not be enjoyed by a few families alone. It is to preclude such things from happening that the concept of creamy layer has been introduced.

In the end, I would like to say that in view of the reasons mentioned, the Private Members' Resolution moved by Shri E. Ahamed may not be passed by this august House.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Chairman, I moved this Resolution with the best of intention taking into account the realities prevailing in this country. As I have already stated, it is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual country where a substantial size of population has been suffering for want of job facilities and other things. When I mentioned that the reservation should be given, hon. Members - I am very much thankful to them - suggested that educational system should be improved and modernised and more education should be given. In my Resolution also, I have mentioned about it. The reservation should be given in educational institutions because many of our boys are denied admissions. In Kerala, we made an example. Muslims have adopted a slogan 'either educate or perish'. Where do minority have the facility? do not have the facility. That is why, while speaking on this Resolution, Shri Anadi Sahu also mentioned about the Resolution. When this Resolution is rejected or withdrawn, that part also goes away.

The hon. Minister was kind enough to mention about Maulana Azad Educational Foundation's and others' activities. I would say that these are quite insufficient, taking into account the magnitude of the responsibility to bring the minorities in educational field.

My learned friend, Shri Anadi Sahu, referred to me as a 'cartographer'. 'Cartographer' means a 'person who does imaginary things'. Who is a 'cartographer'?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: 'Cartographer' means 'a person who prepares maps', and is not 'a person who does imaginary things'.

SHRI E. AHAMED : According to me my bon- friend is a 'cartographer' because he is not even prepared to accept the reality what is there in the Mandal Commission report? He says that it was a retrograde step. But that is the reality, and the whole country has accepted it. It is now put in practice, and it is being implemented now. But he says that it was a retrograde step. I am not a 'cartographer' because I am not doing it especially not any imaginary work. I am taking into account the reality; we cannot just close our eyes to the reality.

On the one hand, we say that we must improve educational standards of minority and on the other hand, we do not have educational facilities for the children of Muslims and other minorities. I have mentioned about other minorities in my earlier speech. I particularly mentioned about Muslims because Muslims are the second largest minority community not only in this country but also in the world. India is proud of the fact that it has the second largest Islamic population. The credit even does not go to our neighbours - Bangladesh comes in the third or the fourth place; Pakistan comes in the fourth or the fifth place. The Islamic population in India is the second largest after Indonesia. We are going to all the international forums and saying that India has the second largest Islamic population. I have also argued for this country. As a member of the Indian Delegation, I have represented India six times continuously in the United Nations. But what is happening back at our home? We do not have proper representation. 'We' means 'Muslims'; I am speaking about the largest minority. They do not have the facilities; they do not have proper representation. I have also mentioned about discrimination in various fields.

Why have I brought this Resolution? It is only to urge the Government to bring a suitable legislation. There is an observation by the Supreme Court, but I do not think that its observation is sacrosanct in every respect. The Supreme Court has put a ceiling on the reservation, though the Mandal Commission, in 1980, has identified 52 per cent of population for the purposes of reservation. Despite an increase in their population, the Court has put the ceiling at 50 per cent and not more than that. Twenty-two-and-a-half per cent reservation is for the SCs/ STs, and another twenty-seven per cent reservation is for the backward classes. I brought this Resolution in this august House because Parliament is the only competent authority to amend the Constitution.

I mentioned about the difficulties, and I have given the prenatal history of article 16 (4), but it has been interpreted in a different way. What had been interpreted by Justice Kania and Justice Patanjali Sastri is not what is now being interpreted by the present judges. I do agree that it may change again and again.

[Shri E. Ahamed]

I was very disappointed about one thing. The hon. Minister said that they are doing this and that. For the sake of the minorities, certain amount has been set apart by the Government. According to me, it is quite insufficient. Of course, the Minister may be spending whatever money has been allocated to the Ministry, but there should at least be an assurance from the Government that it will take care of the second largest segment of population the country.

For the last 50 years, this minority community has been backing all the Governments. They became a part and parcel of this country; they have integrated into the mainstream of this country. They are not looking anywhere else. This is our country. We were born here, we are living here, and the minorities will die here. But that minority community, that section of people, should be given at least some assurance. If somebody thinks of this Resolution as 'anti-secular', I not only oppose it, but I would say that they have some ulterior motives. When we tell this Government that minority want such and such a thing, is it anti-secular? When we ask the Government, we consider it as a matter of our right. We should be given proper representation because it is the minorities' legitimate constitutional right. They should be heard and their views should be given due consideration.

Like my friend, Shri Anadi Sahu, I have also learnt a lot of their problems. He would be happy if two per cent reservation is given to the Brahmins. I would like to narrate a small story here. A man eats more than what he could digest, and tells his friend about the trouble that he has because of his over eating.

Then his friend advises him to push two fingers down his throat so that he could vomit and he could feel better. The first friend then says, "If there is any possibility of pushing two fingers down my throat, I would have had an extra banana." That is the position now. Every opportunity is being taken up by a section of the people and usurped all positions. Even then Shri Anadi Sahu says that he would be happy if two per cent more is given to Brahmin.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Sir, I am being misinterpreted. It was not that.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I say that we must see the reality. What is the real position here? My close friend for the last four Lok Sajibbas Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava has mentioned that he was not opposed to my resolution because his mind would not allow him to oppose. He may not be supporting it. Either he is correct on that also. He cannot oppose it because our integration is too strong but not just limited to marriages, festivals, customs and other customary things. We are all together.

But when you as a member majority community go to college, you get admission; when you apply for jobs, you get those positions; and you are treated well and I as a discriminated against. That is the actual position.

When you take me as your brother, you must take me as a real brother and not a namesake brother. When you take me as a brother, you become the elder brother and I become the younger one. So, I have every right to ask you to give me my right. That is precisely what I have done here. The hon. Minister should have given some assurance to the educationally and socially backward classes including Muslims and other minorities. Their grievances should be considered wherever possible. I hope the hon. Minister would extend that gesture of goodwill so that I can withdraw my Resolution. I have nothing against withdrawing my Resolution. The Minister has her credentials in politics and she is representing the Government here. She can consider these things.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Sir, I deeply appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. In the final analysis, I do believe that we should concentrate on educational and economic upliftment of the backward classes including those amongst Muslims. If it means increasing the amount of money, I am sure that a case can be made out for that. Since I became the Minister for this particular Ministry I had taken great pain and we have increased money to NGO's assisted by Foundation to almost double of what it was. Of these 332 institutions that have been put up, during my tenure we have put up about 200 of them.

[Translation]

I would appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw his Resolution.

[English]

हमारी कोशिश यह है कि जल्दी से जल्दी माइनोरटीज का इसमें डालना चाहिये।

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Chairman, Sir, half of my demand, that is on education, has been considered. Only services are left now. Anyway, as a gesture of goodwill to the hon. Minister, I withdraw my Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by the hon. Member be withdrawn?

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

17.39 hrs.

## RESOLUTION RE : PROBLEMS OF SUGARCANE GROWERS

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

"This House urges upon the Government to ensure payment of reasonable price to sugarcane growers by sugar mills within a week after supply of sugarcane and to take immediate steps for reopening the closed sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other major sugarcane producing States."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you gave me for speaking on his resolution regarding farmers and sugar mills. I belong to a sugarcane cultivating area. In my district there are 9 sugar mills out of which four are closed, and five are operational but two of these are on the verge of closure. Crores of rupees are due on sugar mills. Some of these Sugar mills are in public sector while some mills belong to private industrial houses.

I have risen to express the pain and sorrow of farmers. The sugarcane crop keeps standing in the field for the whole year and when the time of harvest comes along with the time of running of sugar mills his condition becomes similar to the family which has a daughter of marriageable age and the whole family is anxious to get her married. Only then they could rest in peace. The condition of sugarcane farmers is also similar. After a full year is passed, the time of harvest comes and the crop is then supplied to sugar mills but the farmers do not get payments for his crop. Farmers are exploited by the mills. People are agitating over the closed mills. Due to these reasons I thank you for the opportunity you have provided me for raising this issue.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I belong to state of Bihar. Bihar was partitioned on 15th November. All sources of income of Bihar state, whether they are industries, or mines, or forest based goods have now been turned over to Jharkhand region. During British period, sugar mills were set up in the decade of 1930s and at that time highest number of mills were set up in Bihar. When sugar mills were being set up in India, they conducted a survey which revealed that the land of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is most fertile and most of the sugar mills were set up in these two states. Uttar Pradesh was the largest centre of sugar industry in the country. It got the largest number of sugar mills. Bihar had the

second rank in this regard. Bihar was ranked second after Uttar Pradesh in terms of sugar production. But what is the position of Bihar at present. The rank of Bihar at present is 8th or 9th in the country in terms of sugar production. At that time, a total of 28 sugar mills were established but 18 out of those are now closed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, north Bihar does not have anything except agriculture, and sugar industry was one of the most viable agro based industries. But 18 out of 28 sugar mills have been closed. Out of these, 15 sugar mills are under Sugar Corporation of Bihar Government. These sugar mills were taken over by the Bihar Government because these sugar mills were unable to pay the dues of the farmers. Their owners were not in a position to pay the dues of farmers and labourers. So these were taken over by the Bihar Government and 15 sugar mills among them are closed for the last three years. Three sugar mills are also there under the central government. From Central Government, I mean the British India Corporation owned by the Mudhra group. Once this matter was raised in this House by Shri Feroze Gandhi. After the recommendations of Commission relating to Mudhra scandal and justice Chhagla Committee, British India Corporation was formed. Two of these three sugar mills are in my constituency - Chakia and Champatia. These are in my constituency Champaran while the remaining one is in the constituency of Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy. These sugar mills are also lying closed. British India Corporation is managed by a department under Ministry of Textile, Government of India. Recently I heard the statement of the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that Government is giving a grant of Rs. 216 crores to BIC for running its own mills. I thought that it would result in the revival of sugar mills. The closed three sugar mills of our area would run again. But when I read about it in detail in the newspapers, I found that it was meant only for the textile industries.

This arrangement was made for the textile industry and not for the running of three Sugar mills of Bihar. Hon'ble Minister of Government of India, Shri Shanta Kumari ji is present here. Two days ago, under the leadership of Shri Nitish Kumar ji we have demanded a special package for Bihar from the hon'ble Prime Minister. Within that, a special package has been demanded for the sugar industry. I have just come to know the amount in the corpus of Sugar Development Fund. During the debate in Rajya Sabha, an hon'ble Member Shri Bagdoriaji said, "there is about 11,000 crore rupees for sugar development but banks are refusing to advance money to the mills. Banks ask for guarantee which they do not get and so they are unable to pay the farmers." He also said, "It has been heard..." and I cannot tell what he said afterwards. But

[Shri M.P. Jaiswal]

this amount is to the tune of Rs. 1100 crores. When I asked the hon'ble Minister about it, I was told that the total amount is between Rs. 900 to 1100 crores. I especially request that Government may give special attention to ensure the running of the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. My resolution is regarding Uttar Pradesh and Bihar but you can see that during the year 1998-99, the number of total closed mills was 54. Out of it, one was in Punjab, 10 in Uttar Pradesh, 2 in Madhya Pradesh, 3 in Gujarat, 10 in Maharashtra, 17 in Bihar, 1 each in Assam, Orissa and Nagaland, 5 in Andhra Pradesh, 2 in Kamataka and 1 in Kerala. This number increased to 68 in 1999-2000. Out of which 18 mills in Bihar, 15 in Uttar Pradesh and 10 in Maharashtra. I am talking especially about Maharashtra because it is the only state where the number of sugar mills in the cooperative sector is the highest. There is no sugar mill in cooperative sector in Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN : One was set up in Barabanki.

SHRI M.P. JAISWAL : Yes, Sir, the present situation is that not a single new sugar mill has been opened in my state. Recently a sugar mill was inaugurated in Saharanpur. The peculiar thing is that it uses latest technology and it produces 10 megawatt electricity from its boiler. It needs only 5 megawatt for the sugar mill and remaining 5 megawatt is supplied to Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation. Therefore, the Government should provide assistance for the running of sugar mills owned by it out of the funds available for the revival of sugar mills. Government is disinvesting and I am aware of the compulsions behind it. Government should govern it should not do business or in industries. I am also aware of the red tapism and other bureaucratic wrangles of the Government. But Government has funds available to it and so I request that Government of India should provide money for the revival of closed small sugar mills from this package. There are many sugar mills having a crushing capacity of just 900 quintals per day. They cannot be revived unless that capacity is increased to 25000 quintals. In my area there is a private sugar mill with crushing capacity of 80,000 quintals per day which is to be shortly increased to 1 lakh quintals per day.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the capacity of mills having crushing capacity of 10,000 metric tonnes is not increased, these cannot survive. At present, a mill, in order to be viable should have a minimum crushing capacity of 2500 metric tonnes. Mills with capacity lower than that would fail to survive. All the sugar mills set up in 1930-40 are now lying useless. Government ought to run these mills in the new technology. For this reconstruction or any other matter, the Government should take initiative and they should not be run on the

Government lines but should be handed over to industrialists after arriving at an understanding that they would run those mills and would not sell them as scrap.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you would be surprised to know that some of the people who had taken over a couple of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, started selling them off in scrap. It should not happen. Wherever these mills are located, they were set up for the betterment of area and also farmers but now we have come to a situation where people who bought these mills, sold them off in scrap and they did not set up new mills. It will be very unfortunate if it happens again. An agreement should be signed with those to whom it is being handed over that the capacity of the mill would be increased to more than 25000 quintal metric tonnes, mills with capacity less than that would not be set up and the industrialists who are ready to take over such mills should be given all the facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for increasing the ratio of levy sugar from 40:60 to 30:70. It means that from now on 30% sugar will go as levy while the rest 70% will be sold in the open market. It is a fine arrangement. The sugar mills which are closed, should be provided facilities similar to that given for the opening of new mills. They should be given tax exemption in regard to purchase tax, agriculture tax, income tax, sales tax etc. for five to seven years. Such a package should be provided for at least five-seven years. As long as this arrangement is not made, the sugar mills won't be viable. Therefore, I make a special request from the hon'ble Minister in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the dues of the farmers amount to a huge sum. Such a large amount is due against the mills and it is not being paid. I want to tell you that Rs. 707 crores are due for the year 1999-2000, Rs. 664 crores for 1998-99 and Rs. 591 crores for 1997-98. Hon'ble Minister is present here. I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister that Sugar Act was enacted by the Government of India, the rate of sugarcane is fixed by the Government of India, the price of levy sugar is also fixed by it all these things are fixed by the Government of India but when it comes to the payment to farmers for their sugarcane, the Government of India says that it is the responsibility of state units and the State Government. I would like to request the hon. Minister through you, that the Sugar Act of 1966 provides for the payment of interest to the farmers if the payment is kept pending for more than 15 days. The Act provides for it but the farmers don't even get the principal, leave aside the interest.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to convey the pains and sorrows of the farmers of the country. If the Government of India takes the levy sugar,

fixes the sugarcane price, then under the same Act, it should also bear the responsibility of the payment for sugarcane. But in place of doing so, it gives this responsibility to the State Governments. Though I am aware that hon'ble Food Minister of the Government of India has written to the Chief Minister of all the States to ensure immediate payment to the farmers, preferably before Diwali.

But I am not aware of the response to that letter? Whether the dues of the farmers have been paid or not is yet to be clear. I want the hon'ble Minister to answer it, too. Sugar mills have been set up in a few cities and towns that I have visited. In my area there is a sugar mill under BIC in Chanpatiya. I have secured highest number of votes from this place. The people of that place have only one problem, they say that Jaiswal Sahab, do anything to run this mill again. This mill is under BIC which has now been referred to BIFR. The local people filed a petition before Allahabad High Court in this regard after the mill was referred to BIFR. Allahabad court directed the Government to sell the mill. But the price fixed for the mill, is nothing less than surprising. That mills value is only as a scrap. So on one submitted a tender on the price fixed by the High Court. Last date for the tender was 20th October but no one submitted tender on the basis of minimum fixed price. I request the Government to make arrangements for the payment of dues and also for those sugar mills, which are closed.

There are 493 sugar mills in the country at present, out of which 68 sugar mills are closed since 1999-2000. My request is that Government of India should also give special package for increasing the capacity of sugar mills in the same manner as it gave special package to the BIC so that its textile mills can run, especially because it does not have any arrangement of fuel. Bagasse, a bye product of sugar industry, can be an important source of income and other articles for the Government of India. Farmers also get some income from the same bagasse as the new improved boilers can produce 10 megawatt of electricity from the same fuel. The residual bagasse is used in the paper factory. Similarly molasses have also become an important source of income for State Governments. Distilleries which are operating are based on molasses and it is an important basis of liquor production. In this regard, I request the hon'ble Minister to clarify all the points which I have mentioned in the course of my speech including the point of payment to the farmers.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

Resolution was moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This House urges upon the Government to ensure payment of reasonable price to sugarcane growers by sugar mills within a week after supply of sugarcane and to take immediate steps for reopening the closed sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other major sugarcane producing States.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr Chairman, Sir, the resolution moved by Shri Jaiswal is very much relevant that apart from indicating the wretched condition of the Sugar mills also highlights the plight of the sugarcane growers. We have discussed several times the plight of the sugarcane growers in the House and we have also discussed the outstanding dues of crores of rupees of the sugarcane growers against the owners of the Sugar mills. The payments are not being made in spite of constant efforts of the Government. All this has adverse effect. The sugarcane growers are depressed and are not cultivating sugarcane. New fields are not brought under the cultivation of sugarcane and rather existing areas of sugarcane cultivation are shrinking. We proudly say that we have sufficient stocks of sugar but over a period of time we will have to accept that the stock will get exhausted and then we will be compelled to start import of sugar that we have stopped. It is a dangerous situation that must be avoided. So there is need to formulate comprehensive policy regarding the sugar industry.

I was discussing with hon'ble Jatiya Saheb that sugar Industry has bearing not only on the farmers but also on the labourers.

18.00 hrs.

Thousands of workers are unemployed and have lost means of livelihood on account of the closure of sugar mills. Shri Jaiswal Ji discussed about 28 mills of Bihar and the mills of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Such mills are also located in Madhya Pradesh. The sugar mills are located in Shri Jatiya's constituency and also in my constituency. One two mills have closed and one two are on the verge of closure. The mills run by the Government are also on the verge of closure and the private mills are also on the verge of closure. Presently crores of rupees of the sugarcane growers are outstanding against those mills which were being operated with the help of loans and contributions availed from the Government and those mills are also on the verge of closure. So there is need to study the various ramifications of the impact on this industry. After all why was such a situation

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

created? You know that the sugarcane development councils were constituted. As people's representative, I was also a member of the council. MLAs and sugarcane cultivators were also the members. Gradually the monopoly of Government officers and officials was established over those sugarcane councils and the people's representatives were sidelined. The situation was such that there was no need for advice. The sugarcane development centres were established as separate centres as are set up for various products, but these were also gradually closed. The new area had to be brought under the cultivation and new seeds were to be given as it required for the development of sugarcane crop, but that was not done. You know that earlier the maturity period of sugarcane crop was one and a half year. Now that has been decreased to fifteen months, twelve months, ten months and nine months and the sugarcane crop started getting matured in nine month period. The scientists made it possible. However the support that should have been extended by the Government in this regard was not available. Proper management of the sugar mills is required. All these things are due to the mismanagement and unnecessary interference on the part of the Government, otherwise crores of rupees are being earned from the sale of molasse and the bogasse is used for the power generation. However some mills are very old, as some mills were established in 1925-26 and some were established in 1930 and 1940. But some of the sugar mills were established few years back and if some investment is made in these mills, then its production may be improved and it may run in profit. Probably the State Governments are not serious in this regard. We will have to utilise the sugarcane development fund. Therefore, my submission to the hon'ble Minister is that the fund for sugarcane development can be utilised and such mills can be saved from closure.

A few days back the discussion was held for the protection of textile mills and scheme was prepared for that. Similarly, the schemes can be formulated for sugar mills also so that the impending danger may be avoided. I was dwelling about Madhya Pradesh. Gradually several mills of Madhya Pradesh got closed. Now only two-three mills are in operation and those too will be closed. There is a crisis before us. The cultivation of sugarcane has decreased. This time it was drought and the entire soyabean crop was destroyed. The farmers are getting beating from all sides. That is why there is a need to take up the issue quite seriously.

I had visited South India. There I found some mills that have two plants each. 4-5 months runs one plant and 4-5 months runs the other plant and in between

the cleaning work of the plant is carried on. I had seen a factory of Mandaya and one other factory. That continuously functions. Can we not make such mills? It was said that the sugar production in Maharashtra is excellent. The sugar to some of the area was considered very good. The sugar lobby of Maharashtra was very influential in Indian politics. Gradually the sugar Mills of Maharashtra are getting closed and the production of sugar is decreasing. Alongwith this the production of jaggery is also declining and its price is increasing. The jaggery market (Mandi) has also been affected on account of the decline in the production of sugarcane because farmers have stopped the cultivation of sugarcane. I would like that the Government should certainly take measures in this direction what all are possible. The payment of the dues should be made whether it is in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra. Crores of rupees of the farmers are outstanding against four mills in Madhya Pradesh in the constituency of Shri Jatiya ji and in my constituency. Whenever we approach the State Government, they express their inability to make payment. Similarly I would like to request that the dues of the labourer should also be cleared.

Now the retrenchment of the labourers is being done under the voluntary retirement scheme. The sugar mill management is asking them to take voluntary retirement. Nothing is clear as to when the money will be paid under the voluntary retirement scheme and what will be the situation. So there is the need to clarify the things in this regard. I would not like to go into the details of the sugarcane Act. There were many provisions in the Sugarcane Act. 15 mile area was exclusively reserved for the sugar industry, now that is one kilometer. Then it was provided that no other sugar factory will be allowed to be set up within the radius of 15 miles and produce sugar in that area. No one would be allowed to manufacture jaggery. No private factory will be permitted. Thus several restrictions were imposed to develop sugar industry. Presently there is no such restriction. In spite of that all facilities were made available to the farmers. They were provided trucks and seeds. Presently neither seeds nor any other facilities are provided to the farmers. Even their dues are not being paid. So the Government should pay serious attention to the issue and should ensure the proper utilisation of the development fund so that sugar mills may smoothly operate. All assistance should certainly be provided to those mills which are viable and the dues of the farmers and labourers should be cleared. Presently the sugar industry is in crisis and we should try to see that the reoccurrence of this crisis and our independence on the import of sugar is avoided. If the import becomes essential then we request the Government that some kind of duty should be imposed

on the import otherwise it will lead to some sort of crisis. The Government should pay serious attention to avoid such crisis and may come up with comprehensive policy towards improving the conditions of the sugar industry. I support the resolution in its present form.

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Chairman, Sir, actually when the sugar mill was to be established in Tamil Nadu and especially in my Constituency in 1985-87, the people were very much excited. The farmers felt that they will get more benefit from this rather than by cultivating paddy and other crops which they were growing ancestrally. At that time, the local people helped them by giving their lands at very cheap rate on the expectation that the establishment of this mill will help them.

18.06 hrs.

[ DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair* ]

They were also sure that they will get employment in that sugar mill itself. Similarly, when they were not having infrastructures like roads, telecommunication, electricity, water, and such other facilities, the local community was helping them. The local politicians were also helping them to establish the mill as early as possible. In the same way, the then Congress Government at the Centre as also the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu were also giving them financial help. The private mill owners were having many other mills. They were having experience in that field. The Nationalised Banks were also helping them. The State Government was giving them subsidy as that industry was being established in an area which was economically and industrially backward. The concession up to 22 per cent to 30 per cent was given in sales tax and excise duties also. The people were hopeful that the creation of the mill will totally change their life. It is true that it had happened but only for a short period of three or four years.

They were getting the signatures of the agriculturists for purchasing shares. The agriculturists themselves did not know for what purpose their signatures were being obtained. But their money was being deducted for the purpose of purchase of the shares in the market. For three years that mill was having a very heavy profit, but it was not shown in their accounts. The accounting showed that it was running in loss. So, there was no dividend paid to the poor agriculturists who purchased shares without their own knowledge.

At the same time the private sector people were telling the agriculturists that the Government levy was reducing their profit margin, if it was a free market, they

could have given more money to the agriculturists. But it was not the case. A certain levy was paid to the Government, but the rest of the goods were sold in the open market. Within three years time they got all their money back and they bought another mill in Orissa. Their profit was so much.

In the same way, the cultivation pattern in the local area was also changed. Almost all the people changed from paddy to sugarcane cultivation. Everywhere ground water was tapped by putting new bore-wells and by laying new canals. There was too much of change in the agricultural pattern in the society. Villagers were borrowing money thinking that they would repay it as they would be getting large amounts of money. They thought they would not only repay the loans, but also would lead a luxurious life, construct new houses, buy new vehicles and marry off their daughters. That way the social pattern was changed during that period.

But, after a certain period things started to turn around when their profit level came to such an extent that they could not hide it in their book-keeping. They started to repurchase the shares without the knowledge of the agriculturists. They were getting signatures without their knowledge and got back the shares. The agriculturists were losing their profit by having shares in the mill.

The job opportunities also came down drastically. The mill was getting more and more mechanised. A lorry load of sugarcane comes, gets lifted to the weighing bridge, gets measured by their own computers, goes into the mill and gets converted into sugar. Finally sugar bags come out of the mill. There would not be any human aspect at all excepting monitoring at the computers to see whether things are going properly. That kind of a big mill with a huge capacity was employing only 20 youths with computer knowledge. No more employees were required for the rest of the things.

Even the waste which was coming out after juice was extracted from the sugarcane was also used in power generators. The mill owners were using even this waste for their own profit and the agriculturists were deprived here also. And the agriculturists were losing money on this count also. They were borrowing money from the banks, the banks would deduct their amount when the sale proceeds accrue in the account of these agriculturists. Even this money was being given to them six or nine months afterwards. Look at the plight of these poor people who were expecting that they would get a huge amount so that they could not only repay the money they had borrowed from the moneylenders, but also enjoy other luxuries of life. When they were not getting their money for nine months or even more, the interest on the loan was also going up.

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

In this way the local agriculturists who were depending upon sugarcane cultivation suffered a lot. They could not do anything. They started an agitation against the mill.

That huge agitation was also conducted in their own way. It was divided. The agriculturists were divided into groups and therefore, they could not remain united for at least 15 days or one month. The final result was that they could not get the money at the proper time and could not repay their debts. They could not have their new culture or new life to continue. They had to go back to the poverty-stricken life. They could not even repay the money which had borrowed for their own daughters. This is the position of the economically backward district, especially my constituency.

Now, the question of privatisation has come up. They say that prices should go up and profits should go up. That was the thinking we were having when it was given to their hands instead of the cooperative mills which we were having previously. When the private sector has come, then we thought that there would naturally be better management and better profits for the agriculturists. But here, it has not happened. It was a very short living period. Subsequently, things happened in a topsy-turvy way. Then what happened? Poor people could not get the money also.

I am supporting the Resolution even though the State of Tamil Nadu is not specifically mentioned. It is given as other sugarcane producing States and therefore, Tamil Nadu is also covered. Now, they are saying that they are going to close the mills. What will happen then? They are now telling that the Government policy is against them because they were importing from Pakistan and other countries and they could not compete with the world market. That is their argument now. How is the private sector playing the game? Who can protect us, the agriculturists and the people who changed their own life? Their life style has changed; their culture has changed; their psychology has changed. What is their position now? How are they going to live and who will protect their interests and land? Now, they cannot go back to the paddy crop because the cropping pattern has changed. To that extent, we cannot get water also. The ground water level is going down. The Vaigai Dam and the Periyar Dam are under dispute. Therefore, water is not coming to the canals and sea water is coming inside as afforestation is not developed. All the forest trees were removed. Therefore, drought is hitting the districts continuously. This is the pathetic situation which has developed in our area. Therefore, I request the Government to have control upon them. Even if it is privatised, till they cultivate, we do not want to copy any multinational company. But the private sector

should also have some discipline. They should have a feeling that they are looking after the affairs of the poor people who are depending upon them just like how the States and the Central Government are feeling. The private sector should also feel so. Only then, we can have a better privatisation. Only then the agriculturists will have faith on them.

I would like to just point out how poor people are cheated in Tamil Nadu. People of middle class and other classes were having small amounts of money in their hands and they had deposited them in the benefit fund. They were told that they would be given 23-24 per cent interest. So, all the money was dumped into the benefit funds. Then, they had closed the doors after one year and had gone away. Now, no law or no Government is supporting them? How to get back the money which was hard-earned? Where is the society? People have given power to the Government because they thought that they will be guided and that the laws will be guiding them. This is the position.

At this juncture, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that this is a very important Resolution. We may be losing our powers gradually by privatisation. But at the same time, we should find out some other way out on how to control the private companies or mills because people are depending on them.

Even now, they are having 20 to 30 per cent faith upon the Government, upon the people's representatives, upon the Government servants and the Government system though they have lost 70 per cent faith. Therefore, there must be a thought given, within the administration, within the bureaucrats, to see how best they can monitor the privatisation and how best the mills can also be controlled in a proper way. We do not have a total control. There should be checks and balances at the appropriate time so that we can help the people. Then only they can totally depend upon the faith alone. The poor people are having faith upon the private sector. So, this should be the attitude of the Government.

Now, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the consumer things. I would like to request the Government that the sugar price should be controlled. There should be a proper levy again. Then only they can say that the price is fixed in that way. Then only the market price can be fixed and the agriculturists can be protected.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Private Members' Resolution moved by Dr. Madan Prasad Jaiswal and



extend my thanks to him. This Private Members' Resolution has been introduced at the right time and not only this, it is in the interest of farmers too so I especially extend my thanks to him.

Sir, the miseries of the farmers cannot be outlined. Farmers producing foodgrain and oilseed are not getting remunerative prices of their produce and the sugarcane cultivators are also facing the same problem. Although the Government has fixed rates for these products, yet the farmers do not get the remunerative price. I am surprised as well as concerned about the fact that the Governments claim that they have enabled the sugarcane farmers to get their payments and thus enumerate their achievements, but no one knows about the quantum of the payment and whether partial payment has been made or total payment has been made? Sugarcane growers are really facing a big crisis. Farmers should immediately get the payment of their produce in cash. But the Government says that payment would be made in one or two years. The Government officials state that payment has been made. Plight of farmers is miserable. An Hon. Member submitted that payment should be made within one week. In the Sugarcane Act the provision for making payment within 14 days is there and if the time of payment exceeds 14 days, then interest arrives upon it. Now the question is that payment has not been made to the sugarcane growers so please make the payment alongwith the interest accrued upon it. But the Government think that we are not able to pay the principal amount and they are asking about the interest and that is why, this provision is not being implemented, although it is there in the law, but it should be implemented. The Union Government as well as all the State Governments should discharge their duties properly so that they may get payment in cash and if it is delayed then interest should also be paid. If this process of paying interest alongwith the payment gets implemented then there would not be undue delay in making payment to the farmers. But it is really ironical that despite this provision in the law, no such process is undertaken. So, this is a challenge for the Government. It is there in the law, but since this provision is for the farmers, it is not being implemented.

The hon. Member was submitting that more than rupees 500 crores of the farmers is outstanding. He raised the issue of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other states where cultivation of sugarcane is undertaken. He is really concerned about this. He expressed his concern for farmers through this Private Members' Resolution. He stated that outstanding amount of the farmers should be paid. This payment for the sugarcane should be made within seven days. This is very good. The Government is unable to implement the provision of 14 days. It would be really good if this provision of seven days is

implemented. But it should be made alongwith interest. Otherwise it will not remove the hardships of farmers. A farmer produces foodgrain, but sells it at half the price and even that too is not paid—this is very clear, but where he should go then!

How can a farmer cultivate anything when he faces difficulties of every sort. "Farmers are destined to suffer in every way." Where should a farmer go? Whatever the farmer cultivates, he has to face crises be it foodgrain, or coconut, or oilseed, or pulses, or wheat, or rice or maize or sugarcane. In fact this has become his fate. Even in the field of animal husbandry, milk is imported in the form of milk powder etc.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he also expressed his concern over opening of the closed sugar mills. But the State Governments and the Union Government put the onus on one another. So, only the farmer is being sandwiched in between. The Union Government make State Governments accountable and State Governments pass on the buck to the Union Government. Wherever sugar mills are closed farmers are crying hoarse.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of 64 sugar mills in Bihar 19 sugar mills are closed. The names of these 19 sugar mills are ~ Lauria, Sugauli, Motipur, Hathua, Siwan, New Siwan, Goraul, Lohat, Raiyyam, Sakari, Samastipur, Bihata, Guraru, Varsaliganj, Banmankhi, Chanpatia, Barachakia, Madhaura and Panchrukhi. You would be surprised to know the condition of Bihar. Sugar Mills were established in Bihar and Maharashtra at the same time. When in 1930-32 total production of sugar was 9 lakh tonnes in the entire country, Bihar alone accounted for the production of 3 lakh tonnes of sugar. Now the country is producing 164 lakh tonnes of sugar, but Bihar is still producing the same 5 lakh tonnes. Now you can well imagine that once Bihar alone produced one-third i.e. 3 lakh tonnes of the entire productions of the country i.e. 9 lakh tonnes of sugar. The reason behind this is amply clear that 19 sugar mills in Bihar are closed, and those which are functioning, do not have much crushing capacity. Devastation is staring farmers of that area in the face. So, this problem cannot be solved if the Union Government, does not give assistance promptly.

A Sugar Technology Mission was sent by the Union Government with regard to two sugar mills of Bihar, viz Motipur and Goraul. Experts of this Mission had given their report too, which is with the State Government. The experts said that these mills can be made operational. Motipur was considered viable in the form of sugar mill and Goraul was considered viable for Khandsari and Jaggery in this report and it was also stated that this would be beneficial for the farmers.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

All the sugar mills are under the control of the Government. Two or three sugar mills are under the British India Corporation. All these sugar mills are lying closed. Efforts for making these mills functional were made at the Government level. It would take around rupees 50-60 crore for a new sugar mill and around 25-30 crore rupees would be needed for their modernisation. But now the problem is of capital. How will it be managed? The State Government after the cabinet's decision, handed over three old sugar mills to their respective owners.

So, through this decision, 16 out of 19 mills were divided. Regarding 16 sugar mills, the Government took decision that IFCI, a Government of India Enterprise may evaluate and may through advertisement invite private people to run these sugar mills, meaning thereby, that these mills may become operational at any cost. These mills should run at any cost, whether by private party, or through joint venture, or on lease, or at the Government level. Funds may be provided to them and they should become functional. Farmers are facing this grave crisis. All sugar mills owe to labourers. An amount of rupees 22 crore of the farmers was outstanding in Bihar. Some of which has been recovered and the rest is outstanding at the Government level. Around rupees 9-10 crore are still outstanding. 13 crore rupees were received. 22 crore rupees were given by the Government. 9 crore rupees were deducted by the provident fund. So, money given for the farmer was deducted for labourers by the provident fund. Due to this reason, 9 crore rupees of the farmers are still outstanding. The Union Government may put pressure for this. The State Government should pay back the outstanding amount of 9 crore rupees of the farmers. The Union Government should not procrastinate its responsibility.

As hon. Jaiswal ji has said that after the division, Bihar shall have to subsist upon agriculture only. There are only sugar mills in the name of industries. Bihar cannot survive unless these sugar mills start functioning again. Bihar is facing a big crisis. Please invite the State Government, IFCI etc. for making evaluation for the privatisation of these mills. But such a situation may not occur that despite advertisement in the newspapers, no one may turn up. Please make efforts keeping in mind that no one is ready to take over these mills. Private parties can start these mills. Moreover, provisions of tax exemption and other facilities can be made in this regard. I urge that the Union Government may make efforts by providing assistance to start these mills in any manner – whether it be by funds, or through law or through the IFCI and other agencies. This work may be done at any cost, because the State Government is unable to get it done. There is no other way out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time is getting over. Please conclude your speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I can continue my speech next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue your speech next time.

[English]

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet on Monday the 4th December, 2000 at 11 a.m.

18.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 4, 2000/Agrahayana 13, 1922 (Saka)*

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Ninth Edition) and printed by National Printers 20/3, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-8.

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