

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 22, 2000/Pausa 01, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 481. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 3 p.m.

11.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Bank Loans to Commercial Sector

*481. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the amount of loans being given by the public sector banks to the commercial sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the percentage of total loans provided to commercial sector by these banks during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the amount of loans being given to the commercial sectors by these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) non-food bank credit of public sector banks representing credit to

commercial sector during the last three years has been as below :

(Amount Rs. in crore)

	March 1998	March 1999	March, 2000	*Dec., 2000
Non food credit (outstanding)	238890	270569	310466	332121
Increase over previous year	30161	31679	39896	21655
% increase over previous year	14.5	13.3	14.7	7.0
% share of non food credit against total bank credit	95.1	94.2	92.5	90.1
% share against all scheduled commercial banks	79.6	79.3	78.1	77.3

* percentage increase on Dec. 1, 2000 over March 2000

(c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a number of measures over a period of time which would enhance flow of credit to the commercial sector. These include, inter alia, reduction in Bank Rate, reduction in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio, deregulation of interest rates and increase of branch network in the country. These measures are expected to lead to increased flow of bank credit to the commercial sector.

[English]

Banning MNCs with Terrorist Links

*482. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose a ban on the functioning of the Multinational Companies which are being financed by terrorists or terrorist organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in this connection, attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Top terrorists investing in MNCs" appearing in the 'Pioneer' on November 26, 2000; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to stop this illegal activity?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) According to available information, no Multinational Company incorporated in India is being financed by terrorists or terrorist organisations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The matter has either been taken up or would be taken up with the concerned governments, after due investigation.

Portrayal of Indian Women in Films

*483. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued certain guidelines to the Central Board of Film Certification (Censor Board) to check the wrongful portrayal of women in films;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The guidelines for certification of films, issued under Section 5B(2) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, discourage presentation of scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner and scenes involving sexual violence against women like attempt to rape or molestation in films.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Some of the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of the guidelines for certification are as under:

- (i) Provision of 50% of the members of the Examining and Revising Committees to be women to bring greater gender awareness into the certification process;
- (ii) Issue of specific clarifications by the Central Board of Film Certification about interpretation of the frequently violated guidelines to ensure proper application of the guidelines; and
- (iii) Showing of names of members of the Examining/ Revising Committee and Film Certification Appellate Tribunal, on whose recommendations the film is cleared for public exhibition, on the certificates granted to the film, with a view to introducing greater accountability.

Per Capita Foreign Debt

*484. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI SUBODH ROY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita outstanding amount of foreign debt as on date; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to repay the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) India's per capita foreign debt on March 31, 2000 is estimated at Rs. 4332. Overall, country's foreign debt position has considerably improved in recent years. Thus, external debt to GDP ratio declined from 38.7 per cent at end-March 1992 to 22.0 per cent at end-March 2000 and debt service to current receipts ratio fell from 35.3 per cent in 1990-91 to 16.0 per cent in 1999-2000. Such improvement has been possible due to a prudent debt management policy followed by the Government that focused on high growth rate of exports, keeping the maturity structure as well as the total commercial debt under manageable limits, limiting short-term debt, and encouraging non-debt creating flows.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

*485. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major share of foreign exchange reserves is comprised of NRI deposits;

(b) whether there has been a stampede for NRI Deposit withdrawals in the wake of plummeting of the rupee value in recent months;

(c) to what extent our exports are poised to make up for the depletion caused by NRI withdrawals; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to increase foreign exchange reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The foreign exchange reserves with the Reserve Bank of India, which have been accumulated over the years, represent the net outcome of India's international transactions on both the current and capital accounts of balance of payments. Therefore, it is not appropriate to apportion the stock of foreign exchange reserves to any single or group of transactions, including the NRI deposits. However, outstanding balances under various Non-Resident Deposit Schemes amounted to US \$ 23.46 billion at the end of October 2000.

(b) No, Sir. On the contrary, net accretions to NRI deposits during April-October 2000 at US \$ 1331 million have been higher than those at US \$ 1171 million during the corresponding period of last year. Besides, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) have also made overwhelming subscription of US \$ 5.51 billion to the India Millennium Deposits (IMD) floated by the State Bank of India (SBI) between 21st October and 6th November, 2000.

(c) India's exports, in terms of US dollar, recorded a strong recovery of 13.2 per cent in 1999-2000 and the growth

rate has accelerated to 20.5 per cent during the first seven months of 2000-01.

(d) India's foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDRs) at a record level of US \$ 39.48 billion as on December 8, 2000 are comfortable. Nevertheless, the situation is closely monitored and appropriate measures are taken, from time to time, to increase growth of exports and invisible earnings and to enhance the flows of capital, particularly foreign direct investments.

Export of Beedies

*486. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether beedies are being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the names of countries to whom beedies are being exported;

(c) the quantum and value of beedies exported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(d) the foreign exchange earned by India therefrom during the above period;

(e) the States which have major share in the export of beedies; and

(f) the incentives being provided to beedi manufacturers to boost the export of beedies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Names of major countries to whom beedies are being exported are U.A.E., U.S.A, Singapore, Yemen, Afghanistan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Switzerland, Oman, S. Arabia.

(c) The quantum and value of beedies exported during each of the last three years country-wise is enclosed in the Statement.

(d) Foreign exchange earned by India from export of beedies in rupee terms and US \$ terms for the last three years is as under :

Year	Rupees In lakhs)	In US \$ (ML)
1997-98	2004.67	5.14
1998-99	3069.64	7.58
1999-2000	3717.84	8.69

(Source : Tobacco Board)

(e) Beedies are mostly exported from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

(f) Tobacco Board is not providing any incentives to the beedi manufacturers since inception. However, the exporters of Beedi are also eligible to obtain MDA assistance and other incentives from the Government of India on par with other exporters of tobacco and tobacco products.

Statement

(Qty. in tons & Value in lakh)

Country	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Afghanistan	77	136.96	44	95.56	56	129.39
Australia	4	9.68	1	6.51	1	1.92
Barbados	2	9.24	2	8.89	A	1.82
Brazil	1	3.19	—	—	A	1.21
Djibouti	—	—	19	42.34	—	—
Canada	—	—	A	2.52	A	5.25
France	—	—	A	0.18	A	2.75
Germany	5	16.00	—	—	—	—
Japan	A	4.26	A	3.95	A	0.94
Jordan	36	101.63	16	54.17	—	—
Kuwait	5	14.35	10	31.83	13	41.16
Korea	—	—	A	1.22	1	2.42
Malaysia	10	39.59	12	41.97	10	42.75
Mexico	1.	3.31	2	5.81	—	—
Netherlands	—	—	1	0.78	—	—
Nepal	6	4.46	1	0.74	—	—
Newzealand	1	2.62	—	—	—	—
Oman	22	54.04	18	59.59	—	—
S. Arabia	89	254.23	50	155.55	2	7.19
Singapore	32	107.10	31	132.10	68	252.75
Sri Lanka	18	2.08	—	—	—	—
S. Africa	—	—	A	0.07	1	3.13
St. Martin	A	0.59	1	3.41	—	—
Switzerland	8	40.34	5	10.33	5	17.62
UAE	380	1051.78	709	2155.05	932	2889.94
U.S.A.	63	148.72	47	166.88	31	100.22
U.K.	A	0.40	—	—	A	0.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Yemen	—	—	30	90.19	54	216.27
Protugal	—	—	—	—	A	0.08
Reunion	—	—	—	—	A	1.02
Total	761	2004.67	998	3069.64	1174	3717.84

A = below 500 kgs. (Source : Tobacco Board)

Manipulation in Stock Market

*487. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are engaged in manipulating the stock market with the help of big brokers;

(b) if so, the details in this regard with the names of FIIs and brokers;

(c) whether an inquiry was conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such manipulation in stock market?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that the stock exchanges are required to undertake analysis of trading of scrips that show abnormal trends and take necessary action, wherever required. According to SEBI, there has been no manipulation of the stock market by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs).

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) To ensure safety and integrity of the markets, SEBI has put in place several surveillance and risk containment measures. The risk containment measures include capital adequacy, margining system, exposure controls and price bands. The surveillance measures implemented include the stock watch system, an automated online system at the stock exchanges level, which is expected to enhance surveillance capabilities and facilitate prompt detection of potential market abuse activities. The exchanges are required to analyse the trading of shares that show abnormal trends and take necessary action wherever required. In suitable cases exchanges also refer the matter to SEBI.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment on long term commitment basis

*488. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made it clear to the foreign investors that if they are interested in investment in India, it should be on long-term commitment basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the foreign investors thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is generally regarded as long term investment. To encourage FDI into India, Government has permitted access to the automatic route for FDI upto 100% for all items/activities, except for a small list. Inflow of FDI depends upon the commercial judgement of the investors and is guided by several factors like the economic and infrastructure conditions within the country, policy regime governing investments and world economic trends.

[English]

FDI Inflow

*489. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the sector-wise target fixed for FDI inflow for each year during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the target achieved in each of the years during the above period till date, sector-wise;

(c) the reasons for failure to achieve these targets; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the inflow of FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) There are no fixed targets for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). However, it is the continuous endeavour of the Government to attract as much FDI as possible. A Statement showing annual sector-wise inflows from 1991 until October 2000 is enclosed in the Statement.

(c) and (d) Inflows of foreign investment depend on various factors, which include domestic economic conditions, policy regime governing foreign investments, world economic

trends and the investment strategies of global investors. In order to increase FDI, Government has permitted access through the automatic route upto 100% FDI for all activities, except a small list. The FDI policy is reviewed continuously to make it more investor-friendly. To facilitate speedy

implementation of projects, and to remove post investment problems faced by investors, the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA), comprising representatives of Central Departments and State Governments, has been set up.

Statement

(In Rs. Crore)

S.No.	Sector	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Mettallurgical Industries	0.16	24.92	14.02	17.00	58.14	127.58	101.44	125.90	164.18	61.32	694.66
2	Fuels	1.67	9.74	53.99	88.50	312.16	349.33	1524.59	563.55	748.46	490.22	4112.20
3	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	0.00	0.13	0.00	2.88	1.40	2.60	2.15	6.29	0.29	0.00	15.74
4	Prime Movers Others than Electrical	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.37	27.79	44.33	16.13	9.45	6.26	0.00	105.33
5	Electncals Equipment	7.22	91.05	158.97	291.74	505.01	767.05	1331.24	486.59	703.81	1112.28	5754.76
6	Telecommunications	0.00	0.00	1.86	14.02	127.45	952.98	1185.00	1741.02	215.56	295.52	4333.20
7	Transportation Industry	4.01	108.15	57.96	130.87	230.74	499.39	1513.83	1476.92	1130.20	1084.28	6236.34
8	Industrial Machinery	0.70	7.48	12.96	37.24	57.56	29.62	103.96	13.92	99.34	29.73	392.52
9	Machine Tools	0.32	0.61	0.81	6.27	6.29	74.64	36.95	25.60	9.99	10.37	171.84
10	Agricultural Machinery	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.82	136.26	0.05	0.00	0.00	51.07	15.65	203.99
11	Earth-Moving Machinery	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.00	1.15	25.64	0.40	0.00	27.79
12	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	19.93	56.11	62.84	70.05	158.50	88.41	214.25	118.11	62.61	26.76	877.88
13	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	0.00	0.50	53.47	20.28	318.18	54.41	8.15	17.95	67.77	15.69	556.40
14	Medical and Surgical Appliances	0.00	0.21	2.36	2.49	1.48	7.23	24.60	39.11	9.17	7.53	94.17
15	Industrial Instruments	0.00	3.54	1.06	14.13	2.88	11.68	5.73	0.13	0.63	0.00	39.60
16	Scientific Instruments	0.00	0.07	0.33	0.51	4.00	2.45	3.86	00.4	3.14	23.71	36.11
17	Fertilizers	0.00	24.06	3.54	0.25	8.66	1.10	32.04	0.00	0.00	0.50	70.16
18	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	37.31	71.44	229.93	425.85	272.64	588.08	821.26	1064.00	475.62	420.33	4406.46
19	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.71	0.00	0.24	0.00	28.95
20	Dye-Stuffs	0.00	0.00	2.09	0.00	0.96	19.89	17.77	5.68	0.00	4.50	50.91
21	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	11.23	6.04	132.70	39.13	42.67	242.69	188.15	83.84	75.73	207.55	1029.73
22	Textiles (Includ Dyed, Printed)	0.28	18.65	35.42	140.77	147.86	152.07	159.03	50.35	124.88	8.10	837.44
23	Paper and Pulp including Paper Product	0.00	0.02	0.00	13.70	111.43	308.06	147.17	234.17	51.36	259.95	1125.89
24	Sugar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.53	0.07	24.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.01
25	Fermentation Industries	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.20	6.72	12.53	32.02	0.00	0.00	57.78	136.25
26	Food Processing Industries	2.12	58.09	142.81	209.48	154.73	641.15	517.74	136.88	404.70	201.12	2568.81
27	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	0.00	0.68	0.00	37.14	0.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.60	0.00	46.94
28	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.42	0.00	2.42

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
29	Rubber Goods	0.00	9.93	3.62	24.11	4.06	47.66	162.55	36.20	17.76	16.20	322.09
30	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	0.13	0.00	29.43	5.35	8.08*	8.20	55.42	5.32	0.15	1.32	113.42
31	Glue and Celatin	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	118.00	0.00	0.00	118.00
32	Glass	0.00	0.00	57.50	0.28	105.66	19.82	64.61	145.48	171.81	94.16	659.30
33	Ceramics	0.14	1.93	10.28	35.06	8.01	59.44	46.44	6.92	3.75	8.28	180.22
34	Cement and Gypsum Products	0.00	0.68	14.60	35.49	56.27	10.23	11.82	27.93	9.34	317.83	484.19
35	Consultancy Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56	21.42	10.83	32.83
36	Service Sector	0.03	4.83	121.49	94.31	1101.49	1010.69	541.14	767.98	402.38	181.06	4225.41
37	Hotel & Tourism	0.00	0.74	0.29	53.30	21.91	44.43	103.19	39.95	40.54	51.91	356.36
38	Trading	0.00	0.19	5.50	24.09	332.01	65.07	94.51	52.00	98.05	113.03	784.45
39	Miscellaneous Industries** NRI RBI Scheme #	18.09	38.70	72.76	408.78	612.97	2292.01	6265.18	5154.86	11337.57	10052.61	36253.53
40	NRI Scheme	162.30	153.00	579.41	1145.26	1987.84	2062.06	1039.82	359.48	348.83	261.02	8095.22
Total		265.63	691.20	1861.96	3419.66	6935.14	10397.02	46425.82	13339.86	16867.81	15411.12	85615.23

* Special NRI Schemes Administered by RBI From 01/01/1991 to 31/10/2000 and details are available with RBI, the Sectoral Data has not been reported by RBI so for Aprovals/Inflows W.R.T. RBI automatic route have been Incorporated in respective sectors

** Misc. Industries includes Misc Sector, AMT of Euro Issues (GDR's/FCCB) and inflow on transfer of shares from resident to Non-Resident

Sector-wise figures are Provisional, subject to reconciliation with RBI, Mumbai.

US-64 Bailout Deal

*490. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government incurred a loss of Rs. 2,200 crores in buying various shares held by UTI, which has been termed the "US-64" bailout deal;

(b) if so, the compulsion behind this forced purchase;

(c) to what extent has UTI been able to manage its role as mutual fund;

(d) whether there are hidden losses from various investments of UTI;

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

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to tighten its supervision?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) In the wake of adverse reports on US-64, the Unit Trust of India (UTI) constituted an expert committee on US-64 in October 1998, under the chairmanship of Shri Deepak Parekh to undertake a comprehensive review of the functioning of US-64 and to

recommend measures for sustaining investor confidence. The Committee recommended, *inter-alia*, that PSU stocks be transferred to the Government of India by creating a Special Unit Scheme (SUS-99). Accordingly, SUS-99 was launched in June 1999 with the Government of India providing Rs. 3300 crores to the scheme by issuing dated GOI securities. At the same time, PSU holdings of US-64 were transferred to SUS-99 at a book value of Rs. 3300 crores whose market value was Rs. 1526.91 crores as of June 28, 1999. This has declined to Rs. 1369.48 crores as of 7th December 2000.

(c) UTI was established with a view to encouraging saving and investment and participation in the income, profits and gains accruing to it from investments in securities. It manages an aggregate portfolio of Rs. 75,159 crores and services 4.3 crore investors under 93 mutual fund schemes with a servicing and distribution network of 54 branches, 3 UFCs, 288 Chief Representatives and about 75,000 agents.

(d) The profit and loss positions are reflected in the Net Asset Value (NAV) of the respective schemes and the annual reports on accounts are published for the information of the investing public.

(e) Does not arise, in view of the reply to (d) above.

(f) UTI is an autonomous body created by an Act of Parliament. As per the UTI Act, the Board of Trustees, in discharging its functions, acts on business principles,

keeping in view the interests of the unit holders. All schemes floated by UTI after July 1994 are within the regulatory purview of the Securities and Exchange Board of India. Most of the schemes launched prior to 1994 have also been voluntarily subjected to supervision and inspection by SEBI and compliance with its guidelines for mutual funds. In July 2000, on the suggestion of the Government, UTI set up a Committee on Corporate Positioning to review its competitive and commercial positioning in the light of financial sector reforms and developments in the mutual fund industry.

Consumer Movement

*491. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Consumer Movement is quite weak in India, as compared to other countries in the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the experience gained from the implementation of the Consumer protection Act; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of consumer by abolishing the middlemen and other agencies involved therein?

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

(a) and (b) The consumer movement has been gaining ground in India and compares well with the movement in other similarly placed countries.

(c) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has provided a three tier machinery at district, state and national level for relatively quick and inexpensive redressal of consumer disputes. At present there are 569 District Forums, 32 State Commissions and one National Commission. These forums have been effectively utilised by consumers for redressal of their complaints. Total 16,02,706 cases have been filed in these forums since their inception against which 78.8% of cases have been disposed of.

(d) Government have taken measures to safeguard the interests of the consumers by supplying essential commodities at reasonable prices through the Public Distribution System, Cooperative Stores and through Schemes like 'Sarvpriya' of National Consumer Cooperative Federation. Besides, Government keeps a close watch on the prices of essential commodities and intervenes as and when required to protect the interests of the consumers.

Domestic Mutual Funds

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

(a) whether the Government are considering permitting domestic mutual funds to invest in the stocks of global companies;

(b) if so, whether any limit has been set by the Reserve Bank of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it has been welcomed by the investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The High Level Committee on Capital Markets comprising representatives of the Reserve Bank of India, Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Department of Economic Affairs took a decision in August 1998 to permit mutual funds to invest in ADRs/GDRs issued by Indian companies.

(b) and (c) Mutual funds are permitted to invest in ADRs/GDRs issued by Indian companies subject to an overall ceiling of US \$ 500 million and a sub ceiling for each mutual fund of US \$ 50 million or 10% of net assets under management, whichever is lower.

(d) SEBI has so far received and cleared applications from five mutual funds to allow them to invest in ADRs/GDRs.

Sugarcane Pricing Policy

*493. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugarcane stock with the farmers is mounting year after year in the sugar producing States because of the unrealistic level of cane prices fixed by the Government;

(b) if so, the position of cane stock and prices fixed during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from sugar producing State Governments/Associations/Federation of Sugar mills regarding evolving of rationalistic sugarcane pricing policy; and

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

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

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Agriculture has reported that

information on sugarcane stocks with the growers is not available. However, the production of sugarcane is estimated to be of the order of 3093.07 lakh tonnes during 1999-2000 crop year as against 2957.25 lakh tonnes and 2795.41 lakh tonnes during 1998-99 and 1997-98 crop year respectively. A Statement indicating the *State-wise* production of sugarcane is enclosed.

The Government of India fixes the factory-wise minimum price of sugarcane for each sugar season under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. The range of minimum price of sugarcane fixed by the Government during the last three sugar seasons is given below

Sugar Season	Range of minimum price (In Rs./Quintal)
1997-98	48.45—79.05
1998-99	52.70—83.08
1999-2000	56.10—85.80
2000-2001	59.50—96.60

The minimum price of sugarcane is fixed by the Government of India on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and prices (CACP), which is an expert body in the field of pricing of agriculture products.

(c) and (d) The Government has received representations from the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) suggesting, *inter alia*, rationalization of sugarcane prices and acceptance of the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on Sugarcane Pricing Policy. The recommendations of the Mahajan Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Statement

State-wise Production of Sugarcane

*Estimates of Production during 1997-98 to 1999-2000
(In lakh tonnes)*

States/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	139.55	166.846	187.93
Assam	12.875	12.236	12.45
Bihar	49.599	52.188	54.3
Goa	0.624	0.64	0.65
Gujarat	118.362	135.663	143.09
Haryana	75.5	68.8	81.36
Himachal Pradesh	1.391	1.202	1.24

	1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	0.065	0.06	0.01	
Karnataka	283.327	284.54	297.29	
Kerala	5.481	4.064	4.36	
Madhya Pradesh	16.317	19.73	21.73	
Maharashtra	381.743	471.511	567.44	
Manipur	0.154	0.154	0.15	
Meghalaya	0.023	0.02	0.02	
Mizoram	0.075	0.079	0.08	
Nagaland	0.5	0.68	0.61	
Orissa	11.44	14.695	10.98	
Punjab	71.5	61.3	68.85	
Rajasthan	11.587	10.783	8	
Tamil Nadu	301.836	466.728	392.03	
Tripura	0.58	0.43	0.5	
Uttar Pradesh	1292.667	1163.028	1220.09	
West Bengal	18.257	20.019	18.06	
A&N Islands	0.048	0.047	0.05	
Pondicherry	1.913	1.812	1.8	
All India	2795.414	2957.255	3093.07	

Credit to Farmers

*494. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up independent wings of the RBI for different regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the RBI presently is not able to properly monitor credit needs of farmers and rural sectors;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to enforce RBI guidelines on priority sector lending; and

(e) the steps taken by RBI to rectify such problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Lending by banks to the priority sector is monitored by the Reserve Bank through half yearly statements from Banks. On the basis of these returns, banks, which do not achieve the target, are advised to improve their performance. As against the target of 40%, public sector banks' lending to the priority sector constituted 43.63% of their net bank credit as on the last reporting Friday of March,

2000. The performance of banks in lending to the priority sector is also discussed and monitored at the Block/District/State level under the lead bank scheme. Against any shortfall in lending to agriculture as per target, banks are made to contribute to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund.

Modification of One-in-Six Scheme of Income Tax

*495. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modify one-in-six income tax scheme;

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

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the impact of the scheme on direct tax collection;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to bring more people into the tax net?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Any modification in one-by-six scheme would entail amendment of the Income-tax Act. Suggestions relating to amendment of the statute including modification of the scheme are being received by the Government. These will be duly considered during the ensuing budgetary exercise and the decision of the Government would be reflected in the annual budget proposals.

(c) and (d) The Scheme identifies potential taxpayers, who fulfil any one of the six economic criteria, and are therefore obliged to file a return of income, even though they are not liable to file such return by virtue of having taxable income. Since it is relatively easy to target persons on the basis of information relating to the economic criteria, the Scheme also works as a deterrent and compels persons having taxable income to file returns of income in normal course and pay tax thereon. The impact of the Scheme on increasing the tax base is regularly monitored, and its success in this regard is evidenced by the increase in the number of taxpayers from 116.43 lakhs in April, 1997 to 230.11 lakhs in October, 2000.

As regards the impact of the Scheme on direct tax collections, no separate data is maintained on the tax thus collected. However, the positive impact of the scheme is reflected in the increase in personal income tax collections from Rs. 17,101 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 25,655 crores in 1999-2000, and the buoyancy in the current year in such collections which, upto the end of November, 2000, are higher by 45.03% as compared to the actual collection in the corresponding period last year.

(e) In addition to the one-by-six scheme, the following legislative measures have been taken to bring more people into the tax net :

(i) Quoting of Permanent Account Number (PAN) has been made compulsory in documents relating to certain specified high value transactions.

(ii) With a view to promote the use of PAN as a common business identification number, powers have been delegated to the Central Government to notify certain class or classes of persons for whom it will be obligatory to apply for PAN. To begin with, a Notification has been issued specifying persons assessable under the Central Excise Rules and Service Tax Rules as well as importers and exporters, for this purpose.

(iii) A scheme of presumptive income has been provided for in respect of persons engaged in the business of civil construction, transportation and retail trade.

Further, information technology tools have been developed and are being utilised to effectively match the database of existing income tax assessees with information gathered from various agencies. Publicity campaigns are also being launched in various cities through the electronic and print media.

Establishment Expenditure of LIC

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

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the establishment expenditure of Life Insurance Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to streamline the claim procedure of LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The establishment expenditure in LIC comprises mainly of salaries and wages to employees and expenses on office premises etc. These are fixed costs and cannot be reduced immediately. Furthermore, expenses are incurred on payment of agents, commission. LIC has for the last several years exercised strict control over new recruitments and opening of new offices. Almost complete computerization of the organization has also resulted in a steady increase in the productivity of the employees. This has helped in maintaining a check on the establishment expenditure. The

Government has approved a new productivity linked lump-sum incentive scheme in which a part of the employees' remuneration is linked to growth in new business and premium income. This is expected to bring down the management expense as a percentage of premium income.

(c) The LIC regularly reviews the claims settlement procedure. The procedure has been substantially liberalized and several formalities required earlier have been done away with. The operating offices have been empowered with higher financial powers for expeditious disposal of claims. Computerization and networking of branches have also contributed to speedier settlement of claims. The Claims Review Committees for disputed claims have been further strengthened.

Task Force to achieve higher growth Rate

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

(a) the terms of reference made to the task forces constituted by the Government for infrastructure sector, capital market, administrative and legal reforms and other sectors;

(b) whether these task forces have submitted their reports;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by them; and

(d) the action plan being formulated by the Government on the basis of the reports of task forces to achieve the higher growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) The Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry is a nominated body of representatives of apex chambers of Trade and Industry and others that meet the Prime Minister from time to time. This is a consultative body and its deliberations are in the nature of an informal consultation to apprise the Prime Minister of the views of trade and industry on major economic issues. This body has no executive powers and has no formal role in day-to-day functioning of Government.

The Council constituted six Subject Groups from among its members in 1998 to examine certain subjects in depth and to place before the Prime Minister various policy options in the following sectors :

1. Food & Agro-industries Management Policy
2. Infrastructure
3. Capital Markets and Financial Sector Initiatives

4. Knowledge-based Industries
5. Service Industries
6. Administrative and Legal Simplifications.

The full text of the reports of the Six Special Subject Groups is available on the Prime Minister Office's web-site : (<http://www.nic.in.pmcouncils/tic>). These reports were discussed in a full meeting of the Council on Trade and Industry. A gist of the major recommendations of the reports submitted was also circulated to various Ministries/Departments. Later, an Implementation Review Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister to periodically review the action taken by various Ministries/Departments on the recommendations, wherever called for.

The reports of the Subject Groups and the deliberations of the Council act as a source of input into policy formulation. There is no binding obligation on the part of Government to abide by the recommendations made by the Special Subject Groups.

FDI in Steel Plants

*498. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted multinational companies to make direct foreign investment in steel plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of steel plants alongwith the States where direct foreign investment has been made so far;

(c) whether some percentage of foreign equity has been fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with percentage of the Government equity?

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

(b) A list indicating the state-wise approvals accorded to projects in the metallurgical sector, including steel, is enclosed in the Statement. The details of these projects are published in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which is widely circulated, including to the Library of the House.

(c) and (d) For establishing a new venture in the steel sector, FDI is allowed upto 100% under the automatic route, subject to the provisions of FDI policy. The union Government has, at present, no intention to set up a new steel plant in the central public sector.

Statement**State-wise Break up of Foreign Direct Investment Proposals Approved during (August, 1991 to October, 2000) for the Sector Metallurgical Industries**

State	No. of Approvals Financial	Amt. of FDI Approved (Rs. Crore)	% Total
Andhra Pradesh	14	1008.34	7.04
Bihar	5	17.10	0.12
Gujarat	19	796.37	5.56
Haryana	10	86.75	0.61
Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	15	1040.69	7.26
Kerala	1	0.32	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	4	1529.35	10.67
Maharashtra	36	1279.13	8.93
Meghalaya	3	46.96	0.33
Orissa	22	2066.97	14.42
Punjab	2	17.13	0.12
Rajasthan	7	122.16	0.85
Tamil Nadu	30	512.38	3.58
Uttar Pradesh	5	8.05	0.06
West Bengal	11	39.66	0.28
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	2.00	0.01
Delhi	18	831.01	5.80
Goa	6	65.60	0.46
Daman & Diu	0	0.00	0.00
State Not Indicated	89	4859.99	33.91
Total	298	14329.96	

Prime Lending Rates of Banks

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to stop RBI intervention in Prime Lending Rate (PLR) to enable the banks to compete with foreign banks functioning in the country;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to allow the banks to go global;

(d) if not, the apprehensions the Government see in denying the permission; and

(e) the percentage of market share/customers, snatched away by foreign banks from Indian banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not prescribe the lending rates of banks except in case of export credit. Banks are free to prescribe their own lending rates, including the Prime Lending Rate (PLR), after taking into consideration their cost of funds, transaction costs, etc. The banks have to declare, subject to approval of their Board of Directors, a PLR, which should be the minimum rate, charged by the bank for credit limits over Rs. 2 lakh.

(c) and (d) A number of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) already have a network of overseas branches operating in different countries. They are also doing business internationally. Besides they are competing with large number of foreign banks operating in the country.

(e) A Statement showing the Deposits and Advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India as on March 31, 1999 and 2000 and the share of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Foreign Banks and Private Sector Banks is enclosed. While the share of PSBs in the deposits of Scheduled Commercial banks has come down marginally by 0.68 per cent during 1999-2000, the decrease is not matched by any increase in the share of deposits of Foreign banks. In fact, the share of foreign banks has also declined by 0.68 per cent during the same period. However, banks in private sector have been able to increase their market share correspondingly. Likewise, while the share of PSBs in the advances of all scheduled commercial banks came down by 1.02% during the year 1999-2000, the corresponding share of foreign banks increased by a negligible 0.04% only. The private sector banks have been able to increase their market share by 0.98% accounting for a major portion of the decrease of share of PSBs.

Statement**Statement showing the Deposits and Advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks and share of PSBs, Foreign Banks, and Private Banks as on March 31, 1999 and 2000**

Scheduled Commercial Banks				Public Sector Banks			Foreign Banks			Private Banks			
1999		2000		1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000		
771129	900307	636810	737313	82.58	81.90	47464	49324	6.16	5.48	86855	113670	11.26	12.63
369272	443469	296959	352109	80.42	79.40	29523	35617	7.99	8.03	42790	55743	11.59	12.57

Trade relation with Germany

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

(a) whether the Government are taking steps to expand trade relations with Germany;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-German trade has been strengthened;

(c) the new areas identified for the expansion of Indo-German trade;

(d) whether any MoU agreement has also been signed between two countries to encourage the bilateral trade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The growth sectors of Indo-German trade include RMG cotton/accessories, handmade carpet, cotton YFM, machinery and instruments and leather goods in respect of exports to Germany and electronic goods, chemical products, iron and steel products, artificial resins/plastic materials, transport equipments and medicinal/pharma products in respect of imports from Germany.

Sectors identified for promoting bilateral trade include drugs/pharma/fine chemicals, RMG of manmade fibers, handicrafts, auto parts and IT sector for exports from India and machinery, professional instruments, project goods and machine tools etc in respect of imports from Germany.

(d) and (e) No MoU/Agreement has been signed recently. However, the 14th session of the Indo-German Joint Commission on Industrial and Economic Cooperation was held in Berlin in April, 2000. The Joint Statement issued during the meeting on the 11th April, 2000 outlines the strategy for improvement in bilateral trade which includes cooperation in SME sector, participation in trade fairs, removal of bottlenecks affecting business travellers and cargo movements, further cooperation in the fields of IT, bio-technology, food processing telecommunications and other knowledge based industries.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION NO. 2**Reduction in Prices of Petroleum Products**

2. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether slide in the International Crude Oil Prices in the last few days has any impact on oil pool deficit of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, in view of the above, the Government propose to reduce the prices of Petroleum Products;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the date by which it is proposed to be made effective; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Decline in the international price of crude oil and petroleum products will help reduce the oil pool deficit if the prices stabilize at lower levels on a sustained basis over a period of time.

(c) to (e) Decrease in the prices of petroleum products can be considered only after the accumulated outstanding payments of oil companies from the oil pool account are liquidated.

[Translation]

Closure of Indian Investment Centre

5244. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to close down Indian Investment Centre (IIC);

(b) if so, the final decision likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to absorb the employees of IIC elsewhere; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Government is presently reviewing the functioning of the Indian Investment Centre, with a view to deciding upon its continuance or otherwise.

(c) and (d) The approach in this regard would depend on the outcome of the review referred to in the reply to (a) and (b) above.

[English]

Subsistence Allowance to Auspended Employees

5245. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in August, 2000 has held that it is the right of the suspended employee to get

subsistence allowance during the period of suspension as per rule/law;

(b) whether public and private sector banks have not paid the subsistence allowance to its suspended employees as per law/rule and after enhancing the subsistence allowance the same was recovered/withdrawn on the ground that the suspended employee did not cooperate with the inquiry; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take to inquire as to how ar and to what extent was the action of the public/private banks justified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Subsistence allowance is paid to the bank employees during the period of their suspension as per provisions contained in the Officers' Service Regulations/Bipartite Settlements.

(b) Indian Banks' Association, which represents the management of its member banks both in public and private sectors, has reported that they are not aware of any such instance in the public/private sector banks which is a party to the Settlement at the industry level in respect of workmen or public sector banks in respect of officer employees.

(c) Does not arise.

Receipts from FM Radio

5246. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether receipts/revenue from FM Radio is below the target;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Procurement Policy

5247. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA 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 review its procurement policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the extent to which the Government have agreed to assist the farmers of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Government of India to undertake procurement of paddy which has not been done in the past.

(c) and (d) It has been decided that upto ten lakh tonnes of paddy will be procured by the Food Corporation of India and the State Government Agencies in the proportion of 30 percent and 70 percent, respectively, during the current Kharif Marketing Season, 2000-2001.

Insurance Claims

5248. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the fifteen top companies to whom United India Insurance Company Limited paid the maximum claim during the last year;

(b) the details of insurance premium received by them and the claim given to them during the last three years; and

(c) the names of surveyors who had done the survey of these companies and what were the reasons for granting the claim?

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

Training Tours of Officers

5249. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has some procedure to nominate some officers for training in Foreign Institutions for improving academic, managerial, administrative and technical skills of nominated officers;

(b) if so, officers nominated during the last three financial years with amount spent on training of each officer, year-wise;

(c) whether the nominated officers included officers belonging to SC/ST category; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d) The information is given in the Statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of The Officer S/Shri	Whether SC/ST	Expenditure Incurred (Rs.)
1	2	3	4

1997-98

1.	Anil Kumar Ram, ASD, STI (P), Delhi	—	Nil
2.	R.K. Buddhiraja, SE, AIR, Jaisalmer	—	Nil
3.	Smt. Ujwala Babjee, PEX, AIR	—	Nil
4.	Smt. Susham Kohli, PEX, AIR	—	Nil
5.	Amit Chakraborty, SD, AIR	—	Nil
6.	Ms. Noreen Naaqvi, SD, AIR	—	Nil
7.	L.P. Yolmo, SD, AIR	S.T	Nil
8.	V.K. Sharma, Under Secretary, MS	—	300
9.	A.N. Shetty, Director, MS	—	300
10.	Smt. Gayari Sharma, DDA, DG.DDN, N. Delhi	—	300
11.	P.S. Ranga, Under Secretary, MS	SC	300
12.	J. Rajaselvanathan, AME, Films Divn, Bombay	SC	300
13.	D. Nanda, ASE, DDK, Bhubaneswar	—	150
14.	DVS Ranga, DDG, DGDDN	SC	300
15.	A. Saikia, PEX, DDK, Guwahati	—	300
16.	Ms. Aparna Gupta, PEX, DDK, Delhi	—	300
17.	Smt. Kanchan Prasad, ANE, DG.DDN	—	Nil
18.	Mukesh Sharma, DDP, Mumbai	—	300
19.	R.N. Mishra, Prod. DDK, Bhubaneswar	—	300
20.	P.K. Seth, DDG, DG:DDN, N. Delhi	—	300
21.	Debu Chatterjee, Gr. Artist, CPC, N. Delhi	—	300
22.	A.R. Suresh, Gr. Artist, DDK, Bangalore	—	300
23.	K.R. Ramamurthy, SE DDN, Delhi	—	500

1998-99

1.	R.C. Gopal, PEX, AIR, Tiruvananthapuram	—	750
2.	Smt. Ratnabali, PEX, AIR, Delhi	—	750
3.	Smt. Urbasi Joshi, Dir. (Sales), AIR Mumbai	—	Nil

1	2	3	4
4.	Dr. R. Sridhar, SD, AIR	—	Nil
5.	M.D. Galkwad, DDG, AIR	SC	Nil
6.	J.K. Das, EP, AIR	—	Nil
7.	O.R. Niaza, Asst. Dir. (Prog.), AIR, N. Delhi	—	Nil
8.	Indiver Sachidev, PEX, AIR, New Delhi	—	Nil
9.	A.K. Aggarwal, Dir. (Engg.), DG; AIR, N. Delhi	—	Nil
10.	R.K. Singh, Director, STI (T), AIR, Delhi	—	36,000
11.	R.T. Chari, CE(SZ), AIR, Chennai	—	Nil
12.	S.R. Kar, AD(News), DG:DDN, N. Delhi	—	Nil
13.	M.D. Negi, Lecturer, FTII, Pune	ST	300
14.	Manoj Pande, JAG, IIS, Delhi	—	Nil
15.	Basharat Ahmed, DCP, DDN	—	500
16.	Deepa Chandra, DCP, DDN	—	500
17.	Ms. Ananya Banerjee, DCP, DDN	—	500
18.	A.S. Kohli, DE, DDN Delhi	—	Nil
19.	Madhu Nag, ANE, DDN Delhi	—	35000
20.	Ms. Nanu Bhasin, ANE, DDN Delhi	—	35000
21.	Deepak Samah, PEX, DDK, Guwahati	—	500
22.	K. Jyotish Kumar, PEX, DDK, Trivandrum	—	500
23.	Ms. Deepika Kachhal, ANE, DDN, Delhi	—	500
24.	Ms. Rupa R. Mehta, PEX, DDK, Ahmedabad	—	500
1999-2000			
1.	R.K. Singh, Director, STI(T), Delhi	—	26,090
2.	Ms. Mallika Kurup, PEX, AIR, Tiruvananthapuram	—	Nil
3.	Ms. Nirmala T. Anand, PEX, AIR, Bangalore	—	Nil
4.	Ms. Sunita, PEX, AIR, New Delhi	SC	Nil
5.	Lakshmi Sankar Bajpai, Dy. Director, AIR	—	Nil
6.	S.C. Rudra, Dy. Dir. (E) CE(EZ), AIR, Calcutta	—	71000
7.	R.K. Sinha, Dir (E), CE (EZ), AIR, Calcutta	—	Nil
8.	P. Dass, DDE(FA), AIR	—	Nil
9.	Saju Venniyaor, PEX, AIR, Panaji	—	Nil
10.	J.P. Chakraborty, Dy. Dir. AIR	—	Nil

1	2	3	4
11.	Ms. S. Ushalatha, PEX, AIR	—	Nil
12.	Ms. Linda Mukherjee, PEX, AIR	ST	Nil
13.	V.K. Bannerjee, DD, AIR	—	Nil
14.	Ms. Meenu Khare, PEX, AIR	—	Nil
15.	Ms. Arvind Manjit Singh, DPIO, PIB	—	Nil
16.	G.S. Raina, PEX, DDK, Delhi	—	500
17.	Smt. Surat Mishra, ARO, DG:DD	—	525
18.	V.G. Vasuki, ARO, DDK, Mumbai	—	525
19.	Ms. Saroj Sharma, PEX, DDK, Delhi	—	500
20.	A.K. Verma, ADE, DG:DD	—	500
21.	P.K. Venugopal, PEX, DDK, TVM	—	500
22.	Shri Lokman Singh, ASE, CPC, N. Delhi	SC	Nil

Patent of Basmati Rice

5250. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India lacked a database on Basmati rice to substantiate its claims against the patents granted abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to develop a database on Basmati rice and laydown the characteristics for around 12 varieties of Basmati rice found in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Based on the information available, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEEDA) filed a petition in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) challenging claims 15-17 of the patent on Basmati rice lines and grains granted to M/s Rice Tec Inc., USA. In response to this petition, M/s Rice Tec filed a statement in the USPTO withdrawing claims 4 and 15-17 of the said patent. Challenging of other claims would depend upon the evidentiary value of documents required to satisfy ex-parte proceedings in the USPTO.

Assistance to Farmers of Karnataka

5251. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

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

(a) whether a delegation from Karnataka alongwith its Chief Minister met him and pleaded to help the farmers

of Karnataka who have been facing hardships due to the crash in price of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide all help and assistance to the State Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all the foodgrains have been procured from the farmers of Karnataka; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) A delegation from Karnataka led by the Chief Minister met the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on 28th November, 2000, and requested for relaxing the specification of maize and to step up procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the State so that the farmers could get a remunerative price.

In order to reduce the hardship of the farmers and to avoid distress sale of maize, the Government has relaxed the specifications and decided to procure maize in Karnataka with :

(i) damaged grains upto a maximum of 2% instead of 1.5% provided under uniform specifications with full value cut over 1.5%.

(ii) slightly damaged, discoloured and touched grains upto a maximum limit of 6% instead of 4.5% provided under uniform specification with full value cut over 4.5%.

(e) and (f) The FCI has procured the following quantity of foodgrains in Karnataka during the current Kharif Marketing Season as on 16th December, 2000 :

(i) Maize	-	36,000 MT
(ii) Rice	-	25,690 MT
(iii) Paddy	-	204 MT

[Translation]

Popularity Rating of All India Radio

5252. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the popularity rating of Akashvani programmes has gone down during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of programmes relayed by Akashvani?

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

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that improvement in the quality of programmes is a continuous process. All out efforts are made to effect improvement in the programmes from time to time.

[English]

Decline in Trade with Russia

5253. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Russian trade has shown a declining trend for the last three years;

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

(c) whether any concrete steps are being considered by both the Governments to improve the Indo-Russian trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Except for the financial year 1998-99, the Indo-Russian trade has not shown any declining trend for the last three years.

The Indo-Russian bilateral trade during the last few years is as under :

1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
(April-March)	(April-March)	(April-March)	(April-March) (Provisional)
5110.52	6062.21	5279.71	6798.53

(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta)

(b) The reasons for decline during the financial year 1998-99 were, *inter alia*, due to the crisis in Russia's financial and banking sector as well as the global economic slowdown.

(c) and (d) The present Indo-Russian bilateral trade does not reflect its true potential. During the Sixth Session of Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held at New Delhi in January, 2000 It was felt that potential existed in export of agricultural products like

spices, oil meals, tropical foods and food juices from India, cooperation in the civil aviation sector, diversification of bilateral trade especially in high quality and hi-tech items. Government of India has taken a number of steps for identifying new areas of cooperation and to increase the bilateral trade, which include :

- promotion of dialogue with the Russian side including discussions at the highest level;
- constant review of bilateral trade through the Joint Commission mechanism with its Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation and various Sub-Groups on Transport, Banking and Financial matters, Agriculture;
- facilitating through bilateral consultations, the rapid utilisation of debt owed to Russia in the form of export of goods and services;
- promotion of direct business contact through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc.

[Translation]

NABARD Loan for Irrigation Projects

5254. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has provided any funds for irrigation projects under R.I.D.F. to various States and especially to Bihar during the last three years;

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

(c) the projects on which these funds have been spent;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide more funds for irrigation projects to the State during the year 2000-2001; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided funds for irrigation projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to various States including Bihar during the last three years. The details of the State-wise disbursements made under RIDF for the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The funds provided under RIDF have been utilised by the State Governments on major, medium and minor irrigation projects.

(d) and (e) Loans provided under RIDF are project-specific and are provided to State Governments on case to case basis. Out of the total corpus of Rs. 4500 crore for the year 2000-2001, NABARD has already sanctioned loan to the tune of Rs. 1950.77 crore as on 15th December, 2000, out of which Rs. 596.53 crores were for irrigation projects. Further sanction of loans for irrigation projects would depend upon the receipt of proposals from State Governments.

Statement

State-wise details of disbursements made by NABARD under RIDF for irrigation projects during the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

S. No.	State	Amount Disbursed
1	2	3
1.	Assam	49.97
2.	Andhra Pradesh	131.37
3.	Bihar	4.8
4.	Goa	—
5.	Gujarat	112.5
6.	Haryana	51.83
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16.57
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.36
9.	Karnataka	10.49
10.	Kerala	8.44
11.	Maharashtra	—
12.	Manipur	—
13.	Meghalaya	—
14.	Mizoram	2.18
15.	Madhya Pradesh	72.02
16.	Nagaland	—
17.	Orissa	84.81
18.	Rajasthan	74.34
19.	Tamil Nadu	1.67
20.	Uttar Pradesh	111.19
21.	West Bengal	15.00
Total		754.54

[English]

Rules and Regulations for Multinational Companies

5255. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are certain specific rules and regulations governing the activities of multinational companies in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have come across certain illegal business activities of such companies, jeopardising the national economy; and

(d) if so, the names of such companies alongwith the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) MNCs are treated at par with Indian companies after they are incorporated in India under the Companies Act, 1956, and all laws of the land are applicable to them.

(c) and (d) Any illegal activity indulged in by any company would render the company liable for action under the applicable legal provisions.

[Translation]

Multi-National Companies

5256. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI PUSP JAIN :

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

(a) whether some Multi-national Companies have entered the industry and trade sector of the country;

(b) if so, the companies set up during each of the last three years sector-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it has led to an increase in the exports;

(d) whether some foreign companies have made their foray into trade and industry sector of the country;

(e) whether any assessment has been made or proposed to be made about the benefits accrued to the country as a result of these companies in India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) From January 1998 till October 2000, a total number of 4,411 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals involving an

amount of Rs. 91811.47 crore have been approved for various sectors including Industry and Trade in accordance with the prevailing FDI policy. The project-wise details are published in Monthly SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated including to the library of the House. Project specific export details are not centrally maintained.

(e) and (f) FDI is perceived as a means of bringing in new and competitive technologies, and managerial skills along with needed capital to supplement domestic capital.

[English]

Recommendations of SEBI

5257. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Secondary Market Advisory Committee of SEBI has recommended abolition of the no delivery period norms, reduction of gap between two book closures and minimum floating stocks for continuous listing for companies in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SEBI has issued suitable clarifications to the stock exchanges to allow contract notes and client confirmation through digital signature;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other recommendations made by the Committee and 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) and (b) The Secondary Market Advisory Committee of SEBI has recommended *inter-alia*, that no delivery period for corporate actions such as issue of dividend and bonus shares be abolished for securities which are traded in the compulsory dematerialised form. It has also been recommended that the time gap between two book closures/record dates be reduced from 90 days to 30 days. Further, with a view to ensuring availability of floating stock of listed companies, on a continued basis, it has been recommended that there should be minimum non-promoter holding levels.

(c) and (d) SEBI has intimated that vide SEBI's circular dated 15.12.2000, it has been clarified to the stock exchanges that the brokers are allowed to issue contract notes authenticated by means of digital signatures provided that the broker has obtained digital signature certificate from certifying authority under the Information Technology Act, 2000. The mode of confirmation by the client may be as specified in the agreement between the broker and the client.

(e) The other recommendations made by the Committee are as follows : (i) implementation of mandatory client code requirement by the stock exchanges by January 1, 2001; (ii) decisions regarding dividend, bonus, rights announcements or any material event are to be made public by the company within 15 minutes of the decision being taken; (iii) the existing "know your client" form of brokers be reviewed so as to simplify the process for small investors; (iv) current agreement between broking entity and its sub broker be reviewed etc.

[Translation]

Decline in Export of Cars

5258. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of cars has registered decline in the first nine months of the current financial year in comparison to the corresponding period of the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Figures available from April to October 2000 from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) indicate that there is no decline. During the aforesaid period 11207 cars have been exported which is higher than the corresponding period for the previous year which recorded export of 10223 cars.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Bhojpuri Programmes on DD

5259. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the Regional channels of the Doordarshan from which Bhojpuri programmes are being telecast at present alongwith the duration of the programmes being telecast, centre-wise;

(b) whether in one of the resolutions passed in the recently concluded International Bhojpuri Conference at Delhi it has been demanded from the Government to check vulgarity in the Bhojpuri programmes being telecast by the Government media and to allot more time for such programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Grievances of Air Employees Association

5260. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Akashvani Announcers' Association has submitted to the Government any representation for redressal of their grievances; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The Akashvani Announcers' Association have been submitting their representations to the Government from time to time mainly in respect of their service conditions. Such representations are considered by the Government sympathetically and remedial action is taken on merits and as per the extant instructions on the issues.

PRBS Scheme

5261. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commissioner of Income Tax, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh has initiated action for cancellation of Tax exemption U/S 88 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 upon PRBS scheme in view of complaint of ONGC Employees Association, Calcutta;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether forcible deduction from monthly salary of employees of ONGC without individual consent can attract benefit U/S 88(2) (vii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in cancellation of Tax exemption by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Meerut?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, proceedings for cancellation of recognition to PRBS Scheme of ONGC have been initiated on 13-8-1999. The matter is under consideration.

(c) All contributions to any hitherto recognised funds like the PRBS Scheme are eligible for deduction u/s 88(2) (vii) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(d) The related issues are technical and complicated in nature and are being examined in depth by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Meerut.

Violation of FERA by Actors

5262. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of film stars have allegedly violated the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) No case of FERA violation against any film star has been registered by the Directorate of Enforcement during the last one year.

(c) Does not arise.

Bogus Kisan Vikas Patra

5263. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 926 on December 4, 1998 and state :

(a) whether Delhi Branches of Associate of State Bank of India, Banks have written-off as bad debts a number of cases involving the pledging of "bogus Kisan-Vikas Patras";

(b) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise and branch-wise and amounts of bad debts written-off in each case;

(c) the criteria adopted by these associate Banks to write off bad debts;

(d) whether responsibility of the staff/officers responsible for accepting bogus vikas patras has been fixed;

(e) if so, the action taken against them; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) As per the RBI guidelines, all borrowal accounts doubtful if recovery, wherein there is no security, are to be classified as 'Loss Assets'. Wherever full provision from bank's profit is available such accounts can be written-off. However, writing off is only an accounting process and Bank's recourse against the borrower & right to recover remains and is not affected. Connaught Circus, New Delhi Branch of State Bank of Indore from amongst the Associate Banks in Delhi had reported a fraud case involving pledging of bogus Kisan Vikas Patras in 1998 in two accounts. The amounts involved in both the cases were later on written-off by the Bank.

(d) to (f) Central Bureau of Investigation to whom the case was referred by the bank for investigation has also reported that investigation in the case has been completed and a chargesheet has been filed in the Court. State Bank of Indore has also informed that lapses were observed on the part of four officers, including two Branch Managers and two officers posted at their Connaught Circus, New Delhi Branch and departmental action has been initiated against them.

Fiscal Health of States

5264. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the raising trend in the revenue deficit has created a stress on the fiscal health of several States particularly of Maharashtra during the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for rise in the revenue deficit;

(d) whether any financial mismanagement has been the reason for such situation;

(e) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued by Union Government/RBI to State Governments in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether State Governments have asked for additional financial aid from the Union Government; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Because of rising mismatch between Expenditure and Receipts, the financial position of the States including Maharashtra has worsened. Revenue deficit as a percentage of gross deficit has been increasing in recent years. The increase in the revenue deficit is mainly on account of steep rise in non-plan expenditure, particularly establishment expenditure, deceleration in receipts and increased interest payment liabilities. Details of revenue deficit and gross fiscal deficit as contained in the Report of RBI on State Finances are given below :

(Rs. in crores)

Years	Revenue Deficit		Gross Fiscal Deficit		%RD/GFD	
	All States*	Maharashtra	All States*	Maharashtra	All States*	Maharashtra
1997-98	16333	2579.90	44200	6442.2	37.0	40.0
1998-99 (RE)	40491	2741.60	75256	6971.8	53.8	39.3
1999-00 (BE)	40724	7251.90	77893	11016	52.3	65.2

*Includes NCT of Delhi.

(e) and (f) State Governments are autonomous under the Constitution and financial management is primarily their responsibility. The Terms of Reference of the Eleventh Finance Commission included, *inter-alia* review of the finances of the Union and the States and suggesting ways and means by which the Governments collectively and severally may bring about a restructuring of the public finances so as to restore the budgetary balance and maintain macro economic stability. Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission and States are expected to prepare Fiscal Reform Programmes.

(g) and (h) Some State Governments have requested the Government of India from time to time for general and specific relief. In order to alleviate the mismatch in the States cash flows, the Government of India has released Plan assistance, share in Central taxes and small savings loans in advance depending on the need of the State Government. In addition to Ways and Means support by RBI, Central Government also provided Ways and Means Advance to Many States.

Inspection Reports of Banks

5265. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the banks whose inspection reports are pending with RBI alongwith period of pendency;

(b) the reasons for not taking action on those inspection reports by RBI so far;

(c) the reasons for setting up another inspection group for these banks;

(d) whether RBI propose to publicise these inspection reports; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no inspection report for the period 1998-99 is pending with them and the inspection for the period ended 1999-2000 of some banks are in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has not set up any Inspection Group for banks.

(d) and (e) In terms of Section 35(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 Reserve Bank is required to supply a copy of its Inspection Report to the concerned bank for necessary action and follow-up. There is no provision in the Act to make the reports public.

Restructuring of State Technical Consultancy Organisations

5266. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure and revitalise the North-East industries and technical organisation on the basis of an expert committee report on restructuring of State Technical Consultancy Organisations;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to de-link North-East industries and technical consultancy organisation from IDBI and tagging it with SIDBI for the purpose of its operation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) had appointed a reputed consultant to independently study all the Technical Consultancy Organisations (TCOs) and suggest measures to be adopted for their revival and growth. The consultant has since made the recommendations.

The consultant has in its report considered several options for restructuring of TCOs including 100% equity stake by State Government and merger of the TCOs on regional/ All India basis. The recommendations are being examined by the IDBI.

Adjustment of Capital Gains

5267. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for incorporation of a provision in Income Tax Act, 1961 to adjust capital gains against accumulated losses in respect of public enterprises under restructuring; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) The Government considers various aspects of Direct 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.

Investor Education Centre

5268. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Security and Exchange Board of India has decided to facilitate setting up of Investor Education Centre in major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for the reimbursement to the Investors' Associations registered with it;

(d) whether SEBI propose to reimburse the additional sum to the recognized Investors' Associations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to promote investor education in the security market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has decided to facilitate setting up of investor education centres in leading colleges, in major cities. These centres would have facilities such as dedicated internet connectivity, books, newspapers and other informative material for students and investors.

(c) to (e) SEBI has decided to earmark a sum of Rs. one crore for reimbursement to investors' association registered with SEBI to meet their expenses on conducting seminars, publication and circulation of investor education material and one time capital expenditure for setting up of computer terminals, installation of a database on companies and internet services.

(f) SEBI has taken several measures towards promoting investors' education, which include, *inter alia*, issue of advertisements/public notices in newspapers on investor education, publication and distribution of reference booklets for investors and registration of investors' associations with a view to promoting awareness among investors.

DA to Government Employees

5269. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to freeze Dearness Allowance for next five years:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and rationale behind the decision;

(c) whether the Government have also a proposal to stop any further increase of prices of essential commodities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Containing the prices of essential commodities is a continuing, ongoing process and is an integral part of Government policy relating to control of inflation.

Diversion of Funds

5270. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Heavy Engineering Corporation has diverted assistance money received from the Government including money deducted from the salary of the employees to some other heads;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether HEC sold residential flats constructed for employees and diverted money so realised therefrom to somewhere else instead of paying the dues of employees;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Restructuring of NABARD

5271. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to restructure the NABARD; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Government has placed a proposal before the Parliament for amending the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Act with a view to provide greater flexibility in its operations and resource mobilisation. The proposed amendments would enable NABARD to diversify its credit products, focus on different development initiatives, mobilise resources from different avenues and offer a wider range of services to institutions involved in rural development. Once these amendments are carried out, NABARD could undertake restructuring which may be necessary.

[English]

Losses suffered by Insurance Companies

5272. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to appoint neutral assessors and surveyors to investigate into the misconduct and non-adherence of rules and regulations by leading Insurance Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the losses suffered by the Insurance Companies during the last three years as a result of misconduct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, public sector general insurance companies are under the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) as also the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

(d) The details of operating results of Insurance Companies for the last three years ending March, 2000 are given in the Statement. No separate head of account is maintained by the insurance companies showing losses under the head "misconduct".

Statement

Details of Operating Results of GIC and Subsidiary Companies for the last 3 years Ending March 2000

(Rs. in Crore)

	GIC			National			New India			Oriental			United India		
	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98	1999-00	1998-99	1997-98
Underwriting Profit/loss (-)	(-) 229.53	(-) 101.63	(-) 63.53	(-) 231.91	(-) 212.85	(-) 92.81	(-) 177.98	13.18	57.14	(-) 298.50	(-) 257.26	(-) 112.89	(-) 278.83	(-) 128.03	(-) 172.34
Gross Investment Income	649.61	515.96	522.06	340.20	312.73	281.50	685.74	635.95	573.90	367.53	341.22	312.23	444.46	416.01	364.69
Other Outgo/loss	14.41	23.89	18.22	7.84	16.43	2.83	72.44	84.44	10.37	8.23	16.87	15.86	17.42	26.57	0.52
Other Income															
Profit before tax	405.67	490.44	440.31	100.45	83.45	185.86	435.32	564.89	620.86	60.80	67.09	183.68	150.41	261.41	192.88

Smuggling of Cars

5273. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of cars;

(b) if so, the number of cases of smuggling of cars came to the notice of the Government during 1998, 1999 and the current year so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some cases of illegal import of cars in violation of Export-Import Policy and misdeclaration of value, which amount to smuggling under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962, have been noticed. Number of such cars illegally imported and which were seized under the Customs Act, 1962, during years 1998, 1999 and 2000 (up to 15.11.2000) are as follows :

Year	No. of cars seized
1998	109
1999	96
2000 (up to 15.11.2000)	31

(c) All the field formations of the Customs Department including DRI are alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods, including cars.

[Translation]

Show Cause Notice Issued by Excise Department to Railway

5274. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Calcutta-II, Central Excise Commissioner office issued show cause notices for Rs. 34.05 crores to Assessee (Railway) in November 1986 and August 1992 for having made wrongful claim of the benefit of exemption on railway wagon in contravention of provisions contained in Notification regarding exemption issued in November, 1986;

(b) if so, whether even after issuing notices, no action was taken for recovery and consequently interest amount on Rs. 34.05 crores could not be recovered between April 1993 to March 1998;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

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

[English]

Irregularities in FCI

5275. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of Rice and the Wheat purchased at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), above the MSP and below the MSP in the Andhra Pradesh and other States in each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the officials of FCI in collusion with the local rice millers are cheating and looting the ryots by deliberately understating and under-certifying the rice brought by ryots and are forcing the ryots to sell at a price far below the minimum support price;

(c) whether there is any inspectory agency to see, to check and to avoid collusion of Food Corporation of India officials and the rice millers in deliberately grossly understating and undervaluing the price of the rice and wheat;

(d) whether any cases were booked against such officials of Food Corporation of India and rice millers for such violation; and

(e) the preventive steps are being taken to avoid such nexus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Rice is procured from the millers as per the Levy Control Orders of the concerned States at the prices fixed by the Government of India. Levy prices of rice differ from State to State. The quantity of levy rice procured in various States, year-wise, has been indicated in the Statements I and II.

Wheat is procured at minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the Government. The MSP of wheat is uniform for all the States. Wheat and paddy conforming to Fair Average Quality specifications announced by the Government, which is brought in the mandis/procurement centers by the farmers, is procured by the FCI/State Governments/Agencies, on MSP. A Statement showing the quantities of wheat procured on MSP, in different States, is enclosed as Statement III. No wheat is procured in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. No such instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) to (e) Special teams/squads are constituted by the FCI at Headquarters/Zonal/Regional District levels to check irregularities in the process of procurement of foodgrains. In the event of any complaints, the Government also depute Flying Squads to have on-the-spot verification for preventing any irregularities in the procurement of foodgrains.

Statement-I
Procurement prices for Levy Rice (Raw & Parboiled) during 1997-98, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 Kharif Marketing Season

Price of Levy Rice	1997-1998			1998-1999			1999-2000			2000-2001					
	Common			Grade 'A'			Common			Grade 'A'					
	Raw	Par. Boiled	Boiled	Raw	Par. Boiled	Boiled	Raw	Par. Boiled	Boiled	Raw	Par. Boiled	Boiled			
Region															
Punjab	736.60	740.20	786.00	788.80	791.20	838.00	840.10	870.90	872.50	920.40	921.30	903.60	904.70	953.70	954.00
Haryana	729.40	733.10	778.20	781.20	783.60	829.80	831.90	864.20	865.90	913.30	914.20	904.20	905.30	954.30	954.70
U.P.	707.20	711.20	754.50	757.80	760.40	804.60	807.20	838.00	840.10	885.50	886.80	868.90	870.60	917.00	918.00
Rajasthan	720.20	724.00	768.40	771.50	770.80	815.90	818.20	849.70	851.60	897.90	899.10	881.30	882.70	930.00	930.70
Delhi	729.40	733.10	778.20	781.20	783.60	829.80	831.90	864.20	865.90	913.30	914.20	896.50	897.70	946.20	946.60
UT Chandigarh	716.50	720.40	764.40	767.60	766.90	811.60	814.10	845.30	847.30	893.20	894.50	876.70	878.20	925.10	925.90
A. Pradesh	735.10	738.70	784.40	787.20	783.40	829.80	834.80	867.30	868.90	916.50	917.40	899.80	900.90	946.60	950.00
Karnataka	679.40	683.80	724.60	728.80	724.30	769.60	772.60	801.40	804.00	846.70	848.60	830.40	832.60	876.20	877.70
M.P.	679.49	683.80	724.60	728.80	724.30	769.60	772.60	802.90	805.50	848.20	850.10	839.70	841.70	886.00	887.70
Maharashtra	680.50	684.90	725.70	729.40	725.50	770.60	773.70	802.50	805.10	847.10	849.60	831.50	833.70	877.20	878.70
W. Bengal	676.30	680.70	721.30	725.00	721.00	766.00	769.20	797.80	800.40	824.80	844.80	826.60	828.80	872.10	873.70
Pondicherry	673.20	677.70	717.90	721.80	717.80	762.50	765.70	794.10	796.80	838.90	841.00	822.70	825.00	868.00	869.70
Orissa	710.30	714.30	757.80	761.60	757.20	804.60	807.20	838.00	840.10	885.50	886.80	869.00	870.60	917.00	917.90
Assam	691.80	696.00	737.90	741.40	737.50	783.60	786.40	816.10	818.50	862.50	863.90	845.90	847.80	892.50	893.80
Bihar	704.20	708.20	751.20	754.50	—	—	—	830.70	832.90	877.70	879.20	861.20	863.00	908.80	909.80
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	721.00	766.00	769.20	792.80	800.40	842.80	844.60	826.60	828.80	872.10	873.70

Statement-II

Statement showing procurement of Levy Rice
State-wise/Year wise

(Figures in MT)

Name of State	Qty. Procured		
	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Central A/C (A)			
Punjab	413669	1273604	371631
Haryana	223025	753751	240599
U.P.	861244	1379514	33099
Rajasthan	3081	16106	—
Chandigarh		<u>3595</u>	
Delhi	—	5685	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	5051661	5497866	694160
Karnataka	100442	111028	—
Pondicherry	8005	8587	1431
Madhya Pradesh	271715	791299	3076
Maharashtra	5015	52335	—
Bihar	—	19311	—
Assam	—	—	—
Orissa	480865	897119	47385
West Bengal	140625	351094	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—

Statement-III

Actual Procurement of Wheat

(Figs. in Lakh MTs.)

Regions	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
			(As on 9.10.2000) RABI
Punjab	61.46	78.31	94.27
Haryana	31.45	38.69	44.93
Uttar Pradesh	21.41	12.61	15.45
Rajasthan	6.67	6.37	5.39
Madhya Pradesh	5.30	5.42	3.50
Others	0.10	0.02	—
Total	126.39	141.42	163.54

Non-Payment of Investors' Money

5276. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received regarding non-payment of investors' money by M/s. Mahakaushal Plantation Limited, M/s. Okara Agro Industries Limited and Perutek Services Limited; and

(b) if so, the action taken by SEBI in this regard?

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

(b) Under the SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 which were notified in October 1999, no existing CIS entity can launch any new scheme or raise money from investors even under existing schemes, unless a certificate of registration is granted to it by SEBI. The three companies mentioned above have not submitted any application for registration with SEBI. SEBI has sent individual letters to all CIS entities, including the above, which had failed to file applications for registration with SEBI, advising them to wind up their schemes to repay their investors. Since these companies failed to do so, notices were issued to them to show cause as to why action should not be initiated against them for failing to take steps for winding up of the schemes to repay their investors as they had failed to make an application for registration with SEBI.

SEBI has recommended initiation of liquidation proceedings against 605 CIS entities including these 3 companies for their failure to repay investors.

SEBI has filed public interest litigation against, *inter alia*, M/s. Okara Agro Industries Ltd. The company has filed a petition in the Delhi High Court seeking permission to sell its assets to repay its investors.

Compulsory Rolling Formula for Shares

5277. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of Public Limited Companies whose shares have been brought under daily compulsory rolling stock;

(b) the justification for this discriminatory treatment;

(c) whether the share value of these Companies have been slashed by 90 percent as a result of this compulsory rolling formula;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to bring the shares of these companies under weekly settlement like others; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that as on date, there are 163 scrips of public limited companies mandated for compulsory rolling settlement. Names of these companies are provided in the Statement.

(b) SEBI has also intimated that the scrips included under rolling settlement have been identified by a Committee comprising the stock exchanges and market participants on the basis of parameters such as a reasonable degree of liquidity with a daily turnover of about Rs. 1 crore, compulsory dematerialised trading, connectivity with both depositories etc. According to SEBI, the coverage of scrips under rolling settlement will be increased in phases.

(c) and (d) There has been a fall in the market price of the scrips of these companies. However, the pricing of shares is market determined which is a function of the fundamentals of the company, and prevailing economic conditions. Thus the fall in the prices in the scrips cannot be wholly attributed to the introduction of the scrips in compulsory rolling settlement.

(e) and (f) SEBI is committed to introduction of the rolling settlement in all scrips in a phased manner in all the exchanges. At present, SEBI is not considering any proposal for shifting the scrips in compulsory rolling settlement to account period/weekly settlement.

Statement

Scrips for Compulsory Rolling Settlement w.e.f. January, 2000

1. BFL Software Ltd.
2. Citicorp Securities Ltd.
3. Cybertech Systems and Software
4. Hitech Drilling Services (I)
5. Lupin Laboratories
6. Maars Software International
7. Morepan Lab Ltd.
8. Sri Adhikari Brothers Tel.
9. Tata Infotech Ltd.
10. Visual Soft (I) Ltd.

Scrips for Compulsory Rolling Settlement w.e.f. March 21, 2000

1. Aftok Infosys
2. Archies Greetings
3. Ashok Leyland Finance
4. Birla Global
5. Blue Star
6. Chambal Fertilizers
7. Cheminor Drugs
8. Container Corporation
9. Electro Steel Castings
10. Essar Steel
11. Excel Industries
12. Federal Bank
13. GAIL
14. Global Trust Bank
15. Indo Rama Synthetics Ltd.
16. Indusind Bank
17. ITW Signode
18. Jindal Iron
19. Jindal Strips
20. Klg Systems
21. Kotak Mahindra
22. Krishna Filament
23. Marico Industries
24. Morarka Finance Ltd.
25. Morgan Stanley
26. MRPL
27. Navneet Publication
28. Orchid Chemicals
29. Penta Comm.
30. Prism Cement
31. Shree Cement
32. Sundaram Cleayton
33. Torrent Pharma
34. Unichem Labs.

Scripts for Compulsory Rolling Settlement w.e.f. May 8, 2000

1. 21st Century Management
2. A Info Consumables Ltd.
3. ACI Infotech Ltd.
4. Allianz Capital
5. Allianz Securities
6. Allosoft Corp. Ltd.
7. Alps Infosys Ltd.
8. Ambuja Shipyards and Software Ltd.
9. Ancent Software Ltd.
10. Apex Intertech Ltd.
11. Archana Software
12. ATCO Technologies Ltd.
13. ATN International
14. Autorider Ind.
15. B.T. Technet Ltd.
16. BSEL Information Systems Ltd.
17. Canaan International Systems Ltd.
18. Canopy Securities
19. Cat Technologies
20. Chicago Software Ltd.
21. Chitalia Infotech (I) Ltd.
22. Choksh Infotech Ltd.
23. CIFCO Finance
24. CLIO Infotech Ltd.
25. CMS Infotech Ltd.
26. CORCOMP Infosys Ltd.
27. Cybermate Info
28. Cyberspace Infosys Ltd.
29. D.R. Softech & Industries Ltd.
30. Damania Capital
31. Eider Infotech Ltd.
32. Enrai Finance
33. Encore Software Ltd.
34. Enrich Industries
35. ERP Softsystems
36. FZ Commerce Trade Technologies Ltd.
37. Gamma Infoway Exalt Ltd.
38. GMR Vasavi Info Ltd.
39. GMS Computers (I) Ltd.
40. Grow-Tech Software Services Ltd.
41. Gujrat Capital
42. ICES Software Ltd.
43. IEC Software Ltd.
44. Indian Info & Software Ltd.
45. Indus Solutions Ltd.
46. Inna Reddy Comp. Software Asso (India) Ltd.
47. Kushagra Software Ltd.
48. Lalbhai Finance
49. LCC Infotech Ltd.
50. Leafin India
51. Libord Infotech Ltd.
52. Link International
53. Lyons Indust.
54. Madhumilan Finance
55. Mahadev Corporation
56. Majestic Securities
57. Mascon Global
58. Media Video
59. Millennium Infocom Techn. Ltd.
60. Minisoft Ltd.
61. Monalisa Infotech Ltd.
62. Nexcen Softech Ltd.
63. Netvista Information Tech Ltd.
64. NFL Infotech Ltd.
65. Odyssey Technologies
66. Odyssey Ltd.
67. Omega Interactive Technology Ltd.
68. Onida Finance
69. Pentium Infotech Ltd.
70. Phoenix Mills
71. Pittie Finance

72. Platinum Finance
73. Prakash Fortran Softech Ltd.
74. Premium International
75. Proline Software & Finance Ltd.
76. Rajesh Exports
77. Ransi Software (I) Ltd.
78. Raunaq Finance
79. Ravileela Finance
80. Relaxo Footwear
81. Rusoday & Co.
82. SAARC Net Ltd.
83. Sanmac Motor
84. Sanvan Software Ltd.
85. Sawaca Communications
86. Sawaca Finance
87. Shalibhadra Infosec Ltd.
88. Shilpa Software Corporation Ltd.
89. Shoppers Investments
90. Shri MM Softech
91. Shyam Software Ltd.
92. Silicon Valley Infotech Ltd.
93. SIP Industries
94. Soni Industries Ltd.
95. Southern Infosys Ltd.
96. Sriven Multi-Tech Ltd.
97. Sun Beam Infotech Ltd.
98. Sunstar Software Systems Ltd.
99. Surana Tele
100. Synergylogin Systems Ltd.
101. TIL Infotech
102. Trillienium Tech Ltd.
103. Unisys Softwares and Holding Ltd.
104. Vakrankgee Softwares Ltd.
105. Vans Info and Inv.

106. Vatsa Infotech Ltd.
107. Vinitron Informatics Ltd.
108. VMC Software Ltd.
109. VMF Softech Ltd.
110. Washington Software
111. Webcity Infosys Ltd.
112. Worldwide Tel.
113. Yash Management
114. Innosoft Technologies Ltd.
115. IT Microsystems (I) Ltd.
116. Kirloskar Investments
117. Kolar Info Tech Ltd.
118. Kotawala Securities
119. KTL Infosys Ltd.

[Translation]

Modernisation of DD

5278. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the rules laid down by Prasar Bharati for the production and telecast of "short documentaries" by Delhi Doordarshan Kendra;

(b) the reasons for the non-payment of screening charges of the film produced on Agarsen Baoli of Delhi, two years back in 1998; and

(c) the measures propose to be taken by the Government to modernise Delhi Doordarshan Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that short documentaries are presently being produced in-house by the staff of Doordarshan.

(b) Payment for an outside produced programme is made only after the telecast of the programme. This programme has not yet been telecast.

(c) Modernisation of facilities in Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi is a continuous process. Recently, schemes for automation of playback facilities and provision of additional facilities for studies and post-production involving capital outlay of Rs. 13.96 crores, have been approved.

[English]

Recovery of Bank Loans

5279. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Tatas default foreign loan, lose suit in NY Court" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 13th October, 2000;

(b) whether the overseas branches of the State Bank of India, Bank of India and Canara Bank are now to recover Rs. 74 crores in Indian currency from the Tata promoted company Indian Hotels Company as per the NY Supreme Court orders; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to recover this amount from the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A consortium of Banks including State Bank of India (SBI) had sanctioned a loan to Taj Lanka Hotels promoted by Indian Hotel Companies Limited (IHCL) of Tata Group. However, the repayments to Banks were defaulted on account of set-back to the company due to continued ethnic strife in Srilanka and Banks had to file a suit against the company/guarantor in New York which were decreed in favour of the Banks. However, IHCL has entered into settlement with Banks to repay the dues. In view of the delay and uncertainties associated with recoveries through litigation route, the low realisable value of the properties at Srilanka etc., the compromise offer has been approved by the Executive Committee of SBI and other financing banks.

Inspection of Banks by RBI

5280. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2916 on December 17, 1999 and state :

(a) whether the inspected banks have taken action on the inspection reports and submitted the action taken reports to the RBI;

(b) if so, how many banks, public and private, were visited by RBI in the last three years and how many of them have submitted the ATRs; and

(c) the action taken by RBI on the ATRs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it conducts Annual Financial Inspection of banking companies under Section

35 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, through its Regional Offices with a view to assessing their financial strength. These inspection reports are issued to the concerned banks and the banks' comments thereon are sought. The banks are required to take corrective action for rectifying the irregularities revealed by the inspection report. Major supervisory concerns based on the findings of the inspection report are conveyed to the top management of the banks. The inspection reports are required to be placed before the banks' Board of Directors. The major findings of the reports are also discussed by RBI officials with the top management of the banks. RBI also prescribes specific Monitorable Action Plan (MAP) for rectification and a memorandum based on the findings of the inspection report is placed before the Board for Financial Supervision. The number of public sector and private sector banks inspected by Reserve Bank of India during the last three years is given below :

Category	1997-98	1998-1999	1999-2000
Public Sector Banks	27	26	27
Private Sector Banks	35	35	33

All these banks have submitted the compliance reports.

Ban on Import of CD-ROM

5281. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have banned the import of CD-ROM, titled "Compton 1998 Encyclopaedia" on the ground that it wrongly depicted India's boundaries with Pakistan, Afghanistan and China and contained objectionable textual references;

(b) if so, the details of the wrong information therein; and

(c) the circumstances in which the consignment was seized?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CD-ROM in question was found to contain maps wherein the external boundaries of India with Pakistan, Afghanistan and China did not correspond with the published maps of Survey of India and in the text, efforts had been made to twist the facts on the issue of accession of Kashmir. Hence it was decided that the said Encyclopaedia in CD-ROM may not be permitted to be imported.

(c) The consignment was seized when the objectionable material was came to the notice of the Government during customs clearance.

Bank Losses due to Non-Automation

5282. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether lack of automation is costing Nationalised Banks substantial loss of income;

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

(c) the details of fresh initiatives taken/proposed to provide technology solutions to the Nationalised Banks connecting chain of their branches for cost effective and efficient operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that 61.45 percentage of business of public sector banks has been computerised as on 30th September, 2000. Public Sector Banks are likely to computerise 70% of their business before 1st January, 2001. It is difficult to make assessment of loss, if any, to public sector banks due to lack of automation.

(c) Various public sector banks are undertaking steps to computerise more number of branches, open more ATMs and operationalising networking of branches. Reserve Bank of India is also pursuing implementation of Payment System Generic Architecture Model by the banks and process improvements in other areas such as Electronic Clearing Service.

Area under Tea, Coffee and Rubber

5283. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the area under tea, rubber and coffee cultivation in North-Eastern States and Sikkim, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of fund sanctioned by the Tea Board, Coffee Board and Rubber Board, separately to the growers of North-Eastern States and Sikkim during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the steps the Government are taking to promote tea, rubber and coffee plantations in the North-Eastern region and Sikkim; and

(d) the details of the incentives being provided to the growers in this regard?

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

(a) The area under tea, rubber and coffee plantations in the North Eastern States and Sikkim are as follows :

(area in ha.)

States	Tea	Coffee	Rubber
Assam	231942	1792	11644
Tripura	6548	907	25380
Arunachal Pradesh	2520	733	244
Manipur	415	726	1610
Nagaland	284	2665	1615
Meghalaya	380	1350	3683
Mizoram	450	452	543
Sikkim	173	**	**
Total N.E.	242712	8625	44719

(Source : Commodity Boards)

** Not available.

(b) The funds disbursed by Tea Board, Coffee Board and Rubber Board to growers in the North Eastern States during the last two years were as follows :

Commodity Board	1998-99	1999-2000
Tea Board	1473.40	1473.10
Coffee Board	344.84	179.20
Rubber Board	1156.34	1164.66

(c) and (d) With the view to promote tea, coffee and rubber cultivation in the North Eastern States, number of development schemes have been implemented by the respective Commodity Board during the Ninth Five Year Plan. These schemes provide for financial assistance to the growers for new planting, replanting with improved varieties, rejuvenation & consolidation of existing planted areas, replacement of old and worn out machinery, creation of irrigation facilities, processing, training, organizing Advisory Programmes, market support, research and extension support etc.

Calculation of Indirect Taxes

5284. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite being a signatory to the WTO (IIA-1) agreement the Uninterrupted Power Supply is not being treated as an Information Technology Product by the Central Government for the purpose of Sales Tax, Excise & Customs Duties as computerisation has been identified as a "Thrust Area";

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether some States like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat have identified Uninterrupted Power Supplies as an Information Technology product for the purpose of Sales Tax;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e) Static Converters for automatic data processing machines and units thereof, are covered in the ITA-I Schedule. This Schedule deals only with basic customs duty rates, which have been prescribed as per the bindings under the ITA-I Agreement. The ITA-I Schedule does not deal with or cover the excise duty or sales tax rates in respect of the products figuring in the schedule. However, static converters attract the same excise duty rate of 16% ad-valorem, as applicable to other IT hardware products.

As regards sales tax, the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers, constituted to monitor sales-tax reforms, has received a list of IT products from the Ministry of Information Technology for being placed in the list of uniform floor rates of Sales-tax. Uninterrupted Power Supply is a part of this list of IT products.

Corruption cases against Engineers

5285. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the senior class I Engineers those are involved in corruption cases and have been served major charge sheet(s) in the Civil Construction Wing of All India Radio;

(b) how many of them have been holding the charge of field work; and

(c) the reasons for not transferring such senior class-I Engineers out of Delhi to prevent them from using any type of influence to dilute corruption cases pending against them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The following officers of CCW in AIR have been chargesheeted for lack of integrity :

Shri P.K. Dash, EE(C)

Shri D.S. Manchanda, CE(C)-II

Shri Lalit Kumar, EE(E)

Shri Jagdish Bhagat, EE(Trg.)

Shri S.K. Das, SE(C)

Shri S.N. Das, SW(C)

Shri L.K. Salgat, EE(E)

Shri V.K. Singh, SE(E)

Shri A.K. Vohra, SE(C)

Shri Suresh Kumar, EE(E)

Shri A.K. Mukhopadhyay, SW(C)

Shri S.R. Mandal, SW.

(b) Out of the above, seven officers are holding charges of field work.

(c) Two officers are holding charges which are headquartered at Delhi only. Six officers are posted outside Delhi and four officers are handling works of Planning and Survey, which are not sensitive in nature.

Advertisement of Soda

5286. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow advertisement of Soda on Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Existing Code for Commercial Broadcasting does not prohibit advertisement of soda on Doordarshan and All India Radio.

(c) Does not arise.

Unfit Stock of Sunola Refined Oil in Super Bazar

5287. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 1000 cases of Sunola Refined Oil which had been procured by the Super Bazar from Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Corporation Limited has been rendered unfit for human consumption since the stock in question had remained unsold beyond May, 2000;

(b) whether this unfit stock were re-stamped/re-labelled in contravention of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules;

(c) the role played by the Quality Control Department of Super Bazar to stop the sale of the expired items; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Super Bazar against the officials involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Super Bazar has informed that only 558 cases of 'Sunola' Refined oil packed in 1 litre pouches with labels best "before May 2000" procured from the Tamil Nadu Agro-Industries Corporation Ltd. remained unsold beyond May 2000. These had not been rendered unfit for human consumption. The manufacturer was allowed to carryout re-labelling of the oil pouches at his request.

(c) and (d) The role of the Quality Control Department of Super Bazar is only to test the item to check whether it is as per the specifications prescribed by the PFA Act/Rules and also Super Bazar's own specifications. The oil supplied by M/s Tamilnadu Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. was last checked by Super Bazar's Quality Control Department on 2.8.2000 and was found to be in order.

Construction of Godowns in Karnataka

5288. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to NABARD under RIDF scheme to construct godowns in the State;

(b) if so, the places where the construction of godowns has already been cleared by NABARD;

(c) the amount sanctioned for this purpose during 1999-2000; and

(d) the action taken to sanction the amount for construction of godowns at remaining places in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that Government of Karnataka has submitted proposal under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-V to construct godowns in the State. NABARD has sanctioned eight proposals for construction of godowns at Taluk Nagalgund (Dist. Dharwad), Taluk Hospet (District Bellary), Taluk Hassan (District Hassan), Taluk Gulbarga (District Gulbarga), Taluk Gangavati (District Koppal), Taluk Chittapura (District Gulbarga), Taluk Bellary (District Bellary) and at Bhadravathi (District Shimoga).

(c) NABARD has reported that the loan amount sanctioned for construction of godowns in the State of Karnataka during the year 1999-2000 stood at Rs. 243.99 lakhs.

(d) NABARD has further reported that no proposal for construction of godowns in Karnataka is pending with it.

[Translation]

NBF Companies

5289. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of non-banking financial companies operating in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Delhi;

(b) the number of persons who have deposited their money in these non-banking financial companies during the last three years, alongwith the amount deposited by them;

(c) the number of companies out of the said companies which disappeared with the deposited amount and this amount was not invested in the above States;

(d) the action taken by the Government against such non-banking companies; and

(e) the measures taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the number of Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which have applied for grant of Certificate of Registration as follows :

(i) New Delhi	7113
(ii) Uttar Pradesh	1403
(iii) Uttaranchal	72

(b) As per the Annual returns submitted to the RBI by the reporting NBFCs coming under the jurisdiction of New Delhi Regional Office, there were about 354694 deposit accounts with an aggregate public deposits of Rs. 526.81 crores outstanding as on 31st March, 1999. Such information in respect of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal is not available with RBI.

(c) The data reporting system of RBI does not generate this information.

(d) and (e) Complaints have been received from depositors against some NBFCs who have failed to repay their deposits. 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 and 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.

Government has also introduced a new Bill in the Parliament. Provisions of the new Bill are expected to regulate these companies in a more effective manner and provide better protection to the depositors.

[English]

CII Study on Destination India

5290. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the study brought by the CII indicating the performance of the various States and Union Territories as destinations for investment;

(b) if so, the over all rank of West Bengal indicated in this study; and

(c) the reasons for West Bengal's poor performance and the steps being contemplated to improve West Bengal's performance?

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

(b) The overall composite rank of West Bengal indicated in the study "How Are The States Doing?" is eleven.

(c) The responsibility for encouraging industrial growth primarily lies with the State Governments. West Bengal is now striving for a resurgence in the industrial sector with modern industries in the petrochemicals, electronics and information technology. The Centre, as a matter of providing a helping hand undertakes several measures through appropriate policy reforms from time to time to encourage industrial growth.

Cable TV Network (Regulation) Amendment Act

5291. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2000 was challenged in the Delhi High Court on September 27, 2000;

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

(c) the future course of action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi had prayed for immediate stay and quashing, as unconstitutional, of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2000 and the Cable Television Networks Amendment Rules, 2000. The Hon'ble Court dismissed the matter on 10th October, 2000.

Revised Rates of Licence Fee

5292. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bureau of Indian Standards has failed to implement the revised rate of application fee, renewal application fee and annual licence fee from 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of revenue loss caused to the States;

(d) whether the matter has been inquired into and the responsibility is likely to be fixed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) The Bureau of Indian Standards issued a notification on 27.9.1994 enhancing the application fee, renewal application fee and annual licence fee. These enhanced rates were, however, implemented by the Bureau in September, 1997, leading to under-recovery of Rs. 2.38 crores from the applicants and licensees. Out of this, approximately Rs. 1.87 crores has already been recovered.

(c) No loss was caused to the States as these fees are charged by the Bureau in connection with the licences granted by it for use of Standard Mark.

(b), (d) to (f) An enquiry into the matter has been ordered for fixing responsibility for non-implementation of the revised rates of fees.

*[Translation]***Closure of Sick Industries**

5293. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the BIFR has recently taken certain decisions in regard to the closed/sick industries of Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether BIFR has given any decision in regard to making payment and providing employment to the employees of Jaipur Udyog Limited located in Sawai Madhopur (Rajasthan) which has been closed;

(d) if so, the amount of money to be paid to these employees and the number of employees involved therein; and

(e) the time by which the payment is likely to be made to these employees and appropriate arrangements made to provide alternative employment to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) BIFR has taken following decisions in respect of 22 sick industrial companies registered with BIFR from the State of Rajasthan during the current year, 2000 (upto 31.10.2000). The details of decision taken are :

Rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned (u/s) 18 (4)	—	01
Dismissed as Non-maintainable	—	06
Draft Schemes Circulated	—	01
Winding up recommended (u/s) 20 (1)	—	11
Winding up Notice issued	—	01
Failed & Reopened	—	02
Total		22

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The BIFR in its hearing on 24.11.2000, while confirming its preliminary finding on the winding up of the company and forwarding its opinion to the concerned High Court for further necessary action, permitted the employees to file suits in relevant courts for recovery of their dues. Approximately 5500 workers were employed in the company at the time of its registration with BIFR. BIFR or Government have no information regarding the amount due to the workers.

LPT/AIR Station for Amaravati

5294. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approval has been accorded for installation of a low power transmitter and a powerful AIR Station in Amaravati district of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the land has been allotted for this station;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far and the amount allocated for this purpose, separately; and

(d) the amount proposed to be allocated for this purpose in the annual budget for the year 2001-2002 separately?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Doordarshan has no proposal for setting up TV transmitters in Amaravati district. All India Radio proposes to set up a LRS with 10 KW FM Tr. at Amaravati during the 9th Plan.

(b) and (c) A plot of 2.5 acre has been acquired and fenced for setting up the proposed Radio Station. An amount of Rs. 61.21 lakhs has so far been spent on the project.

(d) Rs. 0.50 lakhs has been provided in the budget for the scheme at Amaravati during 2001-2002.

*[English]***Duty Drawback on Sugar**

5295. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to give a sugar duty drawback of SPC and F.O.B. value under DEPB Scheme;

(b) if so, the extent it will give a boost to our sugar export;

(c) the present sugar export made during the current financial year;

(d) whether Pakistan has been importing more sugar from India this time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The Director General of Foreign Trade has notified a credit rate of 5% of F.O.B. value for export of white sugar under the Duty Exemption Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme with effect from 1.11.2000.

(b) This facility is likely to improve sugar exports from the country.

(c) During the Financial Year 2000-2001 (April 2000, September 2000), sugar worth Rs. 23.59 crores has been exported.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Pakistan did not import any sugar from India in the financial year 1999-2000. However, in the current financial year (April, 2000-September, 2000), Pakistan has imported sugar from India worth Rs. 12.68 crores.

Regional News From Ranchi, DD

5296. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast regional news from Doordarshan Ranchi like All India Radio; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that two Regional News Bulletins originating from Doordarshan Kendra Patna are presently being relayed by Doordarshan Kendra Ranchi.

Increase in Upper Ceiling of Tobacco Production

5297. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed by the Tobacco Board for the production of tobacco in Karnataka for the year 2000-2001;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Government to increase the upper ceiling on its tobacco production for the period 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) A target of 25 M. Kgs. was fixed by the Tobacco Board for production of tobacco in Karnataka for the year 2000-2001.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka had requested the Central Government to increase the crop size to 35 M.Kgs. In view of the decision of the Board which took into account the requirement of the trade and the carry forward stocks no increase in the crop size for Karnataka was made.

Registration of Gujarati Newspapers

5298. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gujarati newspapers and periodicals registered with Registrar of Newspapers upto 30th November, 2000;

(b) the number out of these granted Government advertisements;

(c) the total amount released to Gujarati newspapers and periodicals during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to develop the Gujarati Newspapers and Periodicals?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The number of Gujarati Newspapers and Periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India upto 30.11.2000 is 1951.

(b) Advertisements are issued only to those newspapers empanelled with DAVP. During the period 01.04.2000 to 30.11.2000, 85 Gujarati 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 Gujarati newspapers/periodicals by DAVP was Rs. 1,43,34,971, Rs. 2,30,38,276 and Rs. 3,02,46,669 respectively.

(d) DAVP releases advertisements to newspapers and periodicals, keeping in view the Government's publicity requirements, the availability of funds and in accordance with Advertising Policy Guidelines.

[Translation]

Financial Investment in Bihar

5299. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the investment made by the financial institutions in Bihar is very low as compared to other States:

(b) if so, whether only 1.3% of the financial assistance sanctioned by these institutions was provided to the Bihar upto March 1997;

(c) if so, the reasons for making low investment by these institutions in Bihar;

(d) whether the Government propose to take concrete steps to make proportionate investment by these institutions in Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Assistance sanctioned and disbursed by the All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) to Bihar has been lower as compared to many States in the country.

(b) The cumulative assistance sanctioned by AIFIs upto end March, 1997 to Industries in Bihar aggregated to Rs. 3928.7 crores which works out to be 1.23% of the total assistance to all the states. Disbursement in Bihar however, constituted 1.4% of the total disbursements to all States.

(c) to (e) Financial Institutions provide financial assistance to all viable industrial projects irrespective of their location. However, the extent of assistance to any particular State depends upon various factors including the flow of worthwhile investment proposals, level of infrastructure facility, incentives from the State Government, availability of raw material, skilled labour, proximity to market, credit absorption capacity and level of entrepreneurship in the State.

Duty Drawback on Silk Carpets

5300. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the carpet industry of Jammu and Kashmir is being affected adversely as the duty drawback on silk carpet is much higher;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government to reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir, there are no reports of any adverse affect on the carpet industry of Jammu and Kashmir due to existing duty drawback rate. The duty drawback rates are determined on the basis of incidence of duties suffered on the inputs used in the manufacture of export products.

[English]

Agitation by Employees of CCI

5301. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK .

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

(a) whether the officers and employees of the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) has conducted a massive rally on 28, November 2000 and submitted a Memorandum to the Government seeking a comprehensive package to revive the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. The memorandum included demand for revival of CCI, payment of salary and wages etc.

(c) CCI is a sick Company and under reference to BIFR, a quasi-judicial body. CCI has been facing liquidity problems which has led to delay in payment of salary/wages to the employees. Government have been providing non-plan support to the company, to the extent possible, for payment of salary/wages the primary responsibility for which rests with the Company.

[Translation]

Tobacco Growers Registered with Tobacco Board

5302. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tobacco growers from each State registered with the Tobacco Board;

(b) whether large quantity of tobacco is being grown by the farmers who have not registered themselves with the Tobacco Board;

(c) if so, whether any estimate has been made about the quantity grown by such farmers; and

(d) if so, the estimated quantity of tobacco being grown in the different States by these unregistered farmers?

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

(a) The number of tobacco growers registered with the Tobacco Board from each State is given below :

Andhra Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa	Karnataka
44443	60	126	18123

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Estimated quantity of tobacco grown without registration during 1999-2000 season in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra & Orissa and 2000-2001 season in Karnataka is as under :

(In million kgs.)			
Andhra Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa	Karnataka
11.662	—	0.084	11.140

[English]

Incentives for SEZs

5303. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the privileges and incentives made available for Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) whether any Central assistance is also being provided to the State Governments for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The entitlement given to the units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) include exemption from Custom/Excise duty on capital goods, raw material etc, tax holiday as per Income Tax Act, reimbursement of Central Sales Tax paid on purchase from outside the state, 100% foreign equity participation in manufacturing sector except a few specified sectors, facility to seell in the domestic market at full duty, simplified custom and excise procedure and upgraded infrastructure.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Priority Sector Lending

5304. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prescribed list of priority sector is being expanded for sanctioning of loans by the banks;

(b) if so, the new industries included in this sector during the last two years;

(c) the industries included in the priority sector at present;

(d) whether after the decision for inclusion of new industries in this sector the percentage of loan fixed for the priority sector has also been increased; and

(e) if so, the existing and previous percentage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The scope of priority sector for the purpose of lending by commercial banks was widened during the year 1998-99 to include bank credit to (i) Software units with a credit limit upto Rs. 1 crore, (ii) Food and Agro-processing industries, (iii) Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for on-lending to eligible small road and water transport operators (SRWTOs) and to the tiny sector of industry, (iv) Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) either as a line of credit or by way of investment in special bonds issued by HUDCO for on-lending to artisans, handloom weavers under tiny sector and (v) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) subject to the condition that funds are utilized for on-lending to cooperative sector for purposes presently coming under priority sector.

During the year 1999-2000 the following activities were included in the list of priority sector—credit extended by banks to (i) housing sector up to Rs. 10 lakh per housing unit in urban/metropolitan areas and investment in special bonds issued by NHB and HUDCO for the purpose of housing without any limit, (ii) NBFCs for on-lending to the agriculture sector, (iii) Suppliers of inputs for activities allied to agriculture with a revised ceiling of Rs. 15 lakh (raised from Rs. 5 lakh), (iv) Micro-credit provided by banks either directly or through any intermediary.

(c) Bank credit to the following new segments is included under the priority sector lending :

(i) Small scale industries (Small scale industrial units are those engaged in the manufacture, processing or preservation of goods and whose investment in plants and machinery do not exceed Rs. 1 crore.);

(ii) Setting up industrial estates;

(iii) Software industry having a credit limit up to Rs. 1 crore from the banking system; and

(iv) Food and agro-based processing sector.

(d) and (e) There is no change in the percentage of loan fixed for lending to priority sector after inclusion of new industries.

The targets for lending to priority sector are given below:

Category of advances	Domestic banks	Foreign banks in India
(i) Aggregate advances to 32% of net bank credit priority sector		40% of net bank credit
(ii) Advances to agriculture	18% of net bank credit	No target
(iii) advances to weaker sections	10% of net bank credit	No target
(iv) advances to SSI	No target	10% of net bank credit
(v) Export finance	Export finance does not form part of priority sector for domestic banks	12% of net bank credit

Malpractice in FCI Godowns

5305. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints regarding theft of foodgrains and exchange of foodgrains in lieu of poor quality foodgrains from the godowns of the Food Corporation of India in connivance with officials concerned during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the action taken in each of this case; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government so far to check the malpractice by the officials of FCI godowns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) There is no specific complaint regarding theft of foodgrains and exchange of foodgrains in lieu of poor quality of foodgrains from the godowns of Food Corporation of India in connivance with its officials during the last three years.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) Adequate security measures are taken to prevent theft of foodgrains. Departmental action is initiated against delinquent officials, if any, besides lodging of FIR with the police and action thereon. Regular inspections are also conducted in order to check the thefts.

[English]

Regional Rural Banks

5306. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and location of regional rural banks in the country, State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the criteria laid down for setting up of such banks;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more such banks in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) State-wise number and locations of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) including those in Andhra Pradesh are given in the Statement.

(b) The RRBs were set up in accordance with the provisions of section 3 (1) of the RRBs Act, 1976 which provides that the Central Government if requested so to do by a sponsor bank, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish in a State or Union Territory one more RRBs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise number and locations of Regional Rural Banks

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of RRBs	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	Khammam, Cuddapah, Srikakulam, Anantapur, Chittoor, Adilabad, Mehboobnagar, Sangareddy, Nellore, Warangal, Tenali, Karimnagar, Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Gudivada, Rajahmundry.
2.	Assam	5	Nalbari, Golaghat, Silchar, Diphu, Lakhimpur.
3.	Bihar & Jharkhand	22	Arrah, Motihari, Gaya, Purnea, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Dumka, Madhubani, Biharshariff,

1	2	3	4
			Chaibasa, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Daltonganj, Ranchi, Chapra, Siwan, Gopalganj, Girdih, Hazaribagh, Patna, Bhagalpur, Begusarai.
4.	Gujarat	9	Jamnagar, Bhuj, Patan, Godhra, Surendranagar, Valsad, Himatnagar, Junagarh, Bharuch.
5.	Haryana	4	Bhiwani, Gurgaon, Hisar, Ambala.
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	Mandi, Chamba.
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	Srinagar, Sopore, Jammu
8.	Karnataka	13	Bellary, Dharwar, Mysore, Gulberga, Chitradurga, Tumkur, Kolar, Bijapur, Chikmagalur, Shimoga, Mangalore, Kumta, Mandhya
9.	Kerala	2	Mallappuram, Cannanore.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	24	Hoshangabad, Bilaspur, Rewa, Chattisgarh Tikamgarh, Satna, Ambikapur, Jagdalpur, Rajnandgaon, Jhabua, Raigarh, Shivpuri, Damoh, Dewas, Khargone, Mandla, Chhindwara, Rajgarh, Shahdol, Mandasaur, Morena, Narsinghpur, Ujjain, Datia, Vidisha.
11.	Maharashtra	10	Nanded, Aurangabad, Chandrapur, Akola, Ratnagiri, Solapur, Bhandara, Yavatmal, Thane, Buldhana
12.	Manipur	1	Imphal
13.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
14.	Nagaland	1	Kohima
15.	Orissa	9	Pipli, Bolangir, Cuttack, Jeypore, Golaghat, Baripada, Balasore, Berhampur, Dhenkanal
16.	Punjab	5	Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Gurdaspur, Sangrur, Bathinda

1	2	3	4
17.	Rajasthan	14	Jaipur, Pali, Sikar, Churu, Bharatpur, Madhopur, Kota, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bundi, Bhilwara, Dungarpur, Sriganganagar, Bikaner.
18.	Tamil Nadu	3	Sattur, Dharmapuri, Cuddalore
19.	Tripura	1	Agartala
20.	Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	40	Moradabad, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Barabanki, Raebareilly, Farrukhabad, Sitapur, Ballia, Sultanpur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bahraich, Etawah, Budaun, Mainpuri, Varanasi, Basti, Allahabad, Pratapgarh, Faizabad, Fatehpur, Bareilly, Aligarh, Gonda, Banda, Etah, Jaunpur, Orai, Jhansi, Bijnor, Shahjahanpur, Nainital, Mirzapur, Lakhimpur, Agra, Muzaffarnagar, Pithoragarh, Dehradun, Pauri, Ghaziabad.
21.	West Bengal	9	Malda, Bankura, Suri, Cooch Behar, Krishnagar, Amtala, Burdwan, Howrah, Berhampore
22.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Pasighat

World Bank Loan to Rajasthan

5307. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank President had visited Jaisalmer (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, whether he had offered World Bank loan for rural water supply and sanitation schemes in Thar desert of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the terms and conditions of loan for rural water supply and sanitation scheme in Thar desert?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

GDP Growth

5308. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Economic Forum, Managing Director while addressing the India Economic Summit laid down a four point agenda to assist India in attaining eight to nine percent GDP growth;

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

(c) the other suggestions/recommendations made at the summit;

(d) the Government's response thereto; and

(e) the action likely to be taken by Government to attain eight to nine percent GDP growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The main suggestions made by the Managing Director, World Economic Forum at the India Economic Summit, 2000 (held in New Delhi from 26th-28th November 2000) were : acceleration of reforms for creating infrastructure, liberalization of banking and financial sectors, reduction of Government deficit and greater thrust on disinvestment and privatisation. The Summit also recommended greater decentralization of decision-making, revamping of labour and bankruptcy laws, reduction of delays in the legal set up, seeking greater market access in other countries as well as removal of Quantitative Restrictions and other non-tariff barriers and promotion of productive interaction between Government, business and civil society.

(d) and (e) The Government keeps in view the suggestions made by various organizations and individuals while formulating policies. Various growth-inducing reform measures have been implemented in industrial, financial and external sectors of the economy. The reforms are being continued for enhancing growth and imparting dynamism to the economy.

[Translation]

Procurement of Foodgrains

5309. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India seeks cooperation from the State Government agencies in procurement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether payment is made to them for their cooperation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the States of Punjab and Haryana are protesting against the rate fixed for the said payment;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have taken any initiative to resolve this issue by mediating between them; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Government/Agencies procure foodgrains in cooperation with each other. The procurements are made by the State Governments and their Agencies on behalf of FCI and the stocks are handed over to the FCI for Central Pool in respect of wheat. So far as paddy is concerned, the State Governments/Agencies procure paddy on behalf of FCI and convert into rice after milling and hand over the custom milled rice to FCI for the Central Pool. For these services, they are paid in the form of incidentals fixed by the Government of India.

(d) to (g) Some representations have been received from the State Governments, and further information has been called for from the State Governments to assess their claims.

News Units

5310. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the News Units at present in the country, location-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government are contemplating to open some more News Units in the country; and

(c) if so, the locations identified in other States and Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Details of News Units of All India Radio and Doordarshan are given at Statement I and Statement II respectively.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that 14 News Units of Doordarshan are proposed to be opened as per the details given in Statement III, in a phased manner & subject

to availability of infrastructural facilities, manpower etc. All India Radio also intends to start news services on FM at 12 places, including Jaipur.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Regional News Units of All India Radio	State(s)/Union Territory
1	2	3
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Guwahati	Assam
4.	Dibrugarh	Assam
5.	Silchar	Assam
6.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
7.	Patna	Bihar
8.	Panaji	Goa
9.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
10.	Bhuj	Gujarat
11.	Chandigarh	Haryana, Punjab & Chandigarh
12.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
13.	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir
14.	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir
15.	Leh	Jammu and Kashmir
16.	Bangalore	Karnataka
17.	Dharwad	Karnataka
18.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
19.	Kozhikode	Kerala
20.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
21.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
22.	Mumbai	Maharashtra
23.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
24.	Nagpur	Maharashtra
25.	Pune	Maharashtra
26.	Imphal	Manipur
27.	Shillong	Meghalaya
28.	Aizawal	Mizoram
29.	Kohima	Nagaland

1	2	3
30.	Cuttack	Orissa
31.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry
32.	Port Blair	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
33.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
34.	Gangtok	Sikkim
35.	Agartala	Tripura
36.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
37.	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh
38.	Calcutta	West Bengal
39.	Kurseong	West Bengal
40.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
41.	Tiruchirapalli	Tamil Nadu
42.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh
43.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal
44.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
45.	Delhi	Delhi

Statement-II

Sl. No.	News Units in Doordarshan	State(s)/Union Territory
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
2.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
3.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa
4.	Bangalore	Karnataka
5.	Calcutta	West Bengal
6.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
7.	Guwahati	Assam
8.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
10.	Jalandhar	Punjab
11.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir
12.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
13.	Mumbai	Maharashtra
14.	Patna	Bihar
15.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
16.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
17.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
18.	New Delhi (Head Quarters)	Delhi

Statement-III

Sl. No.	Proposed Regional News Units of Doordarshan	State(s)/Union Territory
1.	Panaji	Goa
2.	Pondicherry	U.T.
3.	Shillong	Meghalaya
4.	Imphal	Manipur
5.	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
6.	Kohima	Nagaland
7.	Aijawal	Mizoram
8.	Agartala	Tripura
9.	Chandigarh	Haryana
10.	Port Blair	Andaman & Nicobar
11.	Gangtok	Sikkim
12.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
13.	Bareilly/Dehradun	Uttaranchal
14.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh

*[English]***Foreign Exchange Dealers**

5311. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the foreign exchange dealers in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether all such dealers have obtained licence from the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Total Authorised Dealers Branches State-wise/RBI Regional Office-wise as on November, 2000 is indicated in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Such licences have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Total No. of Authorised Dealers Branches State-wise/Regional Office-Wise as on November, 2000

Sl. No.	State/Regional Office	No. of Authorised dealers
1.	Gujarat/Ahmedabad	1576
2.	Karnataka/Bangalore	2947
3.	Madhya Pradesh/Bhopal	834
4.	Orissa/Bhubaneswar	400
5.	Sikkim, West Bengal & Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar/Calcutta.	1129
6.	Haryana, HP & Punjab & Union Territory of Chandigarh/Chandigarh	2654
7.	Tamil Nadu & Union Territory of Pondicherry/Chennai.	3714
8.	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura/Guwahati.	195
9.	Andhra Pradesh/Hyderabad	2419
10.	Rajasthan/Jaipur	955
11.	Jammu & Kashmir/Jammu & Srinagar	120
12.	Uttar Pradesh/Kanpur	2642
13.	Kerala & Union Territory of Lakshadweep/Kochi	2574
14.	Maharashtra, Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Diu/Mumbai	2963
15.	Union Territory of Delhi, districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Sonapat of State of Haryana & NOIDA in Ghaziabad district of UP/New Delhi.	1268
16.	Bihar/Patna	860
17.	Goa/Panaji	309
Total		27559

Disinvestment of NALCO and RSP

5312. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for initiating Disinvestment in NALCO and Rourkella Steel Plant (RSP) of Orissa; and

(b) 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) No decision regarding disinvestment of Government equity in NALCO or Rourkela Steel Plant has been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

Non-Official and Nominee Directors of Banks

5313. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently removed some non-officials and nominee directors from Nationalised Bank Boards and Financial Institutions;

(b) if so, the number of such nominee directors removed alongwith their period of overstay in their respective Banks and financial institutions, bank-wise and financial institutions-wise;

(c) the guidelines/procedure adopted for appointment of non-official and nominee directors and regional nominee directors of Bank Boards; and

(d) the action plan prepared by the Government to appoint Experienced Professionals with high integrity as nominee directors of Bank Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Scheme, 1970/1980 was amended on 20th January, 2000 whereby the provision for automatic continuance as director even after the expiry of the term of the director pending appointment of successor, was deleted. Consequently, all the parttime non official directors and nominated directors of the nationalised banks nominated during 1995-96 who had completed their 3 years tenure and were continuing pending appointment of their successors, ceased to be directors from that date.

(b) As a result of this, 113 number of directors ceased to be directors on the board of nationalised banks.

(c) Appointment of non official directors on the boards of the nationalised banks and financial institutions are made in accordance with the provisions and criteria as contained in the relevant statutes. The names of persons are finalised

from the data bank available in the Banking Division and references received from Reserve Bank of India, banks and financial institutions.

(d) Action has been initiated to fill up the vacancies of non official directors and other nominee directors on the boards of banks and financial institutions.

[Translation]

Industrial Development Proposals

5314. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals for the industrial development from various State Governments during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals, State-wise; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The proposals received from various State Government Undertakings from January 1998 to November 2000 is listed below :

Name of the State	Number of proposals received	
	Licensable sector	Delicensed sector
Assam	—	1
Gujarat	1	1
Kerala	—	3
Madhya Pradesh	1	—
Maharashtra	—	2
Punjab	—	16
Uttar Pradesh	—	4
West Bengal	—	2

(c) The two applications received in the licensable sector have been granted Letters of Intent. In the delicensed sector, the entrepreneurs file an Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda (IEM) with the Central Government to set up industries and no further approval is required.

[English]

Disinvestment of BALCO Ltd.

5315. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL :
SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state .

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Cash starved Government sells a cash rich PSU" appearing in 'Times of India' on November 12, 2000; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the justification for disinvesting a profit-making, dividend-paying concern with an impressive cash surplus of Rs. 437 crore?

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) Yes, Sir. The news item related to the Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO).

(b) Disinvestment Commission categorised BALCO as "non-core" and recommended its disinvestment. Thereafter, the decision to disinvest Government of India equity in BALCO in favour of a strategic partner was taken in March 1999. This is in accordance with the declared policy of the Government to bring down the Government held equity in non-strategic Public Sector Undertakings to 26% or below in the generality of cases. The aluminum sector already has adequate competition due to the presence of private players. As such, profitability of BALCO cannot be held as a justification against its disinvestment.

[Translation]

Panel on Import

5316. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Government have set up a panel in the Prime Minister's Office to monitor the imports;

(b) if so, the composition of the panel;

(c) whether any guideline has been formulated for the functioning of this panel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said panel has submitted any report so far; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (f) Government has constituted an 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.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Ministry of Information Technology, Department of Chemical and Petro-chemicals, Department of Fertilizers, Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying have been represented in the Group.

The Group has already met thrice on 17.8.2000, on 8.9.2000 and on 14.12.2000 and made its 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 goods. For compliance of this requirement all manufacturers/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 appliance, gas cylinders and multipurpose dry batteries.

The Group is expected to make its final recommendations before the end of the year.

*[English]***Fraud Cases in Banks**

5317. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fraud cases detected in public and private sector banks during 1999-2000 and amount involved therein, bank-wise;

(b) the number of cases where staff responsibility has been fixed alongwith the number of persons against whom vigilance cases are pending;

(c) the number of cases in which CBI has filed chargesheets, bank-wise;

(d) the reasons for not fixing staff responsibility in rest of the cases and the action the Government propose to take to fix the responsibilities; and

(e) the steps taken to check the recurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The number of fraud cases and amount involved as reported by public sector banks and private sector banks to Reserve Bank of India during the year April, 1999 to March, 2000 are given at Statement I and II respectively. Action has been taken by public sector banks against 4713 employees for their involvement in fraud cases during the year 1999.

(c) Statement III showing bank-wise number of cases of public sector banks in which Central Bureau of Investigation has filed chargesheet during the last three years as on 31.1.99 is enclosed.

(d) and (e) The responsibility of staff is fixed by the concerned bank. The Board of Directors of the bank monitor such cases on regular basis. Banks are implementing comprehensive guidelines issued by RBI regarding prevention of frauds which inter-alia include strengthening of internal control mechanisms, review of fraud cases on continual basis, undertaking concurrent audit covering branches accounting for 50 per cent of bank's business, scrutiny of cash deposits and withdrawals of Rs. 10 lakhs and above, improving housekeeping and imparting training to operational personnel. Whenever a fraud is detected by a bank, a preliminary investigation is made. Based on the findings, a decision is taken whether to conduct a thorough investigation departmentally or to handover the case to local police or the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI). On the basis of enquiry reports received after internal enquiry, or from police or CBI, banks take regular departmental action wherever necessary and award punishment to the officials who are found responsible for the fraud. The police and the CBI also file criminal cases for prosecution in Courts.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	(Rs. in crore)	
		No. of frauds	Amount
1.	State Bank of India	546	29.73
	"	*07	20.19
2.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	17	3.85
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	26	32.42
4.	State Bank of Indore	11	1.21
5.	State Bank of Mysore	33	0.89
6.	State Bank of Patiala	27	40.71
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	06	0.06
8.	State Bank of Travancore	36	3.52
9.	Allahabad Bank	42	1.00
10.	Andhra Bank	43	13.75
11.	Bank of Baroda	75	2.05
12.	Bank of India	146	27.21
	"	*12	95.35
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	10	1.54
14.	Canara Bank	265	14.20
15.	Central Bank of India	78	4.47
16.	Corporation Bank	16	0.86
17.	Dena Bank	35	2.48
18.	Indian Bank	62	11.46
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	48	7.70
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	16	11.71
21.	Punjab National Bank	42	22.19
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	14	2.79
23.	Syndicate Bank	95	3.99
24.	Union Bank of India	73	1.41
25.	United Bank of India	41	1.62
26.	UCO Bank	49	1.44
27.	Vijaya Bank	21	19.36

* Outside India (Data Provisional)

Statement-II

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of frauds	Amount
1.	Bank of Madura Ltd.	08	3.90
2.	Bank of Punjab Ltd.	03	0.25
3.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	10	0.43
4.	Bareilly Corporation Bank Ltd.	00	0.00
5.	Benares State Bank Ltd.	08	2.04
6.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	06	0.13
7.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	07	0.53
8.	Centurion Bank Ltd.	00	0.00
9.	City Union Bank Ltd.	01	0.00
10.	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	04	0.73
11.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	12	0.56
12.	Federal Bank Ltd.	34	14.58
13.	Global Trust Bank Ltd.	07	0.12
14.	HDFC Bank	06	0.43
15.	ICICI Banking Corporation Ltd.	11	0.35
16.	IDBI Bank Ltd.	02	0.02
17.	Indusind Bank Ltd.	04	12.44
18.	Jammu and Kashmir Bank	18	0.55
19.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	23	2.33
20.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	11	0.36
21.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	09	0.13
22.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	03	0.58
23.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	03	0.12
24.	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	32	1.72
25.	Punjab Cooperative Bank Ltd.	00	0.00
26.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	00	0.00
27.	Sangli Bank Ltd.	17	0.11
28.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	10	4.37
29.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd.	09	1.30
30.	Times Bank	05	3.16
31.	United Western Bank Ltd.	07	0.30
32.	UTI Bank Ltd.	02	0.10
33.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	21	0.56

(Data Provisional)

Statement-III

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of Cases
1.	State Bank of India	06
2.	State Bank of Mysore	04
3.	State Bank of Patiala	01
4.	State Bank of Saurashtra	01
5.	Allahabad Bank	05
6.	Andhra Bank	02
7.	Bank of Baroda	07
8.	Bank of India	05
9.	Canara Bank	02
10.	Central Bank of India	05
11.	Corporation Bank	03
12.	Dena Bank	01
13.	Indian Bank	04
14.	Indian Overseas Bank	01
15.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	02
16.	Punjab National Bank	06
17.	Punjab & Sind Bank	01
18.	Syndicate Bank	01
19.	Union Bank of India	04
20.	United Bank of India	01
21.	UCO Bank	06
22.	Vijaya Bank	03
Total		71

Procurement of Foodgrains in UP

5318. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has slowed down the procurement of Rice and Wheat from the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of Rice and Wheat procured by the Food Corporation of India during the last year from the State of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) whether any directions have been issued to buy more Rice/Paddy and wheat from the State of Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) 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) In Uttar Pradesh, the procurement of wheat and paddy/rice is being done by the State Government under the 'Decentralised Procurement Scheme'. During the current marketing Season, 2000-2001, (as on 18.12.2000) a quantity of 12,851 tonnes of wheat has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(c) The total quantity of wheat and rice procured by the FCI during the last marketing season 1999-2000 from the State of Uttar Pradesh is given below :

Rice	Nil
Paddy	34 tonnes
Wheat	60,507 tonnes

(d) and (e) In view of (a) & (b) above, the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Deletion of a Scene

5319. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Indian culture, tradition and Gurukul system has been put to disgrace in the Hindi Film "Mohabbatein";

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

(c) the reasons for passing this Film by the Censor Board despite the fact that insult has been shown to the holy 'Gayatri Mantra' in the film;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints to remove the objectionable scenes from the film; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Examining Committee, which examined the film "Mohabbatein" (Hindi), recommended, by majority, grant of a clear 'U' certificate to the film, as per the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983. The Committee did not find anything derogatory in the film. The Central Board of Film Certification, on the basis of the recommendations of the Examining Committee, certified the film.

(d) and (e) No complaints have been received by the Government to delete any scene from the film "Mohabbatein".

[English]

ADB/IDA Loan to Orissa Projects

5320. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects under implementation in Orissa with the funds of Asian Development Bank (ADB) and IDA;

(b) the names of those projects and the investment made thereon; and

(c) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There are 13 IDA assisted project under implementation in Orissa. This includes 11 Central Sector and Multistate projects in which Orissa is one of the participating States. None of the projects in Orissa is assisted by ADB.

(b) and (c) Statement enclosed.

Statement

Ongoing Externally Aided Projects in Orissa

(As on 30/10/2000)

Sl.	Name of the Project	Currency	Loan Amount	Terminal Date of Disb.	Cuml. Drawal (in DC Million) (in Rs. Crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6 7
1.	2801-IN Orissa Water Resources Consolidation dt 05/01/1996	US Dollars	290.90	30/9/02	141.40 561.51
2.	041-IN Orissa Health Systems Dev. Project dt. 13/08/1998	US Dollars	76.40	31/3/04	5.142 22.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Multi-State and Central projects where Orissa is one of the participating State

Central Projects

3.	3048-IN National Agriculture Technology Project dt. 22/06/1998	US Dollars	100.00	31/12/03	11.17	48.40
4.	2611-IN Cataract Blindness Control dt. 19/05/1994	US Dollars	117.80	30/6/01	47.25	183.93
5.	2936-IN T.B. Control dt. 14/03/1997	US Dollars	142.40	31/12/02	18.41	78.82
6.	018-IN Reproductive and Child Health Project dt. 30/07/1997	US Dollars	248.30	31/3/03	74.21	323.42
7.	2964-IN Malaria Central Project dt. 30/07/1997	US Dollars	164.80	31/3/03	29.56	127.19
8.	3242-IN National HIV/AIDS Control Project dt. 14/09/1999	US Dollars	194.75	31/7/04	26.03	118.57
9.	3340-IN Immunization Strengthening Project dt. 19/05/2000	US Dollars	81.92	30/6/04	4.00	18.70

Multistate Projects

10.	2329-IN Shrimp & Fish Culture dt. 29/01/1992	US Dollars	36.49	31/12/00	22.05	81.38
11.	2365-IN Second National Highway dt. 18/06/1992	US Dollars	163.63	30/6/01	160.34	594.05
12.	2774-IN Hydrology in India dt. 22/09/1995	US Dollars	122.40	31/3/02	50.82	212.85
13.	2876-IN IInd Distt. Primary Education Proj. dt. 15/07/1996	US Dollars	425.20	30/6/03	199.9	854.19

Unclaimed Deposits and Dividends of Investors

5321. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Non-Government trust to manage unclaimed deposits and dividends of investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount of unclaimed deposits and dividends at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A proposal for setting up an Investors' Education and Protection Fund to manage unclaimed deposits and dividends etc. of investors, is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Fund is expected to perform the following functions relating to investors' education, awareness and protection: direct education programmes through media; organising seminars and symposiums; approving and funding specific projects for investors' protection, including research activities; recognizing and funding of voluntary associations engaged in investor protection activities; providing legal assistance to genuine investor litigants; and coordinating with similar institutions engaged in investor education, awareness and protection activities.

(c) The amount of unclaimed/unpaid dividends lying with the companies transferred to the Government during the last three years was about Rs. 85.73 crores.

Working Group for Inspection of Banks

5322. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI has constituted a seven member multi-disciplinary working group to look into introduction of risk-based internal inspection in banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this working group is likely to submit its reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has set up a multi-disciplinary Working Group to look into introduction of risk based internal inspection/audit in banks in India under the Chairmanship of Shri G. Sitharaman, President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). The terms of reference of the Working Group are :

(i) To examine the applicability of the risk based internal audit and to propose the methodology for implementing the shift in the focus from transaction to risk based approach;

- (ii) To prepare guidelines to be issued to the banks with regard to risk assessment methodology and audit plan;
- (iii) To suggest modifications with regard to the existing internal audit practices in banks which may be required to implement the shift in focus to risk based approach; and
- (iv) To outline time-frame and sequencing of the measures required for implementation of the Group's recommendations;
- (v) Any other matter which the Working Group may think as of relevance to risk based internal audit in the banks.

(c) The Group is expected to submit its report by 31st January, 2001.

Doordarshan/AIR Stations

5323 SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI R.S. PATIL :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more DD/AIR stations in newly created States of Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details and locations identified for the purpose; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to establish these stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of AIR/TV projects under implementation/proposed in the newly created States of Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh is given in the Statement.

(c) The projects are in various stages of implementation and are expected to be completed by 2001-2002.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Locations	Project
<i>All India Radio</i>			
1.	Uttaranchal	Chamoli	Radio Station with 1 KW MW Tr., MP Studio & SQ
2.	Chhatisgarh	Saraipalli	LRS with 1 KW FM Tr., MP Studio & SQ.

Sl.No.	State	Locations	Project
3.	Jharkhand	(Jharkhand is fully covered by radio signals)	
<i>Doordarshan</i>			
1.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	Studio
		Dhunaghat, Khetikhan & Gopeshwar	LPTs
		Chamoli, Dogadda, Kedamath, Manila, Aroli.	VLPTs
		Mussoorie (DD II)	Transposer
2.	Chhatisgarh	Ambikapur	HPT
		Champa, Kharod, Konta & Pandaria	LPTs
		Pathalgaon	VLPT
3.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur	HPT
		Chatra, Jamshedpur (DD II) & Dhanbad (DD II)	LPTs
		Ramgarh Hill	VLPT

Fixations of out Turn Ratio

5324. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for fixation of out turn ratio regarding raw and parboiled rice is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith date of pendency of the said proposal;

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken 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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Daily Wages Workers in DAVP

5325. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for regularisation of the services of daily wage workers in DAVP;

(b) the number of persons working in DAVP, New Delhi on daily wage basis at present alongwith the persons who have served more than seven years;

(c) the number of persons out of the above, whose services have been terminated/regularised in 'D' category posts in DAVP;

(d) whether the Government have received representations from various MPs regarding regularisation of services of daily wages workers/re-appointment of such workers whose services have been terminated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Casual labourers, who had been conferred temporary status as per instructions dated 10.09.93. of Department of Personnel & Training (DOPT), are eligible for regularisation in Group 'D' posts against the existing vacancies, as and when they arise. The DOPT instructions stipulate that temporary status would be conferred on all casual labourers who were in employment on the date of issue of instructions i.e. 10.9.93 and who had rendered a continuous service of atleast one year on that date. The instructions also provide that such casual labourers who acquire temporary status would be brought on to the permanent establishment after they are selected through regular selection process for Gr. 'D' posts.

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

Production of Cash Crops

5326. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

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

(a) the total production of cash crops in the country during each of the last three years crop-wise and States and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the quantum of cash crops exported/imported during the above period, year-wise, crop-wise and States and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the market price of each crop during the above period year-wise;

(d) whether Government are considering to formulate any specific scheme to increase the production and export of cash crops in various States of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the funds are proposed to be provided to State Governments under this scheme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) Export Import data of the country as a whole is maintained and not state-wise. The quantum of some of the cash crops, exported during each of the last three years and their Market price are as under :

Crop	Year	Export (Qty:MT)	Import (Qty:MT)	Average Market Price
Spices	1997-98	230531	34079	Av. Market price
	1998-99	209829	61124	Varies from spice
	1999-00	195793	29671	to Spice
Cashew	1997-98	81348	246204	35 (Rs./kg.Raw nut)
	1998-99	76169	243347	42 (Rs./kg.Raw nut)
	1999-00	93215	200584	48 (Rs./kg.Raw nut)
Sugar	1997-98	173282	346905	1472 (Rs./Ql.)
	1998-99	12735	900471	1454 (Rs./Ql.)
	1999-00	7043	1114940	1491 (Rs./Ql.)
Tea	1997-98	193700	2610	66.89 (Rs./kg.)
	1998-99	210395	8930	76.43 (Rs./kg.)
	1999-00	183807	9770	72.80 (Rs./kg.)
Coffee	1997-98	160272	N.A.	114 (Rs./kg.)
	1998-99	193610	1684	106.50 (Rs./kg.)
	1999-00	165309	1647	97 (Rs./kg.)
Cotton	1997-98	157534	4.13 (Lakh bales)*	2198 (Rs./Ql.)
	1998-99	41960	7.87 (Lakh bales)	2091 (Rs./Ql.)
	1999-00	16750	22.01 (Lakh bales)	1969 (Rs./Ql.)
Rubber	1997-98	1415	32070	3580 (Rs./Ql.)
	1998-99	1840	29534	2994 (Rs./Ql.)
	1999-00	5989	16436	3099 (Rs./Ql.)
Tobacco	1997-98	144697	350	37.29 (Rs./kg.)
	1998-99	88964	350	38.46 (Rs./kg.)
	1999-00	138022	310	44.77 (Rs./kg.)

*1 bale = 170 kgs.

(d) and (e) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enhance production/export of agro products including cash crops include :

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and

publicity, rejuvenation of old plantations, area expansion, improving productivity and training of farmers.

2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
3. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
4. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
5. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.
6. Transfer of production technology through field demonstration and farmers training for the use of critical inputs such as seed, implements, assistance for water saving devices like drip in cotton and sugarcane schemes, moist heat seed treatment unit in sugarcane etc.

(f) and (g) During the IXth Five Year Plan through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, under technology Mini Mission III relating to improvement in market infrastructure, Government is providing 60% of the expenditure subject to specified ceiling for development of market yards and the remaining expenditure is borne by the APMC of the State Government concerned. Under Mini Mission IV relating to modernization of ginning and pressing factories, capital incentives @ 25% of the cost of modernization subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20 lakh per factory is given to the entrepreneur. For Mini Mission II of Technology Mission on cotton for the year 2000-01, Government of India has allocated funds to different States amounting to Rs. 4869.49 lakhs. Similarly for sustainable development of sugar cane based cropping system, the Central Government have allocated fund amounting to Rs. 748.925 lakhs to different States in the country.

Funds for VRS in Banks

5327. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate on the requirement of funds for implementing voluntary retirement scheme in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to raise bond to meet the expenses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any package programme has also been prepared by the Government to implement voluntary retirement scheme in banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Department of Public Enterprises, which is the administrative Department for the public sector enterprises, has reported that as per the guidelines issued to public sector enterprises, a variant Voluntary Retirement Scheme compensation is available depending on the financial health of the respective public sector enterprise. The profit making enterprises are to meet the expenditure on Voluntary Retirement Scheme out of their own resources and the enterprises which are not in a position to meet such expenditure out of their own resources are to be provided budgetary support by the administrative Ministries. The fund requirement position is not centrally available.

(e) and (f) In pursuance of a recommendation made by the Committee on Human Resource Management, Indian Banks' Association circulated a scheme for Voluntary Retirement to the public sector banks for their consideration and adoption on 31.8.2000. The salient features of the Scheme are in the Statement.

Statement

Salient Features of Voluntary Retirement Scheme

Eligibility	All permanent employees with 15 years of service or 40 years of age
	Ineligible :
	Specialists Officers/employees who have executed service bonds and have not completed it, employees/officers serving abroad under special arrangements/bonds, will not be eligible for VRS. The Board of Directors may however waive this, subject to fulfillment of the bond/other requirements.
	Employees against whom Disciplinary Proceedings are contemplated/pending or are under suspension.
	Employees appointed on contract basis.
	Any other category of employees as may be specified by the Board.

Amount of Ex. Gratia 60 days' salary (pay plus stagnation increments plus special allowance plus dearness relief) for each completed year of service or salary for the number of months service is left, whichever is less.

- Other Benefits
- I. Gratuity as per Gratuity Act/ Service Gratuity, as the case may be.
 - II. Pension (including commuted value of pension)/bank's contribution towards PF, as the case may be.
 - III. Leave encashment as per rules.

- Other Features
1. It will be the prerogative of the bank's management either to accept a request for VRS or to reject the same depending upon the requirement of the bank.
 2. Care will have to be taken to ensure that highly skilled and qualified workers and staff are not given the option.
 3. There will be no recruitment against vacancies arising due to VRS.
 4. Before introducing VRS banks must complete their manpower planning and identify the number of officers/employees who can be considered under the scheme.
 5. Sanction of VRS and any new recruitment should be only in accordance with the manpower plan.

Funding of the Scheme (a) Coinciding with their financial position and cash flow, banks may decide payment partly in cash and partly in bonds or in instalments, but minimum 50% of the cash instantly and remaining 50% after a stipulated period.

- (b) Funding of the scheme will be made by the banks themselves

either from their own funds or by taking loans from other banks/ financial institutions or any other source.

Periodicity The scheme may be kept open up to 31.3.2001.

NABARD Loan for Wasteland Development Projects

5328. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount disbursed by the NABARD for wasteland development projects during the last three years. State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any nodal monitoring agency to look after these development projects; and

(c) the targets fixed for disbursement of loans from NABARD for various development programmes and projects during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The State-wise details of the amount disbursed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for wasteland development projects in the country during the last three years are given in Statement-I.

(b) NABARD monitors the performance of the projects sanctioned by way of district oriented monitoring studies, investment specific studies, etc.

(c) NABARD has allocated a refinance budget of Rs. 6000 crore for various farm and non-farm activities in the country for the year 2000-2001. The details of the targets fixed for the various development projects are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise details of amount disbursed by NABARD for wasteland development projects during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
State/Union Territory	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
	2	3	4
A & N Islands	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	168.9	108.1	51.6
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—

1	2	3	4
Assam	9.0	—	—
Bihar	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
Goa	—	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—
Haryana	535.1	523.1	497.4
Himachal Pradesh	0.3	—	1.8
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
Karnataka	11.0	—	218.9
Kerala	—	0.9	0.6
Lakshadweep	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	187.7	—	142.2
Maharashtra	1.2	—	0.4
Manipur	—	—	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—
NCT of Delhi	—	—	—
Orissa	76.0	118.5	79.2
Pondicherry	—	0.6	—
Punjab	6.7	103.0	72.0
Rajasthan	—	1.3	—
Sikkim	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	71.7	89.4	173.7
Tripura	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—
West Bengal	6.4	—	—
Total	1074.0	944.9	1237.8

Statement-II

Details of the amount fixed as targets for various development projects by NABARD for the year 2000-2001

(Rs. in Crores)

Sector	Amount allocated
Minor Irrigation	774.12
Land Development	86.06
Farm Mechanisation	1644.54
Dry Land Farming	2.10
Plantation/Horticulture	227.01
Dairy Development	642.59
Fisheries (Marine)	7.62
Fisheries (Inland)	30.42
Storage Market Yards	152.81
Forestry	18.02
Bio-gas	1.03
Poultry Farming	136.03
Sheep/Goat/Piggery	117.23
SC/ST Action Plan	146.56
Swamajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana	709.13
Non-Farm Sector	951.37
Self-Help Group	175.93
Agriculture/Seed	15.25
Externally Aided Projects	38.33
Others	123.85
Total	6000.00

Transfer of Clerks in SBI

5329. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4951 on August 25, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information asked for has since been collected;

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

(c) the time by when it is likely to be laid on the Table of the House?

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

(b) and (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that as per the policy obtaining in the bank, clerical staff can be transferred to any other branch in the same center after completion of five years stay in a branch/office. The Career Progression scheme for workmen in the bank also provides for transfer to another office/branch on promotion to a higher post.

Another policy operating in the SBI allows consideration of requests of clerical employees for transfer to a place of their choice subject to certain conditions and administrative considerations. The requests of employees whose spouses are working in other State Government Offices fall under this category. Depending upon local conditions every circle has formulated policies in consultation with the local affiliates of the recognised Staff Federation to deal with such requests. While some of the circles have not prescribed any minimum length of confirmed service, others have fixed different lengths of service before considering an employee's request for such transfer. These transfer policies of the bank are applicable to all clerical employees belonging to general as well as the SC/ST category.

During the last three years, a total of 118 clerical staff not completing three years service have been transferred out of different circles as per position given by the bank in the Statement I.

A total number of 30 applications (General category 21; SC-3; and ST-6) received from clerical staff completing three years of service whose spouses are working with other State Government offices, are pending with the SBI as at Statement-II. SBI has further reported that all the pending applications have been waitlisted and necessary orders will be issued in order of seniority in the waiting lists, subject to availability of replacements and other administrative considerations.

Statement-I

Number of Clerical Staff who were Transferred out of Circle without Completing 3 Years Service

Circle	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Ahmedabad	—	—	—	—
Bengal	2	16	13	31

1	2	3	4	5
Mumbai	11	24	02	37
Chennai	—	—	2	2
Delhi	28	6	5	39
Lucknow	—	2	—	2
Hyderabad	1	—	1	2
Patna	—	—	—	—
Bhopal	3	1	—	4
Bhubaneswar	1	—	—	1
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
Guwahati	—	—	—	—
Bangalore	—	—	—	—
Total	46	49	23	118

Statement-II

Number of Clerical Staff Completing three Years of Service who are yet to be Transferred

Circle	General	SC	ST	Total
Ahmedabad	1	—	—	1
Bengal	—	—	—	—
Mumbai	—	—	—	—
Chennai	—	—	—	—
Delhi	4	—	—	4
Lucknow	—	—	—	—
Hyderabad	—	—	—	—
Patna	—	—	—	—
Bhopal	7	2	4	13
Bhubaneswar	6	—	1	7
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
Guwahati	3	—	—	3
Bangalore	—	1	1	2
Total	21	3	6	30

VRS for State Bank of India and its Associate Banks

5330. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that voluntary retirement scheme is not applicable in State Bank of India and its associate Banks though it was assured by the managements long ago to introduce it;

(b) if so, the reasons for not introducing the same in the State Bank of India; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Indian Banks' Association circulated a scheme for voluntary retirement to the public sector banks for their consideration and adoption on 31.8.2000. While certain banks have already introduced the Scheme, State Bank of India and its Associate Banks are in the process of finalising their Scheme.

CBI Case against Canara Bank

5331. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Safdarjung Development area branch of Canara Bank, New Delhi purchased 'Fake Documents' from M/s. Premier Vinyl Flooring Ltd. valued Rs. 91 crore without following laid down rules and regulations;

(b) whether CBI has registered a case against the bank and the company; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Canara Bank has reported that it had lodged complaints against M/s. Premier Vinyl Flooring Limited with Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) immediately after detection of the serious irregularities in the conduct of account. The CBI has registered two cases in the matter. The CBI, after completion of their investigation in these cases, has recommended prosecution against one officer of Canara Bank and 5 officials of the company. The CBI has also recommended departmental action against the concerned officers of the Bank.

Sale of Equity Holding

5332. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU . Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Unit trust of India (UTI) has been given permission to sell its stake in various companies to strategic partners;

(b) if so, the definition of "strategic" partners;

(c) whether clear guidelines have been given to UTI on proper handling of sales of its equity holdings;

(d) if so, whether such prices of equity shares will be negotiated openly and publically; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Investment operations of UTI viz. sale and repurchase of securities, are governed by the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963 and also by the mutual fund regulations of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

One of the recommendations of the Deepak Parekh Committee on US-64 suggests 'strategic sale' of significant equity holdings by negotiation to the highest bidder, wherever feasible and not to any strategic partner. UTI is considering implementation of the suggestion, in consultation with other financial institutions wherever possible, without destabilizing existing well-managed companies.

(c) Under the UTI Act, UTI is required to discharge its functions on business principles keeping in view the interests of unit holders. As such, Government has not issued any separate guidelines to UTI regarding sales and/or purchase of securities.

(d) and (e) According to UTI, the price negotiation will be done according to standard market practices and subject to prevalent guidelines and regulations in this regard. The intention behind the proposed sale of equity held by UTI is to allow a price discovery process and thus would be done through a transparent process by invitation of bids.

Aquisition of Banks by LIC

5333. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given consent to LIC to acquire banks;

(b) whether LIC has planned to acquire a private bank;

(c) if so, the reasons and objectives behind such decision; and

(d) the manner in which it is likely to help LIC to increase its efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) LIC has informed that they have no plans to acquire any private bank.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of answer to (a) and (b) above.

Supplementary Grants

5334. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the budget allocation to each Ministry/Department is spent in the first quarter of the financial year resulting in the supplementary demands for grants;

(b) if so, the supplementary demands of grants put forward by each Ministry/Department during the current financial year so far;

(c) whether the Government have been issuing time to time the guidelines for austerity measures;

(d) if so, whether most of the departments/ministries/autonomous bodies are violating these norms and are not following these guidelines; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for strict compliance of norms/guidelines for austerity measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The budget allocation to each Ministry/Department is not spent entirely in the first quarter of the financial year. Supplementary demands are granted only in cases of recoupment of advance obtained from the Contingency Fund of India, expenditure against Court Decrees, additional expenditure attracting the limitations of new service/new instrument of service to be met by re-appropriation of savings and certain unavoidable and inescapable additional expenditure over the budget estimates agreed under special circumstances.

The first and second batches of Supplementary Demands for Grants were presented to Parliament in August and December, 2000 respectively. Two Statements showing Ministry/Department wise Supplementary Demands for grants are enclosed.

(c) to (e) Instructions for austerity in Government expenditure are issued from time to time. All the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India are required to follow these instructions on austerity measures scrupulously.

Statement-I

2000-2001 Supplementary Demands for Grants, (August, 2000)

No. and Title of Demand	Revenue	Capital		(Rs. in crore)
				Total
<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>				
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	Voted	0.01	—	0.01
3. Department of Animal Husbandary and Dairying	Voted	2.58	—	2.58
4. Department of Food Processing Industries	Voted	10.94	—	10.94
<i>Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers</i>				
6. Department of Fertilizers	Voted	—	150.00	150.00
<i>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</i>				
8. Department of Commerce	Voted	5.01	—	5.01
10. Department of Supply	Charged	0.10	—	0.10
<i>Ministry of Communications</i>				
11. Department of Posts	Voted	—	9.78	9.78
13. Department of Telecom Services	Voted	—	0.01	0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Ministry of External Affairs</i>					
25.	Ministry of External Affairs	Voted	0.01	—	0.01
<i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution</i>					
40.	Department of Consumer Affairs	Voted	—	3.00	3.00
<i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i>					
45.	Ministry of Home Affairs	Voted	0.95	—	0.95
<i>Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</i>					
54.	Department of Heavy Industry	Voted	38.14	302.71	340.85
<i>Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs</i>					
58.	Law and Justice	Voted	150.00	—	150.00
<i>Ministry of Mines and Minerals</i>					
63.	Department of Mines	Voted	—	0.01	0.01
<i>Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources</i>					
64.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	Voted	2.00	—	2.00
<i>Ministry of Planning</i>					
68.	Ministry of Planning	Voted	0.01	—	0.01
<i>Ministry of Power</i>					
69.	Ministry of Power	Voted	0.01	460.00	460.01
<i>Ministry of Rural Deelopment</i>					
71.	Department of Land Resources	Voted	0.01	—	0.01
<i>Ministry of Science and Technology</i>					
73.	Department of Science and Technology	Voted	—	4.75	4.75
<i>Ministry of Steel</i>					
78.	Ministry of Steel	Voted	381.00	—	381.00
<i>Ministry of Surface Transport</i>					
79.	Department of Road Transport and Highways	Voted	990.00	—	990.00
<i>Ministry of Textiles</i>					
81.	Ministry of Textiles	Voted	—	1.05	1.05
<i>Ministry of Urban Deelopment</i>					
85.	Public Works	Voted	—	9.02	9.02
<i>Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation</i>					
87.	Urban emp. and poverty Alleviation	Voted	—	4.00	4.00
<i>Department of Atomic Energy</i>					
90.	Atomic Energy	Charged	6.00	—	6.00
<i>The President, Parliament, Union Public Sevice Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President</i>					
95.	Rajya Sabha	Voted	0.01	—	0.01
96.	Lok Sabha	Voted	5.55	—	5.55
Grand Total			1592.33	944.33	2536.66
			Charged	6.10	0.00
			Voted	1586.23	2530.56

Statement-II*2000-2001 Supplementary Demands for Grants, (December, 2000)*

No. and Title of Demand		Revenue	Capital	Total
<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>				
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	Voted	0.03	0.01	0.04
<i>Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers</i>				
5. Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals	Voted		98.67	98.67
<i>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</i>				
8. Department of Commerce	Voted		13.81	13.81
<i>Ministry of Communications</i>				
12. Department of Telecommunications	Voted	0.01		0.01
13. Department of Telecom Services	Voted		0.01	0.01
<i>Ministry of Finance</i>				
28. Payments to Financial Institutions	Voted		100.00	100.00
30. Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	Charged		500.00	500.00
33. Department of Expenditure	Voted	0.01		0.01
<i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution</i>				
39. Department of Public Distribution	Voted	200.00		200.00
40. Department of Consumer Affairs	Voted		3.00	3.00
41. Department of Sugar and Edible Oils	Voted		45.00	45.00
<i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i>				
47. Police	Charged		150.00	150.00
	Voted	15.00	-	150.00
48. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	Voted	0.01	13.32	13.33
<i>Ministry of Human Resource Development</i>				
50. Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	Voted	0.01		0.01
52. Department of Women and Child Development	Voted	0.01		0.01
<i>Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</i>				
54. Department of Heavy Industry	Voted	16.42	300.30	316.72
<i>Ministry of Information and Broadcasting</i>				
55. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	Charged	1.26		1.26
<i>Ministry of Information Technology</i>				
56. Ministry of Information Technology	Voted		8.42	8.42
<i>Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs</i>				
58. Law and Justice	Voted	2.84		2.84
60. Supreme Court of India	Charged	1.49		1.49

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Ministry of Power</i>					
69.	Ministry of Power	Voted	314.33	5.21	319.54
<i>Ministry of Science and Technology</i>					
75.	Department of Biotechnology	Voted	14.92		14.92
<i>Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation</i>					
77.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	Voted	184.66		184.66
<i>Ministry of Textiles</i>					
81.	Ministry of Textiles	Voted	0.02		0.02
<i>Ministry of Urban Development</i>					
84.	Urban Development	<i>Charged</i>	0.26		0.26
	Voted		0.01	0.01	
85.	Public Works	Voted		0.02	0.02
<i>Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation</i>					
87.	Urban Emp. and Poverty Alleviation	Voted		0.01	0.01
<i>Ministry of Water Resources</i>					
88.	Ministry of Water Resources	Voted	0.02	15.00	15.02
Grand Total			1400.11	1238.98	2634.09
			<i>Charged</i>	3.01	650.00
			Voted	1397.10	588.98
					1986.08

[Translation]

Settlement of Claim by United India Assurance Company

LTC to Retired Central Government Employees

5335. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide LTC facility to the retired employees of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) LTC is admissible to Government servants only during leave and as such retired Government Servants are not eligible.

5336. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2004 dated December 1, 2000 and state :

(a) the number of claims worth more than one crore rupees settled by the United India Assurance Company Limited during the last three years;

(b) the surveyors who conducted survey work in those cases;

(c) the surveyors against whom complaints have been received during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

Levy Sugar to Bihar

5337. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the present requirement of levy sugar in Bihar and the quantity of sugar supplied to the State at present;

(b) the quantity of levy sugar supplied to the State alongwith their requirement during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the shortage of levy sugar in the said State; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken to supply the required quantity of sugar to the said State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Central Government allocates levy sugar for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) to the State of Bihar at the rate of 425 grams per head per month. With effect from 1.3.2000, the Central Government has adopted the projected population as on 1.3.1999 as against 1991 census population base for the purpose of levy sugar allocation. Accordingly, Bihar State's monthly levy sugar quota was increased from 36707 MTs. to 41707 MTs. Subsequently, with effect from 1.7.2000, the income tax assesses and their family members have been excluded from supply of levy sugar. Accordingly, the monthly levy sugar quota of Bihar with effect from 1.7.2000 was reduced to 40545 MTs.

As the levy sugar allocation to the States/UTs is based on the per capita per month norm, it is not related to the levy sugar requirements by the State Government.

(c) and (d) The lifting and distribution of levy sugar within the State/UT is the sole responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Bihar State Government has not reported any shortage in levy sugar allocation.

[English]

Export of Paper

5338. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exports of paper have dropped considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons of fall in export of paper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The value of Paper and Paper Products exported during the last three years is as under :

Year	Value
(in Rupees Crores)	
1997-98	335.77
1998-99	355.70
1999-2000 (Estimated)	418.50

(Source : Capexil)

(c) Does not arise.

NPA of Cooperative Credit Institutions

5339. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether financial assistance has been provided to commercial banks to reduce their non-performing assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the reasons for not providing similar assistance to cooperative banks;

(d) whether the Government have a scheme to assist cooperative credit institutions in liquidating their irrecoverable loans; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) A task force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India to study the functioning of Co-operative Credit Institutions and to suggest a package for their revival/restructuring. The Task Force has submitted its report. Action for revamping of the Co-operative Credit Institutions, including provision of financial assistance for cleansing of their balance sheets, will be considered after decisions on the recommendations of the Task Force is taken by the Government.

Financial Assistance from International Agencies to Maharashtra

5340. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sent several proposal for financial assistance from

International agencies for the developmental projects since 1998 onwards;

- (b) if so, the details of said proposals;
- (c) the present status of each proposal; and
- (d) the action being taken by the Union Government on those proposals?

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

(b) to (d) The details of, Maharashtra Government's proposals, their present status and action being taken by the Union Government on those proposals, are given in the Statement.

Statement

The details of Maharashtra Government's proposals, their present status and action being taken by the Union Government on those proposals is as under :

- (i) "Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage-II" was posed to the World Bank. Subsequently the Maharashtra Government sent a revised proposal. Approval of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Environment and Forests is awaited.
- (ii) "Maharashtra Forestry Project-II" was posed to the World Bank on 19.8.1999. The response of the World Bank is awaited.
- (iii) "Rural Water Supply Project (20 Districts)" has been received. The State Government has been requested to furnish additional information.
- (iv) "Maharashtra Health Systems Development" has been approved and became effective on 24.2.1999. This is a six years project with an assistance of \$ 134.0 million from the World Bank.
- (v) For "Strengthening and Black Topping of Roads", a Rs. 1000 crore project, the State Government has been requested to send a revised proposal.
- (vi) For "Water Supply & Sanitation Project for Satara District, Maharashtra" which costs Rs. 72.4 crore, the State Government has been requested to send a revised proposal.
- (vii) "Improvement of Water Management facilities and operation in Paithan RBC and Majalgaon RBC Command Areas, Maharashtra" was posed to the French Govt. in May, 1998. They have proposed to carry out an evaluation of the project.

(viii) "Urban Water Supply Project" in Nasik region of Maharashtra, was posed to Germans for assistance. Their reaction is still awaited.

(ix) "Water Supply Scheme" in Konkan of Maharashtra, has been sent to the Ministry of Urban Development for comments.

(x) "AVERT-AIDS/HIV programme" costing US \$ 41.5 M was signed on 15.9.1999.

Training Course for Tea Growers

5341. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tea Board has prepared a scheme to impart a short-term training course for small tea growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include areas like agronomy, nursery techniques and young tea bush management in the training course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Training programmes are being regularly conducted by the United Planters Association of Southern India (Krishi Vigyan Kendra), Assam Agriculture University, Tea Research Association, Institute of Himalayan Bio-resource Technology (CSIR) etc. with financial assistance from the Tea Board. The training programmes include the entire gamut of agronomic nursery techniques and management of young tea bushes. The UPASI imparted training to 2343 small growers in South India during the year 1998-99. Similarly, 5300 small tea growers of North Eastern States were imparted training by the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat.

Income Tax Arrears

5342. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total Amount of Income Tax arrears payable by Income Tax assesses of Rajasthan from Pali, Udaipur and Jaipur respectively as on date; and

(b) the measures taken to collect the arrears of Income Tax from them at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total amount of arrears as on 30th Nov, 2000 in respect of

Corporation Tax and Income Tax payable by Income Tax assesseees of Rajasthan from Pali, Udaipur and Jaipur are Rs. 1.20 crores, Rs. 7.56 crores and Rs. 134.46 crores respectively.

(b) The Income Tax Act prescribes a statutory procedure for recovery of taxes. The recovery of the outstanding tax is a continuous process. The process starts after the demand falls due after 30 days of the service of the demand notice. Thereafter, action is taken by Assessing Officer in respect of unstayed demand by charging interest, levying penalty, attaching bank accounts etc. In difficult cases, matter is referred to Tax Recovery Officer who takes various coercive measures as per the Act. The recovery action taken by the Assessing Officer and TRO is closely monitored by the higher Income Tax Authorities.

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

[Translation]

HPT at Raiwala

5343. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the construction work of high powered Doordarshan station to be set up in Raiwala near Dehradun in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether the State Government of Uttaranchal has requested the Union Government to make this station functional at an early date; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said Doordarshan Kendra is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) There is no proposal to set up a High Power Transmitter at Dehradun, since it is already covered by the transmitters at Mussoorie. Prasar Bharati has informed that scheme for establishment of an interim studio at Dehradun has been approved, and financial sanctions are being issued.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Site for the proposed studio at Dehradun has been identified. Installation of studio would be taken up after the site is handed over to Doordarshan. Prasar Bharati has informed that the Dehradun studio is scheduled to be ready during 2001.

[English]

Disinvestment Plan for State Public Sector Undertakings

5344. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether to expedite the process of disinvestment in State run Public Sector Undertakings, a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of N.J. Kurien has recommended that the Centre should guide the States in this regard by laying down broad guidelines and blue prints as to how to carry out disinvestments;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the number out of them implemented so far?

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) Planning Commission has constituted a Study Group on the State Public Sector Undertakings and Corporations under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.J. Kurian, Adviser, Planning Commission. The terms of reference of the Study Group, indicating its focus areas, are as under :

- I. To examine the suitability of the existing data base formats and update the data base on the investment made, cumulative and year-wise, in the State PSUs and Corporations including State Electricity Boards and State Road Transport Corporations.
- II. To study the performance pattern and management practices in these enterprises in terms of financial indicators on the basis of the latest available data.
- III. To study the reforms undertaken in these enterprises by respective State Governments including disinvestment in favour of private sector, employees or other members of the general public.

(b) and (c) The Study Group is yet to submit its final report.

Irregularities in State Bank of Indore, Rajouri Garden

5345. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 924 on 24 November, 2000 and state :

(a) the number of accounts which the employee of Bank had got opened in Rajouri Garden Branch of State Bank of Indore, Delhi in the names of his relatives;

(b) whether the genuineness of the said accounts has been investigated by State Bank of Indore;

(c) if so, the name of the officer who had opened the said accounts and action taken against the officer involved; and

(d) the extent to which loss, if any, has been suffered by State Bank of Indore through these accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) State Bank of Indore has reported that an employee of Corporation Bank has opened twenty two deposit accounts in the name of his relatives with their Rajouri Garden, New Delhi branch. All the accounts were introduced by the Branch Manager. The bank has not found any of its employees involved in this case. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to whom the matter has been referred by Corporation Bank is investigating the case and seized all original documents. CBI has not so far registered any case against any officer of State Bank of Indore in the matter. State Bank of Indore has so far not made any separate investigation and bank has not observed any lapses on the part of Branch Manager. Bank has also reported that bank has not suffered any loss in this case.

Export of Wheat to Bangladesh

5346. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India have been exporting wheat to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the price at which the wheat is exported to Bangladesh;

(c) whether some State Governments have urged the Union Government to supply them the wheat at the price at which the same is exported to Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Wheat is being made available by FCI for export through the three Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely STC, MMTC and PEC. STC and PEC have reported exporting this wheat to Bangladesh in the range of US\$ 110 to US\$ 120.

(c) Yes, Sir. A request for allocation of wheat @ Rs. 415/- per quintal in favour of the Tea Industry in West Bengal has been received from the West Bengal Government.

(d) The Government of India allot foodgrains (rice and wheat) under TPDS only to States/UTs and not any private organization. Therefore, it is not possible to allot wheat to or in favour of tea industry in West Bengal or elsewhere. The State Governments were advised that they may instruct the tea industry to purchase wheat from FCI under open market scheme (Domestic) OMSS(D) at rates applicable for West Bengal State.

Funds to Andhra Pradesh

5347. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for release of Rs. 82 crores towards modernising the police force for the year 2000-2001, which has already been sanctioned and communicated by the Ministry of Home Affairs;

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

(c) the time by which the Government propose to release the said amount?

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

(b) and (c) The enhanced share of Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces has been tentatively worked out at Rs. 82 crores. The releases are being made based on the five-year perspective plan furnished by the States and subject to progress in expenditure and matching contribution by the States.

'Z' Group Companies

5348. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) the name of company in 'Z' Group;

(b) whether the Bombay Stock Exchange has decided to delist suspend trading in large number of companies listed in 'Z' Group:

(c) if so, the details thereof, Company-wise;

(d) the action taken against the companies which have not been paying listing fees for several years; and

(e) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of Shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) SEBI has intimated that there are 1486 companies which have been shifted to the 'Z' Group. The companies listed on the Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE) which do not comply with the requirements of some of the clauses of the listing agreement, such as non-payment of listing fees, non-submission of annual reports, non-submission of quarterly results, entered into with the stock exchange, are shifted to the 'Z' Group. BSE has intimated that it has not taken any decision regarding delisting/suspension of trading in a large number of companies in the 'Z' Group. However, decision of suspension is taken in problematic cases.

(d) It has been intimated that BSE has suspended trading in securities of 471 companies with effect from May 2, 2000 which have not paid listing fees for a continuous period of three years. The Exchange has also filed winding up petitions against 25 companies which have not paid the annual listing fees.

(e) In respect of scrips put in 'Z' Group, a caution message appears on the BSE online trading screen (BOLT) so as to enable members of the exchange to take due care before executing trades in 'Z' Group companies.

Reimbursement Insurance Claims

5349. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2004 dated December 1, 2000 and state :

(a) the action the Government propose to take to ensure that the insurance companies reimburse claims at the rate at which premium is charged; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure that hundred percent accidental claims are reimbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no direct relation between the premium charged and the amount of claim settled. The rates of premium are charged according to the risk exposure but the claims are paid

according to the extent of loss suffered by the insured subject to the terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the policy.

(b) The reimbursement is made upto market value or insured value whichever is less. The insurance companies have initiated several measures for expeditious settlement of accidental claims. These include settlement through Lok Adalats and Jald Rahat Yojana, simplification and standardisation of claims settlement procedures, setting up of permanent claims review Committees at regional offices, etc.

Upgradation of Technology

5350. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has evinced an interest in acquiring equity/tie-up with power firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of orders received by BHEL during this year;

(d) whether BHEL has made any efforts to upgrade its technology through foreign collaboration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BHEL evinces interest in taking equity in power firms on selective basis with the objective of leveraging supply of its equipment and services.

BHEL has taken equity in Andhra Pradesh Gas Power Corporation Ltd. Further, it has evinced interest in equity participation in the following power ventures :

(i) BSES for Yamuna Nagar 2×250 MW coal based Thermal Power Plant.

(ii) IOC for Bhatinda Naptha based 150 MW Power Plant.

(iii) IOC for Savli 2×250 MW vacuum residue based power plant.

(c) During the current year, as at the end of Nov., 2000, BHEL has received orders worth Rs. 3937 crores in the Power, Industry and Export business sectors.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Technology upgradation is a continuous process in BHEL. Some of the major agreements entered in the recent past are given below :

- (i) Once through boilers (sub-critical and super-critical range) with M/s. Babcock Borsig Power (GmbH, Germany)
- (ii) Fabric filters with M/s. Rothe Mülle, Germany.
- (iii) New Generation Control & Instrumentation System with M/s. Max Controls Inc., USA.

[Translation]

Import of Films

5351. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of films, documentaries, TV serials and Animation Films imported during each of the last three years; and

(b) the reasons for their import alongwith the foreign exchange spent on each of them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) In terms of Ministry of Commerce's Public Notice No. 4(PN)/97-02 dated 31.3.97, notifying the import of feature films, the import of feature films and video films may be made without a licence provided the importer obtains an "NOC" from the Administrative officer, Central Board of Film Certification, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions as specified in the Public Notice. Therefore, the Government does not have information relating to the number of films imported during the last three years. However, the number of films for which No Objection Certificate have been issued for import of feature films are given below :

1997	—	329
1998	—	234
1999	—	385

As regards imports of documentaries/TV Serial/Animation films, "NOC" is not required from CBFC under the import policy. However, the number of documentary films, TV Serials and Animation Films for which censor certificates have been issued by the CBFC are given below :

Classification	1997	1998	1999
Documentary	27	37	2
TV Serials	—	—	—
Animation Films	—	—	—

This Ministry does not maintain information regarding the foreign exchange spent on each of the films imported, as the importers are mainly private individuals/companies.

[English]

Inspection of Private Banks

5352. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of private sector banks were inspected by the Reserve Bank of India during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the shortcomings noticed in these banks; and

(d) the action taken against these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all the 33 Private Sector Banks were inspected during the year 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The major shortcomings generally noticed in the functioning of these banks include deficiencies in the exercise of delegated authority and in the appraisal of credit proposals, compliance with internal control/Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India/RBI guidelines on foreign exchange business, systems and controls, deterioration in asset quality, lax post-sanction supervision of credit, arrears in balancing of books etc.

(d) Based on the findings of the inspection reports, the matter is taken up with the banks' management by RBI for taking remedial steps to ensure that the irregularities observed do not recur. The comments of the banks on major findings of inspection reports are obtained by RBI. Thereafter, the Chief Executive Officer of the banks are called for discussion by RBI for identifying the steps required to be taken for removing the deficiencies. RBI monitors the implementation of the agreed follow-up action as also compliance of the inspection report.

Power Companies Identified for Disinvestment

5353. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry has drawn up any plan for disinvestment in public sector power companies including Power Grid Corporation;

(b) if so, the companies which are being identified for disinvestment along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the money raised through disinvestment is likely to be utilised?

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

Full Year Credit Policy

5354. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called for a pro-active, positive and radical policy with a view to generating demand and encouraging investment and forex inflows for the full year instead of half-yearly announcement of the credit policy at present being followed;

(b) if so, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry has pointed out that a full year credit policy is needed in the present liberalised and competitive investment period;

(c) whether according to the Chamber, a flexible and pragmatic credit policy for the full year will ensure adequate credit availability at comparable costs to all the production sectors of the economy;

(d) if so, whether the Government have accepted the suggestions; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry sent their suggestions in September, 2000 to RBI for Busy Season Credit Policy. However, there was no suggestion for a full year announcement, instead of half yearly announcement, of credit policy.

(c) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is the monetary authority in the country, is concerned with all matters pertaining to monetary and credit policy. Monetary and credit policy involves the use of official instruments under the control of the central bank to regulate the availability,

cost and use of money and credit with a view to achieving objectives like price stability, higher levels of investment, output and employment, and balance of payments equilibrium.

Till 1997-98, RBI announced bi-annual statement on credit policy during April and October of each year. With effect from April, 1998, RBI has started announcing annual Monetary and Credit Policy Statement in April followed by a Mid-Term Review with focus on structural measures to strengthen the financial system and to improve the functioning of various segments of financial market. Generally, the Mid-Term Review confines to review of monetary developments in the first half of the year and to such changes as may be necessary in monetary projections during the second half of the year. In its Statement on Monetary and Credit Policy for 2000-01, RBI made clear its intention to continue the current policy stance of ensuring availability of bank credit for all legitimate requirements without generating inflationary pressures.

Appointment in Compassionate Grounds in PNB

5355. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 872 on July 28, 2000 and to state :

(a) whether declined cases included those on whom PNB had committed to provide employment on attaining majority (registered with them) particularly orphans or whom bank did not offer any financial help;

(b) if so, what happened to Bank's earlier commitments to such needy persons;

(c) whether the applicants (minors) had requested for employment on attaining majority before the framing of the rule, if so, why these applicants particularly orphans or whom Bank did not offer any financial help were not exempted from falling under the purview of the new rule;

(d) whether the new rule was framed in the light of Bank's earlier commitment to provide employment to them;

(e) if so, what is Bank's vested interest to decline such less number of cases; and

(f) if not, by when the PNB would reconsider and offer them employment on the basis of rule previous to March 20, 1997 to help such needy persons?

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

(b) According to Punjab National Bank, they examined the cases of the dependants of the deceased employees on

their attaining the age of majority in terms of the provisions of the revised scheme. As all these applicants attained majority beyond four years of the death of the employee, their requests for providing employment on compassionate grounds were declined.

(c) Yes, Sir. The applicants had made a request for appointment on compassionate ground prior to coming into force of revised scheme.

(d) According to Punjab National Bank, they have framed their revised scheme for compassionate appointment keeping in view the observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 4.5.1994. The Hon'ble Court has observed that "the compassionate appointment cannot be granted after a lapse of reasonable period which must be specified in the rules. The consideration for such employment is not a vested right which can be exercised at any time in future. The object being to enable the family to get over the financial crisis which it faces at the time of the death of the sole bread winner, the compassionate employment cannot be claimed and offered whatever the lapse of the time and after the crisis is over".

(e) Bank has no vested interest as the cases were examined/declined in terms of the extant scheme of the bank.

(f) Bank is being directed to re-examine such cases within a month.

Delay in Payments

5356. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI Y.V. RAO :
SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether the Integral Production Private Ltd. a private company owes Prasar Bharati Rs. 6.5 crores;

(b) whether the programme "Truck Dhina Din" prepared by this company was approved to be telecast on Doordarshan within 72 hrs. of the application being made;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to recover the Government dues from this company?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the outstanding dues against the company M/s Integral Production Private Ltd., at present, are Rs. 4.46 crore.

(b) and (c) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that the proposal for the said serial was received on 3rd May, 1999 and it was approved by Doordarshan on 21.6.1999.

(d) Prasar Bharati has intimated that the company is being reminded regularly to clear the outstanding dues and they are doing so in instalments.

Community Viewing TV Set

5357. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the States and Union Territories which have been provided funds to instal community viewing TV sets in backward and tribal areas of concerned State and Territory during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to provide more fund to instal community viewing TV sets in more backward and tribal areas of the country during current and next financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof State and Union Territory-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Funds have not been provided to any State/Union Territory for installation of community viewing TV sets during the last five years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

MRPC Seal on Mustard Oil Packs

5358. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have decided to make it mandatory to obtain the Mustard Research Promotion Consordium seal on the packs of the mustard oil to ensure its purity;

(b) if so, the details of operational procedure of the decision in this regard;

(c) the details of the content of Argemone in the Indian rapeseed and mustard under the Seeds Act, 1968 and 1981;

(d) whether there is any contradiction between the MRPC and the Department of Prevention of Food Adulteration on the question or content of Argemone; and

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

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

(b) The Question does not arise.

(c) The maximum permissible limit of argemone seed in Indian rapeseed and mustard is 0.10% in Cultivated seed and 0.05% in Foundation seed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The PFA Regulation for Mustard Oil (A17.06) specifies that the test for argemone oil be 'Negative'.

That means that the test recognised by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) must confirm conclusively that there is no argemone oil whatsoever in the mustard oil.

According to the DGHS manual itself, the sensitivity of the test methods (including Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) is upto 1000 ppm. to 50 ppm.

There is no absolute test method evolved so far which part give "negative" for the presence of argemone oil.

In the absence of any validated test method to certify for the presence of argemone oil, the mustard seed farmers and the industry would continue to suffer at the hands of PFA inspectors.

Permitted levels of Argemone seed in mustard seed and its influence on the quality of mustard oil.

Under the provisions of Section 9 (3) of the Seed Act (1966), the minimum seed certification standard was vested in the Central Government.

As part of the Seed Rule, 1968, through Seed (Amendment) Rules, 1981 the rapeseed standards 1988 came into force from Kharif crop 1988.

Under the above rule, the maximum permissible limit of argemone seed in Indian rapeseed and mustard seed is 0.10% in cultivated seed and 0.05% in foundation seed.

In other words, the seedling and subsequent crop of the harvest may contain a maximum of 50 mg. to 100 mg. of argemone seed in 100 grams of Indian mustard and rapeseed.

[English]

Delay in Demat by Companies

5359. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news item "Investors face hard times as company delay demat" appearing in *Economic Times* dated September 12, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the companies are expected to convert its shares from physical form to demat within fifteen days of the shares;

(c) if so, the reasons for which these companies fail to convert these shares in time;

(d) the details of the complaints received by SEBI in this regard with the names of Companies with number of shares and the amount involved and also action against each company and details thereof; and

(e) the steps are being taken by SEBI to redress these complaints and give relief to the harassed investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) SEBI has intimated that instances of undue delay in the dematerialisation of shares have been brought to the notice of SEBI. SEBI had issued directions to the issuer companies/registrars and share transfer agents that all requests for dematerialisation of shares received should be processed within 15 days of its receipt. SEBI has been announcing the list of companies along with the effective date for compulsory trading in dematerialised form for all investors from time to time. There is a rush of demat requests from investors immediately after announcement of the effective date, as a result of which the issuer/transfer agents find it difficult to cope with the rush of requests, delaying the processing of demat requests. Other reasons for delay are errors in the dematerialisation request form, defects in the title and intervention of courts on account of pending litigations.

(d) SEBI has intimated that they have received around 900 complaints so far pertaining to delay in dematerialisation of shares by more than 200 companies from investors. Most of the investors generally do not mention in their complaints the details pertaining to number of shares and amount involved. As regards M/s Padmini Technologies Ltd., which is mentioned in the news item, according to SEBI, the

company has received 4,36,42,275 shares for dematerialisation, out of which 4,29,64,442 shares have been dematerialised. As on 11.12.2000, there are 6,77,833 shares pending dematerialisation. However, none of these shares are pending dematerialisation for more than 15 days.

(e) SEBI has intimated that SEBI has been holding meetings on a monthly basis with the companies unduly delaying the processing of dematerialisation requests, to discuss the reasons for delays and ways and means to clear the backlog of demat pendency. The companies have been warned against recurrence of delays beyond the stipulated period.

Malpractices in Super Bazar

5360. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the serious malpractices committed by certain senior officials of the Super Bazar in ensuring Y2K compliance of computers;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against erring officials;

(c) whether the CVC has been apprised about this matter; and

(d) 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 Super Bazar has informed that the case regarding procurement of computers for Y2K compliance has been investigated by the Vigilance Department of Super Bazar.

(b) to (d) Out of four officials suspected to be involved in the case, two officials have been placed under suspension. A show cause notice has been served on the third officer. The case of the fourth officer has been referred to CVC for advice.

[Translation]

IDBI Assistance to Entrepreneurs

5361. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) from the

entrepreneurs of various States during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications cleared during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to the entrepreneurs during the said period, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The State-wise details of number of applications received from entrepreneurs of State/Union Territory for financial assistance and number of applications sanctioned by IDBI under its direct finance scheme during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in Statement-I.

(c) The State-wise details of financial assistance sanctioned and disbursed by IDBI during each of the last three years are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise Applications received by IDBI for Direct Finance during the last Three Years

Sl. No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		(Nos.)
		Recd	Sanc.	Recd	Sanc.	Recd	Sanc.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	164	126	131	32	136	49	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3.	Assam	6	6	10	3	8	3	
4.	Bihar	14	8	17	8	14	11	
5.	Delhi	46	24	30	15	35	19	
6.	Goa	6	4	12	5	5	1	
7.	Gujarat	179	140	128	48	157	89	
8.	Haryana	57	34	51	10	47	22	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20	12	16	3	20	8	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	1	0	2	2	
11.	Karnataka	94	62	67	31	76	51	
12.	Kerala	17	14	28	12	14	8	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	80	62	61	18	47	20	
14.	Maharashtra	306	235	277	100	303	168	
15.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	1	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Orissa	21	16	10	2	23	7
20.	Punjab	56	40	45	14	64	39
21.	Rajasthan	93	62	79	28	80	59
22.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	182	122	136	50	123	66
24.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	102	68	86	26	73	33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	West Bengal	100	69	59	11	83	35
27.	Union Territories						
	(i) Andaman & Nicobar	1	0	0	0	0	0
	(ii) Chandigarh	3	2	3	1	4	3
	(iii) Dadra & Nagar H.	17	15	19	5	10	6
	(iv) Diu & Daman	7	6	8	2	7	4
	(v) Pondicherry	3	2	7	3	5	3

Note : The number of applications received State-wise will not tally with the total of applications sanctioned as some applications would have been rejected, closed/pending during each year.

Statement-II

State-wise assistance sanctioned and disbursed by IDBI during last 3 years (1997-98 to 1999-2000)

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	State	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Sanc.	Disb.	Sanc.	Disb.	Sanc.	Disb.
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	1330.84
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	4446.56	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	995.86	644.63	1020.50	864.58	778.22	680.13
22.	Sikkim	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	2839.58	1001.63	2532.01	1407.36	3367.34	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	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	127.70	94.03	105.50	102.75	66.43	32.41
	(iv) Daman and Diu	42.75	35.73	56.78	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
Total		23130.00	15111.00	23649.67	14375.13	27314.12	16211.48

[English]

Suggestions made by Foreign Companies on DTH

5362. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether the News Television India, the owner of Star TV and other foreign telecasting companies have suggested the Government to take a fresh look at the recently announced guidelines on DTH;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the current guidelines would restrict FDI inflow in the new sector; and

(e) if so, the further action likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The total foreign investment including FDI/NRI/OCB/FII in the DTH broadcasting is proposed not to be more than 49%, in which the share of the FDI will not exceed 20%. The primary objective in allowing DTH broadcasting is to enable citizens to have benefit of DTH services, consistent with national interest. The quantum of FDI inflow is of secondary importance only.

World Bank aid to Orissa

5363. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned by the World Bank and International Development Agency for the rehabilitation measures in the super cyclone affected areas in Orissa during 2000-2001;

(b) the amount released so far by the World Bank and IDA to Orissa;

(c) whether the entire amount has not been received by the Government of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The International Development Association (IDA) has approved a credit of \$ 46.00 million for the rehabilitation measures in the super cyclone affected areas in Orissa. The letter to this effect has been signed and confirmed by the Government of India, Government of Orissa and the World Bank as an amendment to the World Bank assisted Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project on December 19, 2000.

(b) to (d) The State Government will receive the proceeds of the credit on the basis of reimbursement claims filed by them for the eligible expenditure made under the project. All expenditure made under the project by the Government of Orissa on or after December 1, 1999 but before December 19, 2000, which are in accordance with World Bank procurement procedures, will be reimbursed by the Bank, subject to a ceiling of US\$ 4.6 Million (10% of the total credit proceeds).

[Translation]

Non-Banking Financial Companies

5364. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-banking financial institutions registered in the country as on date;

(b) whether the Government are aware that several non-banking financial institutions have duped the people of their money; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has approved applications for issue of Certificates of Registration in respect of 11887 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

(b) and (c) Complaints have been received from depositors against some NBFCs who have failed to repay their deposits. 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 and 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 NBFCs. Government has also introduced a new Bill in the Parliament. Provisions of the new Bill are expected to regulate these companies strictly and provide better protection to the depositors.

[English]

Exemption in Customs Duty on Import of V-SAT in KU Band

5365. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for giving exemption of customs duty to satellite communication equipment imported by a person licensed by Department of Telecommunications of the Government of India for the purpose of providing value added service, V-SAT system;

(b) whether the Government have exempted customs duty on import of V-SAT in KU band on the recommendation of group of ministers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the reasons for not implementing the customs duty exemption on import of V-SAT in KU band; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Statelite communication equipment (other than customer premises equipment) and Network management system are eligible for a concessional basic customs duty rate of 5% *ad valorem* when imported by a person licensed by the Department of Telecommunications of the Government of India for the purpose of providing value added services via V-SAT system. The duty concession has been provided taking into account the fact that such equipment are not domestically produced.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(e) and (f) The question of customs duty concessions on V-SAT equipment for broadcasting in KU band will be examined as part of the budget exercise for 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Code of Conduct for Metro Channel

5366. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

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

(a) whether any code of conduct has been framed by DD Authorities for the programmes/advertisements for the Metro channel and other channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has intimated that programmes/advertisements on Doordarshan including those on Metro Channel are governed by the "Broadcast Code" and the "Code for Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan" respectively. The "Broadcast Code" and the salient features of the "Code for Commercial Advertising" on Doordarshan are given in the Statement.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

I. TV Broadcast Code

The Broadcast Code of Doordarshan *inter-alia* prohibits :

(i) Criticism of friendly countries;

(ii) attack on religions or communities;

(iii) anything obscene or defamatory;

(iv) incitement to violence or anything against maintenance of law and order;

(v) anything amounting to contempt of court;

(vi) aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;

(vii) anything affecting the integrity of the Nation; and

(viii) criticism by name of any person.

II. Code for Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan

The salient features of the Code for Commercial Advertising on Doordarshan :

1. Advertising shall be so designed as to conform to the laws of the country and should not offend morality, decency and religious susceptibilities of the people.
2. No Advertisement shall be permitted which :
 - (i) denotes any race, caste, colour, creed and nationality;
 - (ii) is against any of the directive principles, or any other provision of the Constitution of India;
 - (iii) tends to incite people to crime, cause disorder or violence, or breach of law or glorifies violence or obscenity in any way;
 - (iv) presents criminality as desirable;
 - (v) adversely affects friendly relations with foreign States;
 - (vi) exploits the national emblem, or any part of the Constitution or the person or personality of a national leader or State Dignitary;
 - (vii) relates to or promotes cigarettes and tobacco products, liquor, wines and other intoxicants;
 - (viii) in its depiction of women violates the constitutional guarantees to all citizens such as equality of status and opportunity and dignity of the individual. In particular, no advertisement shall be permitted which projects a derogatory image of women. Women must not be portrayed in a manner that emphasises passive, submissive qualities and encourages them to play a subordinate, secondary role in the family and society. The portrayal of men and women should not encourage mutual disrespect. Advertiser shall ensure that the portrayal of the female form is tasteful and aesthetic, and is within the well-established norms of good taste and decency.
3. No advertisement message shall in any way be presented as News.

4. No advertisement shall be permitted the objects whereof are wholly or mainly of a religious or political nature, advertisements must not be directed towards any religious or political end or have any relation to any industrial dispute.
5. The goods advertised shall not suffer from any defect or deficiency as mentioned in Consumer Protection Act 1986.
6. No advertisement which endangers the safety of children or creates in them any interest in unhealthy practices or shows them begging or in an undignified or indecent manner shall be accepted.
7. No advertisement shall contain references which are likely to lead the public to infer that the product advertised or any of its ingredients has some special or miraculous or super-natural property or quality, which is difficult of being proved, e.g. cure for baldness, skin whitener, etc.
8. The picture and the audible matter of the advertisement shall not be excessively 'loud'.
9. No advertisement shall be accepted which violates TV Broadcast Code.

[English]

Austerity Drives in Banks

5367. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the Public Sector Banks Management to launch an austerity drive on the line of drive launched in Non-Banking Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the bank managements thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) A copy of the guidelines dated 24.9.2000 issued by the Department of Expenditure on "Expenditure Management—Fiscal Prudence and Austerity" was sent on 8.11.2000 to all the Public Sector Banks for information and strict compliance.

(b) The austerity measures suggested by the Department of Expenditure are as follows :

1. There shall be a mandatory 10% cut in the Budgetary allocation for non-plan, non-salary expenditure of all Ministries/Departments and Autonomous Institutions.

2. Utmost economy should be exercised in use of staff cars and official vehicles. There shall be a 10% cut in the consumption and allocation of funds for expenditure on POL for staff cars.
3. There will be a complete ban on purchase of new vehicles for one year.
4. Implementation of existing instructions concerning 10% cut in posts and abolition of posts lying vacant for more than one year should be ensured. There shall be a ban on creation of new posts in all Ministries/Departments/Autonomous Institutions for one year.
5. Foreign travel should be restricted to unavoidable official engagements and there shall be a ban on foreign travel for Study Tours, Seminars etc. Size of official delegations, where Foreign Travel is unavoidable, shall be restricted to the bare minimum.
6. The permissible per diem allowance for travel abroad shall stand reduced by 25% for all countries and for all categories, officials/non-officials. These instructions shall also apply to autonomous institutions and PSUs.
7. Austerity should be reflected in organising Conferences/Seminars/Workshops. Existing guidelines for holding such events and expenditure ceilings thereon should be enforced.

(c) Banks are complying with these directions.

[Translation]

Bank Loans in Agriculture and Commercial Sector

5368. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private and foreign banks have extended lesser direct loan to the agro and small scale industries during the current year in comparison to the previous years;

(b) if so, the percentage of loan out of the total loan provided by the above mentioned banks to the agro and small scale industries during the last three years; and

(c) the extent to which it is lesser than that prescribed under the laid down norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the outstanding credit (direct and indirect) to the small scale industries sector (inclusive of agro-industry which specify SSI norms) by the private sector banks and foreign banks as on the last reporting Friday of March, 1998, 1999 and 2000 is as under:

(i) Private Sector Banks

	March 1998	March 1999	March 2000
Amount (Rs. in crores)	5849	6493	7313
% to net bank credit	20.6	18.8	15.7

(ii) Foreign Banks

	March 1998	March 1999	March 2000
Amount (Rs. in crores)	2084	2460	2872
% to net bank credit	10.31	11.02	10.23

(c) While there is no target for lending to the SSI sector by the private sector banks, in the case of foreign banks, the stipulated target is 10 per cent of net bank credit. The foreign banks, as a group, have achieved the target for lending to the SSI sector.

[English]

Proper Investment by Financial Institutes

5369. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether RBI has issued guidelines for proper investment by financial institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these guidelines are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised guidelines regarding valuation of investment by financial institutions in order to bring them in consonance with best international practices. These guidelines will be effective from the half year ended March, 2001. A copy of the guidelines is attached in the Statement.

Statement

Guidelines for Classification and Valuation of Investments

A. Categorisation :

1. The entire investment portfolio of the FLs will be classified under three categories viz., 'Held to Maturity', 'Available for Sale' and 'Held for Trading'.

[Definitions : The securitites acquired by the FIs with the intention to hold them till maturity will be classified under *Held to Maturity*. The securities acquired by the FIs with the intention to trade by taking advantage of the short-term price/ interest rate movements etc. will be classified under *Held for Trading*. The securities which do not fall within the above two categories will be classified under *Available for Sale*.]

2. FIs should decide the category of the investment at the time of acquisition and the decision should be recorded on the investment proposals.

Held to Maturity

3. The investments included under "Held to Maturity" should not exceed 25 per cent of the total investments. The FIs may include, at their discretion, under *Held to Maturity* category securities less than 25 per cent of total investment.

4. The following investments will be included under "Held to Maturity" but will not be counted for the purpose of ceiling of 25% for the category :

- (a) Investment in subsidiaries and joint ventures. [A joint venture would be one in which the FI, along with its subsidiaries, holds more than 25% of the equity.]
- (b) The investments in debentures/bonds, which are deemed to be in the nature of an advance.

Debentures/bonds must be treated in the nature of an advance when :

The debenture/bond is issued as part of the proposal for project finance and the tenure of the debenture is for a period of three years and above

or

- the debenture/bond is issued as part of the proposal for working capital finance and the tenure of the debenture is less than a period of one year

and

- the FI has a significant stake i.e. 10% or more in the issue

and

- the issue is part of a private placement, i.e., the borrower has approached the bank/FI and not part of a public issue where the bank/FI has subscribed in response to an invitation.

The debentures/bonds deemed to be in the nature of advance will be subject to the usual prudential norms applicable to advances.

5. Profit on sale of investments in this category should be first taken to the Profit and Loss Account and thereafter be appropriated to the 'Capital Reserve Account'. Loss on sale will be recognised in the Profit and Loss Account.

Available for Sale & Held for Trading

6. The FIs will have the freedom to decide on the extent of holdings under *Available for Sale* and *Held for Trading* categories. This will be decided by them after considering various aspects such as basis of intent, trading strategies, risk management capabilities, tax planning, manpower skills, capital position.

7. The investments classified under *Held for Trading* category would be those from which the FI expects to make a gain by the movement in the interest rates/market rates. These securities are to be sold within 90 days. If the FI is not able to sell the security within 90 days due to exceptional circumstances such as tight liquidity conditions, or extreme volatility, or market becoming unidirectional, the security should be shifted to the *Available for Sale* category subject to items (11) and (12) below.

8. Profit or loss on sale of investments in both the categories will be taken to the Profit & Loss Account.

B. Shifting among categories

9. FIs may shift investments to/from *Held to Maturity* category with the approval of the Board of Directors once a year. Such shifting will normally be allowed at the beginning of the accounting year. No further shifting to/from this category will be allowed during the remaining part of that accounting year.

10. FIs may shift investments from *Available for Sale* category to *Held for Trading* category with the approval of their Board of Directors/ALCO/Investment Committee. In case of exigencies, such shifting may be done with the approval of the Chief Executive of the FI/Heads of the ALCO, but should be ratified by the Board of Directors/ALCO.

11. Shifting of investments from *Held for Trading* category to *Available for Sale* category is generally not allowed. However, it will be permitted only under exceptional circumstances as mentioned at item 7 above, subject to depreciation, if any, applicable on the date of transfer, with the approval of the Board of Directors/ALCO/Investment Committee.

12. Transfer of scrips from one category to another, under all circumstances, should be done at the acquisition cost/book value/market value on the date of transfer, whichever is the least; and the depreciation, if any, on such transfer should be fully provided for.

C. Valuation

13. Investments classified under Held to Maturity category need not be market to market and will be carried at acquisition cost unless it is more than the face value, in which case the premium should be amortised over the period remaining to maturity.

14. FIs should recognise any diminution, other than temporary, in the value of their investments in subsidiaries/joint ventures which are included under Held to Maturity category and provide therefor. Such diminution should be determined and provided for each investment individually.

15. The individual scrips in the Available for Sale category will be marked to market at the year-end or at more frequent intervals. The net depreciation under each classification mentioned below should be recognised and fully provided for as indicated in item 16 below, the net appreciation under these classifications should be ignored. The book value of the individual securities would not undergo any change after the revaluation.

The classifications of investment will be (i) Government securities (ii) Other approved securities (iii) Shares (iv) Debentures & Bonds (v) Subsidiaries/joint ventures (vi) Others (CP, Mutual Fund Units, etc.).

[**Note** : Securities under this category shall be valued scrip-wise and depreciation/appreciation shall be aggregated for each classification as above. Net depreciation, if any, shall be provided for. Net appreciation, if any, should be ignored. Net depreciation required to be provided for in any one classification should not be reduced on account of net appreciation in any other classification.]

16. The provisions required to be created on account of depreciation in the Available for Sale category in any year should be debited to the Profit & Loss Account and an equivalent amount (net of tax benefit, if any) or the balance available in the Investment Fluctuation Reserve Account, whichever is less, shall be transferred from the Investment Fluctuation Reserve Account to the Profit & Loss Account. In the event provisions created on account of depreciation in the Available for Sale category are found to be in excess of the required amount in any year, the excess should be credited to the Profit & Loss Account and an equivalent amount (net of taxes, if any) should be appropriated to the Investment Fluctuation Reserve Account to be utilised to

meet future depreciation requirement for investments in this category. The amounts debited to the Profit & Loss Account for provision and the amount credited to the Profit & Loss Account for reversal of excess provision should be debited and credited respectively under the head "Expenditure—Provisions & Contingencies". The amounts appropriated from the Profit & Loss Account and the amount transferred from the Investment Fluctuation Reserve to the Profit & Loss Account should be shown as 'below the line' items after determining the profit for the year.

17. The individual scrips in the Hold for Trading category will be revalued at monthly or at more frequent intervals and the net appreciation/depreciation under each of the six classifications referred to in item 15 above will be recognised in the income account. The book value of the individual scrip will change with the revaluation.

18. **General** : In respect of securities included in any of the three categories where interest/principal is in arrears, FIs should not reckon income on the securities and should also make appropriate provisions for the depreciation in the value of the investment. FIs should not set-off the depreciation requirement in respect of these non-performing securities against the appreciation in respect of other performing securities.

Market Value

19. The 'market value' for the purpose of periodical valuation of investments included in the Available for Sale and the Held for Trading categories would be the market price of the scrip as available from the trades/quotes on the stock exchanges, price of SGL Account transactions, price list of RBI, prices declared by Primary Dealers Association of India (PDAI) Jointly with the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivative Association of India (FIMMDA) periodically. In respect of unquoted securities, the procedure as detailed below should be adopted.

Unquoted Securities

Central Government Securities

20. The FIs should value the unquoted Central Government Securities on the basis of the prices/YTM ratios put out by the PDAI/FIMMDA at periodical intervals.

21. Treasury Bills should be valued at carrying cost.

State Government Securities

22. State Government securities will be valued applying the YTM method by marking it up by 25 basis points above the yields of the Central Government Securities of equivalent maturity put out by PDAI/FIMMDA periodically.

Other 'approved' Securities

23. The Other 'approved' Securities will be valued applying the YTM method by marking it up by 25 basis points above the yields of the Central Government Securities of equivalent maturity put out by PDAI/FIMMDA periodically.

Debentures/Bonds

24. All debentures/bonds other than debentures/bonds which are in the nature of advance should be valued on the YTM basis. Such debentures may be of different companies having different ratings. These will be valued with appropriate mark-up over the YTM rates for Central Government securities as put out by PDAI/FIMMDA periodically. The mark-up will be graded according to the ratings assigned to the debentures/bonds by the rating agencies subject to the following :

- (a) The rate used for the YTM for rated debentures/bonds should be at least 50 basis points above the rate applicable to a Government of India loan of equal maturity.
- (b) The rate used for the YTM for unrated debentures/bonds should not be less than the rate applicable to rated debentures/bonds of equivalent maturity. The Mark-up for the unrated debentures/bonds should appropriately reflect the credit risk borne by the FI.
- (c) Where interest/principal on the debenture/bonds is in arrears, the provision should be made for the debentures/bonds as in the case of debentures/bonds treated as advances. The depreciation/provision requirement towards debentures where the interest is in arrears or principal is not paid as per due date, shall not be allowed to be set-off against appreciation against other debentures/bonds.

Where the debenture/bond is quoted and there have been transactions within 15 days prior to the valuation date, the value adopted should not be higher than the rate at which the transaction is recorded on the stock exchange.

Preference Shares

25. The valuation of preference shares should be on YTM basis. The preference shares will be issued by companies with different ratings. These will be valued with appropriate mark-up over the YTM rates for Central Government securities put up by the PDAI/FIMMDA periodically. The mark-up will be graded according to the ratings assigned to the preference shares by the rating

agencies subject to the following :

- (a) The YTM rate should not be lower than the coupon rate/YTM for a GOI loan of equal maturity.
- (b) The rate used for the YTM for unrated preference shares should not be less than the rate applicable to rated preference shares of equivalent maturity. The mark-up for the unrated preference shares should appropriately reflect the credit risk borne by the FI.
- (c) Investments in preference shares as part of the project finance may be valued at par for a period of two years after commencement of production or five years after subscription whichever is earlier.
- (d) Where investment in preference shares is as part of rehabilitation, the YTM rate should not be lower than 1.5% above the coupon rate/YTM for GOI loan of equal maturity.
- (e) Where preference dividends are in arrears, no credit should be taken for accrued dividends and the value determined on YTM should be discounted by at least 15% if arrears are for one year, and more if arrears are for more than one year. The depreciation/provision requirement arrived at in the above manner in respect of non-performing shares where dividends are in arrears shall not be allowed to be set-off against appreciation against other preference shares.
- (f) The preference share should not be valued above its redemption value.
- (g) When a preference share has been traded on stock exchange within 15 days prior to the valuation date, the value should not be higher than the price at which the share was traded.

Equity Shares

26. (i) Investment in equity shares as part of the project finance may be valued at cost for a period of two years after commencement of production or five years after subscription whichever is earlier.
- (ii) In respect of other investments in equity shares valuation may be done as per the market value which would be the market price of the script as available from the trades/quotes on the stock exchange. Those scripts for which current quotations are not available or where the shares are not quoted on Stock Exchange, should be

valued at break-up value (without considering revaluation reserves, if any) which is to be ascertained from the company's latest balance sheet (which should not be more than one year prior to the date of valuation). In case the latest balance sheet is not available the shares are to be valued at rupee one per company.

Mutual Funds Units

27. Investment in quoted Mutual Fund Units should be valued as per Stock Exchange quotations. Investment in non-quoted Mutual Fund Units is to be valued on the basis of the latest re-purchase price declared by the Mutual Fund in respect of each particular Scheme. In case of funds will a lock-in period, where repurchase price/market quote is not available. Units could be valued at NAV. If NAV is not available, then these could be valued at cost, till the end of the lock-in period. Wherever the repurchase price is not available the Units could be valued at the NAV of the respective scheme.

Commercial Paper

20. Commercial paper should be valued at the carrying cost.

I.T. Exemption to NGOs

5370. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have granted income tax exemption to the NGOs for promotion of social and economic welfare schemes;

(b) if so, the number of such organisations granted such exemption during the last three years;

(c) the procedure adopted for selection of such organisations for tax exemption; and

(d) the strategy being adopted by the Government for allocation of funds, its proper utilisation and granting tax exemption to NGOs for economic and social welfare activities?

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

(b) 244 organisations and their projects were approved for income tax exemption during the last three years (F. Yrs. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000).

(c) The applications received from various institutions for undertaking eligible projects are put up to the National Committee for Promotion of Social and Economic Welfare constituted under Section 35AC of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for consideration. The National Committee approves associations and institutions for carrying out eligible projects or schemes on the basis of procedure/guidelines prescribed under Rule 11 of the Income Tax Rules and also guidelines laid down by the National Committee from time to time. The National Committee recommends to the Central Government such eligible projects or schemes. After acceptance by the Government, the approved associations and institutions and the eligible projects or schemes are notified under section 356AC of the Income Tax Act.

(d) The Government does not allocate any funds to the approved associations or institutions. Under Section 35AC of the Income Tax Act, the donors to the approved associations or institutions for carrying out eligible projects are entitled for 100% tax exemption in respect of donations made. The National Committee monitors the approved projects to ensure that the donations collected are properly utilised.

Proposals of Voluntary Organisations

5371. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposals for providing grants to the voluntary organisations working in the field of consumer protection is pending with the Government;

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

(c) the time by which the same are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Government processes proposals for grant received from various Voluntary Consumer Organisations (VCOs) as and when received. However, as per the procedure the applications found prima-facie eligible are referred to the Governments of the States/UTs concerned for verification and recommendation. On receipt of the recommendation of the States/UTs, the proposals are placed before the Standing Committee empowered to approve grants. Currently 551 proposals are pending with the State Governments for verification and recommendation are given in the Statement. Applications are disposed off soon after the recommendations of the States/UTs are received.

Statement

List of applications from VCOs for financial assistance from CWF pending with various Governments of States and UTs for verification/recommendation

1. Andhra Pradesh	144
2. Bihar	78
3. Chandigarh	2
4. Delhi	2
5. Gujarat	3
6. Haryana	4
7. Karnataka	54
8. Madhya Pradesh	26
9. Maharashtra	3
10. Manipur	8
11. Mizoram	1
12. Nagaland	3
13. Orissa	53
14. Rajasthan	2
15. Tamil Nadu	39
16. Tripura	1
17. Uttar Pradesh	110
18. West Bengal	18
Total	551

Independent Broadcasting Authority

5372. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to regulate and discipline the entry of satellite T.V. in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to contemplate to set up an Independent Telecasting/Broadcasting Authority for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The Government propose to bring before the Parliament a comprehensive legislation which will, *inter-alia*, provide for regulatory mechanism for various aspects of broadcasting.

Under Invoicing on Imported Consignments

5373. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in large number of imported consignments, the invoices are undervalued to evade payment of Customs and Excise Duty;

(b) if so, the number of such cases apprehended during routine check at International Airports and Sea ports during the last two years;

(c) the total amount recovered in the form of Customs and Excise Duty and fine/penalty imposed on under valued imported consignments during the above period;

(d) whether the Customs and Excise Duty evasion is done with the connivance of Custom officials posted at Airports and Sea ports; and

(e) if so, the number of officials involved in this practice during the last two years and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the field formations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Theft of Foodgrains

5374. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there was large scale losses in FCI godowns in East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh on account of thefts of rice bags by employees of FCI while transporting rice to Kerala and Tamil Nadu through railway wagons; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against the erring employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) There have been some stray cases of full bag shortages detected in respect of rice despatches made from the Food

Corporation of India (FCI) godowns of East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh, to Kerala and Tamilnadu. which are taken as transit shortages and not as thefts or pilferage in the godowns. All the three Senior Regional Managers of FCI posted in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamilnadu have been directed to fix responsibility and ensure recovery of losses of such full bag transit shortages after adhering to the prescribed laid down procedures.

[Translation]

Consumer Information Centre

5375. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued any guidelines to the State Governments regarding setting up of Consumer Information Centres in every district of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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 have recently circulated guidelines with regard to a new Scheme for setting up of District Information Centre to all States/UTs. The Scheme envisages setting up of one such centre in each district of the country in five years in a phased manner covering 20% of the districts every year. The scheme is to be implemented with the help of Zilla Parishads and/or Voluntary Consumer Organisations (VCOs) of repute identified and recommended by the State Governments for the purpose. The Central Government would provide financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakhs per centre over a period of three years after which the Zilla Parishad/VCO concerned has to sustain the centre. The District Information Centres will disseminate information on all aspects of consumer protection and maintain data base on consumer related matters for the guidance of consumers.

[English]

Additional Foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh

5376. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is acute shortage of foodgrains and sugar in the drought

affected areas particularly tribal and backward areas of Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to supply additional foodgrains and sugar in these areas of the above States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith quantum of foodgrains and sugar allocated for Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh?

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

Foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) :

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has demanded an additional allocation of 50,000 tonnes of wheat and 20,000 tonnes of rice free of cost for distribution as part wages in relief works in the drought affected areas of the State. They have also demanded enhancement of monthly allocation of foodgrains for below poverty line families (BPL) in the drought areas from 20 kg to 40 kg per family per month.

The Government of Chhatisgarh have demanded an additional allocation of 3.30 lakh tonnes of rice for distribution as 50% wage component to the labourers engaged in Employment Generation Programmes (Food for Work Programmes) in drought affected areas for a period of seven months (December, 2000 to June, 2001). They have also demanded a special additional allocation of 2.10 lakh tones rice at BPL rate for distribution to drought affected families in 11 districts in the State for a period of 7 months (December, 2000 to June, 2001).

No Special additional allocations for drought relief have been made to Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh so far.

Sugar

No request for additional allotment of sugar has been received from States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh.

[Translation]

Profit from International Trade Fair

5377. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the profit earned by the Government from the India International Trade Fair during the last three years alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : The details of surplus generated by ITPO from the India

International Fair during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Details of the Surplus generated by ITPO (Rs. in lakhs)
India International Trade Fair, 1998	Rs. 1,083.35
India International Trade Fair, 1999	Rs. 1,300.62
India International Trade Fair, 2000 (Budget Estimates)	Rs. 1,394.00

[English]

Doordarshan Centre in Karnataka

5378. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned Doordarshan Centres at Badami and Jamakhandi in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the present status of the above mentioned Kendras; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be completed and started functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Doordarshan Transmitters had been sanctioned at Badami and Jamakhandi in Karnataka. The transmitter at Badami was commissioned in January, 2000. Prasar Bharati has informed that since no site was provided by the State authorities, inspite of repeated requests, it has been decided to drop the transmitter project at Jamakhandi.

Investment by LIC in Orissa

5379. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total collection of premium in Orissa under Life and General Insurance Schemes during last three years;

(b) the total claims made and settled during these years alongwith backlog of unsettled claims and the amount thereof; and

(c) the investment made by LIC and GIC in Orissa during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The total premium collected by the Life Insurance Corporation of India

(LIC) and the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and its four subsidiaries in Orissa during last three years is as follows :

Year	LIC	GIC and its subsidiaries
1997-98	337.52	81.58
1998-99	411.99	96.84
1999-2000	505.66	102.79

(b) The total claims made and settled relating to LIC alongwith backlog of outstanding claims and amount thereof are as follows :

Year	Claims made	Claims settled	Outstanding claims	Amount of outstanding claims (Rs. in Crores)
1997-98	113250	111646	1604	3.99
1998-99	127553	124046	3507	6.57
1999-2000	152138	145654	6484	10.55

As regards GIC and its subsidiaries the information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The investment made by LIC and GIC and its subsidiaries in Orissa during last three years is as follows :

Year	LIC	GIC & Subsidiaries
1997-98	85.25	38.73
1998-99	312.85	23.91
1999-2000	184.85	42.24

Branch of State Bank of Indore

5380. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of State Bank of Indore to open new branches in Uttaranchal/ U.P. and Delhi States during the current and next year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of places where branches are to be opened, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there are no pending authorizations for opening of branches by State Bank of Indore in Uttaranchal/Uttar Pradesh. However, State Bank of Indore have been authorized to open a branch at Rohini, Delhi.

Equity Base of NABARD

5381. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to reduce the equity base of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD);

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Pumping of Film Rolls

5382. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by photo division during the last three years;

(b) whether a huge quantities of film negative and rolls are dumped in Photo Division without proper care and protection ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Government to protect the old negatives film rolls?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) As per the figures made available by the Principal Accounts Office, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the amount incurred by Photo Division during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was Rs. 200.39 lakhs, Rs. 285.76 lakhs and Rs. 381.58 lakhs, respectively.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Photo Division has installed a Digital Image Library system. The negatives are being digitised and stored in the hard disk and CDs, for preservation.

Difference between Government Account Books and RBI Accounts

5383. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a huge difference between the Union Government's account books and that of RBI regarding Government's deposits with the RBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to rectify the differences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Net difference of cash balance between government books of accounts and RBI at the end of 1999-2000 is Rs. 437.88 crores (provisional). It is a cumulative difference, which has arisen between these two figures over the years. Details of the difference are given in Statement.

(c) The main reasons for the difference are recording of transactions in the government's books of accounts and RBI at different points of time; and errors/delays in the receipt of "Put-through Statements"/Scrolls/RBI advices etc.

(d) As soon as a discrepancy/error is detected by a Department/Ministry/UT/State Accountants General, the matter is taken up by them with the concerned Public Sector Bank (who act as agents of RBI) to rectify the discrepancy and take corrective action.

Statement

Details of Difference of Cash Balance Between Government Books and RBI at the End of 1999-2000

(Rupees in Crores)

Civil Ministries/Departments	179.13 (Debit) **
Ministry of Railways	43.81 (Debit) **
Union Territories	190.67 (Credit) ***
Accountants General	400.88 (Debit) **
Others	4.73 (Debit) **
Total	437.88 (Debit) *

* Provisional, as audit is in progress.

Notes

** 'Debit' implies higher balance in government's books.

*** 'Credit' implies higher balance in RBI's books.

Report on Milling of Rice by CFRTI, Mysore

5384. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the main recommendations given by Central Food Research Technology Institutes Mysore on its report on milling of rice;

(b) the reasons for not taking action on the report of the CFTRI, Mysore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) On the persistent demand of the Government of Punjab, the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore, was asked by the Government to undertake a study on the evaluation of milling yield of some of the predominant varieties of paddy grown in Punjab. The report of the study conducted by the CFTRI, Mysore has been received during November, 2000. The main finding of the study are :

- (i) The average yield of milled rice, upon laboratory milling of paddy samples collected as FAQ, was 74.6% with a proportion of 21.1% broken in the milled rice. Against this, the 'below FAQ' samples had an average milled rice yield of 74.0% and broken content in milled rice was 19.6%.
- (ii) Among different varieties, IR 8 gave the highest milling yield (75.2%) and it had the lowest husk content (19.4%) followed by Pusa 44 (yield : 74.7%; husk content : 20.6%) and the least by PR 106 and PR 111 (yield 74.3% and 74.0% respectively; husk content 21.0% and 21.1% respectively).
- (iii) Based on the results obtained from the above study and taking into consideration that average initial moisture content of paddy samples collected as FAQ was 15.6%, and allowing a 3.0% lower yield upon field milling of paddy in commercial rice mills as compared to laboratory milling, it could be concluded that the potential recovery of milled rice obtainable from the paddy in Punjab would be 70.2%.

The above findings of CFTRI, Mysore, are being communicated to Government of Punjab for implementation.

Irregularities in Banks

5385. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has received complaints relating to irregularities in the functioning of Board of Directors in the public and private sector banks during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that complaints have been received relating to the functioning of Board of Directors of Bank of Rajasthan Ltd. and Benaras State Bank Ltd. during 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) RBI had issued show cause notices on 29th September, 1999 to six directors who were nominees of Bangur Group and subsequently two directors were removed and four directors were not re-elected. RBI also issued show cause notice to four directors of Benaras State Bank Limited on 20th October, 1999 and subsequently removed one director and all other three directors have tendered their resignation with effect from 9th February, 2000.

Equity by IDBI

5386. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to direct IDBI to off-load its equity on a carefully considered time schedule in non-strategic units;

(b) if so, whether a huge funds of IDBI are locked up as equity in such units;

(c) whether any time table has been drawn up by IDBI to off-load equity from non-priority sectors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No. Sir

(b) As on March 31, 2000 IDBI's investment in industrial companies was Rs. 1579.4 crore.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Bihar

5387. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bihar Government has sought assistance from various financial institutions for setting up of small spinning mills in the State during last year?

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the spinning mills for which assistance has been sought; and

(c) the assistance provided by the financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. Financial Institutions, namely, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI Ltd.) and Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited (IIBI) have not received any proposal from Bihar Government seeking assistance for setting up of small spinning mills in the State.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Protection of Small Investors

5388. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations from retail investors and the President, Small Investors Forum to probe into the role of the Over the Counter Exchange of India in trading shares of small companies as the small investors had lost Rs. 2,5000 crore in the bourse, which was not taking cognizance of investors' complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Government towards these representations;

(d) whether it is also a fact that about 30 companies out of 114 listed in OTCEI have not sent share certificates to investors;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action being taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Finance has received representations from Investors' Associations seeking details on the functioning of Over The Counter Exchange of India (OTCEI). The representations, *inter-alia*, sought information on promoters of the Exchange, details regarding volume of turnover, profit and loss, position of reserves, investor complaints received by the Exchange etc. The Ministry has examined the representations in consultation with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the OTCEI and have sent detailed notes on the issues raised in the representations to some of the Investors' Associations. So

far 115 small to medium cap companies have raised equity to the extent of Rs. 342.52 crore through the exchange and 114 companies continue to be listed on the Exchange. The market capitalisation of these companies as on 31st October, 2000 is Rs. 388.64 crore.

(d) SEBI has intimated that in the OTCEI, valid document for trading earlier was the counter-receipt (CR) only. The exchange has now shifted from CR mode of trading to physical share certificate or dematerialised mode of trading w.e.f. March 1, 1999 with the permission of Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. Accordingly, all companies listed on the exchange were directed to cancel the CRs being held by the investors and despatch share certificates in lieu of the same. As on 18.12.2000, out of 114 listed companies, 38 companies have not complied with the requirement of the said conversion.

(e) and (f) SEBI has intimated that the Registrar and Transfer Agents are not processing the conversion requests of the investors and despatching the share certificates in lieu of the counter-receipts mainly due to non-payment of fees by the companies, non-authorisation from companies for conversion and inability to locate some of the companies. The exchange is following up regularly with these companies to resolve the matter. The Registrars of Companies have been approached by the exchange for initiating action against these 38 companies who have not yet met with the Exchange's conversion directive.

Indo-Iran Trade Relation

5389. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussion has been held with the trade delegation of Iran in the month of November, 2000 to enhance the trade between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether any specific areas have been identified for focus;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Iran has agreed to identify specific areas of cooperation in the small scale sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time limit set for completion of this task, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) No trade discussions with any Iranian delegation sponsored by Government of India have been held during November, 2000.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Trade between China and India

5390. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to establish a road link between India and China through Myanmar for trade and commerce;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some objectives are proposed to be achieved from the above decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) At present, trade with China is taking place through Lipulekh Pass (Uttar Pradesh) and Shipkila Pass (Himachal Pradesh). As regards the road from Calcutta via Guwahati connecting the Still Well road linking Central Myanmar and China, the possibility of opening additional points for border trade has been discussed with the Government of Myanmar. While the Myanmar Government agree in principle to opening of additional border points, they would like to first ensure the smooth functioning of the existing border trade at Moreh-Tamu sector on the Indo-Myanmar border before taking any further decision in this respect.

Funds to Andhra Pradesh

5391. SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received some requests from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in regard to their financial problems; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Some States including Andhra Pradesh who were frequently facing periodic ways and means problems and overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India, made requests to Government of India for tiding over these difficulties. The Union Government through a combination of feasible releases helped the States from time to time to overcome the cash imbalance and overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India.

[Translation]

Film on the Life of Dr. Bhimrao

5392. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made a film on the life of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the film has been released;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in releasing the film; and

(e) the time by which this film is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In terms of the tripartite agreement entered into between NFDC, Government of India (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) and the Government of Maharashtra for distribution of the film, National Film Development Corporation has finalized an agreement with M/s Bhagyashree Enterprises for all India theatrical distribution of the film. The film has been released on 15th December 2000 in Maharashtra.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The film has been released on 15th December 2000 in Maharashtra.

[English]

Tea Growers of Assam

5393. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

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

(a) whether a large number of tea growers in Assam have dumped huge quantum of green leaf tea in the Brahmaputra river;

(b) if so, whether the tea growers are facing crisis with the big tea companies abruptly lowering the prices of green leaf tea; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help these tea growers in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The price of tea leaves depends upon the quality and the prevailing auction price. The selling price of green leaf during August 2000 in the Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat Districts of Assam varied from Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 10.00 per kg. However, some sporadic selling of green leaf at Rs. 4/- to Rs. 5/- per kg. has been reported at Moran in Dibrugarh District. The quality of this leaf was poor and quality manufacturers refused to buy such coarse leaf.

A number of small growers development schemes are being operated by the Tea Board under which financial assistance is provided for new tea plantations. Tea Board also provides financial assistance to Assam Agricultural University/UPASI for imparting training to the small growers and organizing Advisory Programmes etc. A Quality Upgradation Programme has also been finalized for improving quality of tea manufactured by small growers.

[Translation]

Resignation/Retirement of Higher Officers of Public Sector Undertakings

5394. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the full time directors and Chief Executive Officers of Public Sector Undertakings have been given permission to join private companies, competitor companies immediately after resignation/retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted in this regard; and

(c) the directors of the Public Sector Undertakings who have joined competitor companies after submitting their resignations during the last two years and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) As per instructions issued on 25.1.2000, no functional Director of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) including the Chief Executive, who has retired from the service of the PSU, after such retirement, shall accept any appointment or post, whether advisory or administrative, in any firm or company, whether Indian or foreign, with which the PSU has or had business relations, within two years from the date of his retirement, without prior approval of the Government. No request for such permission has been received in the Department of Public Enterprises since the issue of these instructions.

(c) These details are not required to be maintained.

Credit Policy of RBI

5395. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently announced the currency and credit policy for the busy season ahead;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether various banks and financial institutions have started announcing a cut on their prime lending rates in respect of commercial loans in pursuance of the directives laid down in "Busy Season" loan policy of the Reserve Bank of India;

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

(e) the extent to which this policy is likely to be helpful for economic reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for 2000-2001 was announced on October 10, 2000.

(b) A Statement is attached.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) does not prescribe lending rates of banks and financial institutions except in case of export credit. With the exception of export credit, banks and financial institutions are free to prescribe their own lending rates, including the prime lending rate (PLR), after duly taking into consideration such factors as cost of funds, transaction cost, etc. As regards export credit, the Reserve Bank did not announce any change in interest rate in its Mid-Term Review.

(e) Since sound financial and monetary policies are conducive for the success of economic reforms, the policy measures announced by RBI in its Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy would be helpful for economic reforms.

Statement

The Salient Features of the Mid-Term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for 2000-2001 are the following:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for issue of Commercial Paper (CP).

These guidelines will enable companies in the services sector to easily meet their short-term working capital needs.

- Restriction on transferability period for Certificates of Deposits (CDs) issued by both banks and financial institutions was withdrawn to provide flexibility and depth to the secondary market.
 - Rating has been made mandatory for the term deposits accepted by All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs).
 - RBI issued final guidelines on categorisation and valuation of investment portfolio of banks. As per these guidelines, banks are required to classify the entire investment portfolio (including SLR securities and non-SLR securities) under three categories, viz. "Held to Maturity", "Available for Sale" and "Held for Trading". Out of these, the investment portfolio "Held to Maturity" should not exceed 25 percent of total investment, subject to certain criteria.
 - In order to facilitate quick export-related payments and reduce transaction costs, RBI restored fully the earlier entitlements in respect of Exchange Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) accounts of Export-oriented units, units in Export Processing Zone, Software Technology Park or Electronic Hardware technology park as prevalent prior to August 14, 2000, i.e. 70 percent (from 35 percent). Similarly entitlements regarding inward remittances in respect of others was restored to 50 percent (from 25 percent).
 - RBI issued guidelines on bank financing of equities and investment in shares.
 - In order to provide more operational autonomy to banks, banks have been permitted to formulate transparent policy for charging penal interest rates with the approval of their Boards.
- Owing to factors such as the improvement in the payment and settlement systems, recovery climate and upgradation of technology in the banking sector, the concept of "past due" (grace period of 30 days) was dispensed with, with effect from March 31, 2001.
- Public sector banks have been advised to complete the process of opening/operationalising small scale industries branches by December 31, 2000 as a follow up of the Finance Minister's budget speech on February 29, 2000.

[English]

Irregularities in Doordarshan

5396. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK. N. MOHOL :
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan is suffering losses due to the alleged irregularities committed by Officials of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in this connection the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Doordarshan Diagnoses why it's bleeding" appearing in the *Indian Express* on 26 November, 2000; and

(d) the action being taken against these officials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The actual receipts of Doordarshan have increased from Rs. 419.99 crores in 1998-1999 to Rs. 496.23 crores in 1999-2000 as a result of many improvements made for strengthening of functioning of Prasar Bharati.

Government is aware of the news item "Doordarshan diagnoses why it's bleeding" that had appeared in *Indian Express* of 26th November 2000. The news item refers to some report but it does not specify which report it has relied on. Therefore, it is difficult for the Government to make any specific comment in regard to such report.

It is true that CBI is seized of some cases concerning officials of Doordarshan and it has recently conducted searches at the residences and offices of some present and past officers of Prasar Bharati. Prasar Bharati would come to know about the findings in such investigations by CBI and blame, if any, of concerned officers after CBI completes the investigation and conveys the result to Government and/or Prasar Bharati. Prasar Bharati will take action against officers who may be found guilty when the CBI report is available.

*[Translation]***Uncovered Areas of U.P.**

5397. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities/towns in Uttar Pradesh where telecast and broadcast facilities of Doordarshan and Akashvani have not been made available so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide telecast and broadcast facilities in these places also;

(c) if so, the places identified for this purpose so far and the steps taken to provide these facilities expeditiously; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Locations of AIR & DD transmitters are not planned city-wise/town-wise but are planned with a view to providing maximum coverage in hitherto uncovered areas. All India Radio and Doordarshan signals reach 99.75% and 95.8% of the population respectively in the State of U.P. The area-wise coverage of AIR and DD is 99.3% and 88.5% respectively.

(b) to (d) In order to extend DD service further, the following TV transmitter projects are under implementation in the State :

DD I transmitters

(i) HPTs—Banda, Lakhimpur & Faizabad

(ii) LPTs—Bidhuna, Kosi & Norora

DD II transmitters

(i) HPT—Gorakhpur

(ii) LPTs—Bareilly, Jhansi, Aligarh

In respect of AIR, the following schemes are under implementation.

(iii) Replacement of existing 2×250 KW SW Transmitter at Aligarh.

(iv) Replacement and upgradation of existing 100 KW MW Transmitter at Nazibabad.

*[English]***Income Tax paid by ABCL**

5398. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Canara Bank has withdrawn legal suit against ABCL filed in the Debt Recovery Tribunal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the income tax paid by the ABCL and by Amitabh Bachchan personally during the last three years; and

(d) the total income tax payable by both of them separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As reported by Canara Bank, M/s Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited (ABCL) has settled the dues of the bank under negotiated settlement and hence, the bank has moved application before the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Mumbai for withdrawal of the case.

(c) Department of Revenue has reported that tax paid by the ABCL during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is nil. Details of tax paid by Shri Amitabh Bachchan personally during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 given below :

Financial Year	Against Returned income	Against arrear demand
1997-98	Rs. 62,37,920	Nil
1998-99	Rs. 42,35,000	Rs. 11,73,667
1999-2000	Nil	Nil

However, Department of Revenue has reported that M/s ABCL has for the financial year 2000-2001 (upto December, 2000) made payment of Rs. 1,29,41,876 and Mr. Amitabh Bachchan himself has paid Rs.90,65,000 against returned income and Rs. 83,19,985 against arrear demand.

(d) The amount of Income Tax outstanding against M/s ABCL and Shri Amitabh Bachchan is Rs. 17,75,34,101 and Rs. 12,67,32,941 respectively.

*[Translation]***Survey Conducted by Manmal Kasiwal and Sons**

5399. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the various surveys conducted by the Manmal Kasiwal and Sons, Indore for the United India Insurance Company during the last three years;

(b) the total amount paid to various companies by the United India Insurance Company on the basis of survey reports conducted by this company during the last three years;

(c) whether any complaints have been reported against this company for fabricating survey reports after receiving illegal money; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) United India Insurance Co. Ltd. (UIIC) have reported that during the last three years 27 surveys have been conducted by M/s. Manmal Kasliwal & Sons, Indore.

(b) An amount of Rs. 27,93,673 has been paid by UIIC to various companies on the basis of the survey reports given by M/s. Manmal Kasliwal & Sons, Indore.

(c) UIIC has reported that no such complaints have been received.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Accumulation of Rice Stocks

5400. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 11 dated February 24, 2000 regarding "rotting of rice in FCI Godowns" and state :

(a) whether the responsibility has since been fixed for the accumulation and non-disposal of rice stock;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against each one of the officials and the measures taken to check the non-recurrence of the same henceforth;

(d) whether more such stocks of wheat and rice rotting in FCI godowns which are of poor quality; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The matter regarding accumulation and non disposal of rice stocks at Central Warehousing Corporation

(CWC), Loni has been investigated by the Ministry and the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

(c) The Zonal manager (North), FCI has been asked to initiate disciplinary action against four Category-II officers. In addition to this, one Category-I officer has also been issued show-cause-notice for the lapses. To check recurrence of such incidence, the Vigilance squads as well as Quality Control squads of FCI at the Hqrs., Zonal, Regional and District levels have been directed to keep a close watch on accumulation and non-disposal of rice stocks in the godowns.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

FCI Depots in Haryana

5401. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of FCI depots in Haryana under contract system alongwith the number of departmental depots;

(b) the capacity of departmental depots alongwith that of Dand depot situated at Kaithal under contract system;

(c) the justification for keeping the Dand depot under contract system;

(d) the time by which the Government propose to departmentalize the said depot;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to free the labourers from the exploitation of the contract system in the said FCI depot;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the concrete measures proposed to be taken by the Government in the interest of labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) There are 23 Depots each of the Food Corporation of India under contract and departmental system in Haryana Region.

(b) The total capacity of the 23 departmental depots of the Food Corporation of India in Haryana Region is 8.31 lakh MTs (approx.), and Dand depot situated at Kaithal under contract system has a capacity of 0.80 lakh MTs (approx.)

(c) Dand depot was considered for abolition of contract labour system by the State Government of Haryana in 1985, when the State Government was the appropriate government

for the Food Corporation of India under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, but the same was not found justified for prohibition of contract labour. Dand depot was again considered in 1986 by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, when it became the appropriate government for the Food Corporation of India under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, but the same was again not found justified for abolition of the Contract Labour System.

(c) There is no policy decision to abolish Contract Labour System in the establishments of the Food Corporation of India, including Dand depot.

(e) There is no such report of exploitation of labourers in the Dand depot.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of reply at (e) above.

[English]

Economic Policies

5402. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) blamed the Government for slow implementation of economic policies;

(b) if so, whether CII have pointed out that this has become hurdle for both investors in the country and overseas;

(c) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(d) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. On contrary, the CII believe that the track record of Government of India on reforms through 2000 has been extremely positive and they are satisfied with the consistency, aggressiveness and transparency with which economy related issues are being processed. However, they feel that there is still a pending agenda which needs to be addressed in specific industrial sectors such as automobiles, biotech, capital goods, cement, steel, telecom, pharmaceuticals and fast moving consumer goods to enhance efficiency and productivity.

(d) Suggestions made by various Industrial associations and chambers of commerce are kept in view by the Government while formulating appropriate economic policies

Foreign Investment Implementation Authority

5403. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the budget for the year 1999-2000 he has announced to create a separate Foreign Investment Implementation Authority and also promised to give due representations to the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the said Authority has been created and due representation has been provided to each State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the announcement in the Union Budget Speech for 1999-2000, the Government has set up a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) in the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion *vide* Resolution dated 9th August, 1999. The FIIA will facilitate quick translation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals into implementation, provide a pro-active one-stop after care service to foreign investors by helping them obtain necessary approvals, sort out operational problems and meet with various Government agencies to find solutions to problems and maximise opportunities through a partnership approach. The Chief Secretary of the State Government to whom the proposal relates, also act as a Member of FIIA.

(d) Question does not arise.

Conference of FICCI on Anti-Dumping

5404. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether a conference on 'Anti-Dumping : An Indian Perspective' was organised by the FICCI recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held in the meeting alongwith its outcome thereof;

(c) the Government's response thereto;

(d) whether Government are committed for providing a level playing field to Indian manufacturers in regard to anti-dumping, and safeguarding their interests; and,

(e) if so, 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 (e) Yes, Sir. During the conference, the trade representatives were made aware of the concepts of Anti-Dumping, which are in vogue today. It was explained that the Government has appointed the Designated Authority to conduct Anti-Dumping investigations in India under Sections 9A, 9B and 9C of the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1975 as amended in 1995 to protect the domestic industry from unfair trade practices and dumping of cheap products in to the country. The initiation of Anti-Dumping investigations is undertaken when the domestic industry files a fully documented petition to the Designated Authority or information is received from any other source with *prima-facie* evidence of dumping, injury and casual link between the dumping of the imported goods and injury.

Procurement of Foodgrains

5405. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expenditure being incurred by Food Corporation of India on procurement, storage and distribution of wheat and rice has been rising constantly during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expenditure has been classified separately;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the constant increase in the expenditure; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the increasing expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Economic cost of wheat and rice, which is inclusive of procurement, storage and distribution cost, of the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, is given in the Statement. The expenditure is classified as procurement incidentals and distribution cost item-wise. While the main reasons for increase in the expenditure on procurement are the constant increase in MSP every year and the statutory taxes levied by State Governments on advalorem basis, increase in distribution cost is attributable to increased expenditure on freight and interest. With progressive implementation of 50 kg. packing handling costs and the cost of gunny bags are also increasing.

(e) Major part of the Economic cost of foodgrains of FCI is beyond its control being the cost of naked grain and statutory charges levied by the State Governments. Economic cost can thus be reduced only to the extent FCI is able to contain/reduce its controllable charges, which is essentially the handling cost. For this, the FCI has, *inter-alia*, been taking following important steps :

- (i) Achieving average capacity utilization of 75% to reduce storage cost even though the procurement of grains is seasonal.
- (ii) Adhering to the procurement and movement ratio norms of 1:1.35 as fixed by the Government of India to reduce the expenditure on freight.
- (iii) Making continuous efforts to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains.
- (iv) Making efforts to reduce the incurrence of railway demurrage charges.
- (v) Issuing of old stocks, disposing of C & D category of stocks and introducing direct supervision on movement of foodgrains to control the incidence of transit and storage shortages.
- (vi) Machine stitching of gunnies and handling of foodgrains in 50 kg. bags to reduce the storage and transit loss.

Statement

Economic Cost of Wheat and Rice from 1997-98 to 1999-2000

	(Rs./Qtl.)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Wheat :			
A. Pooled cost	484.34	507.12	517.52
B. Procurement incidentals including storage charges.	108.99	110.08	132.10
C. Carry-over charges to the State Governments.	13.68	16.87	34.57
D. Acquisition Cost (A+B+C)	607.01	634.07	684.19
E. Distribution Cost (including storage charges)	179.34	163.09	140.55
F. Economic Cost	786.35	797.16	824.74

Rice : (including paddy in terms of rice)

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
A. Minimum Support Price (Weighted)	439.30	464.30	514.30
B. Procurement incidentals including storage charges.	112.74	116.27	127.6
C. Cost of 1 qtl. of paddy	552.03	580.57	641.91
D. Cost of 1 qtl. of rice at 67% OTR	823.94	866.52	959.87
E. Cost of Gunny and Gunny Depreciation	38.05	38.05	47.46
F. Acquisition Cost	861.99	904.57	1007.33
G. Distribution Cost (including storage charges)	170.88	170.88	170.88
H. Economic Cost	1032.87	1075.45	1178.21

Complaints in Consumer Courts

5406. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that big companies are producing defective and inferior quality products like batteries, refrigerators, TVs etc. against warranty/guarantee of one year and their products develop defects either immediately or immediately after the expiry of the warranty/guarantee period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of complaints are pending in the consumer courts on such matters and those are taking years to be disposed-off; and

(d) if so, the action being taken or propose to be taken against such companies to protect the interest of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, consumers who have been sold defective goods can approach the consumer disputes redressal agencies set up under the Act for redressal of their grievances. The consumer disputes redressal agencies are making all efforts to adjudicate the consumer disputes as early as possible. So far, 78.8% of the complaints filed with these agencies, since inception, have been disposed of.

Foreign Currency Account Facility Scheme

5407. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India propose to scrap the export earners foreign currency account facility scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prop up the dollar supply and tide over the demand-supply mismatches in the forex market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by RBI to prop-up the dollar supply and tide over the demand-supply mismatches in the forex market are indicated in Statement attached.

Statement

Some of the steps taken were as follows :-

- To impose interest free rate surcharge of 50% of the lending rate on import finance.
- RBI will continue to sell dollars through SBI in order to augment supply in the market to meet any temporary demand-supply imbalances.
- Exporters were advised not to delay repatriation of export proceeds beyond the due date. In order to discourage any delay the bank has decided to charge interest at 25% per annum (minimum) from the date the bill falls due for payment.
- Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were free to approach RBI to procure foreign exchange at the prevailing market rate. Depending on market conditions RBI would either sell the foreign exchange directly or advise the concerned bank to buy it in the market.
- Banks were advised to enter in to transactions in the forex market only on the basis of the genuine requirements.
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was raised from 8.0 to 8.5% in two stages by 0.25% point each with effect from 29th July and 12th August, 2000 respectively.
- Bank rate was increased from 7.0% to 8.0% at the close of business on 21st July, 2000.

8. Limits of refinance facilities including collateralized lending facility available to the Banks were reduced by 50% of the eligible limits in two stages—25% each w.e.f. 29th July and 12th August, 2000 respectively.
9. Now Export Earners' Foreign Currency (EEFC) balance would be non interest-bearing current account.
10. No credit facilities will be provided by Banks against EEFC account.
11. In order to raise foreign currency resources by way of deposits from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs), the SBI with the approval of GOI launched the scheme of India Millennium Deposits (IMDs) on October, 21, 2000. The amount received under the scheme was US\$ 5.51 billion.

Revival Plan of IDBI

5408. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has formulated a plan to revive industries which have suffered losses in export of goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the industrial sectors whose exports have been adversely affected since 1996-97;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) its impact on performance of these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) provides assistance for modernisation including the units having export capability. Wherever required suitable restructuring packages involving grant of reliefs/concessions by way of deferment in interest, rescheduling of repayments, reduction in interest rates etc. are provided to assist units which are considered potentially viable.

(c) to (e) Details of rate of growth of exports, in US \$ terms, since 1996-97 for manufactured goods is given below:

Manufactured goods	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
Leather footwear	-42.2	-16.5	4.4	1.8
Gems & Jewellery	-9.9	12.5	10.4	28.8

	1	2	3	4	5
Drugs, pharmaceutical & fine chemicals		20.0	19.2	0.3	2.9
Dyes/intermediates & coal tar chemicals		15.5	6.8	-21.0	23.8
Manufacturers of Metals		10.5	12.0	5.7	19.5
Machinery and instruments	27.4	13.1	-4.3		0.1
Transport equipment		4.7	-4.1	-21.8	1.4
Primary & semifinished iron and steel		17.1	23.0	-34.2	51.8
Electronic goods		16.9	-3.1	-34.3	12.7
Cotton yarn, fabrics, madeups etc.		21.2	4.6	-15.0	13.2
Readymade garments		2.1	3.3	14.4	11.8
Handicrafts		2.3	5.6	5.3	5.9

The low rate of growth of some of these sectors is due to international factors such as the South East Asian crisis, infrastructural constraints, low unit value realisation etc. Industrial performance is determined by a number of factors which inter-alia include the domestic and international policy environment, demand conditions at home and abroad, level of infrastructure etc. Export demand does affect the performance of certain sectors but its exact impact cannot be readily isolated and quantified.

Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme

5409. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the projects of Maharashtra Government undertaken under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan and First three years of Ninth Five year Plan;

(b) the total cost involved in each project;

(c) the funds released by the Union Government in respect of each project;

(d) the progress achieved under each project as on date;

(e) whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to revise the cost of any of the project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

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

(a) to (d) The details of the projects of the Maharashtra Government approved under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme during the Eighth Five Year Plan and first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan are given below :

Name of the project	Total cost of the project	Amount released under the CIB Scheme	Status of the implementation
Strengthening of the Uran-Panvel State Highway	600.00 lacs	300.00 lacs	Under implementation
Regional Trade Information Centre, Pune	10.33 lacs	5.165 lacs	Completed

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Penalties Under FERA

5410. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Deputy Director, Enforcement Directorate, Calcutta failed to recover penalties of Rs. 1.19 crore under FERA during 1983-96;

(b) if so, whether the amount has now been recovered; and

(c) the reasons for not recovering the money on time and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The amount of penalty shown as Rs. 1.19 crores pending realisation related to the period 1963-1996 and not 1983-1996. Out of this amount, an amount of Rs. 5.02 lakhs has been realised.

(c) It was only in 1973 that a provision was made in FERA, 1973 (which replaced FERA, 1947) for recovery of penalty through district revenue authorities as also by way of attachment and auction of goods under the control of Directorate of Enforcement. The recovery through District Revenue Authorities has not yielded encouraging results and cases initiated by the Directorate of Enforcement often got locked up in judicial process. However, the Directorate has initiated review of all the cases relating to non-payment of penalty and action for recovery of outstanding penalty

amount has been undertaken in accordance with the provisions contained in the new Act, viz., the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 which provides for civil imprisonment on non-payment of penalties.

Diseases affecting Coffee Crop

5411. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether coffee crop is vulnerable to many disease in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hemileia Vastatrix has been a cause of concern;

(d) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has carried out any research work to control the aforesaid diseases particularly Hemileia Vastatrix so as to protect the coffee crop;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government of protect the coffee crops from such diseases?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coffee is vulnerable to many diseases caused by Fungal Pathogens. The major diseases affecting coffee are Leaf Rust, Black Rot, Anthracnose, Root Diseases, Stem Disease, Collar Rot and Brown Eye Spot etc.

(c) Fungus Hemileia Vastatrix is specific to coffee and is a major disease of Arabica Coffee occurring all over the coffee growing tracts of many coffee producing countries including India.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Research on coffee including the management of the disease of coffee is being carried out by the Coffee Board.

(f) The Research Department of Coffee Board has been constantly carrying out research on the various diseases affecting coffee and their control measures including evolving Leaf Rust tolerant varieties of Arabica & standardise control measures. So far, 12 varieties of Arabica have been released, which show different degrees of tolerance to Leaf Rust. Besides, control measures for other major diseases have also been advocated by the Board to Coffee Growing Community. Continuous, research on evaluation and standardisation of spray schedule, spray volume, chemical dosage etc. is being conducted on various proprietary formulations.

Gas Based Power Plant by BHEL

5412. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has a proposal to set up a gas-based power plant;

(b) if so, the location where the plant is likely to be set up; and

(c) the steps taken by BHEL to make the plant operational at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Benefits of VRS to Bank Employees

5413. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of State Bank of India and other nationalised banks, who have opted for voluntary retirement scheme, bank-wise;

(b) the total amount payable to these employees, bank-wise;

(c) whether a number of employees who have opted for voluntary retirement scheme are facing serious charges of corruption and misconduct;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to give these charged employees the benefits of voluntary retirement scheme; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) Indian Bank's Association circulated a scheme for voluntary retirement to the public sector banks for their consideration and adoption on 31.8.2000. The Scheme, *inter alia*, provided that the employees against whom disciplinary proceedings are contemplated/pending or are under suspension should not be made eligible under the Scheme. While certain banks have already taken a decision to introduce the Scheme,

Boards of a few banks have yet to take a decision in this regard. The number of voluntary retirement optees and the amount payable to such employees will be known only after receipt of all the applications under the Scheme.

Smart Cards and Debit Cards

5414. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between smart card and debit card;

(b) the number of banks who have issued these cards;

(c) whether any bank in the public and private sector have issued these cards in tie-up with a non-bank entity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons for such tie-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that both smart cards and debit cards are payment facilities. However, amounts are pre-funded from bank accounts into the card itself in the case of smart cards and the balance reduced on the card at the time of purchase, whereas in the case of debit cards there is authorization to debit the account of the cardholder maintained with the bank at the time of purchase of goods and services.

(b) There are 3 banks which have introduced smart cards and 5 banks which have introduced debit cards as per information received by RBI.

(c) and (d) The guidelines of the RBI on smart/debit cards do not allow tie-ups by banks with non-bank entities for issue of smart/debit cards.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Branch of Export Promotion Council

5415. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open some more branches of Export Promotion Council in Bhagalpur, Bihar and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Export Promotion Councils are autonomous organisations set up by private industry and registered under

the Societies Registration Act/Company Act. Government have recognised 20 Export Promotion Councils representing different product groups. Decisions on opening new branches of a particular Export Promotion Council are taken by the individual council themselves, and Government have no role in it.

[English]

Export Committee on Tobacco

5416. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted an Export Committee on Tobacco;

(b) if so, whether the Tobacco Board has a representative on the said Committee;

(c) if so, the status of this representative;

(d) whether this representative has adequately projected the interests of tobacco farmers in the country;

(e) if not, the reasons for the weak stand of the representative of the Tobacco Board on this Export Committee; and

(f) the steps proposed to strengthen such duties of the Tobacco Board?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Nepalese Goods in India

5417. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to re-define the manufacturing and manufactured goods from Nepal;

(b) whether the Nepalese goods must have a 30 percent domestic content in Nepal's exports to India;

(c) if so, whether presently Nepalese exports to India do not have even 120 percent Nepalese content;

(d) if so, whether any discussions have been held with Nepal Government on this issue; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (e) Under Article V of Protocol to the current Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, Government of India provides access to the Indian market free of customs duties and quantitative restrictions for all articles manufactured in Nepal except for a Negative List of three articles. Imports from Nepal are allowed by the Indian customs authorities on the basis of a Certificate of Origin issued by the agency designated by His Majesty's Government of Nepal in the format mutually agreed upon between the two Governments.

Various issues relating to bilateral trade, including preferential entry for articles manufactured in Nepal were discussed at the India-Nepal Inter-Governmental Committee meeting at Commerce Secretary level in December, 1999. Consequently it has been considered that an article produced in Nepal shall be taken to have been manufactured when it is classified in a heading, at the four digit level, of Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System different from those in which all the third country origin materials used in its production are classified.

Menace of Drugs

5418. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to wipe out the menace of drugs especially from developing countries; and

(b) if so, the extent to which India has succeeded in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, as per the directive principles enshrined in the Constitution, Government of India is committed to curb the menace of drug abuse. Being a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and bilateral agreements with 13 countries, India has put up a joint front with other countries in dealing with drug abuse and drug trafficking in the global context.

Writing-off Loan

5419. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government to write-off Rs. 3491 crores on account of expenditure incurred on anti-extremist operations; and

(b) if so, the present status of the request?

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

(b) The Eleventh Finance Commission, as per its term of reference was required to make an assessment of the debt position of all States as on 31.3.99 and suggest such corrective measures as are deemed necessary, keeping in view the long term sustainability for both the Centre and the States. The Eleventh Finance Commission has since submitted its Report including the measures for debt relief. The Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the EFC with regard to debt relief of the States as contained in the main report for 2000-2005.

Government of India also reimburses 50% of expenditure on identified security related items including gratuitous relief to the victims of extremist violence, raising of IR Battalions, training of Police personnel and for arms and ammunitions etc. An amount of Rs. 30.46 crore was reimbursed to the State during 1999-2000 under the SRE scheme.

15th Indian Economic Summit

5420. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian and foreign investors were asked to provide funds to social sector in India by the Prime Minister while addressing the large foreign and domestic investors on 26 November, 2000 at the 15th Indian Economic Summit held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the main subjects discussed at Economic Summit;

(c) the outcome of the Summit; and

(d) whether any concrete steps have been taken to implement the recommendations made at the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) The Prime Minister while addressing the Indian Economic Summit on 26th November 2000, observed "Can each of CII's four thousand member companies and the three hundred foreign companies represented here take charge of at least one primary school and one healthcare centre to supplement Government's efforts in the social sector? Indeed, Indian industry as a whole must deepen its involvement in the crucial social sector areas of primary health and education."

The main theme of the Summit was "Leveraging knowledge for growth." Issues including the reform process, using the strength in IT to move up in the value chain in other sectors and making the WTOs mandate manageable were discussed in this Summit. The deliberations at the Summit provided useful feedback to the government and is an important input in the policy making exercise of the government.

World Bank Loan for Anti-poverty Initiatives

5421. SHRI VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to fund Rs. 12,000 crore for a number of anti-poverty initiatives with a view to bridging the vast divide between digital Bangalore and the rural hinterland of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the projects likely to be supported through this fund;

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be received; and

(d) the details of terms and conditions, if any, set in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. However, a portfolio for a programme loan for economic restructuring and other developmental projects in Karnataka has been presented to the World Bank.

(b) Proposals for the following projects have been posed to the World Bank :

1. Economic Restructuring Programme
2. Integrated Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation-Phase-II
3. Comprehensive Watershed Development Project
4. Karnataka Participatory Tank Improvement Project
5. Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project
6. Karnataka Water & Urban Management Project

(c) and (d) World Bank Projects are negotiated in accordance with applicable general terms and conditions. After the negotiated projects are approved and agreements signed funds are disbursed depending upon the expenditure incurred on agreed activities during the stipulated project period.

Import of Rice from Myanmar

5422. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import 50,000 tonnes of rice from Myanmar despite buffer stock of rice in FCI godowns; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Government has taken a decision on 5.5.2000 for import of 50,000 MTs of rice by the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) from Myanmar; for distribution in the North-Eastern States through the State Public Distribution System at such landed cost which is within the economic cost worked out on the basis of present supply of rice to the North-East from domestic sources in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

The above decision has been taken under the Indo-Myanmar Bilateral Trade Agreement signed on 27th March, 1970 and the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement in New Delhi on 21st January, 1994 between the two countries.

Mahajan Committee Report

5423. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the final decision in regard to implementation of the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee on sugar industry has been taken;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) Government has taken final decisions on some of the recommendations of the Mahajan Committee while the other recommendations are still under examination. Since major policy issues are involved in the these recommendations, it is not possible to lay down a time frame for taking final decision thereon.

Debt Management Office

5424. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up its own independent debt management office instead of its being managed by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bring about greater transparency and more effective monetary management; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) There is no proposal with the Government to set up an independent debt management office. However, a Working Group has been set up by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, to examine the need for an integrated "middle office" for public debt management, covering both external and domestic debt.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India to ensure greater transparency in fiscal policy and more effectiveness in monetary management.

These measures include the introduction of Ways and Means advances in place of *ad hoc* Treasury Bills involving automatic monetisation, financing of fiscal deficit through borrowing at market related interest rates, deregulation of interest rates, more reliance on indirect instruments like open market operations in the conduct of monetary policy; an appropriate legal, institutional and technological framework for regulation and development of government securities, money, and forex markets, and dissemination of a wide range of data and information to market participants.

The Government has also introduced the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 with the objective, inter alia, of ensuring greater transparency in fiscal operations.

Zero Based Budget

5425. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to weed out dead schemes and start the process of zero-based budget from next financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the Ministries have been asked to identify such schemes and submit its report;

(d) if so, the response of the Ministries; and

(e) the action proposed by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) As announced by the Finance Minister in his budget speech

for the year 2000-01, all on-going schemes will be subjected to rigorous zero based budgeting scrutiny. All Ministries/Departments were, accordingly, advised to set-up a Task Force to review all schemes and programmes. Upto now, about 50 Ministries/Departments have completed the zero based budgeting exercise.

(e) Report of the task force are considered in a Central Monitoring Group in the Finance Ministry for continuation/discontinuation/merger of schemes during the current Plan or the Tenth Plan period.

Loan against States

5426. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra has always been placed at the top in the list of loan payable States;

(b) if so, the details of loans payable by the State Governments since 1996-97 onwards;

(c) the factors responsible for putting the Maharashtra at the top;

(d) whether the Government have ever waived-off the loan amount in favour of Maharashtra;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor while the Union Government waived-off the total loan in respect of several other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. The liability for repayment of loans depends on the outstanding loan and the repayment schedule.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) to (f) In the matter of debt relief to States, the Government of India is generally guided by the recommendations of Finance Commissions. Tenth & Eleventh Finance Commissions, as per their terms of reference, were required to assess the debt position of States and suggest corrective measures as were deemed necessary, keeping in view the long-term sustainability for both the Centre and States. Government of India had accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commissions relating to debt relief. Copies of the reports of the Finance Commissions, alongwith copies of explanatory memorandum as to the action taken, were laid on the Table of the both Houses of Parliament.

Closure of OTC Exchange

5427. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NSC has withdrawn from running the Over the Counter Exchange of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether small investors have lost thousands of crores of their savings due to the closure of OTC Exchange of India; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has intimated that NSE is neither a promoter nor a shareholder of Over the Counter Exchange of India (OTCEI). However, on the request of OTCEI, NSE had deputed an officer to revamp the systems and for technology upgradation of OTCEI. On completion of this specific assignment, the officer has returned to NSE.

(c) and (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India has intimated that there is no proposal to close down the OTCEI. So far 115 small to medium cap companies have raised equity to the extent of Rs. 342.52 crore through the exchange and 114 companies continue to be listed on the Exchange. The market capitalisation of these companies as on 31st October, 2000 is Rs. 388.64 crore.

Overseas SBI Branches

5428. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of the State Bank of India functioning abroad;

(b) the country-wise location of these branches;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to close down some of these branches;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India has reported that it has 22 branches in

fourteen countries. The country-wise location of these branches is given below :

Name of the country	Location of branches	Name of the country	Location of branches
U.S.A.	New York DTSB Flushing Chicago Los Angeles Agency	Bangladesh	Dhaka
Bahmas	Nassau Obu	China	Hong Kong
U.K.	London Main Southall Golders Green	Japan	Tokyo Osaka
France	Paris	Maldives	Male
Germany	Frankfurt	Singapore	Singapore Obu
Belgium	Antwerp	Sri Lanka	Colombo Fcbu Colombo
Bahrain	Bahrain Obu	South Africa	Johanesburg

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Exam of AAO in GIC

5429. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an examination for promotion to the post of Assistant Administrative Officer was held by General Insurance Corporation sometimes in September this year;

(b) if so, whether the process of selection has since been completed and appointments made;

(c) the number of candidates appeared in the examination, succeeded, interviewed and selected in each of the four companies of G.I.C., separately;

(d) whether any irregularities in the matter of selection has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(f) whether the United India Insurance Company is reported to have denied to hold interview of the candidates declared successful; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to expedite the matter soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. A centralised written examination for promotion to the cadre of Assistant Administrative Officer (AAO) was conducted by Insurance Institute of India on behalf of the GIC on 3rd September, 2000.

(b) No, Sir. The results of the written examination have been announced. However, the process of final selection viz. Interviews, preparation of final ranking list etc. has not yet been completed.

(c) The information is given in the Statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) and (g) In view of the year end, and forthcoming festivals of Christmas and Ramzan, United India is likely to conduct the interviews during 2nd week of January, 2001.

Statement

Part (c) Company-wise number of candidates registered, absent, appeared and succeeded in examination conducted on 3rd September, 2000 by Insurance Institute of India, an autonomous body for General Insurance Corporation, are as under :

Company	Registered	Absent	Appeared	Successful
National	319	23	296	91
New India	468	30	438	132
Oriental	360	31	329	81
United India	350	24	326	62
GIC	10	0	10	4
Total	1507	108	1399	370

Above is inclusive of SC/ST candidates with relaxed norms.

Interest on Fixed Deposits

5430. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all commercial banks are advised to pay interest at a rate equal to fixed deposit for the period of delay beyond 10/14 days in collection of outstation cheques besides banks to pay penal interest @ 2% for delay in collection of outstation instruments;

(b) if so, whether majority of the banks are not following these Guidelines and also customers are not aware of such instructions to banks; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to issue directions to banks to notify such guidelines in main customers and to take action against the guidelines in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that as per the guidelines issued to the banks interest is required to be paid by them without the customers having to claim it. The banks have included this facility as one of the items of services in their respective Citizens' Charter for information of their customers.

Unclaimed Money in Banks

5431. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banks are having huge amount of unclaimed money with them;

(b) if so, the exact amount lying unclaimed in the public sector banks and private sector banks, bank-wise; and

(c) the steps the banks take to trace out/identify the account holders and to return the money to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that there was a total amount of Rs. 535.42 crore lying as unclaimed money with banks as on 31st December, 1999, the bank-wise details of which are given in the statement.

(c) The reasons for which the deposits have remained unclaimed may be due to the death of account holders, their migration from place/country, family disputes, legal complications, etc. It is for legal successors of the depositors to inform the banks about the death of the depositors and file claims in relation to the balances standing at the credit of the accounts of the deceased depositors.

Statement

Bank-wise Position of Unclaimed Deposits as on 31.12.1999

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Amount (Rupees)
State Bank Group		
1.	State Bank of India	962397472.02
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	55507250.88
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	57475729.53
4.	State Bank of Indore	34962797.27
5.	State Bank of Mysore	63002121.92
6.	State Bank of Patiala	27881578.24
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	22225870.00
8.	State Bank of Travancore	44080942.28
SBI Group Total		1267533762.14
Nationalised Banks		
1.	Andhra Bank	110186212.55
2.	Allahabad Bank	58750093.92
3.	Bank of Baroda	198412125.55
4.	Bank of India	208725410.52
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	89791034.13
6.	Canara Bank	517835773.74
7.	Central Bank of India	208147732.00
8.	Corporation Bank	27788902.19
9.	Dena Bank	66362863.14
10.	Indian Bank	107375113.51
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	105869025.78
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	67974699.00
13.	Punjab National Bank	686118076.00
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	103183739.00
15.	Syndicate Bank	170436020.76
16.	Union Bank of India	426668201.67
17.	United Bank of India	116136310.82
18.	UCO Bank	174975754.79
19.	Vijaya Bank	99232757.00
Nationalised Banks Total		3543969846.07

1	2	3
Private Sector Banks		
1.	Bank of Madura Ltd.	3067349.26
2.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	40099494.45
3.	Bareilly Corporation Bank	0.00
4.	Benares State Bank Ltd.	2288073.12
5.	Bharat Overseas Bank	9642820.64
6.	Catholic Syrian Bank	19743433.29
7.	City Union Bank	16579945.17
8.	Dhanalakshmi Bank	6488434.00
9.	Federal Bank	32359995.52
10.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	36930726.68
11.	Karnataka Bank	21617387.77
12.	Karur Vysya Bank	7402516.48
13.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank	8122080.40
14.	Lord Krishna Bank	300217.04
15.	Nainital Bank	6367729.51
16.	Nedungadi Bank	8114500.21
17.	Punjab Coop. Bank	0.00
18.	Ratnakar Bank	5287502.23
19.	Sangli Bank	31976827.77
20.	South Indian Bank	814004.90
21.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8495873.76
22.	United Western Bank	2839790.98
23.	Vysya Bank	22185347.23
24.	SBICI Bank Ltd.	0.00
25.	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad	514524.18
26.	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	1988.81
Private Sector Banks Total		291240563.40
Foreign Banks		
1.	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	0.00
2.	ABN Amro Bank	31691.00
3.	American Express Bank	6195847.02
4.	ANZ Grindlays Bank	137577497.00

1	2	3
5.	Bank of America	4718943.87
6.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	0.00
7.	Mashreq Bank	93570.00
8.	Bank of Nova Scotia	0.00
9.	Bank of Tokyo	2152815.27
10.	Credit Agricole Indosuez	98690.23
11.	Banque Nationale De Paris	1680539.65
12.	Barclays Bank	0.00
13.	British Bank of Middle East	0.00
14.	Citi Bank	190403.87
15.	Credit Lyonnais	0.00
16.	Deutsche Bank	0.00
17.	Hongkong Bank	21811071.29
18.	Oman International Bank	0.00
19.	The Sakura Bank	246871.30
20.	Sanwa Bank Ltd.	0.00
21.	Societe Generale	0.00
22.	Sonali Bank	0.00
23.	Standard Chartered Bank	76682456.67
Foreign Banks Total		251480397.17

Export of Basmati Rice

5432. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is potential for exports of aromatic basmati rice to the middle east from India;

(b) whether the Government have exploited this potential in full;

(c) whether Saudi Arabia is the largest importer of aromatic Basmati Rice; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to exploit this potential for export of aromatic basmati rice from India to the Gulf countries?

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

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Some of the steps taken to increase the export of basmati rice to the Gulf Countries 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.

Cyber Fairs by ITPO

5433. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether ITPO has any plans to organise Cyber fairs in association with the private sector;

(b) if so, the places where said fairs likely to be organised;

(c) whether any target date has been set to start such fairs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any expertise has been sought from foreign countries in such matter; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) :
(a) ITPO has, at present, no plans to organise Cyber fairs in the near future.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

FI's Assistance to Projects of Maharashtra

5434. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector financial institutions have provided loans to the private sector for setting up the

industrial projects in Maharashtra and Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and the extent to which this amount was more than the amount provided in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) the terms and conditions fixed for the sanctioned loans and the manner in which the projects set up with the help of sanctioned loans; and

(d) the details of projects set up with the help of this loan during the above period in Maharashtra and Karnataka separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of financial assistance provided by All India Financial Institutions (AIFI) viz. IDBI, IFCI and ICICI to the private sector for setting up industrial projects in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka during the years 1995-96 to 1999-2000 are given in Statement-I.

(c) The decisions regarding financing of a particular project or granting of loan to individual entities in any State is taken by Financial Institutions themselves based on their commercial judgement and the lending policy laid down by their respective Board within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI from time to time.

(d) Institution-wise and industry-wise number of projects assisted under direct finance scheme and the amount of assistance sanctioned and disbursed during each of the last five years by All India Financial Institutions to the private sector industries in Maharashtra and Karnataka are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Institutions-wise and year-wise sanctions and disbursements to Private Sector by IDBI, IFCI & ICICI in the State of Maharashtra

	Sanctions					Disbursements				
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
IDBI	2748.43	1910.42	4077.80	5237.41	3554.99	1729.14	1728.56	2567.77	2432.08	2490.41
% Change		-30.49	113.45	26.44	-32.12		-0.03	48.55	-5.28	2.40
IFCI	1025.38	560.10	1436.28	1013.23	308.47	547.26	784.87	992.22	841.13	1016.57
% Change		-45.38	156.79	-29.55	-69.56		43.42	26.42	-15.23	20.86
ICICI	3152.09	2441.13	5296.04	8637.09	9581.07	1973.61	2623.86	4317.98	5018.26	5881.41
% Change		-22.55	116.95	63.08	10.92		32.94	64.56	16.21	17.20

Details of Institutions-wise and Year-wise sanctions and disbursements to Private Sector by IDBI, IFCI & ICICI in the State of Karnataka

	Sanctions					Disbursements				
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
IDBI	949.96	664.16	993.95	1383.95	906.18	3567.30	350.01	615.16	488.84	682.99
% Change		-30.09	49.66	39.24	-34.52		-2.01	-75.75	-20.53	39.72
IFCI	434.84	200.66	360.78	265.7	206.36	288.34	318.63	278.492	305.62	176.682
% Change		-51.79	72.08	-26.35	-22.33		10.51	-12.60	9.74	-42.19
ICICI	1124	537.59	1060.51	1257.21	2128.78	527.49	541.16	1044.34	691.86	1358.01
% Change		-52.19	97.27	18.54	69.32		2.59	92.96	-33.75	96.28

Statement-II

Direct Finance Scheme-Industry wise trend in assistance sanctioned for private sector in the State of Maharashtra by IDBI

(Rs. crore)

Industry	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	No.	Assistance	No.	Assistance	No.	Assistance	No.	Assistance	No.	Assistance
Sugar	1	4.25	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Food (Others)	9	58.36	4	51.46	3	41.00	4	113.00	0	62.00
Cotton Textiles	15	129.88	11	86.66	19	383.34	9	350.29	13	305.92
Paper & Paper Products	9	200.80	6	99.80	1	30.00	2	55.50	0	46.50
Rubber & Rubber Products	2	7.45	0	0.00	1	6.30	0	65.00	0	5.00
Petrochemicals	2	112.50	0	0.00	0	40.00	0	25.00	2	349.70
Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	11	76.25	7	165.85	2	95.95	2	76.75	4	169.75
Basic Industrial Chemical	5	72.00	3	18.60	1	17.00	2	10.70	0	0.00
Plastic & Plastic Goods	11	85.78	3	41.00	2	66.25	2	84.50	2	29.00
Chemical (Others)	13	160.65	13	167.16	7	127.35	10	259.97	5	232.16
Reffineries & Oil Explorate	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	5.00	0	0.00
Artificial Fibres	4	20.05	0	0.00	7	81.33	2	11.97	2	49.60
Fertilizers	0	0.00	1	11.23	1	14.00	0	9.20	0	15.00
Cement	1	29.50	1	16.50	1	210.15	1	73.50	2	61.98
Iron & Steel	8	467.53	5	215.26	6	855.33	1	828.70	0	59.36
Non.Ferous	3	38.80	2	19.00	0	10.00	0	-000	0	25.50
Metal Products	10	96.74	10	162.20	4	149.75	2	173.60	1	194.77
Machinery	16	78.15	7	110.86	2	59.43	5	72.90	4	217.80
Electronics & Electrical Equipment	27	536.63	4	81.75	3	113.65	9	507.75	3	271.80
Transport Equipment	6	43.51	8	72.00	3	94.28	8	148.80	5	149.04
Electricity Generation	0	5.00	0	0.00	3	350.00	1	1840.00	2	570.00
Information Technology	10	35.19	2	6.67	2	35.40	3	49.40	2	19.25
Hotel	2	7.30	4	81.50	4	338.90	7	118.45	5	89.43
Hospitals	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	20.00	1	10.27	1	40.00
Road Transport	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	14.00	1	10.00	0	0.00
Telecom Services	1	118.00	7	359.40	4	371.96	1	60.00	1	190.00
Roads/Bridges	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	16.00	3	68.50	1	15.00
Services (Others)	12	143.94	4	43.90	5	81.60	4	55.56	2	166.16
Other Industries	10	220.17	13	99.62	20	454.83	7	153.10	5	221.09
Total	188	2748.83	115	1910.42	105	4077.80	87	5237.41	62	3554.99
Change %	—	—	—	30-49	—	113-45	—	28-44	—	32.12

Direct Finance Scheme-Industry wise trend in assistance disbursed for private sector in the State of Maharashtra by IDBI

(Rs. crore)

Industry	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Sugur	4.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Food (Others)	51.02	37.45	39.18	50.58	45.45
Cotton Textiles	86.52	104.70	356.18	288.03	152.03
Paper & Paper Products	42.57	155.29	80.77	47.03	47.15
Rubber & Rubber Products	2.00	2.25	0.25	40.00	10.00
Petro-chemicals	106.87	89.62	15.66	20.12	34.93
Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	57.25	47.87	103.02	61.71	154.57
Basic Industrial Chemicals	57.74	18.45	10.42	15.63	2.57
Plastic & Plastic Goods	83.95	49.26	59.32	72.64	20.87
Chemical (Others)	67.35	107.63	139.76	239.89	167.60
Refineries & Oil Exploration	2.38	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00
Artificial Fibres	36.28	4.19	45.57	11.53	29.55
Fertilizers	0.00	5.00	18.23	7.20	10.00
Asbestos Cement	34.17	15.21	160.79	32.15	82.54
Iron & Steel	235.31	315.17	485.80	423.69	484.54
Non-Ferrous	24.22	80.14	20.91	10.60	25.45
Metal Products	99.83	75.79	135.29	124.92	165.39
Machinery	65.14	42.36	79.06	52.51	53.83
Electronics & Electrical Equipment	263.45	41.95	95.46	327.68	245.42
Transport Equipment	43.15	116.75	31.62	82.80	95.69
Electricity Generation	0.11	59.33	61.92	63.30	156.17
Information Technology	31.24	7.83	23.38	32.11	9.42
Hotel	4.15	53.00	96.25	79.48	75.94
Hospitals	0.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.00
Road Transport	0.00	0.00	7.00	7.50	0.00
Telecom Services	96.00	23.95	42.96	220.59	92.50
Roads/Bridges	2.99	0.12	0.00	10.25	42.00
Services (Others)	91.40	68.30	73.78	18.74	113.74
Mining & Quarrying	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Industries	139.07	205.93	364.69	86.40	173.06
Total	1729.14	1728.56	2567.77	2432.08	2490.41
Change (%)		- 0.03	48.55	- 5.28	2.40

Industry-wise Assistance to Private Sector Companies in Maharashtra by ICICI

(Rs. crore)

Industry	Approvals			Disbursals		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Food Products						
(i) Sugar	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Others	5.00	98.00	67.00	6.76	31.91	47.77
Textiles	36.49	119.02	230.90	114.11	139.86	69.63
Paper & Paper Products	8.24	210.25	142.00	16.35	71.27	127.93
Rubber & Rubber Products	—	123.00	81.68	—	72.00	56.14
Chemicals & Chemical Products						
(i) Petro-chemicals	129.35	15.00	30.00	70.62	108.17	100.00
(ii) Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	38.00	52.00	264.40	34.05	75.00	131.61
(iii) Industrial Chemicals	99.20	84.60	157.05	34.85	58.92	121.55
(iv) Other Chemicals	120.00	428.57	694.00	265.63	280.26	490.71
Crude Petroleum & Petroleum Refining	500.00	700.00	65.00	475.00	1000.00	1.75
Fertilisers	—	35.00	32.00	—	38.00	32.02
Cement	50.00	—	116.00	10.00	39.00	120.10
Iron & Steel	318.83	657.87	128.90	715.68	448.23	249.67
Non-Ferrous	—	—	—	—	1.15	—
Other Metal Products	143.30	146.75	37.50	146.45	159.59	91.56
Machinery	248.13	368.00	208.50	242.99	240.82	168.69
Electrical Equipment	516.70	347.00	305.00	278.80	254.59	311.11
Electronics	350.50	227.00	233.00	333.80	213.91	113.21
Transport Equipment	519.08	319.85	457.40	237.28	315.11	316.50
Infrastructure						
(i) Power	60.00	1728.39	289.00	46.76	24.27	378.09
(ii) Telecommunication	485.59	820.00	1955.00	166.00	100.00	499.00
(iii) Road/Port/Railways	152.25	162.00	30.02	32.82	91.62	37.00
(iv) Mining	—	—	—	—	—	100.00
(v) Other Infrastructure Products	—	300.00	—	—	—	—
Services						
(i) Hotels	—	107.00	77.50	16.03	3.45	54.00
(ii) Hospitals	—	—	—	3.50	4.00	1.00
(iii) Shipping	365.31	275.07	398.22	160.78	311.59	147.20
(iv) Others	1061.57	925.33	3535.60	762.27	588.27	1909.87
Other Industries	88.50	387.29	135.50	127.65	349.27	185.10
Total	5296.04	8637.09	9581.07	4317.98	5018.26	5881.41

Financial Assistance to Private Sector Projects in the State of Maharashtra IFCI Ltd.

Industry	1995-96				1996-97				1997-98				1998-99				1999-2000			
	Sanctioned		Disbursed		Sanctioned		Disbursed		Sanctioned		Disbursed		Sanctioned		Disbursed		Sanctioned		Disbursed	
	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amnt. Sanc.
Textiles	3	217.06	194.11	6	147.98	255.12	6	132.30	400.95	3	682.90	571.73	3	195.00	152.10					
Iron & Steel	6	5343.29	1528.76	4	437.50	2551.69	5	4305.20	2804.92	1	1497.85	3252.58	2	624.73	4034.51					
Petroleum & Ref.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Steel Metal products	6	509.37	332.47	6	740.26	715.53	2	500.00	503.28	—	—	267.96	1	1041.00	1042.59					
Sugar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Basic Chemicals	—	—	9.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	35.00					
Misc Chemicals	—	—	7.00	—	—	2	250.00	250.00	1	367.50	242.10	—	—	—	—					
Transport Equip.	2	174.12	90.12	—	—	90.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Syn. Resins Plastic Prod.	6	7165.62	313.13	1	150.00	812.50	2	285.00	168.80	1	100.00	271.20	—	—	102.50					
Synthetic Fibres	1	1202.50	1723.13	1	411.50	1030.93	2	1017.17	127.29	—	—	945.47	1	96.70	131.70					
Business Services	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Power Generation	—	—	—	1	851.04	—	2	3130.00	939.00	1	4190.00	546.36	1	375.00	3653.14					
Telecom Services	3	45.00	30.00	3	130.00	85.00	1	240.00	265.00	2	1600.00	335.00	—	—	150.00					
Ports	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	90.00	90.00	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Cement	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	250.00	125.00	1250.00	—	—	—					
WBFCs (Leasing & HP)	2	200.00	176.80	1	50.00	23.10	2	500.00	550.00	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Machinery & Equipment	4	425.30	397.19	1	600.00	628.11	—	—	—	1	400.00	400.00	—	—	—					
Electrical Machinery	—	—	—	1	5.78	—	1	380.00	310.00	1	600.00	670.00	1	80.00	—					
Electronics	2	17.50	17.50	3	370.00	370.00	2	3293.30	3193.30	—	—	100.00	—	—	—					
Hotels	1	12.50	1.60	2	821.50	724.31	3	106.00	21.50	—	—	12.00	1	200.00	555.00					
MISC. Non-Metallic	1	97.50	—	—	—	50.00	—	—	47.50	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Mineral Products	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Paper	1	120.00	27.22	1	245.40	274.39	2	103.80	129.59	1	20.00	141.90	—	—	—					
Others	6	624.00	623.34	7	640.00	228.00	1	50.00	221.00	3	424.00	230.00	1	214.30	387.02					
Total	44	10253.76	5472.56	38	5800.96	764863	34	14302.77	9922.19	15	10532.25	8411.30	13	3084.73	10155.71					

Direct Finance Scheme—Industry wise trend in assistance sanctioned for private sector in the state of Karnataka by IDBI

(Rs. crore)

Industry	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	No.	Assistance	No.	Assistance	No.	Assistance	No.	Assistance	No.	Assistance
Sugar	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	68.00	1	0.06	1	5.00
Food (Others)	3	17.60	0	0.00	1	5.60	4	42.79	4	23.27
Cotton Textiles	5	63.95	4	26.72	3	48.70	1	20.60	6	102.89
Jute	1	2.50	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	10.00	0	7.00
Paper & Paper Products	1	6.40	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	15.00	0	10.00
Rubber & Rubber Products	0	0.00	1	7.00	1	6.80	0	0.00	0	0.00
Drugs & Pharmaceutical	5	28.25	2	12.50	1	13.50	1	13.00	1	30.25
Basic Industrial Chemical	1	0.27	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	28.00
Plastic & Plastic Goods	1	3.30	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Chemical (Others)	3	11.45	2	8.20	0	0.00	1	13.00	0	6.00
Artificial Fibres	0	0.00	1	7.54	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Cement	0	0.00	2	285.00	0	10.00	0	35.00	0	0.00
Iron & Steel	5	327.80	4	42.00	1	192.15	0	257.00	1	288.00
Non-Ferrous	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	15.52	1	230.00	0	5.00
Metal Products	3	9.10	0	0.00	1	5.75	2	34.00	0	0.00
Machinery	2	9.00	1	4.50	1	8.20	0	0.00	0	0.00
Electronics & Electrical Equipment	11	72.17	4	59.25	6	175.97	1	27.00	0	64.00
Transport Equipment	2	20.00	2	11.75	1	5.85	0	0.00	1	10.35
Electricity Generation	1	100.00	2	130.55	5	244.51	1	350.00	4	260.00
Information Technology	4	26.27	2	23.00	0	18.00	2	24.00	1	28.17
Hotel	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	8.90	0	0.00	0	0.00
Telecom Services	0	0.00	2	8.00	1	75.00	1	250.00	0	10.00
Roads/Bridges	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	15.00	0	0.00
Services (Others)	0	0.00	2	12.00	0	0.75	0	4.50	1	9.00
Other Industries	13	251.90	3	26.15	5	90.75	0	43.00	1	19.25
Total	61	949.96	34	664.16	33	993.95	17	1383.95	21	906.18
Change (%)				30.09		49.66		39.24		34.52

Direct Finance Scheme—Industry wise trend in assistance disbursed for private sector in the State of Karnataka by IDBI

Industry	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Sugar	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.50	24.33
Food (Others)	12.83	0.00	3.94	8.38	11.49
Cotton Textiles	14.68	24.70	39.62	46.40	34.49
Jute	1.68	0.22	0.54	0.00	5.00
Paper & Paper Products	6.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
Rubber & Rubber Products	0.00	0.99	3.48	3.32	0.00
Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	15.88	12.43	20.36	17.81	20.50
Basic Industrial Chemicals	30.15	4.50	0.10	0.00	0.00
Chemicals (Others)	7.83	2.81	3.85	9.35	2.45
Artificial Fibres	0.00	3.15	2.00	2.44	0.00
Cement	0.00	0.00	35.64	28.00	7.00
Iron & Steel	54.00	197.24	211.24	175.69	325.91
Non-Ferrous	2.05	0.00	15.52	0.00	0.00
Metal Products	9.84	11.05	0.00	18.09	20.10
Machinery	12.25	1.00	0.50	2.20	0.00
Electronics & Electrical Equipment	73.55	45.04	127.08	57.85	44.33
Transport Equipment	10.00	1.75	7.00	2.70	0.00
Electricity Generation	0.07	2.75	69.30	5.00	20.53
Information Technology	18.23	10.27	21.26	0.33	19.28
Hotel	1.12	0.37	4.58	2.53	1.93
Telecom Services	0.00	1.18	0.44	0.00	110.00
Roads/Bridges	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.50
Services (Others)	0.00	5.25	5.85	2.02	4.73
Mining & Quarrying	2.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Industries	83.28	25.31	42.86	80.23	15.42
Total	357.30	350.01	615.16	488.84	682.99
Change (%)		-2.04	75.75	-20.53	39.72

Industry-wise Assistance to Private Sector Companies in Karnataka by ICICI

(Rs. crore)

Industry	Approvals			Disbursals		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Food Products						
(i) Sugar	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Others	—	—	29.80	—	—	15.00
Textiles	40.00	41.09	9.00	40.00	—	—
Paper & Paper Products	—	20.00	34.50	—	10.00	5.68
Rubber & Rubber Products	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chemicals & Chemical Products						
(i) Petro-chemicals	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	8.10	—	8.00	3.60	4.50	7.74
(iii) Industrial Chemicals	100.00	33.00	65.00	171.12	30.45	41.06
(iv) Others Chemicals	—	—	—	0.01	—	—
Crude Petroleum & Petroleum Refining	—	—	500.00	—	—	—
Fertilisers	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cement	118.00	13.22	60.00	102.25	10.00	15.00
Iron & Steel	228.40	344.00	504.09	290.05	185.72	590.33
Non-Ferrous	40.00	40.00	41.55	5.30	41.00	80.99
Other Metal Products	—	—	—	2.50	0.65	—
Machinery	20.00	222.00	191.40	15.00	114.63	117.22
Electrical Equipment	56.00	69.53	30.00	28.78	82.63	26.60
Electronics	113.20	96.94	277.00	72.78	24.13	114.76
Transport Equipment	—	176.00	98.00	15.18	112.41	71.64
Infrastructure						
(i) Power	—	—	35.00	45.00	15.00	10.00
(ii) Telecommunication	180.00	—	10.00	180.66	—	—
(iii) Road/Port/Railways	48.00	5.00	2.00	—	15.30	20.10
(iv) Mining	—	—	—	—	—	—
(v) Other Infrastructure Products	—	—	—	—	—	—
Services						
(i) Hotels	21.00	—	35.50	—	—	12.85
(ii) Hospitals	8.75	—	10.50	—	—	—
(iii) Shipping	—	—	9.00	—	—	3.00
(iv) Others	80.06	197.43	170.44	72.11	65.44	225.07
Others Industries	—	—	28.00	—	—	1.00
Total	1060.51	1257.21	2128.78	1044.34	691.85	1358.01

Financial Assistance to Private Sector Projects in the State of Karnataka JFCI

(Rs. Million)

Industries	1995-96				1996-97				1997-98				1998-99				1999-2000			
	Sanctioned		Disbursed		Sanctioned		Disbursed		Sanctioned		Disbursed		Sanctioned		Disbursed		Sanctioned		Disbursed	
	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.	No. of Proj.	Amt. Sanc.
Textiles	2	648.32	383.32	—	—	263.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iron & Steel	1	749.85	1097.80	—	—	339.85	3	1596.80	1528.25	2	910.00	1040.98	3	1203.26	1056.43	—	—	—	—	—
Steel Products	1	31.50	31.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sugar	2	87.50	87.50	—	—	—	1	114.00	—	2	395.00	57.00	2	150.00	100.00	—	—	—	—	—
Basic Chemicals	1	—	—	—	1	496.11	—	1	1426.00	487.95	—	—	1230.97	1	473.30	143.48	—	—	—	—
Misc Chemicals	1	225.00	185.00	—	—	40.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Power Generation	2	5.00	37.30	4	1394.27	877.24	1	145.19	208.83	1	880.00	351.48	—	—	80.00	—	—	—	—	—
Telecom Services	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cement	2	675.00	87.50	1	—	607.50	1	97.00	97.00	1	97.00	97.00	2	97.04	0.04	—	—	—	—	—
Machinery & Equipment	2	80.00	1.90	2	106.20	138.50	—	—	17.40	—	—	30.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electrical Machinery	1	785.73	271.90	—	—	479.50	1	16.40	54.60	1	150.00	75.00	—	—	75.00	—	—	—	—	—
Electronics	4	425.52	32.78	1	100.00	243.09	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hotels	2	90.20	1.90	—	—	22.70	—	—	58.50	1	45.00	9.00	—	—	42.70	—	—	—	—	—
Paper	1	46.324	280.00	—	—	129.57	1	160.00	113.59	1	180.00	89.47	1	90.00	205.11	—	—	—	—	—
Transport Equipment	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	25.80	25.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Misc. Non-Metallic	3	90.46	45.10	—	—	45.36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mineral Products	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	5	410.00	70.00	—	—	—	1	25.00	195.00	2	—	75.00	1	50.00	65.00	—	—	—	—	—
Total	30	4348.42	2883.40	10	2096.31	3186.31	12	3607.79	2784.92	11	2657.22	3056.22	10	2063.60	1766.82	—	—	—	—	—

* Amount sanctioned has been accounted for in another state for statistical purposes.

World Bank and IMF Loan

5435. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual loan drawn from the World Bank and the IMF alongwith the repayment of the said amount of loan during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the World Bank has proposed to provide more loans in the ensuing years;

(c) the conditions laid down by the World Bank for advancing more loan to the country and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the major schemes proposed to be undertaken in the ensuing years with the loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of loans drawn from and repayment of principal made to World Bank during the last three years are as under :

Rs. in crores

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Disbursement	4343.58	4966.43	5570.48
Repayments	3663.23	4294.19	4667.67

No loan was drawn from IMF.

(b) to (d) As per current Country Assistance Strategy (1997-2001), World Bank can take up projects upto US\$ 3 billion per annum on usual general terms and conditions. Country Assistance Strategy for ensuing years is still to be received from the World Bank. Specific schemes are to be identified subsequently.

Problems of Exporters

5436. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has sought proposals from the exporters in regard to problems that are being faced by them;

(b) if so, whether they have submitted the detailed demands and suggestions to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions made by them;

(d) whether the Government have examined all of them;

(e) if so, the steps being taken to implement them; and

(f) whether the Government propose to review the working of the State Trading Corporation and MMTC to avoid unfair competition in overseas market between them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (e) The Government invites suggestions/views from inter alia EPCs/Commodity Boards/Exporters Associations etc. on various matters relating to export sector on a regular basis for enhancing the performance of our exports. These suggestions/views of the various bodies are taken into account while formulating or modifying export strategies. The representations sent by exporters are examined and changes are made in Exim Policy from time to time.

(f) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items earlier canalised through STC and MMTC, both the Corporations have reoriented their trading strategies in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and competitive environment in the International market. The two PSUs, therefore, in an endeavour to increase their turnover and profitability do undertake trading activities in a few common areas, which are more in the nature of supplementing efforts of each other.

Seizure of Banned Drugs

5437. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the banned drug, Amphetamine tablets is entering in the country through North-East of the country via Myanmar Border in large quantities;

(b) if so, the number of seizures of this tablets made by the BSF and other enforcement agencies during the current year alongwith its quantity and value thereof; and

(c) the immediate steps taken by the Government to check the smuggling of this drug into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Sir, Reports of Amphetamine/Methamphetamine tablets entering the country through the Myanmar border have been received.

(b) As reported by various drug law enforcement agencies, during the year 2000 (upto November) there have been 12 cases of seizures in which 1144 gms. or 2140 tablets were seized. The approximate assessed international market value/street price as reported by the seizing agencies is Rs. 2 crore.

(c) Significant steps taken by the Government of India to ensure that smuggling of this drug is not allowed into the country include notifying the precursor chemicals ephedrine

and pseudoephedrine used in the manufacture of Amphetamine/Methamphetamine tablets as "controlled substances" under the NDPS Act, 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 drugs on the border, entering into of a comprehensive bilateral agreement by the Government of India with the Government of Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, holding of quarterly coordination meeting attended by all enforcement agencies in drug law enforcement at the highest level, providing drug sniffer dogs and training of dog handlers of Myanmar and stringent action under NDPS Act against persons arrested for drug trafficking.

World Bank Aided Projects

5438. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank Officials have admitted that some projects in India have failed as resettlement problems remain unsolved and ordinary villagers remain uncompensated for their trials and tribulations;

(b) if so, the main flaws that have been admitted by the World Bank officials;

(c) to what extent, the Government has reviewed the flaws in these projects;

(d) whether any concrete measures in this regard have been undertaken by the Government to complete these projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) World Bank declared two closed projects unsatisfactory due to incomplete compensation for lost land or other assets and incomplete compensation or insufficient assistance towards rehabilitation for lost livelihood opportunities. These projects are Upper Krishna and the NTPC/Singrauli Projects.

(c) to (e) Government is collecting information from the concerned authorities and State Governments.

Withholding of Shares

5439. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ordered an enquiry against some companies, whose shares rose because of non-availability of shares since these shares were held up with the companies for DMAT; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with the names of such companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise?

Plan Assistance to Karnataka

5440. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Karnataka has urged the Union Government that the existing grant ratio of plan assistance to the States be changed to 50:50:

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

(c) the action taken thereon?

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

(c) A change in the existing ratio has implications on Centre's revenue and capital receipts and thereby the Plan Assistance to the States. The existing loan/grant ratio is based on the overall resource position of the Centre, and the decision of NDC in this regard.

Foreign Exchange Regulation Applied Board

5441. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending with Foreign Exchange Regulation applied Board, till date;

(b) the names of companies/industries against whom cases are pending alongwith the details of cases; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, all appeals pending before Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board as on 1-6-2000 stood transferred to the Appellate Tribunal for foreign Exchange, constituted under the said Act. 5401 cases that were pending with the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board as on 31-5-2000 have been transferred to the Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange. The Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange has received 272 appeals so far.

(b) The following revision petitions filed *suo moto* or otherwise under section 52(4) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 are pending against companies/ industries :

1. 341/91 against Shri Vinod Mehta, M/s Mehta International, Mumbai.
2. 344/91 against M/s Dhawan Enterprises (P) Ltd., New Delhi.
3. 595/2000 against Shri S. Khanna, Manager, M/s Abirami Textiles, Chennai.

(c) The cases are decided by the Court through a judicial process.

Telecast of Hindi Programmes

5442. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign TV companies are telecasting Hindi programmes especially in those countries which are having sizeable Indian population;

(b) if so, the details alongwith locations, country-wise particularly in USA and UK and accessibility in regard thereto;

(c) whether the Government are making efforts to make these programmes more popular and attractive so as to ensure that they reflect the rich Indian cultural heritage and India's advancement in technology; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The foreign television companies are not required to obtain permission from this Ministry for telecasting Hindi programmes in foreign countries. Therefore such information is not maintained by the Government.

(c) and (d) The public service broadcaster, Prasar Bharati, in its channel DD—International, carries programmes meant for Indians living abroad and to showcase India's culture, values, traditions, modernity, diversity, technological development etc. These programmes are telecast in Hindi and English and in different regional languages.

[Translation]

Agreement for Payment of Electricity Bills

5443. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any tripartite agreement has been reached with the American power generating company Enron on the one side and the government of Maharashtra and the Union Government on the other side for payment of electricity bills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any petition has been filed in the Supreme Court in respect of this agreement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) An agreement was entered into between Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) and Dabhol Power Company (DPC) for purchase of power from the Dabhol Power Project being promoted by DPC. Obligations of MSEB arising out of this agreement were guaranteed by the Government of Maharashtra (GOM). Government of India (GOI) has issued counter guarantee to the DPC in respect of the Capacity and Energy Payments and Termination Payments in the event of GOM failing to make payments to DPC. A tripartite agreement was signed between GOI, Reserve Bank of India and GOM primarily for authorising GOI to recover all the payments made by it under the counter guarantee from GOM by debiting GOM's account with RBI.

(c) and (d) Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) has filed Special Leave Petition (No. 7734 of 1997) in Supreme Court of India in 1997 against the judgement of High Court of Bombay. CITU has raised mainly two question namely (1) validity of the project and (2) accountability of the State of Maharashtra in this matter. The matter is *sub-judice*.

[English]

Padmini Polymers Referred to BIFR

5444. SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Padmini Technology (earlier Padmini Polymers) was referred to the BIFR since it was declared sick; and

(b) if so, the action taken by BIFR in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Padmini Technology or Padmini Polymers has not been registered with the BIFR as a sick company under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(b) Does not arise.

Telecast of "The News Tonight"

5445. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecast of the programme "The News Tonight" was cancelled by Doordarshan on November 6, 2000;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulting officers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that no such programme was scheduled on Doordarshan Channels on 6.11.2000.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Protection of Small Investors

5446. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI, market regulator, has played a dubious role in checking the spurt and melt down of shares of new economy companies in 2000, till date;

(b) whether the Government are seriously considering to stop this menace forever to protect small investors who are tempted to rising prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Price fluctuations on stock markets is a market phenomena and depend on several factors which include 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 policies of the Government, developments in international capital markets etc. The globalisation of commerce has created correlation in market movements world wide. The recent fall in the US markets, particularly the shares of new economy companies, has influenced other markets in the world and globally, the markets have been on a downtrend.

(b) and (c) The objective of the Government and the regulator is to ensure that capital markets operate in an orderly, transparent, safe and fair manner. To ensure this and to protect interests of investors, SEBI has put in place several surveillance and risk containment measures such as capital adequacy, margining systems, exposure controls and price bands. The surveillance measures implemented include the stock watch system which is expected to enhance surveillance capabilities. The risk containment measures include upfront margins in the form of base and additional capital, and imposition and collection of mark to market margin, volatility margin and carry forward margin.

Regularisation of Temporary Employees

5447. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that 117 worker are working in the temporary capacity at a very low wage in the Bokaro site of Instrumentation Limited for more than 20 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above status prevails in other units also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether equal pay for equal work is a Constitutional Provision;

(f) if so, steps taken on that; and

(g) the steps taken to regularise these employees at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) There are 113 temporary workers at the Bokaro site of Instrumentation Ltd. working for periods ranging from 20 to 26 years at wages as per agreements entered with them.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The temporary workers at Bokaro had approached the Patna High Court for equal pay for equal work. The court did not consider the work performed by temporary workers as equal to regular workers.

(g) There is dearth of business to gainfully utilise the existing temporary workers at Bokaro site and a voluntary retirement scheme has been implemented for them.

Funding of Power Projects by Banks and FIs

5448. SHRI CHANDRA PARTAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "what powers Lanco Kondapalli Power Project" appearing in the *Statesman*, dated the November, 24, 2000 highlighting the gross irregularities on the part of Public Sector Financial Institutions and Banks in funding Lanco's Kondapalli Power Project Andhra Pradesh on the basis of Rs. 700 crore Corporate Guarantee provided by a Company of Group having net worth of Rs. 42 crore and other serious irregularities; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. IDBI has informed that the Project has been financed by the Financial Institutions (FIs), Banks and by foreign investors. The loans extended by the FIs and Banks have been secured by way of various securities including corporate guarantees. These corporate guarantees are by way of additional collateral securities and not the only security available with FIs/Banks as alleged in the news-item. The project has been completed as per schedule. According to the lead financial institutions no irregularities have been observed in respect of compliance of the conditions stipulated by these lenders.

However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged

Cash Held by Director, Tea Production

5449. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Director, Tea Production, London had liquid cash in current account much in excess of requirement during 1993-98 causing loss of interest of Rs. 25.95 lakhs to the country;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been inquired into and any responsibility fixed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) In view of the broad nature of activities of Tea Board, the officer incharge of the overseas office is required to hold cash balances required as per commitments pertaining to salaries, rents, telephone bills, fairs and exhibitions, advertisement and other promotional expenditure etc. Holding of cash balance is also necessary for the reason that funds are released to Tea Board on a quarterly basis by the Government and the process of obtaining foreign exchange permits, transfer of funds etc. takes time.

A draft audit para was received on this subject from the Principle Director of Audit, London. However, Government has requested the Principle Director of Audit to reconsider and drop the para for reasons mentioned above.

Action against Delisted Companies

5450. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has delisted many companies from the BSE and NSE;

(b) if so, the name these companies and the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss being caused to the shareholders as a result thereof; and

(d) the manner it is proposed to be make up the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) does not delist companies from stock exchanges. The listing of securities of companies is governed by the listing agreement between the stock exchange and the companies. The delisting of a company by the stock exchange may be on account of the following reasons :

(i) violation of any of the clauses of the listing agreement;

(ii) any disciplinary action against the company;

(iii) due to amalgamation, liquidation, court orders, redemption of bonds, etc..

(iv) under the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997.

In addition, companies may also get their securities delisted from a stock exchange on their own by following the voluntary delisting guidelines framed by SEBI.

(c) and (d) Since delisting may cause liquidity problem to the investor, in order to provide liquidity in such scrips after delisting, the stock exchanges allow trading in the securities under permitted category for a period of one year after delisting the securities. Further, prior to delisting, notices are given by stock exchanges to investors regarding delisting of a security and an exit opportunity is provided to the holders of such securities.

Excise Duty on Audio Tapes

5451. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the Excise duty earned by the Government during 1999-2000 from manufacturing units of Audio Magnetic Tape; and

(b) the Customs duty earned by the Government by way of Import of Audio Magnetic Tape during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial position of Orissa

5452. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering a proposal to waive off interest payable by the Orissa Government for 2000-2001 and also announce a moratorium of loan burden for next five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government will come to the rescue of the State Government in payment of the State's matching share for all centrally sponsored Projects of the year 2000-2001 in view of the disastrous financial condition of the State associated with the super cyclone of 1999 and severe drought of 2000 in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Eleventh Finance Commission, as per its term of reference, was required to make an assessment of the debt position of the States as on 31.3.99 and suggest such corrective measures as are deemed necessary, keeping in view the long term sustainability for both the Centre and the States. The Eleventh Finance Commission has, since

submitted its Report including measures for debt relief. The Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the EFC with regard to debt relief of the States as contained in the main report for 2000-2005.

(c) and (d) State Governments are autonomous under the Constitution and financial management of the States is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, additional Central Assistance of Rs. 43 crore for Annual Plan 1999-2000, was released to the Government of Orissa to meet the requirement of counter-part funding for restoration and reconstruction work in cyclone affected districts of Orissa. Apart from this the Government had rescheduled the repayment of loans, including interest for the period November 1999 to March 2000, as a measure of specific relief. The RBI also relaxed the Ways and Means Limit of the State Government till 31st March, 2000.

Entry to foreign Management Consultancy Firms

5453. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have permitted free entry of foreign management consultancy firms into country to provide accounting/other services;

(b) if so, the reasons thereto;

(c) whether the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has demanded restriction on entry of these firms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) A total number of 479 proposals, envisaging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to Rs. 2058.25 crore, have been approved during the period from 1.8.91 to 31.10.2000 in accordance with the prevailing policy which allows 100% foreign equity under automatic route in consultancy sector. FDI has not been permitted for accounting and legal services.

(c) and (d) No such reference has been received.

(e) Question does not arise.

Infotech Companies

5454. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Software convert companies are repeating the vanishing act of finance companies in 1992;

(b) if so, the details of companies which convert their names into infotech, have stopped trading and pull a fast one on investors;

(c) whether the Government have identified such companies.

(d) if so, the names of such companies and the amount collected by these companies from the investors; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government against those companies and steps being taken to safeguard the small investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As intimated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), no such instance has been brought to their notice.

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

(e) The Department of Company Affairs (DCA) has advised Registrars of Companies in May, 1999 that in future they should allow companies to change their names to reflect the business of software only if a substantial portion of their income is derived from software business.

SEBI has tightened entry norms for public/rights issues by such companies by way of requirement of 3 years' track record of profitability in the information technology sector and cautioned investors through press releases; asked stock exchanges to closely monitor trading and other developments in respect of shares of such companies; and made it mandatory for such companies to separately show the performance and results of software activity in quarterly/annual reports.

Impact of Privatisation on Economy

5455. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the privatisation impact on the ongoing process of privatization and converging Government's role from the controller to a contributor under the changed economic worked has not been given any impact on our economy;

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

(c) the time by which impact of privatisation is likely to be felt on our economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c)

Ongoing economic reforms attach special importance to the process of disinvestment and privatization. In order to give a fresh impetus to the programme and to establish a systematic policy approach to disinvestment and privatisation, a new Department of Disinvestment has recently been established by the Government, which will emphasise on strategic sales of identified PSUs. The Budget for 2000-01 has further announced that the Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs will be reduced to 26% or less and the interests of the workers will be fully protected. The entire receipt from disinvestment and privatisation will be used for meeting expenditure in social sectors, restructuring of PSUs and retiring public debt.

[English]

15.00 Hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

15.0½ Hrs.

At this stage, Shri Suresh Pasi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

15.01 Hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : Sir, on behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Border Security Force (Combatised Veterinary Officers) Recruitment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 477 in Gazettee of India dated the 2nd December, 2000, under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3132/2000]

- (2) (a)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (b) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) (i) and (ii) of item No. (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3133/2000]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, 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 Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3134/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, 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 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Film Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Film Development Corporation 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 3135/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : Sir, on behalf of Dr. C.P. Thakur, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3136/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri N.T. Shanmugam, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudam, for the year 1999-2000.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Kothagudam, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3137/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Coal India Limited, (Volume I and II) for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited, (Volume I and II) for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3138/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Mining and Allied Machinery

Corporation Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3139/2000]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3140/2000]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3141/2000]

- (d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3142/2000]

- (e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Bicycle Corporation of India 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 3143/2000]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Cycle Corporation of India 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 3144/2000]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Photo Films, Ooty, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films, Ooty, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3145/2000]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3146/2000]

- (i) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3147/2000]

- (j) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tyre Corporation of India 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 3148/2000]

- (k) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra, for the year 1999-2000, along with

Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3149/2000]

- (1) (i) **Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.**
- (ii) **Annual Report of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam 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 3150/2000]

- (2) (i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, 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 Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, for the year 1999-2000.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3151/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1)(i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year 1999-2000.**
- (ii) **Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year, 1999-2000.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3152/2000]

- (2) (i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.**
- (ii) **A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 1998-99.**

- (3) **Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3153/2000]

- (4) (i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) the Calicut Regional Engineering College, Calicut, 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 Calicut Regional Engineering College, Calicut, for the year 1999-2000.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3154/2000]

- (5) (i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engineering and Technology, Surat, 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 Sardar Vallabhbhai Regional College of Engineering and Technology, Surat, for the year 1999-2000.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3155/2000]

- (6) (i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra, 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 Regional Engineering College, Kurukshetra, for the year 1999-2000.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3156/2000]

- (7) (i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Durgapur, 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 Regional Engineering College, Durgapur, for the year 1999-2000.**

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3157/2000]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Silchar, 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 Regional Engineering College, Silchar, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3158/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Teacher Education, 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 Council for Teacher Education, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3159/2000]

- (10) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Educational Research and Training, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3160/2000]

- (12) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3161/2000]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3162/2000]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Uttar Pradesh Mahila Samakhya Society, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh Mahila Samakhya Society, Lucknow, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3163/2000]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Samatha Society, Hyderabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3164/2000]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Mahila Samakhya Society, Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Mahila Samakhya Society, Ahmedabad, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3165/2000]

- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

- (19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3166/2000]

- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 1999-2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3167/2000]
- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3168/ 2000]
- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Book Trust India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Book Trust India, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3169/2000]
- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.
- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3170/2000]
- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Karnataka Mahila Samakhya Society, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Mahila Samakhya Society, Bangalore, for the year 1999-2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3171/2000]
- (28) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Foundry and Forge Technology, Ranchi, for the year 1998-99.
- (29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3172/2000]
- (30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Government of the working of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3173/2000]
- (32) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(33) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (32) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3174/2000]

(34) A copy of the National Council for Teacher Education (Annual Statement of Accounts) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 314 in Gazette of India dated the 12th August, 2000 under section 33 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3175/2000]

(35) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal, 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 Karnataka Regional Engineering College, Surathkal, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3176/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Shripad Yasso Naik, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives 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 Federation of Fishermen's Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3177/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, 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 Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3178/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigad, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, Raigad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3179/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of 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 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India 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 3180/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3181/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, 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 Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3182/2000]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, 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 Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3183/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, 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 Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3184/2000]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, 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 Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3185/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, 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 Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3186/2000]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Overseas Construction Council of India, Mumbai, 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 Overseas Construction Council of India, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3187/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, 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 Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3188/2000]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, 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 Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3189/2000]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Basic Chemicals Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Basic Chemicals Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3190/2000]

- (12) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MMTC Limited and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Department of Commerce) for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3191/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Errata (Hindi and English versions) to the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3192/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hospital Service Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited, Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited, 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 3193/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, 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 New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3194/2000]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3195/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (2) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Productivity Council, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3196/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 :

- (i) S.O. 725(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying public sector company as defined in clause (36A) of section 2 of the Income-tax Act being such class of persons, as applicant for the purpose of Chapter XIX-B of the Act.

- (ii) The Income-tax (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 726(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iii) S.O. 775(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying certain classes of persons mentioned in the notification to apply to the Assessing Officer for the allotment of permanent account.

- (iv) The Income-tax (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 776(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (v) The Income-tax (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 777(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vi) The Income-tax (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 806(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vii) S.O. 890(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the various information technology enabled products or services for the purposes of section 10A and 10B of the Income-tax Act.

- (viii) The Income-tax (Seventeenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 892(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) The Income-tax (Eighteenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 893(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) The Income-tax (Nineteenth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 894(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xi) The Income-tax (Twentieth Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notifications No. S.O. 909(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd October, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xii) The Income-tax (Twenty-first Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 1019(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiii) The Income-tax (Twenty-second Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 1020(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiv) S.O. 1048(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying the gallantry awards for purposes of section 10 (18) of the Income-tax Act.
- (xv) The Income-tax (Twenty-third Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. S.O. 1049(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3197/2000]
- (2) A copy of the Public Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 908(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 2000, under section 12 of the Public Provident Fund Act 1968.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3198/2000]
- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 915(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2000 regarding appointment of Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce as the designated Authority for the purposes of the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995, under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3199/2000]
- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 :
- (i) The Corporation Bank Officer Employees' (Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PAD:IR:OSR Amend: 402:2000-2001 in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2000.
- (ii) The Punjab and Sind Bank Officer Employees' (Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Staff/OSR/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 2000.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3200/2000]
- (5) 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 United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 3201/2000]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance 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 3202/2000]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company 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 3203/2000]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company 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 3204/2000]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1999-2000.

(ii) Annual Report of the Industrial Investment Bank of India 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 3205/2000]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, 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 Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3206/2000]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Development Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of sections 18 and 23 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3207/2000]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of sections 19 and 24 of the Export Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3208/2000]

(9) A copy of the Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the State Bank of India, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Hyderabad for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and Auditors' Report thereon, under sub-section-(4) of Section 40 of the State Bank of India Act, 1995 and sub-section (3) of section 43 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, respectively.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3209/2000]

(10) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of Section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 :

(i) Report on the working and activities of the Allahabad Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3210/2000]

(ii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of India for the year 1999-2000, along-with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3211/2000]

(iii) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Maharashtra for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3212/2000]

- (iv) Report on the working and activities of the Canara Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3213/2000]

- (v) Report on the working and activities of the Central Bank of India for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3214/2000]

- (vi) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3215/2000]

- (vii) Report on the working and activities of the Indian Overseas Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3216/2000]

- (viii) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab National Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3217/2000]

- (ix) Report on the working and activities of the UCO Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3218/2000]

- (x) Report on the working and activities of the Union Bank of India for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3219/2000]

- (xi) Report on the working and activities of United Bank of India for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3220/2000]

- (xii) Report on the working and activities of the Punjab and Sind Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3221/2000]

- (xiii) Report on the working and activities of the Vijaya Bank for the year 1999-2000, along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3222/2000]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of sections 38 of the small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Small Industries Development Bank of India for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3223/2000]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts under sections 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3224/2000]

- (13) A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Sri Saraswathi Grameen Bank, Adilabad, for the year ended on the 31st March 2000, together with Auditor's Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3225/2000]

- (14) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Fiscal Responsibility Legislation.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3226/2000]

- (15) A copy of the Insurance Surveyors and Loss Assessors (Licensing, Professional Requirements and Code of Conduct) Regulations, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg.11/2000 in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2000, under section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3227/2000]

- (16) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution :

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Union Government (Scientific Department)

(No. 5A of 2000)—Ganga Action Plan, for the year ended the March, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3228/2000]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India Union Government (No. 7A of 2000) (Defence Services)—Review of Inventory Management in Ordinance Services for the year ended the March, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3229/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Appointment, Terms and Conditions of Service of Director-General) (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 861(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2000, under section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3230/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:
- (i) G.S.R. 902(E)/Ess. Com./Sugarcane published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 2000 containing Order notifying the Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane payable by the sugar Mills for 2000-2001 sugar season.
- (ii) The Sugarcane (Control) Amendment Order, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 903/Ess. Com./Sugarcane in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3231/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bureau of Indian Standards, 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 Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3232/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of National Highway Act, 1956 :
- (i) S.O. 816(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 2000 regarding levy of fees on mechanical vehicles, for the use of the part of National Highway in Ahmedabad-Mumbai section of NH-8 in Gujarat.
- (ii) S.O. 1009(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2000 regarding levy of fees on mechanical vehicles, for the use of the existing and new bridges across river Narmada at Zadeshwar on NH-8 in Gujarat.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3233/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda', I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3234/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3235/2000]

15.04½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**(Eighteenth Report)***[Translation]*

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on wasteful expenditure on rent.

15.05 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

Tenth Report and Minutes

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khuntli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto on "Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Third Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation—Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Delhi Development Authority and Housing facilities provided to them."

15.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**Eighth and Ninth Reports**

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Finance :

- (1) Eighth Report on Financial Institutions—Objectives, Performance and Future Prospects.
- (2) Ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. ...*(Interruptions)*

15.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER**Development of Prithviraj's Qila Rai Pithora/Lal Kot in South Delhi - Laid**

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding 'Development of Prithviraj's Qila Rai Pithora/Lal Kot in South Delhi'.

An hon. Member of this august House had raised during 'Zero Hour', on December 19, 2000, the issue regarding development of Prithviraj Chauhan's Qila Rai Pithora in South Delhi and occupation of the land, earmarked for it, by the Delhi Development Authority Golf Course. Subsequently, yesterday, a memorandum signed by about 25 Members of Parliament has been received by me.

In this connection, I wish to make it clear that the Government attach great importance to the project and development of Qila Rai Pithora complex which was conceived by it in November, 1999. It was inaugurated by Union Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani.

Located at the most strategic part on the Aravali range at the entrance of Delhi, the Qila was a witness to many ups and downs of history of India. It was built with thick rubble stone and was also known as 'Lal Kot', which, in fact, is the first city of Delhi. The ramparts of the fort were 30 feet in thickness and 60 feet in height from the bottom of the ditch, which surrounded the fort. The width of the ditch varied between 18 feet to 35 feet.

Qila Rai Pithora/Lal Kot constitutes an inspiring saga of our past. Here, history speaks through bricks and battered stones; heritage stares in our eyes through heavy but broken and sunken walls; and herein can also be heard the voices emanating from our past omissions, when we did not fully remember that if we were not cohesive and concerned, then things could go wrong, despite the great and glorious strands of our culture and civilisation.

The project has two basic objectives in view. First, to preserve, protect and strengthen our architectural and cultural legacy. Secondly, to weave history and heritage in the new urban fabric that is being presently spun in Delhi and to develop a large park around the Qila Rai Pithora/Lal Kot complex and create a glorious backdrop of Rajput style of garden that it deserves. It would attract lakhs of people from all over the country, particularly the youth and acquaint them with the great acts of valour of our leaders.

An equestrian statue of Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan, 18 feet high, mounted on a four feet high pedestal, is being set up at the terrace of the Conservation Centre which is a

part of the overall development of the complex. This complex would also serve as vast area of community green for a large population of low and middle income group people living in the neighbourhood.

It is unfortunate that some senior functionaries of the Delhi Development Authority, without informing me, have caused occupation of huge lands, which had been earmarked for the park, for building and expanding the Golf Course, which, in any case, it has no powers to do, particularly with regard to the lands acquired through the revolving fund under the scheme of 'Large Scale Acquisition, Development and Disposal of Lands in Delhi'.

I have ordered inclusion of the entire area, excluding the area of the 9-Holes Golf Course, in regard to which, too, I am having the matter looked into in consultation with the Finance, separately.

15.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

(i) **Need for early construction of a Railway Line between Dahanu and Nasik in Maharashtra**

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA (Dahanu) : Dahanu, Telasani, Vikramagad, Wada, Jawhar Mokhada Talukas in Thane district and Trimbakeshwar Taluka in Nasik district are tribal Talukas and most backward. Tribals from these talukas are migrating every year to search employment and therefore education of their children is adversely affected. Those who remain in the village suffer from malnutrition.

Construction of Dahanu, Nasik railway line is important because it passes through most backward tribal belt of Thane and Nasik District. It is the long standing demand from the tribal people, various organisations, all political parties and representatives. As result of constant demand for construction of new Railway line, the Ministry of Railways completed work of survey.

By construction of this Railway line industrial belt of Tarapur, Dahanu, Umbergaon Vapi and Dadra Nagar Haveli will connect to Industrial belt of Nasik, Igatpuri and Northern Maharashtra. Nasik and Trimbakeshwar are well known pilgrimage centres and lacs of devotees visit these places daily from all over India.

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

I urge the Government to undertake construction of Railway line between Dahanu and Nasik.

[Translation]

(ii) **Need to take Steps to Check floods in North Bihar**

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Due to its geographic location, Bihar is one of the most floods affected State of the country. Out of Bihar's total industrial area of 173.8 lakh hectare, about 68.8 lakh hectare is flood affected. And out of this flood affected area, 44.47 lakh hectare lies North Bihar, whereas area of North Bihar is 53.5 lakh hectare. Agriculture remains the future of Bihar after reorganisation of the State. Till arrangements to deal with flood situation are made, agriculture difficult job. Main cause of flood are the rivers flowing down from Himalayas whose most of the part lies in Nepal. It is urged upon the Government of India to take necessary measures to take up this issue with Nepal.

(iii) **Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for early completion of Bhaishajhal Irrigation Project**

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : It is requested that a colony was established at a cost of crores of rupees ten years back for Bhaishajhal Irrigation Project at Takhtpur Legislative Constituency in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh State and all the offices and staff were deployed for the same. The work on this project was started. But later on project was stopped and officers/workers are being transferred elsewhere on deputation. Many people have been sent due to which project has come to standstill. Lakhs of people have been rendered jobless. Ten thousand acres of land of farmers lies unirrigated. Condition of farmers is pitiable. Due to drought and famine farmers of district Bilaspur of Chhattisgarh are on the verge of starvation. Relief work and irrigation is in jeopardy.

I, therefore, demand that Union Government should provide financial assistance to State Government for completion of Bhaishajhal Irrigation Project and to deal with drought situation so that farmers of Bilaspur may get irrigation facility and labourers may get work.

(iv) **Need to connect Buddhist Circuit in Siddhartha Nagar district, U.P. by Rail, Road and Air**

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj) : District Siddhartha Nagar has been created with the bifurcation of district Basti. Kapilvastu, the pilgrimage centre of Buddhists, is situated in this district. Lumbini is only 10 kms. away. Every year thousands of followers of Buddhism come from Sri

Lanka, Japan, Malaysia etc. and visit places like Sarnath, Kushinagar, Kapilvastu, Lumbini and Shravasti. Connecting all these places, a Buddhist circuit has been constructed. Japan Government provided great assistance to Government of India for this Buddhist Circuit due to which this circuit was completed. But due to recurring flood for the last 2 years this circuit is in bad condition. For the benefit of travellers and tourists it is necessary to connect Buddhist Circuit by air, railway and road with Sarnath, Varanasi, Kushinagar, Kapilvastu, Lumbini and Shravasti so that all sections of passengers can visit them. This will attract tourists and foreign exchange would also be earned. This would enhance the image and prestige of India's honour. It is very necessary to augment passenger facilities so that more and more tourists come here and tourism is promoted. I, therefore, demand that Union Government while attaching due importance to Buddhist Circuit should connect it by air, railway and road and facilities should be provided there.

(v) Need to look into the problems being faced by people displaced due to Subarnarekha Multi-purpose Irrigation Project in Bihar

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : I want to draw the attention of the House towards Subarnarekha Multi-purpose Irrigation Project. Objective of this project was to generate electricity and to provide irrigation facilities in tribal and undeveloped areas. Crores of rupees has already been spent on this project. But due to lack of funds, work has been left midway. Due to this reason, many villages get submerged in water. Displaced families have not been rehabilitated so far. Their land has been acquired, which was their source of livelihood. Compensation has not yet been provided to the people of such villages which have been inundated in water till now. Instead of getting benefitted people have suffered more.

Union government is, therefore, requested to pay compensation to the displaced families who have not yet received their payments. The people from displaced families be given jobs without any delay and the irregularities committed in this regard may be probed into by a committee of comprising of Members of Parliament.

[English]

(vi) Need for doubling of rail line between Muddanur and Cuddapah in Cuddapah Parliamentary Constituency in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah) : Shri Muddanur—Cuddapah section on Guntakal—Renigunta line is a very important one with the location of Rayalaseema Thermal Power Plant on the verge of its expansion, five cement plants and one steel plant. The transportation

problem of raw material to these plants and the produce from these plants has become a great hurdle to the growth of these plants and for coming up of new enterprises. Doubling of track on this section is important not only from the railways' point of view but also for providing employment opportunities to the people of backward Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh.

I therefore, urge the Government of India to consider the inclusion of Muddanur—Cuddapah section on Guntakal—Renigunta line for track doubling and give necessary clearance to take up the work in the coming financial year 2001-2002 with the budget allocation of atleast Rs. 100 crore.

(vii) Need to revamp Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited in Kerala

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (Calicut) : I would like to invite your kind attention to problems faced by the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), the oldest and the largest Central Public Sector Undertaking in Kerala State is engaged in the production and marketing of Fertilizers and Caprolactam, in engineering consultant service and in fabrication of equipments. FACT has been consistently making profits during the period 1984-98. However, some of the recent developments have placed FACT in an unenviable and precarious situation. There are reasons for the loss of FACT. The first reason is the sharp increase in the petroleum products during last two years. The second reason for the loss of FACT was connected to interest payable by FACT for the project loan taken from OECF, Japan through Central Government. Third reason for the loss is the unremunerative selling price of Factmos and ammonium Sulphate fixed by Central Government and 4th reason for the loss is that, during last few years import duty on Caprolactum has been reduced drastically. The viability of the FACT Petrochemical Division producing Caprolactum is increasingly under the threat due to the influx of Caprolactum from foreign suppliers at very low price.

(viii) Need to take steps to re-open Stilwell international road in Arunachal Pradesh

SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA (Arunachal East) : Arunachal Pradesh is in the north eastern part of the country bordering Bhutan, China and Myanmar. There are limited options for growth and economic development in view of the hostile terrain. The situation is further aggravated by continued insurgent activities, in particular, in the north east region. One of the few but potential existing sources for ensuring fruitful and tangible activity lies in utilizing the vast opportunities promised by the international highway popularly known as stilwell Road hitherto remaining dormant. The road emanates from Ledo in Assam and traversing through Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh enters into

Myanmar through Pangs Pass, the last Indian outpost bordering Myanmar, and finally extending to the Peoples' Republic of China. This road which is a 1079 mile long marvel was constructed during World War II by the Allies as a supply route to China while fighting with the Japanese and is still in fairly good condition. The trade route thereafter can be extended to China connecting with the Old Burma Road and other South Asian countries like Malaysia, Singapore, etc. Hence, there is an urgent need to take initiative to start talks with the Myanmar Government in this behalf to re-open the Stilwell Road for bilateral trade.

(ix) Need to ensure adequate supply of kerosene to fishermen in Kerala

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : The kerosene supply to traditional fisherman is quite inadequate. It is only adequate for 10 days in a month. The market price is very high. The fishermen cannot afford to purchase. Many of them are left at the mercy of middle men and money lenders. I request the Government to increase the kerosene supply immediately.

(x) Need for construction of an overbridge on Safedabad railway crossing near Lucknow, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki) : In absence of an overbridge on Safedabad railway crossing near Lucknow the capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow-Faizabad via Barabanki National Highway remains jam-logged for hours. Everyday serious accidents take place here. For the solution of this problem I demand that the Government of India should construct an over-bridge on Safedabad railway crossing immediately.

(xi) Need for Upgradation of Chennai Air Terminal at the earliest

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur) : Our country's tourism and business potential attracts more foreign visitors. India is becoming a destination to many but inadequate Air Terminal facilities come in the way. It is estimated that about 11 million passengers travel by air towards India annually but our International Airports all put together as of now can handle only 5 million.

Technically advanced, sophisticated, modern Air Terminal at a strategic location is the need of the hour. So, it would be ideal if Chennai International air Terminal near the sea coast is extended ahead of Hyderabad and

Bangalore. It would enhance our air handling capability to a great extent. Upgradation of Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore Air Terminals may be taken up as a mega project for an air-worthy triangle to be completed in a phased manner.

Unlike Hyderabad and Bangalore, extending of Chennai International Air Terminal is instantly feasible because more than two hundred acres of land near Porur adjacent to the tarmac area of the existing Chennai Airport is readily available and the Government of Tamil Nadu has already identified foreign investors either for BOT or BOLT construction scheme investing about Rs. 1200 crores. Government of India must take a coordinated approach and decision to combine all of three and carry out first the Chennai Air Terminal project.

(xii) Need for construction of an over bridge at Bihata railway crossing in Arrah Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah) : Bihata is an important railway station in my Parliamentary constituency. There is a big commercial Centre here. There are many colleges, agricultural marketing Committee and many important institutions here. Many trains pass through this region from Mughal Sarai via Patna. Besides this, from Ranchi, Daltonganj, Aurangabad, Paliganj, Barun, Aphal, Pali hundreds of vehicles including buses, small and big vehicles, tractors, carts go towards Patna through Bihata railway crossing. Due to large number of passing trains, railway crossing remains closed. Passengers and vehicles wait there for hours together. As a result untoward incidents take place sometimes. Hence, I urge upon hon. Union Minister for Railway that an over-bridge should be constructed over the railway crossing.

(xiii) Need to review Textile Policy

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, next to agriculture textile industry in the country offers maximum employment opportunity to the people and they earn their livelihood. In extreme thickly populated country like India labour intensive technique alone is desirable for industries. On this basis, only textile industry is able to provide employment to majority of the families in the country. Government has recently declared new Textile Policy for Textile industry under which investment of foreign capital has been permitted. Present structure of its small scale industry has been changed. Mr. Chairman, Sir, with the entry of foreign capital or with the advent of multinational companies capital intensive technique will follow which is marked by the capacity of giving employment to people and

producing maximum with capital. This technique is against the interests of the country. I, therefore, request to review the new textile policy. For the development and expansion of textile industry the labour intensive technique should stay and capital intensive technique should be checked.

(xiv) Need for early completion of four laning work on the National Highway No. 7 between Thoppur and Hosur in Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN (Dharmapuri) : The NH 7 passing across the entire Dharmapuri District from Thoppur to Hosur is busy with both passenger and Cargo traffic. Nearly 10,000 heavy vehicles pass through section of NH 7 everyday. There are heavy traffic jams which occur due to the narrowness of the NH 7 in many places. Therefore, I urge the Government to speed up the four laning work of NH 7 and also to provide service lanes in and out of towns like Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Hosur.

(xv) Need to declare Sunderbans in West Bengal as a tourist resort and provide funds for its development

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sunderban has a unique and magnificent scenic beauty. It is the biggest delta of Asia. The centre has already declared Sunderban as a National Park. Sunderban is also known for the Royal Bengal Tiger and the world's largest man groove swamp. This beautiful delta can be converted into tourist spot. The local people will not only benefit from this, the Government of India can also earn huge foreign exchange. But lack of development due to shortage of resources has affected the tourist potential of Sunderban. The State Government has taken some measures. But these are not enough.

A large number of domestic and international tourists visit Calcutta. But they can be attracted to Sunderbans if we are able to develop roadways, waterways and construct some good hotels. I have several times demanded to declare Sunderban rivers as national waterway. But so far no steps have been taken.

I urge the Union Government to declare Sunderban as an international spot. This will enhance the socio, economic, cultural development of the local people and at the same time the international tourist inflow would help the Central Government earn foreign exchange.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 17.45 hours.

15.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Seventeen of the Clock.

17.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-five minutes past Seventeen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the Fifth Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 20th November 2000, is coming to an end today. In this Session, altogether, we had 25 sittings spreading over 112 hours 45 minutes.

During the Session, the House, despite losing several days due to adjournment, transacted important financial and legislative business. The House passed the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) and the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2000-2001.

The Lok Sabha passed 17 Bills, including the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill 2000, The Multi-modal Transportation of Goods (Amendment) Bill 2000, The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill 1999, The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2000, The Coal India (Regulation of Transfers and Validation) Bill 2000, The Immigration (Carriers Liability) Bill 2000 and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill 2000.

Three Ordinances replacing the Bills, namely, National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill 2000, The Indian Council of World Affairs Bill 2000, and The Central Roads Fund Bills 2000, were passed.

The House discussed an Adjournment Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition regarding severe crisis faced by the farming community due to the burden of the recent increased cost of production and the cost in agricultural prices. The motion was discussed for about seven hours, in which 28 Members participated. The motion was negatived by the House.

The Lok Sabha had discussions on two other important matters of urgent public importance under Rule 193. These were regarding (i) the loss of lives and property due to floods,

drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country and (ii) the disinvestment of public sector undertakings. The Lok Sabha discussed and negated a motion under Rule 184 calling upon the Prime Minister to drop three Ministers from his Cabinet. The motion was discussed for more than 13 hours, in which 25 Members participated. Five important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention and the concerned Ministers made Statements thereon, besides, eight Statements were made by Ministers on different matters. The House also had two Half-an-Hour discussions.

Coming to the Question Hour, out of the listed 500 Starred Questions, 61 were answered orally, while replies to 5,455 Unstarred Questions and two Short-Notice Questions were laid on the Table of the House.

As regards the Private Members Business, six Bills were introduced. One Private Members' Bill moved during the last Session was discussed and withdrawn by leave of the House, another Bill remained part discussed. Two Private Members' Resolutions were also discussed and subsequently withdrawn by leave of the House, one Resolution remained part discussed.

As many as 188 Matters were raised under Rule 377, while 190 matters of public importance were raised during the *Zero Hour*. The Departmentally-Related Standing Committees presented 28 reports.

The adjournment of the House for several days greatly affected the functioning of the House. While the Babri Masjid issue had stalled the proceedings of the Lok Sabha for about 39 hours, the differences among the political parties on the Women Reservation Bill led to further adjournment of the House resulting in the loss of 6 hours 49 minutes of House time.

In all, a total of 60 hours were lost during this Session. Every effort has, however, been made to complete all the important business. The Lok Sabha even sat late on several days for an additional 24 hours and 30 minutes for this purpose.

I am thankful to each and every Member of the House for his co-operation in running the House.

I am extremely grateful to the hon. Leader of the House, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, the leaders of various Parties and Groups in the House, as also the Chief Whips and the Whips of various political Parties for their

kind co-operation and courtesy extended to me and to my colleagues, the hon. Deputy-Speaker and Members on the Panel of Chairmen.

May I now wish you all a merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year. Let us resolve to work for further strengthening Parliament as an instrument of realising the unfulfilled aspirations of our people.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to place on record, on behalf of the Congress Party, our appreciation of the patience and the skill with which you have steered the Fifth Session of this House. Your task and ours has been made more difficult by the mystifying delay of the Government in agreeing to our discussion under rule 184.

This has been a badly disrupted Session. The responsibility for this disruption rests squarely on the shoulders of the Government. If they had only accepted on the first day the Motion which they eventually agreed to discuss, this disruption would never have taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*

Almost exactly a year ago, the Prime Minister had said that he would work towards bringing a consensus on the Women Reservation Bill. There has not been any evidence of such effort. A hurriedly convened meeting yesterday morning, right at the end of the Session, is proof that the Government is not serious on this issue. Once again, I reiterate the commitment of the Congress Party to the reservation for women, and urge the Government to put an end to this game of pretence.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur) : Speaker, Sir, Samajwadi Party is in opposition of this women Reservation Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : Under your guidance Sir, the House managed to discuss several important issues. The Congress Party and other Members raised the plight of the farmers and of the *khet majdoor* throughout the country and the devastation and misery caused by the floods and drought.

Attention has been drawn to the virtual non-implementation of the policy of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, despite two Constitutional

Amendments having been passed. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to act speedily on these issues.

The loss of lives in Assam and the on-going violence in the North-East have legitimately agitated us. We express our full support to our colleagues from the North-East in voicing their anxieties and concerns, and we call upon the Government to strengthen the democratic institutions and take urgent corrective steps.

I do hope the Treasury Benches would have noted the responsible manner in which the Congress Party helped in passing certain Bills. ...(*Interruptions*) This is a fact. You cannot deny it.

The Constitution (Ninety-first) Amendment Bill on Delimitation is another piece of legislation on which all of us, all Parties including the Treasury Benches, need to think carefully and act jointly since this has major consequences.

However, Sir, I would like to state that such cooperation from our side may not be forthcoming on some of the draft laws the Government has introduced during this Session. In regard to many of these, we shall voice our strongest reservation and concern on behalf of the people.

In the meantime, as we return to our constituencies for the winter vacations, we have some weighty responsibilities to discharge. Much work needs to be done, particularly in those areas, which have been badly affected by natural calamities.

All of us, Members of this House, have a special responsibility in cooling down communal passions which have again been unnecessarily aroused by statements made outside the House by senior Members of the Government while this Session was in progress.

During the inter-session period, Parliamentary and Department Related Standing Committees will also meet. Here again, I would like to appeal to the Government to pay more attention to the suggestions, which may come up in these meetings. This is a view, which is shared not only by us, but also by colleagues belonging to other parties as well as your side. Despite repeated requests this demand of ours has not been acceded to.

All of us will also attentively watch the Government's handling of the Jammu and Kashmir situation during the inter-session period. We have already expressed our support to the Government for the initiatives taken for bringing peace in the Valley and, at the same time, we do hope that the

Government has a contingency plan ready in case there are disruptions in the cease-fire. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Speech is not being concluded.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI . It is going to be concluded.

[*English*]

As the first year of the new millennium comes to an end, it is but right that we all introspect, that we do some stock taking and reflect upon the more enduring aspects of our polity. It is our great fortune that we have been chosen as representatives of the people. It is hence incumbent on each one of us to give his or her best in the service of the nation. Let us not narrow our horizons nor distort our vision, which is to further strengthen our pluralistic ethos and our secular democracy.

Sir, in the end, I would like to extend my good wishes to you, to the Prime Minister, to his Government and to all the Members of this House for a very happy and prosperous New Year.

[*Translation*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the fifth session to the 13th Lok Sabha is coming to an end. With this session, the year is also going to end. We will meet in the new century, new millennium. The facts you have put forward give the full details of work done.

18.00 hrs.

During this session, Bills were passed in large number, new Bills were introduced and despite disruptions, several matters of public importance were debated upon. This is a brighter side which reflects the vibrancy of Indian democracy. However, you have also mentioned the number of days when the business could not be transacted. Perhaps, the number of such days is eleven. Can we think of changing this scenario in the new century, in the next year. I have already stressed on this point and I would like to reiterate that the Parliament is the mirror of the time and symbol of the hopes and aspirations of the society. Therefore, people's acrimony, grudges, dearth and injustice, if any, done to them, are always reflected and must be reflected. But the question

is that what is the way of reflecting it in a parliamentary democracy. Is it necessary to stall the Question Hour?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sometimes it becomes unavoidable in a democracy to stall the Question Hour. It is necessary for a specific period of time.

SHRI ATAL BIHARIVAJPAYEE : This matter has been raised earlier also and today I would like to raise it again. There is a need to convene all party meeting in order to discuss this matter prior to the commencement of the next session. We may start the proceedings at 11 a.m., it may be postponed till 12 p.m., it would not matter. It appears that opposition is determined to stall the parliamentary proceedings. However, the questions may be asked while proceedings are going on and the Government may be forced to give the reply. The opposition have been in power for a long time. They know very well if questions addressed to the Ministers are put off some day and the member who has asked a particular question is absent, it is a great relief for the Minister. It does not mean that the questions should not be asked. Question hour will go on but it is being stalled. What is the need of stalling the proceedings for several days.

Today, we do not make complaints of any sort and we stress only on the brighter side and think over it that how our democracy can be strengthened and how can the parliament fulfill the aspirations of the people. But the leader of opposition has not spared us even on this occasion. It is unprecedented. The leader of the opposition has become member of this House recently. I have been a member of Parliament for the last 40 years and remained in opposition. But I always ensured that the dignity and decorum of the House is maintained. If one has to make complaints against the Government and for that last day is chosen then it is unpredictable what scene would be presented. This dignity has been maintained in the past but today it has been violated.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Decorum is violated by saying 'shame-shame'. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : To some extent. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Shri Mulayam Singh is keeping a restrain and everybody is seeing it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mulayam Singh ji, sometimes inclines to this side and sometimes inclines to that side.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We do not incline this side or that side. We are always with the truth.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You are the only truthful person is Kaliyug.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, democracy is a lively process. It has been a practice that the Parliament is allowed to function smoothly and opportunities are thrown upon for discussion which may include even a censure motion. During the session, an adjournment motion was moved and debated upon. In the other House, where the Government does not enjoy a majority, emphasis was laid on division. That proved that we did not enjoy a majority in that House. But it was also proved that we are in majority in the Lok Sabha. No one has any complaint against it. Whatever is done should be done properly. It should be done as per the process of democracy. This should pave the way for the new generation. As regards the plight of farmers, the Government is equally concerned. We have taken many steps in this direction but we feel handicapped because we have inherited the fall out of WTO Agreement which has many repercussions and we have to face them. We are ready to face them but if such ways and means are adopted, which have a tendency of weakening our democracy and incite acrimony, it will not be good. We want to take certain measures with regard to the situation prevailing in Manipur, but we do not enjoy a majority in the other House. Here we have some limitations and we need cooperation. Sometimes we do get cooperation. We get more cooperation earlier, now it has diminished. Aggressiveness will increase as the election comes nearer. I do not blame for it. The game of figures, the game of number is clear but the process as well as what we say is important. However, the manner in which we say is rather more important, views may be expressed, policies may be explained, necessary steps may be taken in commensurate with that but the decorum of the House must be maintained.

Speaker, Sir, we have full sympathy with you. On that day I had asked a question that why such thing happens? You said that we were asking you? Questions are asked from us but sometimes it looks good to ask questions from you but it should be considered. I would like to reiterate it. It is time to put our heads together once again and ponder over the way we could ensure the smooth functioning of parliament when we have to face new challenges at the close of the year and also the century.

Come to the question of women' reservation. The government was definitely in favour of providing for women's reservation and we had also suggested alternate option in order to achieve success, but in vain. Now who is blamed? Should I also blame a person by name? Why other

suggestion was not accepted? If the women's empowerment is our moto then their representation should be increased. If it is our aim then the same objective can be achieved through other way. On one side a part of opposition is adamant on the otherside the entire opposition has become adamant. Allegations are made on non issue. I do not want to blame anyone. The session is over. We will meet in next session. I extend my greetings for forthcoming festival of Christmas. We will celebrate Id. Greetings to all for that. This country will be under one flag to face the new challenges in new millenium, as it is today, I understand that we will ensure it, this is our foremost duty. I am of the opinion that this House is contributing in this direction.

[English]

18.09 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song was played)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

18.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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